SAWA MEETING MINUTES

September 23rd, 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 9:05 A.M.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

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

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 August 26, 2021
b. Approve Financial Statement for August 2021

Director Zembal moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Director Parkes seconded and the motion passed, 4-0-1

Neugebauer	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parkes	Aye
Zembal	Aye	Mills	*Abstained*		

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. ILF Project – Brian Brady

Mr. Brady reported SAWA continues looking for properties. Mr. Brady stated that the Links at Summerly, which had been the property that was the main interest for the ILF project, had been mistakenly put up for sale and they are now in the process of looking for other properties. Mr. Law reported that they have mapped everything from the 15 freeway, just above and below Newport, there is some property located there owned by Valley Water District. There are properties over on Lakeshore and are trying to figure out ownership and contacting them.

b. Treasurer's Report – Dick Zembal

Mr. Zembal did not have any major updates at this time, only that the books look good.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

a. Election of SAWA Corporate Officers

Section 305 of SAWA By-laws call for the election of SAWA Board Officers at the annual meeting to be held on the fourth Thursday in September. Section 400 identifies

the Officers of the Corporation as the Chairperson, the vice Chairperson, the Secretary, and the Treasurer.

Chairperson Neugebauer opened the nominations for office of Chairperson. Director Parkes moved to nominate Director Neugebauer.
Director Russell asked Director Neugebauer what he believes his accomplishments have been over the last five years that would make him (Mr. Russell) want to vote for him (Mr. Neugebauer) for a sixth term.
Director Neugebauer stated that he thinks the organization has continued to be stable and is looking at other avenues of revenue bringing in for the group. Mr. Neugebauer also thinks that SAWA has a great executive director providing leadership for the staff. Director Neugebauer believes those are a few things that have been beneficial to the organization and would like to hope for support again for another year.
Director Zembal added one of the reasons why he likes Director Neugebauer being in the chair position is simply because of his demeanor. Mr. Zembal believes he comes across as very thoughtful and engaging. Mr. Neugebauer researches the issues and comes at them with a fairly good knowledge of what he is talking about. Director Zembal believes Director Neugebauer presents a good face for SAWA and believes SAWA has benefited over the last several years having Director Neugebauer as Chairperson partly because of that.
Mr. Powers informed that the by-laws, section 301, do not contain a term limit. There is nothing that prohibits someone from serving a certain amount of time.
Director Parkes moved to close nominations for Chairperson and Director Zemball seconded. The motion for Director Neugebauer for office of Chairperson passed, 3-2

Neugebauer	Aye	Russell	*Nay*	Parkes	Aye
Zembal	Aye	Mills	*Nay*		

Chairperson Neugebauer opened the nominations for office of Vice Chairperson. Director Neugebauer moved to nominate Director Parkes. Director Zembal moved to close nominations for Vice Chairperson and Director Neugebauer seconded. The motion for Director Parkes for office of Vice Chairperson passed unanimously, 5-0

Neugebauer	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parkes	Aye
Zembal	Aye	Mills	Aye		

Chairperson Neugebauer opened up the nominations for office of Secretary. Director Zembal moved to nominated Director Russell. Director Parkes moved to close nominations for the office of Secretary and Director Mills seconded. The motion for Director Russell for office of Secretary passed unanimously, 5-0

Neugebauer	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parkes	Aye
Zembal	Aye	Mills	Aye		

Chairperson Neugebauer opened up the nominations for office of Treasurer. Director Zembal moved to nominated Director Mills. Director Parkes moved to close the nominations for the office of Treasurer and Director Zembal seconded. The motion for Director Mills for office of Treasurer passed, 5-0

Neugebauer	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parkes	Aye
Zembal	Aye	Mills	Aye		

b. Designation of SAWA Board Committees and Assignment of Committee Members

Section 600 of SAWA By-laws call for the designation of Board advisory committees by the Board of Directors. The following are the committees approved by the Board: Administration (policies and procedures, human resources, and legal); Audit and Finance (accounting, budget, purchasing, and investment). Section 601 of the By-laws stipulates that the committees shall continue as such until the annual meeting of the Board and until his or her successor is appointed.

