SAWA MEETING MINUTES

March 25th, 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 9:04 A.M.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

(Via Zoom Conference Call)
Greg Powers – Jackson Tidus; Brian Brady – SAWA; Brett Mills – SJBRCD; Dick Zembal – OCWD; Mandy Parkes – IERCD; Kerwin Russell – RCRCD; Melody Aimar – SAWA; James Law – SAWA; Jennette El Morsy – SAWA; Teri Biancardi – TEAMRCD; Kimberly Kuznicki – SAWA; Rick Neugebauer – TEAMRCD; Chris Jones – SBVMWD;

III. 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 January 28, 2021
b. Approve Financial Statement for January 2021
c. Approve Financial Statement for February 2021

Director Zembal 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		

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. ILF Project – Brian Brady

Mr. Brady reported that SAWA is working on corralling 32-acre parcel separate or in combination with other areas. Mr. Law reported that SAWA has 15.3-acres of arundo and is looking for 17.1-acres to get the 32.4-acres required. Mr. Law added that the original agreement allows for tamarisk, castor bean or arundo. Mr. Law reported that SAWA is looking for areas with tamarisk or castor bean, since there is not 32.4 acres of just arundo.

b. Treasurer's Report – Dick Zembal

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

VI. ACTION ITEMS

a. Discussion and Possibly Action Regarding New "Designating Agencies Recruiting And Voting Policy"

Mr. Brady reported that this item was requested for discussion by the full Board. Mr. Brady provided an updated PowerPoint presentation on the subject for Board discussion on January 28 2021. After discussion, the Board requested that District Counsel prepare a draft policy regarding new designating agencies consistent with the SAWA Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and applicable State laws. Mr. Powers summarized the relevant portions of the articles and the bylaws in the draft policy and also discussed in the third section what the corporation's code says with respect to fiduciary duties of directors on nonprofit corporations. The bylaws have very specific provisions on what the procedures are for bringing on new designated agencies. It requires more than just a simple majority vote, it requires first, a 4/5ths vote (a super majority) and if achieved, then the proposed change would go to each of the respective boards, then being a majority vote (3 out of 5). Mr. Brady seeks Board direction regarding the draft policy. The Board continued discussion of action regarding new designating agencies recruiting and voting policy as part of discussion with the action item of direction to SAWA general counsel regarding updates to the SAWA Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

Mr. Brady suggested having the Administration Committee address the draft policy prior to the April Board Meeting. There was no further Board action at this time.

b. Discussion and Possible Direction to SAWA General Counsel Regarding Updates to the SAWA Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

Mr. Brady reported that the SAWA District Counsel has reviewed SAWA Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws and has determined that several updates to the documents are necessary at this time. Mr. Powers' memorandum explaining the need for these updates was provided to the Board. Mr. Brady seeks Board direction with respect to updates to SAWA Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Mr. Powers recommended filing a new statement of information on behalf of SAWA with the secretary of state that updates SAWA's address, it also updates who the current CEO, CFO and secretary of SAWA are and updates the agent for service.

Director Mills directed legal to amend and file a statement of information on behalf of SAWA as needed with the appropriate information to the secretary of state. Director Zembal seconded and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0

Neugebauer	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parkes	Aye
Zembal	Aye	Mills	Aye		

Mr. Powers left the meeting at this time.

GENERAL ITEMS

VII. SAWA PROJECT REPORTS

a. Brian Brady, Executive Director – SAWA

Mr. Brady developed and presented a presentation to the Team RCD board regarding SAWA mission, activities and partnering opportunities with TEAM RCD. After several loan forgiveness application iterations by Bank of America, Mr. Brady continues to work with SAWA's CPA to process loan forgiveness paperwork for the $431,328 Paycheck Protection Program loan received under the federal government's CARES Act. Mr. Brady continues to work with SingerLewak to finalize the 2019 audit.

b. Kerwin Russell – RCRCD

Mr. Russell that RCRCD are doing a lot of reporting right now. Mr. Russell added that RCRCD's problem is that there has not been a lot of rain and that their rangers reported measuring more snow than rain this year. There is going to be some delayed reporting because of late rain making it a longer reading season.

c. Dick Zembal – OCWD
Mr. Zembal reported completing a sediment demonstration project in the Prado Basin. OCWD were aiming for taking out 120,000 cubic yards of sediment and got around 80,000 before the latest thousand acre fire hit and melted a good deal of the 18 inch pipe that was carrying the slurry to the storage site. The project was a great success as they uncovered a lot of trash that made its way into Prado on high water, and they found a historic dumpsite for gigantic tires and pulled out a dozen and a half or so. The good news about the fire was that almost everything is crown sprouting and some of the willows are even flowering and leafing from branches that were slightly charred. The intensity of the fire was not anywhere near as great as the one that they had previously had a few years back. Other news, they wrapped up the feasibility study for ecosystem restoration in the basin with the corps.

