SAWA MEETING MINUTES

May 26th, 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 9:01 A.M.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Rick Neugebauer – TEAMRCD; Melody Aimar – SAWA; Jennette El Morsy – SAWA; Brian Brady – SAWA; Mandy Parkes – IERCD; Kerwin Russell – RCRCD; Brett Mills – SJBRCD; Dick Zembal – OCWD; 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 March 24, 2022
b. Approve Financial Statement for March 2022
c. Approve Financial Statement for April 2022

Director Russell moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Director Mills 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 hopeful to restart discussions with the City of Lake Elsinore about parcels around the lake. SAWA is still waiting to hear back from them and is hopeful to have something concrete to bring back to the board to consider.

b. Treasurer's Report – Brett Mills

Mr. Mills reported on aging detail being $83,103.35 and the check register detail being $302,135.25.

GENERAL ITEMS

VI. SAWA PROJECT REPORTS

a. Brian Brady, Executive Director – SAWA

Mr. Brady reported that staff are working on mid-year budget revisions. Issues addressed 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. As previously reported, SAWA and RLC staffs met in February to explore potential shared-cost savings such as office/warehouse space and administrative functions. Topics discussed included each organizations' financial frameworks, cultures, facilities and assets. The RLC board subsequently discussed these issues at their March board meeting. The RLC board's feedback was to emphasize the value of our two organizations' existing working relationship but not to expand other initiatives at this time.

b. Kerwin Russell – RCRCD
Mr. Russell reported that RCRCD is starting trapping and sampling for shot hole borer again. Some sycamore trees are resistant to the fungus that the shot hole borer spreads and UCR is going to be looking into those trees to figure out what is allowing them to resist the disease that is killing them. The willow trees seem to be heavily damage by the shot hole borer.

c. Dick Zembal – OCWD
Mr. Zembal reported on the canopy dropping off in places throughout Prado. Mr. Zembal reported on the California grape, shot hole borer, high winds and its effects on the forest. Mr. Zembal Zoomed with Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) group, which started in Northern California looking at the study of atmospheric rivers and how better to predict what a particular storm is going to do so that you have a better idea of what to prepare for on the ground. OCWD is in the middle of a study at Prado, trying to go slightly higher with water conservation there. Mr. Zembal added that the difficulty with holding more water when it's available in the aftermath of big storms in the Prado basin, is you have to have enough time to get rid of all that water if it turns out another big storm is coming. This study is trying to figure out if this is something that will allow greater conservation in a number of reservoirs throughout the west. There are several current studies going on, one of which is in Prado. Two weeks ago, OCWD banded two juvenile bald eagles out of the Prado nest. Mr. Zembal reported that they should be flying the coup soon. OCWD also started a maps program out at Prado.

d. Rick Neugebauer – Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD
Mr. Neugebauer reported that the City of Murrieta hired a new homeless coordinator. Mr. Neugebauer added that between Lake Elsinore, Murrieta and Temecula the homeless count is down less than 80.

e. Mandy Parkes – Inland Empire RCD
Ms. Parkes reported that IERCD is monitoring for ISHB and discussed with Mr. Russell different approaches for restoration. Ms. Parkes added that IERCD is participating in forest health grant funded work.

f. Brett Mills – San Jacinto Basin RCD
Mr. Mills reported on restoration and various types of biological surveys conducted throughout SJBRCD. Bob Hewitt has retired a while back and SJBRCD has a new district conservationist coming in.

g. Bonnie Johnson – OCWD
Absent

h. Jennette El Morsy, Administrative Services Manager – SAWA
Ms. El Morsy reported on A/R Mar Invoice Total $260,419.82. A/R Apr Invoice Total $271,556.68. Working on Liability/Workers' Comp Insurance Policy Renewal June 1. Submitted IRS Form 5500 data for Retirement Plan Annual Year-end census. Submitted Quarterly Taxes. 2021 SAWA Audit Engagement Letter for Halliday & Co. Prep work for 2021 Financial Audit. IT evaluation of companywide computers / workstations & submitted recommendations.

Recruiting for MSHCP New Field Biologist. Ms. El Morsy also reported on updated labor law compliance and Annual Fire Inspection from City of Riverside Fire Dept. for Warehouse/Office bldgs., small issues corrected.

i. James Law, Habitat Restoration Services Manager – SAWA
Absent

j. Melody Aimar, Biological Programs Manager – SAWA
Ms. Aimar reported on MSHCP Dept. Attended 2 monthly WRC MSHCP Management and Monitoring Coordination Meeting. Presentations: 4/14/22 "Status of Mountain Lion Populations in Riverside County and the Region - Latest Research Findings and Actions for their Conservation" by Dr. Winston Vickers (UC Davis; Mountain Lion Project); 5/12/22 "A Tale of Two Threatened Birds: Strategies for Management Based on Threats and Species Traits" by Dr. Kristine Preston (USGS Ecologist) – CAGN/CACW. Field Biologist job announcement (new position). Staff working from home, staggering in office, using personal vehicles and SAWA trucks. Mr. Campanella managing remote workflow. Monthly Leads meeting via Zoom; Quarterly All-hands meeting. Ms. Aimar attended monthly RCA Managers Meeting. Ms. Aimar attended SDMMP meeting – TRBL. Ms. Aimar, Mr. Campanella and Lead attended SBKR Monitoring Program Overview – Wash Plan HCP. Ms. Aimar attended RCHCA/RCA SKR Rangewide Monitoring Discussion. 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 invaded by stinknet.
- Tri-colored Blackbird: Breeding colony found at SJWA (failed-moved).
- Mammals: Prep for LAPM surveys – start 5/23.
- 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 – In progress. Report – in progress.
- Data/GIS Analysis: Transition to electronic data collection – in progress. 2021 Species Occurrence Dataset – in progress.

Ms. Aimar reported on WHMS Dept. Biologist (Collin Farmer) gave notice to start consulting, leaving in the middle of the season. IEUA – Breeding Bird Surveys – in progress. BHCO – All traps deployed. USGS finalizing new database. Seasonal BHCO assistant recruitment – shorthanded, biologists covering gaps. LBVI surveys – ongoing. HRS nest avoidance biomonitoring – in progress. Ms. Aimar attends Prop 84 monthly meeting when available. Ms. Aimar coordinating with SBVMWD and RivCo Parks Rangers on homeless camp safety. Ms. Aimar attends multiple weekly virtual meeting(s). Ms. Aimar coordinating with RCHCA on SKR trapping schedule. Ms. Aimar also updated on other work within individual member agencies jurisdicitons:

- Inland Empire RCD: Goose Creek LBVI monitoring. Goose Creek mitigation – monitor HRS crews.
- 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. Ms. Aimar and Biologist 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

VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS
There were no Board Member comments at this time.

VIII. NEXT MEETING – June 23, 2022 will be held at the SAWA Headquarters, 1835 Chicago Avenue, Suite C, Riverside, CA 92507 and remotely via Zoom.

IX. ADJOURN – The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 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