Chairperson Neugebauer opened the nominations for the Administration Committee. Director Zembal nominated Director Russell and Director Neugebauer nominated Director Zemball. Director Mills moved to close nominations for the Administration Committee and Director Parkes seconded. The motion for Director Russell and Zembal to serve on the Administrative Committee passed unanimously, 5-0

Neugebauer	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parkes	Aye
Alternate Johnson	Aye	Mills	Aye		

Chairperson Neugebauer opened the nominations for the Audit & Finance Committee. Director Neugebauer nominated Director Mills and Director Zembal nominated Director Parkes. Director Parkes moved to close nominations for Audit and Finance Committee and Director Zemball seconded. The motion for Director Mills and Director Parkes to serve on the Audit & Finance Committee passed unanimously, 5-0

Neugebauer	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parkes	Aye
Alternate Johnson	Aye	Mills	Aye		

Director Russell recommends that if an item comes up on either committee that requires the whole board be involved, that the board call a special meeting in order to have that level of participation.
Director Zembal expressed that he would like to make sure that when any committee meeting occurs that all board members be notified of the meeting and agenda so each board member can decide at their own discretion if they would like to attend based on what is on the agenda.
Director Russell expressed his concern with board members who are not on a committee wanting to participate in the committee meeting. Board members would have to speak during public input. If there are certain items discussed, the whole board should be involved and therefore Mr. Russell believes a special meeting should be called.
Mr. Brady stated that staff would take direction from the board on any item that goes before committee. If there is enough interest, it would then be noticed as a special meeting.
Mr. Powers informed that all committees have the power to refer any matter up to the board.

GENERAL ITEMS

VII. SAWA PROJECT REPORTS

a. Brian Brady, Executive Director – SAWA
Mr. Brady reported that Bank of America has completed its review of SAWA's forgiveness application of the $431,328 Paycheck Protection Program loan received under the federal government's CARES Act and has passed the application on to the SBA. The SBA is the final review prior to loan forgiveness. Mr. Brady stated the loan is expected to be forgiven within the next sixty days. Mr. Brady reported that work has begun on the 2020 audit. SAWA staff continues to work with SBVMWD, Hana

Resources and the County of Riverside to develop an upper Santa Ana River habitat restoration project. Current work items associated with the project plan include CEQA compliance (re: a categorical exemption), habitat restoration plan and required permitting. Lastly, Mr. Brady reported finishing the annual report on mitigation projects.

b. Kerwin Russell – RCRCD
Mr. Russell did not have any updates at this time.

c. Dick Zembal – OCWD
Mr. Zembal reported that the focus at Prado right now is attempting to plan for fire management. Mr. Zembal reported there is a pair of bald eagles that nested in the basin for the first time ever.

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 dealing with the forest closure, which has been delaying work. Ms. Parkes informed the board that CARCD cancelled in person attendance and will be a virtual conference in January.

f. Brett Mills – San Jacinto Basin RCD
Mr. Mills shared information on AB361 in regards to Zoom meetings.

g. Bonnie Johnson – OCWD
Absent

h. Jennette El Morsy, Administrative Services Manager – SAWA
Ms. El Morsy reported working on the 2020 Financial Audit and has already submitted the State Fund Workers' Comp Audit and is in review. Ms. El Morsy is continuing working on IRS Form 5500 Annual Retirement Tax Filing. As Ms. El Morsy reported at the last meeting, Max Barrett has been promoted to HRS Field Supervisor and is doing well in his new position. SAWA hired two HRS Restoration Technicians: Margarita Munguia and Chyanne Williams-Barragan. The new MSHCP Herp Taxa Lead will be starting in a couple of weeks. Lastly, Ms. El Morsy reported renewing both City of Chino Hills and Riverside business licenses.

i. James Law, Habitat Restoration Services Manager – SAWA
Mr. Law reported having fourteen new job sites right now. Mr. Law has been busy training Max in his new position and hiring two new people. Mr. Law reported on new job proposals and administrative tasks including annual report final review; Prop 84 site management, bid walk contracting and removal; Riverside Flood Control Lake Elsinore Outlet Channel; Riverside Flood Control Line C Project and the new VCS proposal near Lake Elsinore. Mr. Law also updated on other work within individual member agencies jurisdictions:

- Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD: The HRS department conducted homeless monitoring and treating the TEAM RCD – Riv Flood Project.
- Riverside-Corona RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at the follow: Temescal 3M, Quail Run Phase II, Mockingbird MCB and SAWPA – Van Buren Bridge.