d. Rick Neugebauer – Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD
Mr. Neugebauer reported on the previous meeting presentation given about one of TEAMRCD's big programs that they have, which is the crop swap, which has been doing very well. Mr. Neugebauer also reported that in mid-February, they had their annual monitoring meeting with Greer Ranch explaining where they are at and the process of their conservation easements and maintenance issues that they are facing.

e. Mandy Parkes – Inland Empire RCD
Ms. Parkes reported working on a regional monitoring effort for invasive shot hole borer and it is finally getting off the ground after a lot of planning. Ms. Parkes discussed wanting to come up with a fire restoration plan.

f. Brett Mills – San Jacinto Basin RCD
Mr. Mills reported that SJBRCD had Mr. Law's crew working on three of their project sites doing some weeding and cleanup. Mr. Mills reported that there is still a little bit of snow up in the mountains, but will be closing down soon.

g. Bonnie Johnson – OCWD
Absent

h. Jennette El Morsy, Administrative Services Manager – SAWA
Ms. El Morsy reported on being busy with new hires after hiring 9 field assistants, 2 MSHCP biologists, an admin person and are still recruiting for HRS techs. SAWA's finished up W-2s and 1099s and closed out the year. Ms. El Morsy reported doing annual training for the background checks, updated computers and ordered some cell phones for the MSHCP department because they were previously using their own and were then getting reimbursements for it. Finally, reported finishing the MSHCP contract and was sent over for the next fiscal year for Clinton Keith and MSHCP to RCA and just getting all the new hires settled in with their training and everything else.

i. James Law, Habitat Restoration Services Manager – SAWA

Mr. Law reported on VCS bid in Murrieta, Prop 84 site management, RLC Truck Sewer, SBVMWD work plan for the rest of 2021, City of Chino Hills Carbon Canyon clean up, Carbon Canyon Fire Safe Council proposal for fall 2021, SCE 0.8-acre enhancement and training Mr. Almanza in GIS. Mr. Law also updated on other work within individual member agencies jurisdictions:

- Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD: The HRS dept. conducted homeless monitoring.
- Riverside-Corona RCD: The HRS dept. conducted treatments at the follow: 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: The HRS dept. conducted treatments 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 dept. conducted treatments at: May Ranch, Mosaic, Wolfskill 1.2 and Wolfskill 1.47.
- Orange County Water District: The HRS dept. 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. MSHCP working from home, staggering in office, using personal vehicles and SAWA trucks. Mr. Campanella is managing remote workflow. There is a New Seasonal Biologist started 3/1/21, New Field Biologist started 3/22/21, and Herp Taxa Lead interviews – in progress. Ms. Aimar, Mr. Campanella and Leads are working on 2020 reports. Species occurrence dataset – 2020 in progress. 2nd Quarterly Report complete. Manager collaborating with FWS (Will Miller)/other NCCP's on region-wide herp monitoring. Manager attended monthly RCA Managers Meeting. Manager working on FY2021-22 Work Plan/Budget. Ms. Aimar also updated on other MSHCP dept. work including:

- Rare plants: Engelmann Oak surveys – complete, *Phacelia stellaris* surveys - in progress.
- Purple Martin: Surveys – Begin in April.
- California Spotted Owl: P.M. surveys in progress.
- CA Gnatcatcher: Nest monitoring – training and scouting in progress.
- Mammals: LAPM trapping complete - report in progress.
- Clinton Keith Overcrossing: Camera traps at overcrossing/undercrossing. New cameras installed to detect butterfly use. Veg transects and small mammal trapping – planning.
- Quino Checkerspot Butterfly: Survey's began in Feb.; Larvae detected.
- Data/GIS Analysis: QC 2020 datasets in progress.

Ms. Aimar reported on WHMS dept. Biologists working in the field and remotely. Vireo surveys for 1st arrivals – in progress. Biologists monitoring HRS crews – as needed. BHCO – traps mostly deployed. BHCO – assistants hired and being trained. BHCO – trap building in progress. SBVMWD – habitat analysis report – submitted. SBVMWD – presentation to BOD – complete. SBVMWD – 2021 contract complete. Ms. Aimar conducted *Nest Avoidance Training* for HRS, IERCD, SBVWCD, RLC. Biologists conducted CAGN assessment for Hidden Valley WCB Phase I. Biologists attended virtual California Least Tern meeting. Vireo Noise Study in San Tim (SBCTA) – in progress. Ms. Aimar attends multiple weekly virtual meetings. Staff Zoom meetings – as needed. Creating vireo/cowbird database – on hold until Fall. Biologist, Mr. Locatelli

resigned – recruitment to begin in Fall. Rearranging biologist sites for priorities. OCWD helping to fill-in; Contractor (s) 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 in progress. Goose Creek Vireo –surveys in progress; biomonitoring ISR.
- Orange County Water District: Prop 84 Arundo biomonitoring – in progress. Bat/Swallow diet study- DNA sampling complete – in progress. Sunnyslope SAS restoration and substrate surveys – report complete. Ms. Aimar 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

Director Zembal reported that he would not be able to attend next meeting due to Earth Day obligations.

IX. NEXT MEETING – April 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 10:15 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