SAWA MEETING MINUTES

April 25th, 2024
Meeting Location:
1835 Chicago Avenue, Suite C
Riverside, CA 92507
9:00 A.M.

BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Mills called the meeting to order at 9:02 A.M.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Brian Brady – SAWA; Jennette El Morsy – SAWA; James Law – SAWA; Paul Meinhold – Merrill Lynch; Kerwin Russell – RCRCD; Kimberly Kuznicki – SAWA; Maria Arellano – SAWA; Melody Aimar – SAWA; David McMichael – OCWD; José Mora – IERCD; Brett Mills – SJBRCD;

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 March 28, 2024
b. Approve Financial Statement for March 2024

Director Russel moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Director Alternate McMichael seconded and the motion passed unanimously, 4-0-1

Alternate Mora	Aye	Russell	Aye	Alternate McMichael	Aye
Mills	Aye	Biancardi	*Absent*		

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Presentation: Financial Market and SAWA's Portfolio – Paul Meinhold, Merrill Lynch

Mr. Meinhold presented the SAWA Investment Portfolio to the Board. The Board agreed to stay the course and will meet again in September/October. Mr. Brady will stay in contact with Mr. Meinhold through the strategic planning process.

Ms. Biancardi joint the meeting during Mr. Meinhold's presentation.

b. ILF Project – Brian Brady

Mr. Brady reported Riverside Parks has a lease agreement with the Army Corps on some parcels that SAWA is interested in. They are renegotiating their lease right now and reaffirming which parcels they will be taking management of. Mr. Law asked Mr. McMichael if OCWD had a meeting with Riverside Parks to discuss the future Army Corps lands and who would want to lease which parcels. Mr. McMichael responded that Ms. Parsons met with them and there are several different things going on with Riverside County involving parcels. Ms. Parsons might need to give an update on that.

c. Treasurer's Report – Mandy Parkes
Absent; Mr. Mills reported on behalf of Ms. Parkes that there is about $53,731.52 coming in. The deposit detail brought in $344,324.45.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

a. Discussion and Possible Approval of SAWA Strategic Planning Process
Mr. Brady reported based upon the Board discussion at the March 28, 2024 meeting. A consolidated list of issues categorized under the four themes (finance, internal, branding and scope) and a rough draft of a deliverables planning package associated with the four themes have been prepared for the Board. The rough draft is a first attempt at a roadmap to address the important questions facing SAWA. One will notice that each listed issue has been expressed as an assignment, rather than as a problem (e.g. "right sizing considerations for the organization", rather than "downsizing"). Mr. Brady provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Board presenting the results of the exercise and explaining the next steps.
For a copy of Mr. Brady's presentation, *"2024 SAWA Strategic Plan"*, please contact Administrative Services Manager, Jennette El Morsy, at jennette@sawatershed.org or (951) 780-1012 ext. 101.
Ms. Biancardi moved to approve to continue the strategic process. Mr. McMichael seconded and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Alternate Mora	Aye	Russell	Aye	Alternate McMichael	Aye
Mills	Aye	Biancardi	Aye		

GENERAL ITEMS

VII. SAWA PROJECT REPORTS

a. Brian Brady, Executive Director – SAWA
Mr. Brady reported both Mr. Law and he are working with managers at Valley District. Valley District are putting together an annual program of maintenance. SAWA does some of that work already, but expect that it will expand in scope.

b. Kerwin Russell – RCRCD
Mr. Russell reported working with Mr. Law to do the arundo mapping and updating some of those projects trying to figure out where those funds and acres were placed. Mr. Law's crew did the palm tree drill and kill on the RCRCD Anza Creek project.

c. Sheryl Parsons – OCWD
Absent; Mr. McMichael reported everyone is out working Vireo. OCWD are up to 478 territories at Prado and have about 27 nests. It is looking like vireo are going to have a really big year this year. With a second wet year, there has been a lot of growth and weeding. Staff spend half the year doing vegetation surveys once the Vireo are gone.

d. Teri Biancardi – Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD
Ms. Biancardi reported TEAM RCD had a meeting engaging the regional fire personnel. TEAM RCD are starting to look at the issue of wildfire resilience. Staff learned about who is doing what in the area and where there are gaps. Ms. Biancardi believes that the board needs to start talking about what staff can do to start filling in those gaps.

e. Mandy Parkes – Inland Empire RCD
Absent; Mr. Mora reported staying busy with a lot of events. IERCD worked with the City of Redlands for an Earth Day event. IERCD also held a community event at Louis Rubidoux Parkland and Pecan Grove in Jurupa Valley to show some of the progress staff have made.

f. Brett Mills – San Jacinto Basin RCD
Mr. Mills reported attending the meeting Ms. Biancardi held for wildfire resiliency. Mr. Mills met with Mr. Law and Mr. Hernandez and are trying to come up with ways to fill that gap between TEAM RCD and the SJBRCD side and would like to get funding to help SAWA come up with a plan for wildfire resilience.

