



## SAWA MEETING MINUTES

July 25<sup>th</sup>, 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**

Sheryl Parsons – OCWD; Mandy Parkes – IERCD; Melody Aimar – SAWA; Brett Mills – SJBRCD; Kimberly Kuznicki – SAWA; Kerwin Russell – RCRC; James Law – SAWA; Brian Brady – SAWA;

#### **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 June 27, 2024

b. Approve Financial Statement for June 2024

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

Parkes	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parsons	Aye
Mills	Aye	Biancardi	<i>Absent</i>		

#### **V. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

a. ILF Project – Brian Brady

Mr. Brady reported on ILF progress including he and Mr. Law having a Zoom meeting with Ian Achimore of SAWPA and Mike Sweesy of Dudek who have mitigation bank acreage available in partnership with Riverside Parks. Mr. Law had a meeting with Riverside County Parks and who are looking at acreages they have available through a bank where SAWA could potentially partner up with them as well. Staff are waiting on Ian from SAWPA to talk to management and see if that is going to pan out and SAWA also has a request in with Dustin and Parks to see what they have available as well. Mr. Law added that Ian expects to hear back from management in August.

b. Treasurer's Report – Mandy Parkes

Ms. Parkes reported that there is nothing past 31 days and from 1-30 days there isn't anything significant.

#### **VI. ACTION ITEMS**

a. Discussion and Possible Approval of Three HRS Services Agreements

Mr. Brady reported that recently, the HRS Department successfully submitted proposals for three projects. The first project: Riv. Flood – Lake Elsinore Outlet Channel. The Santa Ana Watershed Association and Riverside Flood Control have worked on tamarisk removal for several years at the Lake Elsinore Outlet Channel. Riverside Flood intends to have SAWA continue these services to remove and treat non-native vegetation treatments within the same project area in the amount of \$82,000. The second project: IECF – Prado Arundo – Fall 24. David Hernandez with the Inland Empire Community Foundation has secured grant funding to conduct 30 days of Arundo control in the Prado Basin in the amount of \$120,700. The third project: OCWD – Prado Arundo Control Project – Fall 24. The Orange County Water District has approved for SAWA to conduct up to \$100,000 of non-native vegetation services within the Prado Basin. Staff requests the Board to authorize Mr. Brady to execute services agreements for all three projects once they come in. After Board discussion, Director Parsons agreed to abstain from voting on the third project in association with OCWD. Director Parkes moved to approve the three HRS Service Agreements. Director Russell seconded, and the motion passed unanimously 4-0 for first at second projects and 3-0-1 for the third project.

Vote for first project: Riv. Flood – Lake Elsinore Outlet Channel & second project: IECF – Prado Arundo – Fall 24.

Parkes	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parsons	Aye
Mills	Aye	Biancardi	<i>Absent</i>		

Vote for third project: OCWD – Prado Arundo Control Project – Fall 24.

Parkes	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parsons	<i>Abstained</i>
Mills	Aye	Biancardi	<i>Absent</i>		

b. Discussion and Possible Approval of SAWA Strategic Planning Process

Mr. Brady reported that based upon staff work and committee review since the April 25, 2024 meeting, staff have developed the following planning elements: Internal Management & Financial Management. For a copy of Mr. Brady's presentation on the SAWA Strategic Planning Process, please contact the Administrative Services Manager, Jennette El Morsy, at [jennette@sawatershed.org](mailto:jennette@sawatershed.org) or (951) 780-1012 ext. 101. The Board gave a unanimous nod of approval to continue the strategic planning process, 4-0

Parkes	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parsons	Aye
Mills	Aye	Biancardi	<i>Absent</i>		

c. Discussion and Possible Approval of Proposed Mid-Year Budget Revisions for 2024

Mr. Brady reported that the proposed mid-Year Budget adjustments for 2024 has been prepared for the Board review and to make proposed changes to income and expense items in the budget as adopted in December 2023. It is recommended to increase the Revenues by \$754,615 and to increase the Expenses by \$336,162. Mr. Brady recommends that the Board approve the revised 2024 Mid-Year budget. Mr. Brady added that the net income for 2024 is projected to be \$318,517. For a copy of Mr. Brady's presentation of the Proposed Mid-Year Budget Revisions for 2024, please contact the Administrative Services Manager, Jennette El Morsy, at [jennette@sawatershed.org](mailto:jennette@sawatershed.org) or (951) 780-1012 ext. 101.

Director Parkes moved to approve the Proposed Mid-Year Budget Revisions for 2024. Director Parsons seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 4-0

Parkes	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parsons	Aye
Mills	Aye	Biancardi	<i>Absent</i>		

Ms. Parkes left the meeting at this time.

## **GENERAL ITEMS**

### **VII. SAWA PROJECT REPORTS**

#### **a. Brian Brady, Executive Director – SAWA**

Mr. Brady reported that SAWA staff members have developed the Internal Management component of the Strategic Plan. Staff will present their findings and recommendations to the Board in July. OCWD staff has informed SAWPA it is ending its long-standing process of advancing funds (booked by SAWA as restricted deferred funds) for work involving cowbird trapping, Sunnyslope maintenance and similar tasks. Alternatively, based upon OCWD competitive bidding procedures, OCWD will contract with SAWA for services. Additionally, OCWD has requested the return of related unspent funds. This process will take time and analysis: a) the financial analysis will be extensive, and b) the SAWA Board will have to approve the transfer. SAWA staff has scheduled an Audit and Finance Committee meeting on July 18th to discuss the Financial Management component of the Strategic Plan. SAWA staff are finalizing mid-year budget revisions to be presented at the July board meeting.

