SAWA MEETING MINUTES

January 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 9:01 A.M.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Brett Mills – SJBRCD; Teri Biancardi – TEAMRCD; Mandy Parkes – IERCD; David McMichael – OCWD; Kerwin Russell – RCRCD; Brian Brady – SAWA; Kimberly Kuznicki – SAWA; James Law – SAWA; Melody Aimar – SAWA; Jose Mora – IERCD;

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 December 24, 2023
b. Approve Financial Statement for December 2023

Director Russell moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Director Biancardi seconded and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0

Parkes	Aye	Russell	Aye	McMichael	Aye
Mills	Aye	Biancardi	Aye		

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. ILF Project – Brian Brady

Mr. Brady reported he has meetings set up with RLC about a potential project. SAWA had preliminary discussions with Inland Empire. Mr. Law has been talking to California Fish and Wildlife and also Mr. Russell mentioned Riverside Parks and SAWA will be in contact with them. SAWA circled back with Elsinore and they are still busy with other City business and haven't responded. Ms. Biancardi requested more information for a better understanding on the ILF program. Mr. Brady and Mr. Law offered to give her more information on the subject.

b. Treasurer's Report – Mandy Parkes

Ms. Parkes reported there is nothing significant passed 30 days and nothing significant on deposit detail.

GENERAL ITEMS

VI. SAWA PROJECT REPORTS

a. Brian Brady, Executive Director – SAWA
Mr. Brady reported staff has reengaged with several potential entities in the SAR watershed for a viable ILF project site. SAWA staff continues to collaborate with OCWD and SAWPA in developing a plan for Arundo removal and long-term maintenance, including identifying funding sources.

b. Kerwin Russell – RCRCD
Mr. Russell reported prepping for the rain. The big thing for RCRCD at the office is the fruit fly quarantine. RCRCD can't pick and give away any fruit, it has to stay on the property.

c. David McMichael – OCWD
Mr. McMichael reported being really busy this time of year with reporting. Everybody has been in the office getting reports out. Staff did surveys trying to calculate how much arundo OCWD has on their property and came up with ten acres. It's all regrowth and staff are trying to figure out how best to remove it. OCWD is having an issue with tamarisk. OCWD is getting ready for the upcoming season.

d. Teri Biancardi – Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD
Ms. Biancardi reported TEAMRCD's WETA program is up and running. TEAMRCD are going to start interviewing for their climate corps fellow soon and working on a cooperative agreement with NRCS.

e. Mandy Parkes – Inland Empire RCD
Ms. Parkes reported doing a lot with Louis Rubidoux. IERCD started a volunteer and workshop series. There are a couple of big grants coming in. In April and May IERCD are going to do a grand opening for trails. Mr. Mora has recently been spending time hiring a new crew. IERCD have some people that are seasonal because of some of the work they have this year. Part of that is a collaboration with Mojave Desert RCD to remove some garlic mustard in their service area.

f. Brett Mills – San Jacinto Basin RCD
Mr. Mills reported there isn't too much to add. Working on mitigation and restoration projects. Mr. Mills mentioned the LSA program through CDFW and the changes they are going to make.

g. Jennette El Morsy, Administrative Services Manager – SAWA
Absent
Mr. Brady reported on behalf of Ms. El Morsy. Ms. El Morsy is working on recruitments, and many other year end tasks, including staff W-2's.

h. James Law, Habitat Restoration Services Manager – SAWA
Mr. Law reported on new job proposals and administrative tasks including ILF placement, new proposals – IECF and City of Wildomar, permit renewals – submitted final edits, should have permit by next board meeting. Potential new project along University Wash adjacent to Fairmont Park working with RCRCD, CDFW and the City of Riverside. Mr. Law also updated on other work within individual member agencies jurisdictions:

- Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments to: TEAM RCD – Riv Flood projects, Riv Flood – Lake Elsinore outlet channel and homeless monitoring.
- Riverside-Corona RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at the following: Mockingbird MCB, Temescal 3M 2.86 and Riv Flood – SAR.
- Inland Empire RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at: Riv Flood – SAR, SAR – Upstream River Rd and Carbon Canyon – HOA.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: The HRS department conducted planting at: Canyon Hills HOA.
- Orange County Water District: The HRS department conducted treatments at: SAR – Upstream River Rd and the City of Brea (Carbon Canyon).

