SAWA MEETING MINUTES

October 24th, 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 9:03 A.M.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Teri Biancardi – TEAMRCD; Cheryl Parsons – OCWD; Brian Brady – SAWA; James Law – SAWA; Jennette El Morsy – SAWA; Melody Aimar – SAWA; Kimberly Kuznicki – SAWA; Brett Mills – SJBRCD; 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 September 26, 2024
b. Approve Financial Statement for September 2024

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

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

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. ILF Project – Brian Brady

Mr. Brady reported that there was great progress. Mr. Brady and Mr. Law have been in contact with Dudek, and they have developed a five-page memorandum, which proposes buying credits from the mitigation bank, controlled by SAWPA and Riverside Parks. The target price for the 30-something acres is about $1.4 million. SAWA has $2.715 million in restricted funds that have been held for that purpose. Mr. Brady and Mr. Law have been in contact with Dustin McLain, the head of parks, to work with the remaining funds to do good work. Mr. Law reported the plan is to purchase the credits to close out the IFL and then the credits would then be housed with Riverside County Parks mitigation bank. The remaining funds would then be used for the purposes of the mitigations, which is non-native plant removal treatments restoration. Riverside County Parks are open to hiring SAWA to do those treatments and other necessary further mitigation bank.

b. Treasurer's Report – Mandy Parkes

Absent; Mr. Mills reported that there was nothing outstanding, and not much else to report.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

a. Discussion and Possible Approval of SAWA Strategic Planning Metric Schedule
Mr. Brady reported that the metric schedule has been finalized for staff to provide an update to the Board. About 8 or 9 are due in December because they are all linked to the new operating budget for 2025. Mr. Brady is suggesting to the Board that SAWA develop a procedure in developing key performance metrics and that staff have a regular schedule when they bring that procedure in. If the Board agrees with that, Ms. El Morsy and Mr. Brady will be updating the Board on procedures and policies in March. In the meantime, this is all that staff need, in order to have targets to bring this to the various Board meetings.
Director Biancardi moved to approve the SAWA Strategic Planning Metric Schedule. Director Parsons seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 4-0

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

GENERAL ITEMS

VII. SAWA PROJECT REPORTS

a. Brian Brady, Executive Director – SAWA
Mr. Brady reported that OCWD staff has informed SAWPA staff it is ending its long-standing process of advancing funds (booked by SAWA as restricted funds) for work involving cowbird trapping, Sunnyslope maintenance and similar tasks. Alternatively, based upon OCWD competitive bidding procedures, OCWD will contract with SAWA for future services. Additionally, OCWD has requested the return of related unspent funds. This documentation process has taken time. In late September, SAWA staff provided a full analysis of current OCWD funds held by SAWA (as restricted funds) for future OCWD-directed project work. SAWA staff await OCWD's response to this analysis. SAWA staff is currently integrating the recently developed planning metrics into the 2025 budgeting process.

b. Kerwin Russell – RCRCD
Absent

c. Sheryl Parsons – OCWD
Ms. Parsons reported that OCWD is finalizing their selection for on call weed abatement and trail maintenance contract. OCWD are planning on picking multiple contracts and having multiple people on call. After that, staff are going to start with an RFQ for cowbird trapping. There will be a digital twin habitat model webinar that Ms. Parsons will be leading with OCWD's consultant, Apex. Apex is developing a digital twin model of the Prado Basin, taking in inflows from the Santa Ana River and different creeks, looking at the dam elevations and how that is affecting the habitat and the vireo population. Apex won't have a round of results yet to present at the webinar, but they will be talking about the process for how they developed that.

d. Teri Biancardi – Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD
Ms. Biancardi did not have any updates at this time.

e. Mandy Parkes – Inland Empire RCD
Absent; Mr. Mora reported that Ms. Pakes has been getting ready to do IERCD's audit and has been very busy.

f. Brett Mills – San Jacinto Basin RCD
Mr. Mills reported that staff are attending the area meeting for the RCDs. Mr. Mills has been working with partnering agencies staff to get fuel modes stuff done out on San Jacinto lands.

