SAWA MEETING MINUTES

May 23rd, 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

Melody Aimar – SAWA; Johanna Gibson – SBVMWD; Teri Biancardi – TEAMRCD; Sheryl Parsons – OCWD; Brett Mills – SJBRCD; Brian Brady – SAWA; Jennette El Morsy – SAWA; James Law – SAWA; Kerwin Russell – RCRCD; Kimberly Kuznicki – SAWA; Kai Palenscar – SBVMWD; José Mora – IERCD;

III. 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.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approve Minutes for April 25, 2024
b. Approve Financial Statement for April 2024

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

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

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. ILF Project – Brian Brady

Mr. Brady reported receiving an email back from Dustin McLain of Riverside Parks. Mr. McLain has indicated that Riverside Parks are setting up a meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers next week to talk about the new lease for the properties SAWA is considering for the ILF application.

Director Alternate Mora entered the meeting via Zoom at this time.

b. Treasurer's Report – Mandy Parkes

Absent; Mr. Mills reported on behalf of Ms. Parkes that SAWA got in $306,498.73 from the deposit detail. The aging detail for 1-30 days, SAWA only has $8,510.78 that is outstanding.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

a. Discussion and Possible Approval of Lands Restoration and Maintenance Consulting Services Agreement with San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD)

Mr. Brady reported that at the request of SBVMWD staff, SAWA's Habitat Restoration Department was asked to propose on completing management actions required to maintain the integrity of habitats, comply with environmental permit requirements, reduce the threat of spreading wildfire, and remain compliant with California Fire Code (including property treatment requirements dictated in abatement notices issued to San Bernardino Valley from various Cities and the County of San Bernardino). SAWA is requesting the Board authorize the SAWA Executive Director to execute a Consulting Services Agreement with the SBVMWD to conduct habitat restoration and lands management and maintenance to portions of the Upper Santa Ana River Habitat Conservation Plan Preserve System, properties owned by SBVMWD, and additional lands being managed by SBVMWD on behalf of other agencies. The total amount for this proposed work is not to exceed $919,596. It includes work that SAWA has been doing most recently and it extends through the 2024-2025 year for Valley District.
Director Russell moved to approve the Lands Restoration and Maintenance Consulting Services Agreement with San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD). Director Biancardi seconded and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0

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 that SAWA managers continue to develop the Internal Management component of the Strategic Plan in preparation for presenting findings and recommendations to the Board in June. SAWA staff continues to collaborate with OCWD and SAWPA in developing a plan for Arundo removal and long-term maintenance, including identifying funding sources. SAWA staff will be scheduling a Finance and Audit Committee meeting in mid-June to discuss the Financial Management component of the Strategic Plan. SAWA staff has finalized the 2024-2025 MSHCP contract budget with RCA. HRS staff is exploring options for addressing new 1600 permit requirements re: equipment maintenance.

b. Kerwin Russell – RCRCD
Mr. Russell reported that RCRCD is trying to figure out ways to deal with homeless issues as they occur.

c. Sheryl Parsons – OCWD
Ms. Parsons reported working on OCWD's Arundo presentation. OCWD did some drone flying to map Arundo in the Prado basin and found 100 acres. Staff are still collecting Vireo data and are at 632 territories and 80 nests.

d. Teri Biancardi – Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD
Ms. Biancardi reported that she met with Mr. Law and Flood Control to review adding possible new sites to the FY 2024-2025 and are waiting to hear back from Flood Control.

e. Mandy Parkes – Inland Empire RCD
Absent; Mr. Mora reported on behalf of Ms. Parkes that IERCD is currently working on their 1600 permit and seeing what changes they want to make to their agreement.

f. Brett Mills – San Jacinto Basin RCD
Mr. Mills reported dealing with a lot of issues with the 1600 CDFW coming back and wanting to modify the permits. SJBRCD have been busy with weeding and working on conservation easement projects they have coming.

g. Jennette El Morsy, Administrative Services Manager – SAWA
Ms. El Morsy reported on A/R April invoice totaling $248,916.85. 2023 audit preparation; field time July 8th-12th. Awarded USFWS Grant. USFWS final financial reports. Renewed CA Secretary of State. Renewed DIR Contractor Registration for LCP – expires June 2027. Insurance renewal – effective June 1st. Updating employee manual. New temporary database while hosting issue is resolved. New IT server installation. IT installation of Microsoft 360 for SAWA staff. Recruitment for HRS Technician. 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 follow: 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, Sunnyslope and San Timoteo.
- 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. Monthly WRC Management and Monitoring Coordination Meetings. Presentation: *"Rattling Perceptions: Exploring the Social Life of Rattlesnakes."* by Chelsea Martin, Loma Linda University doctoral student. 2023 survey/summary reports – in progress. Ms. Aimar is revising report guidelines with RCA input. 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 monthly RCA Managers Meetings and Report Guidelines Meetings. Ms. Aimar and Mr. Campanella submitted monthly 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: Final report – in progress.
- Herps/Fish: Artificial Cover Surveys – in progress. Drift fence camera surveys – in progress. 2024 Spadefoot surveys – in progress. Arroyo Toad surveys – in progress.
- Quino Checkerspot Butterfly: 2024 surveys – in progress
- 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 (5/15), biologists have 1,182 territories and 226 nests documented. BHCO – all traps open. IEUA: 2023-2024 WBS/BBS – in progress. March-Meridian BHCO – 2024 traps open. Cielo Vista – 2024 traps open. 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 – work in progress. USFWS/USACE 5-year LBVI/BHCO – work in progress. 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. RCTC71 CAGN Surveys scheduled.
- 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 – June 27, 2024 will be held at the SAWA Headquarters, 1835 Chicago Avenue, Suite C, Riverside, CA 92507 and remotely via Zoom.

X. ADJOURN – Meeting adjourned 9:38 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