#### **b. Kerwin Russell – RCRC**

Mr. Russell reported that RCRC is working on getting through the hot weather. RCRC are having to irrigate some of their plants now and that requires more time to take the water trailer out and hook everything up. RCRC have a lot of irritation that is laying out in the field that gets hooked up to the water trailer to water everything and that's been going okay until they had two fires. One in Hawarden and the other in Temescal. The one in Temescal came within a couple hundred feet of their property. The fire department was able to put it out quickly and RCRC didn't lose any of their habitat.

#### **c. Sheryl Parsons – OCWD**

Ms. Parsons reported that OCWD are working with a consultant to create a digital twin of Prado Basin, it is basically an AI model that will predict changes in Vireo habitat.

#### **d. Teri Biancardi – Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD**

*Absent*

#### **e. Mandy Parkes – Inland Empire RCD**

*Absent*

#### **f. Brett Mills – San Jacinto Basin RCD**

Mr. Mills reported that a lot of projects are continuing. SJBRCD are gearing up for fish projects this season. There are a lot of conservation easements in the play. Still working on the 1600 permit trying to modify some of the RCDs, so we are working with them on that.

#### **g. Jennette El Morsy, Administrative Services Manager – SAWA**

*Absent*

h. James Law, Habitat Restoration Services Manager – SAWA

Mr. Law reported on new job proposals and administrative tasks including ILF placement and new proposals for Riv. Flood, IECF, and OCWD. Mr. Law also updated on other work within individual member agencies jurisdictions:

- Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD: The HRS Department conducted treatments to: TEAMRCD Riv. Flood projects, Riv. Flood – Lake Elsinore and homeless monitoring in June.
- Riverside-Corona RCD: The HRS Department conducted treatments at the following: SBVMWD – Old Ranch and Riv. Flood – SAR.
- Inland Empire RCD: No treatments were conducted since the last Board meeting within this district.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: No treatments were conducted since the last Board meeting within this district.
- Orange County Water District: The HRS Department conducted treatments at: Irvine Lake and SAR – Upstream River Road.

i. Melody Aimar, Biological Programs Manager – SAWA

Ms. Aimar reported on MSHCP Dept. Monthly WRC MSHCP Management and Monitoring Coordination Meetings Presentation(s): 7/11 – "*Monitoring a Vernal Pool in Southern California: Implications of Changing Weather Patterns Across Years.*" by Kim Klementowski, Riverside County Regional Preserve Manager with Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM). 2023 Survey Reports– in progress (4 submitted to date). 2023 Monitoring Section (8.0) of RCA Annual Report with Survey Summaries – submitted. Quarterly Report – 4<sup>th</sup> quarter report submitted to RCA. Staff evaluations – completed. Ms. Aimar is revising report guidelines with RCA input. Ms. Aimar asked by RCA to give a presentation to the *National Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition* annual meeting in Palm Springs – Abstract submitted. Mr. Campanella managing remote workflow. Monthly Leads meeting via Zoom for project updates. Ms. Aimar attended monthly RCA Managers Meeting (June meeting cancelled). Ms. Aimar & Mr. Campanella submitted monthly reports to RCA. Ms. Aimar also updated on other MSHCP work including:

- Rare plants: 2024 surveys - in progress (31 surveys in June).
- California Gnatcatcher (USGS regional): 2024 surveys – completed.
- California Gnatcatcher (Nesting): 2024 nest monitoring– completed.
- Grasshopper Sparrow: 2024 surveys – completed in June.
- Mammals: SR 60 Undercrossing – Camera trap surveys – in progress. Anza Knowls Guzzler camera trap – in progress.
- Clinton Keith Overcrossing: Final report – in progress.
- Herps/Fish: 2024 Artificial Cover surveys – in progress. 2024 Drift fence camera surveys – in progress. 2024 Spadefoot surveys – completed. 2024 Arroyo Toad surveys – completed – none found in Bautista. 2024 Pond Turtle Trapping – in prep, pre-survey training complete.
- Quino Checkerspot Butterfly: 2024 surveys – completed.
- Delhi Sands Flower-loving Fly: 2024 surveys – in progress.
- Vernal Pools: 2024 surveys – completed.
- Data/GIS Analysis: Transition to electronic data collection/ArcGIS Pro Transition. 2023 data QC – in progress. GIS Analyst – Attending Esri conference.

Ms. Aimar reported on WHMS Dept. LBVI – As of this writing (7/17), we have **1,597** territories and 396 nests documented. 15% territory increase from 2023 – **new record**. 55% of all Homeless Encampments in Vireo habitat found in San Jacinto. BHCO – All seasonal traps closed and retrieval in progress. Winter traps in San Jacinto, Prado, Lake Elsinore open. 51% of all BHCO in Vireo habitat detected in San Jacinto. IEUA 2023-24 WBS/BBS – in progress. March-Meridian BHCO – 2024 traps closed. Cielo Vista – 2024 trap closed. Ms. Aimar is coordinating with SBVMWD and Riv. Co. Parks Rangers on SAR homeless camp safety. SBVMWD Riparian Bird Surveys in Upper SAR – work in progress. USFWS/USACE 5-year LBVI/BHCO – work in progress. Biologists monitor HRS crews as needed. Biologists SAWA mitigation site bioassessments – completed. Ms. Aimar also updated on other work within individual member agencies jurisdictions:

- Inland Empire RCD: Goose Creek LBVI monitoring – in progress. Biologists monitoring IERCD ISR crews at Goose Creek as needed. San Timoteo LBVI monitoring and BHCO – Traps closed.
- Orange County Water District: Anaheim BHCO traps – closed, retrieval in progress.
- 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** – August 22, 2024 will be held at the SAWA Headquarters, 1835 Chicago Avenue, Suite C, Riverside, CA 92507 and remotely via Zoom.

**X. ADJOURN** – Meeting adjourned at 10:19 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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