SAWA ADMIN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 21st, 2021
Meeting Location:
1835 Chicago Avenue, Suite C
Riverside, CA 92507
1:00 P.M.

ADMIN COMMITTEE ITEMS

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Neugebauer called the meeting to order at 1:06 P.M.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Rick Neugebauer – TEAMRCD; Mandy Parkes – IERCD; Brian Brady – SAWA; Jennette El Morsy – SAWA; Kimberly Kuznicki – SAWA; Dick Zembal – OCWD;

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

Mr. Zembal stated that SAWA came into existence with everybody in the watershed, including all the RCD's, in agreement that there was a major problem for wildlife resources in the watershed, and that was arundo. It was on the shoulders of combatting arundo together under SAWA so it would be done watershed wide, that SAWA came into existence. The secondary purpose was putting biologists on the ground and actually managing resources. The very basic need of this watershed is enough of endowment behind SAWA to be able to continue this attack on arundo with the biological backup of that. The new MSHCP recognizes that and wants to partner in identifying how to put that fund together and get the credits for whoever it is that pays into that. Mr. Zembal stated that is one of the basic needs of SAWA to persist into the future and to be ultimately successful with its main charter, which was removing arundo. The inland MSHCP brings that to the table, a very active, powerful, fundraising entity, who recognizes that and wants to be a part of that. In Mr. Zembal's opinion, that is important in SAWA's future and believes they ought to be SAWA's partners.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

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

Mr. Brady stated that, as the committee would recall, over the last year and a half to two years, there has been some expression of interest from the Valley District to become a Class A or a designating agency member of the board. Mr. Brady sent the committee the current draft policy on adding Class A or Class B members to the board. It clarifies the procedures, the requirements and the outcomes on adding new board members. The value of it from both Mr. Powers' and Mr. Brady's perspective is that it clarifies it and instead of having to search through the bylaws to figure out where everything comes together, it's done in the policy. The draft makes it clear that there is the potential, and is even beneficial, to have seven board members rather than five. Five Class A board members are the minimum required in order to conduct business. The board can have up to seven Class A or five Class A and two Class B. Another concern that has been previously mentioned was the policy for nonprofits and a

particular vetting process. Mr. Brady explained that has to deal with Class B board members. A Class A board member is an agency whereas a Class B member is an individual that has technical information or perspective that may be useful. The Valley District would have to be considered a Class A as they are an agency. Mr. Brady thinks that from that perspective, he would like the Administration Committee to recommend to the full board that they approve the draft as it stands. Meanwhile, Mr. Brady will continue to work on the process, which is the second draft, that addresses how to Vet Class A and Class B. If the main policy can pass in October that will allow them to work with Valley District if they so choose. Mr. Neugebauer asked whether the board is looking for one Class A or two Class A's as they look to expand their board. Mr. Neugebauer also asked for thoughts on concerns about voting and the possibility of ending up with a tie.

Ms. Parks stated that she was less worried about bringing on and having the potential to tie rather than nobody ever coming on to the board. Ms. Parks stated that there are two things she has noticed from this discussion that have come up before. The first is the question of what is the value and benefit of this. The second is with Valley District specifically and would they have an interest or would they be able to be impartial. Ms. Parks believes these topics need to be addressed. Ms. Parks suggested that an effective method of assessing fitness for joining the board might be to provide a quantitative analysis of potential annual revenue brought in if this person comes on or assets leveraged. Ms. Parks would like the policy to show what value they bring to the board. She suggested that it should be written in the policy for prospective board members that there be a quantitative statement of value and in the review process each board member would issue a statement explaining the reason of why they believe they should or should not become a board member. Mr. Neugebauer agreed.

Mr. Brady said he would continue to work on the second draft. Everyone was in agreement about the process in moving forward and would like to see the second draft in the October board meeting.

Mr. Zembal left the meeting at 1:29 P.M.

V. **NEXT MEETING** – September 23, 2021 will be held at the SAWA Headquarters, 1835 Chicago Avenue, Suite C, Riverside, CA 92507 and remotely via Zoom.

VI. **ADJOURN** – The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 P.M.

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