g. Jennette El Morsy, Administrative Services Manager – SAWA
Ms. El Morsy reported on A/R March invoice totaling $313,577.01. 2023 audit preparation; field time July 8th-July 12th. Applied for USFWS Grant. USFWS final financial reports. Insurance renewal process: June 1st. Updating employee manual. Updating employee manual. Upgraded QuickBooks to Contractor 23 edition. New temporary database while hosting issue is resolved. New IT server installation. IT installation of Microsoft 360 for SAWA staff. New WHMS Biologist Michelle Picca, start date 4/18/2024. Employee injury: needed stitches, back to work and doing good. 8 new seasonal BHCO Field Assistants started 3/27/2024. Restocking covid supplies as needed. Working on emergency evacuation kits.

h. James Law, Habitat Restoration Services Manager – SAWA
Mr. Law reported on new job proposals and administrative tasks including ILF placement and new proposals. Mr. Law also reported on other work within individual member agencies jurisdictions:

- Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments to: TEAM RCD – Riv Flood projects and homeless monitoring.
- Riverside-Corona RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at the following: SBVMWD – Anza palms and Temescal 3M 2.86.
- Inland Empire RCD: SAWA's HRS department conducted treatments at: SAR – Upstream River Rd, SBVWCD – Julian Way, SBVMWD – Forebay Access, SBVMWD – Newport Avenue and San Timoteo Reach 3B.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at: Canyon Heights and Wolfskill 1.47.
- Orange County Water District: The HRS department conducted treatments at: SAR – Upstream River Rd. and Irvine Lake.

i. Melody Aimar, Biological Programs Manager – SAWA
Ms. Aimar reported on MSHCP Dept. Monthly WRC MSHCP Management and Monitoring Coordination Meetings. Presentations: *"Western Riverside County MSHCP Annual Update – 2023 (continued),"* by Biological Monitoring Program Leads: Nathan Kudla (Herpetofauna), Gabe Elliott (Rare Plants) and Espie Sandoval (Quino). *"Clinton Keith Wildlife Overcrossing and Undercrossing: BMP Monitoring 2019-2023,"* by Nicole Tomes-Orlale (Biological Monitoring Program, Field Biologist). 2023 Survey/Summary reports – in progress. Ms. Aimar revising report guidelines with RCA input. Leads completing 2024 protocols, Ms. Aimar and Mr. Campanella proofing. Leads completing 2024 survey training. Mr. Campanella managing remote workflow; updated Operations Manual. Monthly leads meeting via Zoom for project updates. Ms. Aimar attended monthly RCA Manager Meetings. Ms. Aimar and Mr. Campanella submitted monthly reports and quarterly reports to RCA. Leads working on all 2023 reports, Ms. Aimar and Mr. Campanella proofing. Ms. Aimar also updated on other MSHCP work including:

- Rare Plants: 2023 report – in progress. 2024 surveys – in progress.
- California Gnatcatcher (USGS regional)/California Gnatcatcher (Nesting): 2024 surveys – in progress/2024 nest monitoring – in progress.
- Grasshopper Sparrow: 2024 surveys – in progress.
- Mammals: SR 60 undercrossing – Camera trap surveys – in progress.
- Clinton Keith Overcrossing: Camera trap surveys at overcrossing/undercrossing done.

- Herps/Fish: Artificial Cover surveys – in progress. Drift fence camera surveys – in progress. 2024 Spadefoot surveys – in progress.
- Quino Checkerspot Butterfly: 2024 surveys – in progress.
- Vernal Pools/Spadefoot Toad: 2024 surveys – in progress.
- Data/GIS Analysis: Transition to electronic data collection/ArcGIS Pro Transition 2023 data QC – in progress.

Ms. Aimar reported on WHMS Dept. LBVI – 1st Vireo arrived in Hidden Valley 3/19, nesting has begun. BHCO – all traps open. New Biologist, Michelle Picca, started 4/18. IEUA: 2023-24 WBS/BBS – in progress. March-Meridian BHCO – 2024 traps open. Cielo Vista – 2024 trap deployment pending due to construction. Ms. Aimar coordinating with SBVMWD and RivCo Parks Rangers on homeless camp safety. Ms. Aimar attended District 2 – SARB Homeless Solutions Meeting and attended multiple weekly virtual meetings. SBVMWD Riparian Bird Surveys in Upper SAR contract approved. USFWS/USACE 5-year LBVI/BHCO contract approved. Biologists monitoring HRS crews as needed. Ms. Aimar also updated on other work within individual member agencies jurisdictions:

- Inland Empire RCD: Goose Creek LBVI monitoring. Biologists monitoring IERCD ISR crews at Goose Creek. San Timoteo LBVI monitoring and BHCO – ongoing.
- Orange County Water District: Funds Anaheim BHCO traps.
- Riverside-Corona RCD: No work this month.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: No work this month.
- Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD: No work this month.

VIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no Board Member comments at this time.

IX. NEXT MEETING – May 23, 2024 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 10:40 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