SAWA MEETING MINUTES

June 23rd, 2022
Meeting Location:
1835 Chicago Avenue, Suite C
Riverside, CA 92507
9:00 A.M.

BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Neugebauer called the meeting to order at 9:02 A.M.

II. CLOSED SESSION

Public Employee Performance Evaluation (§54957) Title: Executive Director
There was no reportable action at this time.

III. INTRODUCTIONS

Brett Mills – SJBRCD; Greg Powers – Jackson Tidus; Kerwin Russell – RCRCD; Dick Zembal – OCWD; Mandy Parkes – IERCD; Brian Brady – SAWA; James Law – SAWA; Melody Aimar - SAWA; Jennette El Morsy – SAWA; Kimberly Kuznicki – SAWA; Rick Neugebauer – TEAMRCD;

IV. 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.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approve Minutes for May 26, 2022
b. Approve Financial Statement for May 2022

Director Mills moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Director Russell seconded and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0

Neugebauer	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parkes	Aye
Zembal	Aye	Mills	Aye		

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. ILF Project – Brian Brady

Mr. Brady reported that reported that SAWA is trying to set up an onsite meeting at the City of Lake Elsinore in early July.

b. Treasurer's Report – Brett Mills

Mr. Mills reported on the aging detail being just under $100k and the deposit detail being $227,947. Mr. Mills added that the assets total about $5.6 million, $4.8 million of which is investments.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

a. Discussion and Possible Approval of Executive Director Contract Extension

Mr. Powers reported that by approving this Second Amendment, the Executive Director and SAWA desire to extend the Term of employment for an additional two (2) years, until July 23, 2024. All other terms and conditions of Mr. Brady's employment would remain unchanged from the Original Employment Agreement, as amended by the First Amendment.
Director Parkes moved to approve the Executive Director Contract Extension. Director Zembal seconded and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0

Neugebauer	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parkes	Aye
Zembal	Aye	Mills	Aye		

GENERAL ITEMS

VIII. SAWA PROJECT REPORTS

a. Brian Brady, Executive Director – SAWA
Mr. Brady reported that staff continue working on mid-year budget revisions. Mr. Brady did a brief presentation on budget factors. Among the issues are recruiting and retention of employees, continuing inflation impacts, market placement, major contract renewals, potential post-pandemic changes in business model and review of investments/reserves. Mr. Brady also reported that SAWA will be listed under the "Environment and Restoration" section of 75 educational displays throughout the Santa Ana Watershed. The cost is $1,860.00 and covers a 23-month period on the displays. The sponsorship would highlight the community's sustainability program and help cover the cost of the overall effort to educate the public on the Santa Ana Watershed. Inland Empire RCD is among the main sponsors of the project.
For a copy of Mr. Brady's presentation on Budget Factors, please contact the Administrative Services Manager, Jennette El Morsy, at jennette@sawatershed.org or 951-780-1012 ext. 101.

b. Kerwin Russell – RCRCD
Mr. Russell reported getting rain at RCRCD restoration sites.

c. Dick Zembal – OCWD
Mr. Zembal reported doing maps out at Prado. Mr. Zembal attended a meeting with Ian Achimore of SAWPA to talk about the 'Santa Ana Sucker Team' and what the future might hold for it. Mr. Zembal encouraged Mr. Achimore of SAWPA to move in the direction of embracing the riverwalk and looking at the advantage of expanding it and making it more accessible to everyone. The topic of the arundo maintenance fund came up and Mr. Zembal encouraged Mr.Achimore to work with Mr. Law and OCWD, who are the primary contributors to the Sucker Fund, to work on prioritizing arundo maintenance in the river and making use of that fund.

d. Rick Neugebauer – Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD
Mr. Neugebauer reported that TEAMRCD has a program they are getting ready to start with Riverside County Flood Control with drainage easements and conservation easements to clean up creeks and the small watershed. Mr. Neugebauer added that TEAMRCD's crop swap is moving along and there are a few projects happening and are hopeful for more.

e. Mandy Parkes – Inland Empire RCD
Ms. Parkes reported that IERCD is working with water provider partners trying to get people thinking about drought restrictions and impacts. IERCD has three students this summer doing forestry work. Ms. Parkes informed the Board that the California Natural Resources Agency released a Youth Access Grant.

f. Brett Mills – San Jacinto Basin RCD
Mr. Mills reported being hopeful that the rain will help with the weeds and has been busy working on various projects.

g. Bonnie Johnson – OCWD
Absent

h. Jennette El Morsy, Administrative Services Manager – SAWA
Ms. El Morsy reported on A/R May invoice totaling $286,349.13. Insurance Policy Renewal effective June 1 - COI's available. Prep work for 2021 Financial Audit. Ordering IT equipment and supplies for MSHCP. Mid-year budget revision. Bureau of Labor Statistics Refiling Survey submitted. Updated IRS mileage rate to 62.5 cents - effective July 1. Hired MSHCP new Field Biologist. Recruitment for new WHMS Field Biologist.