- Inland Empire RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at: CDFW unassigned, Sunnyslope, Prop 84 and HH.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at: RLC – Alessandro Arroyo 1.52, Wolfskill 1.2 and Wolfskill 1.47.
- Orange County Water District: The HRS department conducted treatments at: Prop 84, Irvine Park, and CDFW unassigned.

j. Melody Aimar, Biological Monitoring Programs Manager – SAWA

Ms. Aimar reported on MSHCP Dept. Monthly WRC MSHCP Management and Monitoring Coordination Meeting on 9/9. Staff working from home, staggering in office, using personal vehicles and SAWA trucks. Mr. Campanella managing remote workflow. Herp Taxa Lead – New hire to start 8/18. Monthly Leads meeting via Zoom. Ms. Aimar collaborating with FWS (Will Miller)/other NCCP's on region-wide herp monitoring. Ms. Aimar attended monthly RCA Managers Meeting. Ms. Aimar coordinating Wilderness First Aid training with RivCo Parks, CDFW & IERCD. Data archive and server file clean-up in progress. Ms. Aimar also updated on other MSHCP Dept. work including:

- Rare plants: Plant surveys complete - Preparing for Engelmann Oak surveys. Discovered new population of near extinct Parish's Brittlescale (1 of only 3 known locations).
- Purple Martin: Surveys – complete (found one breeding location).
- California Spotted Owl: P.M. surveys complete (none found).
- Mammals: LAPM trapping – in progress.
- Herps/Fish: Assisted SBMWD native fish surveys. Assisted RCA with exotic fish removal in Murietta.
- Clinton Keith Overcrossing: Camera traps at overcrossing/undercrossing. New cameras installed to detect butterfly use.
- Quino Checkerspot Butterfly: Surveys complete.
- Delhi Sands Flower-loving Fly: Surveys – complete. Arthropod surveys – complete. Vegetation surveys in progress.
- Data/GIS Analysis: Transition to electronic data collection – in progress.

Ms. Aimar reported on WHMS Dept. Vireo surveys – complete. BHCO – All seasonal traps closed and removed - Winter traps open in Prado and San Jacinto. Annual Vireo report – in progress. Field training 2 new biologists. Annual Mitigation Report – Final Draft complete – proofing. Biologists assisted SBVMWD with Native Fish surveys. Ms. Aimar coordinating with SBVMWD and RivCo Parks Rangers on homeless camp safety. Ms. Aimar attended RivCo Flood meetings re: Sunnyslope trash clean-up and public outreach. Ms. Aimar coordinating with IERCD, CDWF, RivCo Parks to schedule Wilderness First Aid training. California Least Tern monitoring – data proofing in progress. Vireo Noise Study in San Tim (SBCTA) – in progress. Ms. Aimar attends multiple weekly virtual meeting(s). Staff Zoom meeting(s) – as needed. Creating vireo/cowbird database – on hold until Fall. Three IEUA proposals – in progress. Ms. Aimar also update on work within individual member agencies jurisdictions:

- Inland Empire RCD: Devil's Canyon Project – planning herp visual surveys. Goose Creek Vireo –surveys in progress; biomonitoring ISR.
- Orange County Water District: Biologists assisted with cube surveys – complete. Prop 84 Arundo biomonitoring – in progress as needed, monthly meeting. Bat/Swallow diet study- DNA sampling/analysis complete – report in progress. Sunnyslope SAS restoration and substrate surveys. Ms. Aimar and biologist joining

RivCo Trash Kick-off and Sunnyslope public outreach presentation. 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

There were no Board Member comments at this time.

IX. NEXT MEETING – October 28, 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 9:59 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