SAWA MEETING MINUTES

March 28th, 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 9:00 A.M.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Melody Aimar – SAWA; Sheryl Parsons – OCWD; David McMichael – OCWD; Teri Biancardi – TEAMRCD; José Mora – IERCD; Brian Brady – SAWA; James Law – SAWA; Jennette El Morsy – SAWA; Brett Mills – SJBRCD; Kerwin Russell – RCRCD; Kimberly Kuznicki – SAWA; Maria Arellano – 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 February 22, 2024
b. Approve Financial Statement for February 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		

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. ILF Project – Brian Brady

Mr. Brady reported having talked about Riverside Parks having an agreement with the Corps of Engineers at the last meeting, and since then Mr. Law has been able to get the agreement that the Corps and Parks are working with. That was sent over to Dudek who has come back with a memorandum of concerns and additional questions and we are going to be setting up an in-person meeting to go over that information.

b. Treasurer's Report – Mandy Parkes

Mr. Mills reported on behalf of Ms. Parkes that everything seems in order.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

a. Discussion and Possible Approval of SAWA Strategic Planning Process

Mr. Brady reported, that based upon the board discussion at the February 22, 2024 meeting, the board approved a SAWA strategic/business planning process. During the period between meetings, board members and management staff have been participating in a vision, mission and strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) development exercise. An

article entitled “Strategic Planning Explained” which outlines a common five-step process to develop a business strategic plan was provided to the board as well as a presentation. There was no formal vote made at this time. The Board unanimously agreed (5-0) to continue with the strategic planning process.
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.

Alternate Mora	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parsons	Aye
Mills	Aye	Biancardi	Aye		

GENERAL ITEMS

VII. SAWA PROJECT REPORTS

a. Brian Brady, Executive Director – SAWA
Mr. Brady reported he has been working on the 2024 SAWA Strategic Plan.

b. Kerwin Russell – RCRCD
Mr. Russell reported that RCRCD started doing shothole borer monitoring. Shothole was detected near Glen Ivy so staff are going to try to get a trap set up there. Mr. Law and the crew have been down in the Azna Creek easement removing palms.

c. David McMichael – OCWD
Mr. McMichael reported staff are getting ready to start the field season. The rain is going to be a problem this year, not just for the weeds, but also access to OCWD sites. There are going to be places that staff can’t get to for a while. Ms. Parsons reported staff are still preparing the Arundo presentation that they will be delivering to the OCWD board, covering all of the Arundo removal that has occurred in the region and focusing on some of OCWD’s efforts as well.

d. Teri Biancardi – Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD
Ms. Biancardi reported TEAMRCD hired a climate corps fellow. She is based at Mission RCD and has been working out really well. At TEAMRCD’s March meeting there was a number of Fire Personnel from Cal Fire, Murrieta Fire, the Forest Service and Community Foundation come together to talk about community wildfire resilience. There seems to be a huge appetite to collaborate around needs and finding ways to meet those needs and build on the work that IERCD has done and connect up with San Diego. TEAMRCD are really interested in working with RCRCD on that, too. TEAMRCD have a big follow up meeting on the 24th of next month and they are going to try to start to work through opportunities.

e. Mandy Parkes – Inland Empire RCD
Absent. Mr. Mora reported on behalf of Ms. Parkes that IERCD is getting ready to start treating garlic mustard in April. Staff are going to be working with San Bernardino County, it’s near the Lake Arrowhead area.

f. Brett Mills – San Jacinto Basin RCD
Mr. Mills reported that SJBRCD did a Wildlife Appreciation day last month and they are trying to get their mitigation and conservation sites squared away.

g. Jennette El Morsy, Administrative Services Manager – SAWA
Ms. El Morsy reported on A/R February invoice totaling $238,936.28. 2023 audit preparation. Renewed Intuit QuickBooks, GoDaddy and SonicWall. USFWS financial reports. Updating Employee Manual. Preparing for insurance renewal process: Liability & Workers’ Comp. IT installation of Microsoft 360 for SAWA staff. Annual FCRA training. In the process of hiring