i. James Law, Habitat Restoration Services Manager – SAWA
Mr. Law reported on new job proposals and administrative tasks including Prop 84 site management, ILF - new contact Nicole Daily is no longer with the City of Lake Elsinore. Mr. Law emailed the new contact to proceed with potential placement of the ILF on city properties, TEAM RCD/Riv Flood Assessments project updates. 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: Prop 84, SAWPA Van Buren Bridge and Temescal Canyon 3M - 2.86, Mockingbird MCB and Quail Run - Phase II.
- Inland Empire RCD: SAWA's HRS department conducted treatments at: Prop 84, Sunnyslope, San Timoteo - Reach 3B and SCE - Starglow.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at: SCE - 1.2 and RLC - Alessandro Arroyo.
- Orange County Water District: The HRS department conducted treatments at: Prop 84, CDFW - Upstream River Rd., Santiago Phase II and Irvine Park.

j. Melody Aimar, Biological Programs Manager – SAWA
Ms. Aimar reported on MSHCP Dept. Monthly WRC MSHCP Management and Monitoring Coordination Meeting. Presentation on 6/9: *"Conservation of Northwestern and Southwestern Pond Turtles: Threats, Population Size Estimates, and Population Viability Analysis"* by *Dr.Robert Fisher (USGS - Conservation Biologist)*. Field Biologist job announcement (new position) - Candidate selected. Staff working from home, staggering in office, using personal vehicles and SAWA trucks. Mr. Campanella is managing remote workflow. Staff updates: Monthly Leads meeting via Zoom; Quarterly All-hands meeting. Ms. Aimar attended the monthly RCA Managers Meeting. Ms. Aimar, Mr. Campanella and Lead - Meeting with RCA to discuss taxa objectives. Data archive and server file clean-up on hold during busy season. 2021 Survey Reports and 2022 Quarterly Reports complete and submitted to RCA. Ms. Aimar also updated on other MSHCP work including:

- Rare plants: Rare Plant surveys - ongoing. Brand's Phacelia study - done, plots being invaded by stinknet.
- Tri-colored Blackbird: Breeding colony found at SJWA (3rd colony attempt appears successful) - No other colonies found
- Turkey Vulture: Surveys in progress - no nests found yet.
- Mammals: LAPM surveys - in progress.
- Herps/Fish: Western Pond Turtle trapping - in progress.
- Clinton Keith Overcrossing: Camera traps at overcrossing/undercrossing. New cameras installed to detect butterfly use. Quino Checkerspot Butterfly: Surveys - complete. Report - in progress.
- Delhi Sands Flower-loving Fly: Survey in progress - 1st detection earliest on record.

- Data/GIS Analysis: Transition to electronic data collection - in progress. 2021 Species Occurrence Dataset - in progress.

Ms. Aimar reported on WHMS Dept. Biologist's scrambling to cover areas for missing biologists. IEUA - Breeding Bird Surveys - in progress. BHCO - All traps deployed. Seasonal BHCO assistant - shorthanded, biologists covering gaps. LBVI surveys - ongoing. HRS nest avoidance biomonitoring - when available. Ms. Aimar and Ms. Beckman meeting with HRS and Endemic Consulting on Biological Monitoring procedures. Ms. Aimar attends Prop 84 monthly meetings when available. Ms. Aimar is coordinating with SBVMWD and RivCo Parks Rangers on homeless camp safety. Ms. Aimar attended the Homeless Solution Consortium Meeting on 6/16 and attends multiple weekly virtual meetings. Ms. Aimar is coordinating with RCHCA on SKR trapping schedule - contract in progress. Ms. Aimar also updated on other work within individual member agencies jurisdictions:

- Inland Empire RCD: Goose Creek LBVI monitoring. Goose Creek mitigation - monitor HRS crews when needed.
- Orange County Water District: Prop 84 Arundo biomonitoring - in progress as needed. Tricolored Blackbird surveys - in progress. Sunnyslope SAS restoration and substrate surveys - ongoing. MSHCP helped remove crayfish. California Least Tern monitoring - colony monitoring in progress. Manager/Biologist attends weekly NR meetings.
- Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD: No work this month.
- Riverside-Corona RCD: No work this month.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: No work this month.

IX. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no Board Member comments at this time.

X. NEXT MEETING – July 28, 2022 will be held at the SAWA Headquarters, 1835 Chicago Avenue, Suite C, Riverside, CA 92507 and remotely via Zoom.

XI. ADJOURN – The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 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