SAWA MEETING MINUTES

November 19th, 2020
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 9:01 A.M.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

(Via Zoom Conference Call)
Brett Mills – SJBRCD; Brian Brady – SAWA; Kerwin Russell – RCRCD; Melody Aimar – SAWA; Chris Jones – SBVMWD; Kai Palenscar – SBVMWD; Mandy Parkes – IERCD; Dick Zembal – OCWD; James Law – SAWA; Jennette El Morsy – SAWA; Rick Neugebauer – TEAMRCD

III. PUBLIC INPUT – Oral communication from the public audience on any subject matter within SAWA's subject matter jurisdiction.

Chris Jones – SBVMWD
Mr. Jones reported that there is data that may be beneficial to those doing work up in the forest. SBVMWD is also working with IERCD on getting imagery and Lidar of the whole forest, which should be available late January.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approve Minutes for September 24, 2020
b. Approve Financial Statement for September 2020
c. Approve Financial Statement for October 2020

Director Zembal 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 and OCWD continue to work through issues of site protection associated with satisfying SAWA's ILF obligations.

b. Treasurer's Report – Dick Zembal
Mr. Zembal did not have any updates at this time.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

a. Discussion and Possible Ratification of SAWA 2019 Tax Return

Mr. Brady reported that the 2019 tax returns for SAWA have been prepared by our accounting firm, SingerLewak, LLP and have been submitted to the Internal Revenue Service and State Franchise Tax Board. Mr. Brady requests that the Board ratify the 2019 tax return.
Director Neugebauer moved to ratify the submission of 2019 tax return to the Internal Revenue Service and State Franchise Tax Board. Director Zembal seconded and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0

Neugebauer	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parkes	Aye
Zembal	Aye	Mills	Aye		

GENERAL ITEMS

VII. SAWA PROJECT REPORTS

a. Brian Brady, Executive Director – SAWA
Mr. Brady reported that SAWA continues to work with SBVMWD, Hana Resources and the County of Riverside to develop an upper Santa Ana River habitat restoration project (Hidden Valley Wildlife Area Floodplain Restoration Planning Project). A grant pre-application was submitted to the California Wildlife Conservation Board (CWCB) in early August and a full funding proposal by September 18. Final SCWB approval of a $537,158 planning grant is slated for November 18. Mr. Brady reported that work continues in preparing the 2021 SAWA Operating Budget, which will be presented to the board at the December meeting. Mr. Brady added that SAWA and RCA are working on a change order to cover the additional cost of mileage acquired by following safe distancing guidelines due to COVID.

b. Kerwin Russell – RCRCD
Mr. Russell reported that RCRCD are working on usual end of the year tasks. Mr. Russell added that RCRCD have done a lot of fish work recently and are trying to get the Griffith Project wrapped up.

c. Dick Zembal – OCWD
Mr. Zembal reported on a sediment project down at Prado that OCWD is currently working on. Mr. Zembal added that OCWD got a grant to do fieldtrips to Prado that have now gone online due to COVID.

d. Rick Neugebauer – Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD
Mr. Neugebauer did not have any updates at this time.

e. Mandy Parkes – Inland Empire RCD
Ms. Parkes reported that there was another fire at a site in Chino Hills. Ms. Parkes also reported that the CARCD's conference was virtual this year.

f. Brett Mills – San Jacinto Basin RCD
Mr. Mills reported that SJBRCD continues work on regular projects and have a few easements and restoration sites that SJBRCD are working on with the County and developers.

g. Bonnie Johnson – OCWD
Absent

h. Jennette El Morsy, Administrative Services Manager – SAWA
Ms. El Morsy reported that work is wrapping up on the Annual Financial Audit. State Fund Workers' Comp Audit completed with no issues. WCIRB Reclassified HRS employees code# to 0042 - Landscape Gardening. IRS Form 5500 submitted. Ms. El Morsy continues to work on 2021 Budget and year-end as well as open enrollment for employees health benefits.