WHMS Biologist, Michelle Picca, start date 4/1/24. In the process of hiring 8 Seasonal BHCO Field Assistants. Restocking Covid supplies as needed. Working on emergency evacuation kits. Annual sprinkler inspection. Annual fire extinguisher inspection.

h. James Law, Habitat Restoration Services Manager – SAWA
Mr. Law reported on new job proposals and administrative tasks including ILF placement, IECF and SBVMWD – 7 Oaks project. Mr. Law also reported on other work within 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.
- Inland Empire RCD: SAWA's HRS department conducted treatments at: SAR – Upstream River Rd.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at: RCA – Winchester, Canyon Heights and May Ranch.
- Orange County Water District: The HRS department conducted treatments at: SAR – Upstream River Rd.

i. Melody Aimar, Biological Programs Manager – SAWA
Ms. Aimar reported on MSHCP Dept. monthly WRC MSHCP Management and Monitoring Coordination Meetings. Presentation: *Western Riverside County MSHCP Annual Update – 2023."* by Zack West (RCA); Ana Sawyer (Riverside County Regional Park & Open-Space District); Biological Monitoring Program Leads: Nick Peterson, Jennifer Hoffman, Nathan Kudla, Gabe Elliott, Espie Sandoval, Tara Graham. New Botany Lead – taking GIS and Scientific Writing training courses. Ms. Aimar and leads addressing 2022 Survey Report edits from RCA - last one done on 3/18. 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. Quarterly All-Hands meeting on 3/21. Ms. Aimar attended monthly RCA Managers Meetings and other meetings about 2022 reports. Leads working on all 2023 reports. Ms. Aimar also updated on other MSHCP work including:

- Rare Plants: 2023 report in progress. Prep/training for 2024 surveys.
- California Gnatcatcher (USGS Regional): 2024 surveys – in progress.
- California Gnatcatcher (Nesting): 2024 nest monitoring – training in progress.
- Grasshopper Sparrow: 2024 surveys – training in progress.
- Mammals: SR 60 Undercrossing: Camera trap surveys – in progress.
- Clinton Keith Overcrossing: Camera trap surveys at overcrossing/undercrossing – in progress.
- Herps/Fish: Artificial Cover surveys – in progress. Drift fence camera surveys – in progress. 2024 Spadefood surveys – in progress.
- Quino Checkerspot Butterfly: 2024 surveys – in progress.
- Vernal Pools/Spadefood 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 – coming in quickly. IEUA: 2023/24 WBS/BBS – in progress. BHCO – Dairy traps in Prado and San Jacinto open. 2024 BHCO assistant – hired. Orientation/training on 3/27. Biologist vacancy – hiring in progress. March-Meridian BHCO – 2024 Traps deployed. Ms. Aimar coordinating with SBVMwD and RivCo Parks Rangers on homeless camp safety. Ms. Aimar attends multiple weekly virtual meetings. Ms. Beckman and biologists are taking ArcGIS training. Ms. Aimar and

Biologists toured Corps researcher in Prado to install ARU's. Biologists conducted nesting bird survey for SAWPA project. Ms. Aimar met with Corps Consultant on long-term data modeling. SBVMWD BOD approved new SAWA contract for Riparian Bird Surveys in Upper SAR. Ms. Aimar also reported on other work within individual member agencies jurisdictions:

- Inland Empire RCD: Goose Creek LBVI monitoring – 2024 prep in progress. Biologists monitoring IERCD ISR crews at Goose Creek. San Timoteo LBVI monitoring – 2024 LBVI/BHCO prep in progress – 4 Vireo on 3/20. ISR – Nest avoidance training completed.
- Orange County Water District: Biologist assisting with WBS in Prado. Funds San Jacinto BHCO winter dairy traps – open.
- 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 – April 25, 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 10:20 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