SAWA MEETING MINUTES

June 24th, 2021
Meeting Location:
1835 Chicago Avenue, Suite C
Riverside, CA 92507
9:00 A.M.

BOARD ADMNISTRATIVE ITEMS

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Neugebauer called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Melody Aimar - SAWA; Brian Brady - SAWA; Jennette El Morsy - SAWA; James Law - SAWA; Brett Mills - SJBRCD; Kerwin Russell - RCRCD; Rick Neugebauer – TEAMRCD; Teri Biancardi – TEAMRCD; Kimberly Kuznicki – SAWA;

III. PUBLIC INPUT

PUBLIC INPUT – Oral communication from the public audience on any subject matter within SAWA's subject matter jurisdiction. There was no public input at this time.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approve Minutes for April 22, 2021

Director Mills moved to approve the April 22, 2021 minutes with the requested corrections by Director Russell. Director Russell seconded and the motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

Neugebauer	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parkes	*Absent*
Zembal	*Absent*	Mills	Aye		

b. Approve Financial Statement for April 2021

c. Approve Financial Statement for May 2021

Director Russell moved to approve the April and May financial statements as presented. Director Mills seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

Neugebauer	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parkes	*Absent*
Zembal	*Absent*	Mills	Aye		

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. ILF Project – Brian Brady

Mr. Brady asked Mr. Law to report on his findings in regards to the ILF project. Mr. Law reported he found a group of properties off Lake Shore Drive near Lake Elsinore that has enough tamarisk acreage and is in the process of verifying land ownership and contacting landowners to discuss potential partnership to place the ILF project.

b. Treasurer's Report – Dick Zembal

Absent

c. Post Pandemic Office Safety Protocols Presentation by Mr. Brady & Ms. El Morsy

For a copy of the presentation "Cal/OSHA COVID 19 Workplace Requirements" by Mr. Brady, please contact Administrative Services Manager Jennette El Morsy at jennette@sawatershed.org or 951-780-1012 ext. 101.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

a. Board Ratification of the Executive Director's retention of Halliday & Company, Certified Public Accountants for the review of SAWA's 2020 Financials

Mr. Brady reported that for the past several years, SAWA has engaged the firm of SingerLewak, LLP to conduct its annual audits, with satisfactory results. During the pandemic year of 2020, SingerLewak experienced significant turnover and downsizing in their Riverside office. The most knowledgeable former SingerLewak staff with regard to SAWA's financials have established the firm of Halliday & Company, Certified Public Accountants, in nearby Redlands. CPAs Chadrick Halliday, President and Richelle Arsenault, Of Counsel, have overseen multiple years of SAWA annual financial reports. Mr. Brady believes that Halliday & Company is the best auditing option going forward.

Director Russell expressed his concern as to whether this new firm has nonprofit experience for financials. Mr. Brady reassured that they have overseen the financials over, at least, the last four years and he has been very pleased with their work.

Director Mills moved to ratify the Executive Director's retention of Halliday & Company, CPA for the review of SAWA's 2020 financials. Director Russell seconded and the motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

Neugebauer	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parkes	*Absent*
Zembal	*Absent*	Mills	Aye		

GENERAL ITEMS

VII. SAWA PROJECT REPORTS

a. Brian Brady, Executive Director – SAWA

Mr. Brady reported management are coming together to discuss any lessons learned this last year and are exploring potential operational changes to improve efficiencies and/or lower costs. The staff are continuing to develop data for the mid-year budget revision. Mr. Brady also stated that management has secured a replacement audit firm to complete calendar year 2020 financials review work.

b. Kerwin Russell – RCRCD

Mr. Russell reported that RCRCD had some rain, which is good and hope for more in the upcoming months.

c. Dick Zembal – OCWD

Absent

d. Rick Neugebauer – Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD

Mr. Neugebauer did not have any updates at this time.

e. Mandy Parkes – Inland Empire RCD

Absent

f. Brett Mills – San Jacinto Basin RCD

Mr. Mills reported there was a car accident over at May Ranch and may need clean up done.

g. Bonnie Johnson – OCWD

Absent

h. Jennette El Morsy, Administrative Services Manager – SAWA
Ms. El Morsy reported working on SAM Government Registration Renewal. Ms. El Morsy renewed the Liability/Workers' Comp Insurance Policy, effective as of June 1. Ms. El Morsy has been working on PPP Loan Forgiveness with the accountant. The WHMS department hired a new biologist, Lisa Shauer. Ms. El Morsy stated she has been updating mid-year budget revision. Ms. El Morsy reported that they passed the annual HRS warehouse fire department inspection.