i. Melody Aimar, Biological Programs Manager – SAWA

Ms. Aimar reported on MSHCP Depart. Monthly WRC MSHCP Management and Monitoring Coordination Meetings. Presentation: 1/11 - *"Properly using Artificial Cover, placement strategies to increase success rates."* By Brian Hinds (Environmental Consultant; Executive Director, North American Herpetological Education and Research Project [H.E.R.P.]). Job announcement for field biologist (recent vacancy) – interviews scheduled. New Botany Lead – taking GIS and Scientific Writing training courses. Ms. Aimar/Leads addressing 2022 Survey Report and quarterly report edits from RCA. 2023 reports – in progress. Mr. Campanella managing remote workflow; updated Operations Manual. Monthly Leads meeting via Zoom for project updates. Ms. Aimar attended monthly RCA managers' meetings. Ms.Aimar/Mr. Campanella submitted monthly and quarterly reports to RCA. Ms. Aimar also updated on other MSHCP work including:

- Rare Plants: 2023 report in progress. Prep/training for 2024 surveys.
- Riparian Birds: 2023 surveys – complete, report in progress.
- White-tailed Kite: 2023 surveys – complete, report in progress.
- Cactus Wren: 2023 surveys – complete, report in progress.
- Grasshopper sparrow/CAGN: Prep/training for 2024 surveys.
- Mammals: 2023 LAPM report in progress. Prep for 2024 surveys – in progress. SR 60 Undercrossing – Camera trap surveys – in progress.
- Clinton Keith Undercrossing: Camera trap surveys at overcrossing/undercrossing – in progress.
- Herps/Fish: Artificial Cover surveys – in progress. Arroyo Toad surveys – report in progress. Prep for 2024 herp projects.
- Quino Checkerspot Butterfly: 2023 report – in progress.
- Delhi Sands Flower-loving Fly: 2023 report – in progress.
- Vernal Pools/Spadefoot Toad: 2023 report – in progress. Prep/training for 2024 surveys – in progress.
- Data/GIS Analysis: Transition to electronic data collection – in progress. 2023 data QC – in progress. ArcGIS Pro Transition – in progress.

Ms. Aimar reported on WHMS Dept. IEUA: 2022-23 Winter/BBS Bird Surveys report – under review. 2023-24 WBS/BBS – in progress. BHCO – Dairy traps in Prado and San Jacinto open. 2023 LBVI/BHCO Season – Final submitted to all stakeholders. 2024 BHCO assistant – job announcement posted. Biologist vacancy – job announcement posted. 2023 CNDDB/BIOS/45-day reports – in progress. March-Meridian LBVI/BHCO – final report submitted and project invoiced. Ms. Aimar coordinating with SBVMWD and Riv. Co. Parks Ranger on homeless camp safety. Ms. Beckman attended SAR Homeless Solutions Collaborative meeting. Ms. Aimar is working on new website details/corrections and attends multiple weekly virtual meetings. Ms. Beckman and

biologists are taking ArcGIS training. Ms. Aimar also updated on other work within individual member agencies jurisdictions:

- Inland Empire RCD: Goose Creek LBVI monitoring – final report submitted. San TImoteo LBVI monitoring – final report submitted. Biologist participated in LRPPG workday.
- Orange County Water District: Biologist assisting with WBS in Prado. Funds San Jacinto BHCO winter dairy traps – open. Tricolored Blackbird surveys – final report submitted.
- Riverside-Corona RCD: No work this month.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: No work this month.
- Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD: No work this month.

VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Mills wanted to ask the board if there was anything that anybody wanted to see the board help with or if there is any particular training that anybody would find helpful, etc. that we could work towards this year, or in upcoming years, to make sure SAWA is moving forward in the best way possible. Mr. Russell suggested working towards a long term plan for SAWA. Possibly starting a 5-year goal then eventually moving towards a long term objective. Mr. Brady said he will put an action item on the agenda for the next board meeting with more details on the topic.

VIII. NEXT MEETING – February 22, 2024 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 9:29 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