SAWA MEETING MINUTES

June 27th, 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. CLOSED SESSION

Public Employment (§54957) Title: Executive Director
There was no reportable action at this time.

III. INTRODUCTIONS

Sheryl Parsons – OCWD; Teri Biancardi – TEAMRCD; Melody Aimar – SAWA; José Mora – IERCD; Greg Powers – Jackson Tidus; Kimberly Kuznicki – SAWA; Kerwin Russell – RCRCD; James Law – SAWA; Jennette El Morsy – SAWA; Brett Mills – SJBRCD;

IV. PUBLIC INPUT

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.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approve Minutes for May 23, 2024
b. Approve Financial Statement for May 2024

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

Alternate Mora	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parsons	Aye
Mills	Aye	Biancardi	Aye		

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. ILF Project – Brian Brady
Absent. Mr. Law reported on behalf of Mr. Brady that SAWA had a meeting with Dudek concerning a potential new option. SAWA is looking to meet with Dudek's potential partners on it. Mr. Law is hoping to have a better update for the Board next month.

b. Treasurer's Report – Mandy Parkes
Absent. Mr. Mills reported on behalf of Ms. Parkes that the Aging Detail, everything is within the 1 to 30 days, with $237,641.31. The Deposit Detail for this month is $406,993.98.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

a. Discussion and Possible Approval of Executive Director Contract Extension
Mr. Mills reported that SAWA's Administration Committee (Mr. Russell and Mr. Mills) had a meeting with Mr. Brady and Mr. Brady seemed agreeable to the extension of his contract. Mr.

Powers has gone over and modified everything to make sure the third rendition of this is up to par and everything is acceptable and agreeable. This will push out Mr. Brady's contract to July 2026. Director Biancardi moved to approve the Third Amendment to Employment Agreement between Executive Director Brady and SAWA effective as of July 23, 2024. Mr. Russell seconded and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Alternate Mora	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parsons	Aye
Mills	Aye	Biancardi	Aye		

SAWA Counsel Greg Powers left the meeting at this time.

GENERAL ITEMS

VIII. SAWA PROJECT REPORTS

a. Brian Brady, Executive Director – SAWA
Absent

b. Kerwin Russell – RCRCD
Mr. Russell reported getting ready for the summer. Mr. Law has been doing palm drill and kill down on one of RCRCD's easements.

c. Sheryl Parsons – OCWD
Ms. Parsons reported OCWD hit their Vireo record with 756 territories. The Arundo presentation was presented to the OCWD Board on June 5th with SAWPA. There was no recommended action from that, it was just informational. Staff are further going to the board on July 17th to renew the SAWA agreement for Arundo removal and access to Prado Basin so OCWD can continue any Arundo projects there.

d. Teri Biancardi – Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD
Ms. Biancardi reported TEAM RCD is in the process of updating their 1600 permit. It is going to be very similar to what SAWA has done. It involves a new process in terms of adding new projects; a verification request form that TEAMRCD have to submit. TEAMRCD are trying to add three new projects with the TEAMRCD/ SAWA/ Flood Control and are still trying to wrap up old projects to roll over.

e. Mandy Parkes – Inland Empire RCD
Absent. Mr. Mora reported that IERCD are finishing up the fiscal year and finishing up a lot of invasive species treatments up in the Lake Arrowhead area.

f. Brett Mills – San Jacinto Basin RCD
Mr. Mills reported working on the 1600 permit and conservation easements. SJBRCD are planning an event in November out at Lake Perris.

g. Jennette El Morsy, Administrative Services Manager – SAWA
Ms. El Morsy reported on the A/R May invoice totaling $432,877.93. 2023 Financial Audit documents uploaded to Suralink; field time July 8th-12th. Working on State Fund Workers' Comp Audit due July 5th. USFWS Final Financial Reports due on June 30th. Mid-year budget revision. Coordinating SAWA Team Building Event on August 13th. Updating policies/procedures. Timesheet database upgraded to new servers. Closing out Fiscal Year projects/invoices. IT Installation of Microsoft 360 for SAWA staff. New IT server installation. Hired two new HRS Technicians, Aaron Castrejon and Edgar Alcantar. Warehouse sprinkler inspection. 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 hires. Mr. Law also updated on other work within individual member agencies jurisdictions:

- Temecula-Elsinore-Azna-Murrieta RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments to: Riv Flood – Lake Elsinore Outlet Channel, TEAM RCD – Riv Flood projects and homeless monitoring.
- Riverside-Corona RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at the following: Quail Run Phase II, Riv Flood – SAR and Temescal 3M 2.86.
- Inland Empire RCD: SAWA's HRS department conducted treatments at: Riv Flood – SAR, Starglow and Sunnyslope.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at: Wolfskill 1.47.
- Orange County Water District: The HRS department conducted treatments at: Santiago Phase II.

i. Melody Aimar, Biological Programs Manager – SAWA

Ms. Aimar reported on MSHCP Dept. 2023 Survey/Summary reports – in progress. 2023 Monitoring Section (8.0) of RCA annual report – submitted to RCA. Staff evaluations are in progress. Ms. Aimar revising report guidelines with RCA input. Ms. Aimar was asked by RCA to give a presentation to the *National Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition* annual meeting in Palm Springs; abstract in progress. Leads completing 2024 protocols, Ms. Aimar and Mr. Campanella proofing. Mr. Campanella managing remote workflow; updated Operations manual. Monthly Leads meeting via Zoom for project updates. Ms. Aimar attended the monthly RCA Managers Meeting. Ms. Aimar and Mr. Campanella submitted monthly reports to RCA. Ms. Aimar also updated on other MSHCP work including:

- Rare Plants: 2024 surveys – in progress.
- California Gnatcatcher (USGS regional) California Gnatcatcher (Nesting): 2024 surveys – completed. 2024 nest monitoring – in progress.
- Grasshopper Sparrow: 2024 surveys – in progress.
- Mammals: SR 60 Undercrossing – camera trap surveys – in progress. Anza Knowls Guzzler camera trap – installed. 2024 LAPM report – completed.
- 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 – in progress. 2024 Arroyo Toad surveys – in progress.
- Quino Checkerspot Butterfly: 2024 surveys – in progress.
- Delhi Sands Flower-loving fly: 2024 surveys – in pre-survey training (included CDFW staff).
- Vernal Pools: 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 – as of this writing 96/20) there are 1,502 territories and 367 nests documented. Biologists completed second round of watershed-wide LBVI assessments. BHCO – 1 SJWA trap closed (LOSH), 1 HV trap closed (fire), all Anaheim traps closed per OCWD. All other traps open through July 15. IEUA 2023-2024 WBS/BBS – in progress. March-Meridian BHCO – 2024 traps open. Cielo Vista – 2024 trap open. Ms. Aimar coordinating with SBVMWD and RivCo Parks Rangers on homeless camp safety. SBVMWD Riparian Bird Surveys in Upper SAR – work in progress. USFWS/USACE 5-year LBVI/BHCO – work in progress. Biologists monitoring HRS crews as needed. Biologists conducting SAWA mitigation site bio assessments. 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 – on going. RCTC-91 CAGN Surveys conducted and reported.
- Orange County Water District: Funds Anaheim BHCO traps – closed.
- Riverside-Corona RCD: No work this month.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: No work this month.
- Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD: No work this month.

IX. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Russell mentioned that fish from RCRCD's raceways made it into the National Geographic Photo Ark. If anyone wishes to look under Joel Sartore, the photographer, and search Arroyo Chub, Santa Ana Sucker or Speckled Dace and it will show RCRCD's fish on there.

X. NEXT MEETING – July 25, 2024 will be held at the SAWA Headquarters, 1835 Chicago Avenue, Suite C, Riverside, CA 92507 and remotely via Zoom.

XI. ADJOURN – The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 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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