i. James Law, Habitat Restoration Services Manager – SAWA
Mr. Law reported VCS job scheduled for fall, Prop 84 site management, WVWD Cactus Basin #2, City of Chino Hills - Carbon Canyon Cleanup, Carbon Canyon Fire Safe Council - Proposal for Fall 2021, SCE - 0.8 Acre Enhancement approved by CDFW awaiting deposit from SCE, Training Martin in GIS and Mr. Almanza's drone license obtained. Mr. Law also updated on other work within individual member agencies jurisdictions:

- Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD: The HRS department conducted homeless monitoring.
- Riverside Corona RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at the following: SAR - dump to Van Buren, RLC - Alessandro Arroyo 1.52, RLC - SAR Trunk Sewer, Temescal 3M, Mockingbird MCB and SAWPA - Van Buren Bridge.
- Inland Empire RCD: SAWA's HRS department conducted treatment at: City of Chino Hills - Hickory Creek, CDFW unassigned, Sunnyslope, SBVMWD - Multiple Sites, Prop 84, HH and Reach 3B.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at: May Ranch, Mosaic, Wolfskill 1.2 and Wolfskill 1.47.
- Orange County Water District: The HRS department conducted treatments at: Prop 84, Irvine Park, Santiago Phase II and CDFW unassigned.

j. Melody Aimar, Biological Programs Manager – SAWA
Ms. Aimar reported on MSHCP Dept. monthly WRC MSHCP Management and Monitoring Coordination Meeting reinstated. Staff working from home, staggering in office, using personal vehicles and SAWA trucks. Mr. Campanella managing remote workflow. Herp Taxa Lead – Candidate fell through; will re-announce. Ms. Aimar completed FY2021-22 work plan/budget. Ms. Aimar, Mr. Campanella and Leads Completed 2020 reports. Species occurrence dataset – 2020 in progress. 4th Quarterly Report – in progress. Ms. Aimar is collaborating with FWS (Will Miller)/other NCCP's on region-wide herp monitoring. Ms. Aimar attended monthly RCA Managers Meeting. Ms. Aimar also updated on other MSHCP Dept. work including:

- Rare plants: Engelmann Oak surveys – complete. *Phacelia stellaris* surveys – complete. 9-3 species – in progress.
- Purple Martin: Surveys – in progress.
- California Spotted Owl: P.M. surveys in progress.
- CA Gnatcatcher: Nest monitoring – in progress.
- Mammals: LAPM trapping – in progress.
- Clinton Keith Overcrossing: Camera traps at overcrossing/undercrossing. New cameras installed to detect butterfly use. Veg transects – complete.
- Quino Checkerspot Butterfly: Surveys complete.
- Data/GIS Analysis: QC 2020 datasets in progress.

Ms. Aimar reported on WHMS Dept. biologists working in the field and remotely. Vireo surveys – in progress. Biologists monitoring HRS crews – as available. BHCO – traps deployed and open, assistants trained. Ms. Aimar coordinating with SBVMWD and RivCo Parks Rangers on homeless camp safety. Ms. Aimar collaborating as science advisor for Upper SAR HCP. California Least Tern monitoring – in progress. Vireo Noise Study in San Tim (SBCTA) – in

progress. Ms. Aimar attends multiple weekly virtual meeting(s). Staff Zoom meeting(s) – as needed. Creating vireo/cowbird database – on hold until Fall. MSHCP biologists helping with Vireo surveys. Biologists working weekends to cover all areas. OCWD helping to fill-in. Ms. Aimar also updated on work within individual member agencies jurisdictions:

- Inland Empire RCD: Devil's Canyon Project –removed cover boards and cameras; report submitted. Goose Creek Vireo –surveys in progress; biomonitoring ISR.
- Orange County Water District: Prop 84 Arundo biomonitoring – in progress as needed. Bat/Swallow diet study- DNA sampling complete – report in progress. Sunnyslope SAS restoration and substrate surveys. Manager attends weekly NR meeting.
- Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD: No work this month.
- Riverside-Corona RCD: No work this month.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: No work this month.

VIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no other Board Member comments at this time.

IX. NEXT MEETING – July 22, 2021 will be held at the SAWA Headquarters, 1835 Chicago Avenue, Suite C, Riverside, CA 92507 and remotely via Zoom.

X. ADJOURN – The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 A.M.

Notice: All open session agenda materials will be available for inspection by members of the public at the SAWA office located at 1835 Chicago Avenue, Suite C, Riverside, CA 92507. Please contact Maria Arellano at (951) 780-1012 x106 for this information (Government Code Section 54957.5). In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Government Code Section 54954.2, if special assistance is needed to participate in a Board meeting, please contact the Administrative Services Manager at (951) 780-1012 x101. Notification of at least 48 hours prior to meeting time will assist staff in assuring that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility at the meeting.

Please post 72 hours before meeting