i. James Law, Habitat Restoration Services Manager – SAWA

Mr. Law reported on the ongoing ILF, Riverside Flood Control project for fall 2020, potential WVWD Cactus Basin project, Benton Cannel planning, potential new job at Greer Ranch for TEAMRCD and Carbon Canyon Fire Safe Council & City of Chino Hills Palms. Mr. Law also updated on other work within individual member agencies jurisdictions:

- Temecula-Elsinor-Anza-Murrieta RCD: The HRS Dept. conducted homeless monitoring.
- Riverside-Corona: The HRS Dept. conducted treatments at the following: Quail Run Phase II, SAR – dump to Van Buren, Temescal, Mockingbird MCB, RLC – Alessandro Arroyo 1.52, RLC – Meridian, SAWPA – Van Buren Bridge, HH and grinding at RCRCD's - Griffith Residential project.
- Inland Empire RCD: The HRS Dept. conducted treatments at: City of Chino Hills – Hickory Creek, CDFW unassigned, Sunnyslope, HH, SBVMWD – Lakeview, Prop 84, RLC – El Casco and Bella Strada.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: The HRS Dept. conducted treatments at Wolfskill 1.2 and Wolfskill 1.47.
- Orange County Water District: The HRS Dept. conducted treatments at: Prop 84, Prado – Diversion Channel, OCCC Aliso Creek, Santiago Phase II, Irvine Park and CDFW unassigned.

j. Melody Aimar, Biological Programs Manager – SAWA

Ms. Aimar reported on MSHCP Dept. Staff working from home, staggering in office, using personal vehicles and SAWA trucks. Supervisor, Mr. Campanella, managing remote workflow. Ms. Aimar reviewing virtual training/workshop opportunities. Ms. Aimar and Mr. Campanella completed 2019 annual report – submitted draft to RCA. Species occurrence dataset – submitted to RCA for review. 1st Quarterly complete. Ms. Aimar and Herp Lead to collaborate with FWS (Will Miller)/other NCCP's on region-wide herp monitoring. Ms. Aimar attended monthly RCA Managers Meeting. Seasonal biologist announcement (Quino) posted. First Aid/CPR virtual training – Complete. Ms. Aimar also updated on other MSHCP Dept. work including:

- Rare plants: Rainbow Manzanita surveys. Engelmann Oak surveys in progress.
- Purple Martin: Training and scouting in progress.
- California Spotted Owl: Training and scouting in progress.
- White-tailed Kite: Habitat analysis poster in progress.
- Herps: Potrero ACEC Herp array's – closed for winter. Mountain snake surveys – done.
- Mammals: LAPM trapping complete - report in progress.
- Clinton Keith Overcrossing: Camera traps at overcrossing/undercrossing.
- Delhi Sands Flower-loving Fly: Scouting began in early June. 1st DSF found 6/23. Surveys on-going 3 times/week. Season done.
- Data/GIS Analysis: ArcGIS Online training, for manager/supervisor; leads QC datasets in progress.

Ms. Aimar reported on WHMS Dept. Biologists working from home. SBVMWD-Lakeview: Bio-monitor vegetation removal. BHCO – Winter traps open at Prado/San Jacinto dairies. Vireo – Report near completion. CAGN - regulatory reporting in progress. Biologists monitoring Prop 84 Arundo removal. California Least Tern – data submitted to CDFW; annual report in progress. Vireo Noise Study in San Tim – SBCTA. Annual Mitigation Report – complete and submitted to agencies. Training: ArcGIS; technical writing course. Manager review virtual training/workshop opportunities. Staff Zoom meeting. Ms. Aimar also updated on work within individual member agencies jurisdictions:

- Inland Empire RCD: Devil's Canyon Project – check wildlife cameras – cover boards. Goose Creek Vireo - data analysis complete.

- Orange County Water District: Prop 84 Arundo biomonitoring. Bat/Swallow diet study- DNA sampling complete – awaiting analysis. Sunnyslope SAS restoration and substrate surveys – report in progress. Manager attends weekly NR meeting.
- Temecula-Elsinor-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 Board Member comments at this time.

IX. NEXT MEETING – December 17, 2020 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 10:00 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.

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