SJBRCD have a symposium coming up where Ms. Aimar will be there representing SAWA bio and MSHCP.

g. Jennette El Morsy, Administrative Services Manager – SAWA
Ms. El Morsy reported on A/R September invoice totaling $318,430.34. Renewed SAM registration for USFWS grant. IRS Form 5500 Annual Retirement Tax Filed. Purchased two new trucks for MSHCP project. Working on 2025 financial budget. Working on purging files according to SAWA Document Retention Policy. Planning Staff Holiday luncheon. Hired new HRS Technician - Luis Garcia. Recruitment for MSHCP Field Biologist. Employee Health Benefits Open Enrollment - November 7th. WHMS Bio Wilderness First Aid Training. Annual Sprinkler Inspection for all warehouse units. Annual Fire Extinguisher Inspection for all properties. Restocking Covid supplies as needed. Emergency evacuation kits.

h. James Law, Habitat Restoration Services Manager – SAWA
Mr. Law reported on HRS Dept. job proposals SBVWCD Tamarisk and SJBRCD Tamarisk, & administrative tasks including ILF placement, meeting is October 17th. Mr. Law also reported on other work within member agencies' jurisdictions:

- Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments to: Riv. Flood projects and homeless monitoring.
- Riverside-Corona RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at the following: SBVMWD – Old Ranch/Anza/Anza Extension and Riv. Flood – SAR.
- Inland Empire RCD: SAWA's HRS department conducted treatments at: SBVMWD – Hidden Valley Creek, Waterman Riparian, Waterman Alluvial and Cactus Basins.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at: No treatments have been conducted since the last board meeting within the district.
- Orange County Water District: The HRS department conducted treatments at: IECF – Prado – Fall 24.

i. Melody Aimar, Biological Programs Manager – SAWA
Ms. Aimar reported on MSHCP Dept. MSHCP monthly WRC MSHCP Management and Monitoring Coordination Meetings. 2023 Monitoring Section (8.0) of RCA Annual Report with Survey Summaries – submitted. Quarterly Report – 1st quarter report submitted to RCA. Ms. Aimar's presentation to the *National Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition* annual meeting in Palm Springs – Abstract accepted; presentation submitted to RCA for review. Mr. Campanella managing remote workflow. Monthly leads meeting via Zoom for project updates. Ms. Aimar attended the monthly RCA managers meeting. Ms. Aimar and Mr. Campanella submitted monthly report to RCA. Purchased two new trucks (RCA funded); traded in old trucks. Biologist resigned to move out of state. Biologists joined OCWD for invasive fish removal at Sunnyslope. Biologists joined SAWPA, et al. for Riverwalk. Biologist/Leads study for 2025 surveys. Ms. Aimar also updated on other MSHCP work including:

- Rare plants: 2024 surveys – in progress in upper elevations. UCR Herbarium study days.
- California Gnatcatcher (USGS regional): 2024 Report in progress.
- California Gnatcatcher (Nesting): 2024 Report in progress.
- Grasshopper Sparrow: 2024 Surveys – data analysis – in progress.
- Mammals: SR 60 Undercrossing – Camera trap surveys – in progress. Anza Knowls Guzzler camera trap – in progress (survived fire).
- 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 – data analysis – in progress. 2024 Arroyo Toad surveys – data analysis – in progress. 2024 Pond Turtle Trapping – in progress.
- Quino Checkerspot Butterfly: 2024 surveys – data analysis – in progress.

- Delhi Sands Flower-loving Fly: 2024 surveys – completed, data analysis – in progress.
- Vernal Pools: 2024 surveys – completed, data analysis, in progress.
- Data/GIS Analysis: 2023 Species Occurrence Dataset – submitted to managers/BIOS 2024 Data QC – in progress.

Ms. Aimar reported on WHMS Dept. LBVI – Finalized data shows 1,586 territories and 3.3 overall reproductive success rate (145 WT pairs). Report writing – in progress. BHCO – Winter traps in San Jacinto, Prado, Lake Elsinore open. Trap inventory in progress. Report in progress. IEUA – 2023-2024 WBS/BBS – complete, report in progress. March-Meridian BHCO – Report in progress. Cielo Vista – Report in progress. Ms. Aimar attended SAR Homeless Solutions Collaborative meeting. SBVMWD Riparian Bird Surveys in Upper SAR – Report in progress. Ms. Aimar coordinating with WFA recertification for all staff. Ms. Aimar completed 2025 Work Plan and attended SAWA managers meeting. Staff taking vacations. Ms. Aimar also updated on other work within individual member agencies' jurisdiction:

- Inland Empire RCD: Goose Creek LBVI monitoring – Report in progress. San Timoteo LBVI monitoring and BHCO – Report in progress (final year). Ms. Aimar in collaboration with IERCD on future projects.
- Orange County Water District: No work this month.
- 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

Chairperson Mills reported that SAWA will be going dark for the November meeting due to the Holiday, and added if the Board would need to meet that they can call a special meeting. There were no other Board Member comments at this time.

IX. NEXT MEETING – November 21, 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 9:36 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 the meeting.