SAWA MEETING MINUTES

January 23rd, 2025
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

Kerwin Russell – RCRCD; Jennette El Morsy – SAWA; Kimberly Kuznicki – SAWA; James Law – SAWA; Brian Brady – SAWA; Mandy Parkes – IERCD; Sheryl Parsons – OCWD; Teri Biancardi – TEAMRCD; Brett Mills – SJBRCD;

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 December 19, 2024
b. Approve Financial Statement for December 2024

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

Parkes	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parsons	Aye
Mills	Aye	Biancardi	Aye		

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. ILF Project – Brian Brady

Mr. Brady reported that there has been progress and delegated to Mr. Law to continue reporting on the update. Mr. Law reported talking to Mike Sweezey at the Santa Ana River Science Symposium and sending emails via Laurie, who works with Dudek, to the Corps. Laurie used to work at the Corps. SAWA is standing by and letting them do their once-a-we emails and waiting for the corps to send a response.

b. Treasurer's Report – Mandy Parkes

Ms. Parkes reported that there is about $450,000 in AR, but most of it is day 1 through 30. There is one invoice over 90 says and everything looks good.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Discussion of SAWA Strategic Planning Metric: Quarterly Review of Grant Opportunities

For a copy of Mr. Brady's presentation, "Grant Funding Opportunities", please contact Jennette El Morsy at jennette@sawatershed.org or (951) 780-1012 Ext. 101.

GENERAL ITEMS

VII. SAWA PROJECT REPORTS

a. Brian Brady, Executive Director – SAWA

Mr. Brady reported SAWA staff are currently pursuing several grant funding opportunities with agency and municipal partners. SAWA management staff is finalizing the development of the MSHCP 2025-2026 operating budget. SAWA's Administrative Manager is successfully negotiating the recovery of costs associated with the flooding of one of SAWA's warehouses. With the new year and the end of COVID period accommodations, SAWA biological staff are returning to pre-Covid work schedules.

b. Kerwin Russell – RCRCD

Mr. Russell reported RCRCD is having to deal with homeless fires. There have been two fires down by two project sites along the river. Last year RCRCD homeless cleanup budget tripled. RCRCD is to try to keep the homeless out of the open space so they don't burn it down.

c. Sheryl Parsons – OCWD

Ms. Parsons reported OCWD's covered RFP is going to come out January 24th for cowbird trapping services. Mr. Law has been scheduling the Arundo removal on the core property that's next to OCWD's field office. When those red flag warnings finally dissipate, they can get started on that.

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

Ms. Biancardi reported working on two grants the two grants Mr. Brady and Mr. Law described. TEAMRCD is looking to get back into the mitigation game. The second, and hopefully final, strategic planning session will be later in the afternoon and TEAMRCD will be mapping out their path for the next few years.

*Ms. Biancardi left the meeting at this time. (9:32 A.M.)

e. Mandy Parkes – Inland Empire RCD

Ms. Parkes reported that IERCD haven't had homeless connected fires but has had a lot of concern about conservation areas adjacent to properties where they are either holding the easement or are subcontracted to help manage. People had different reactions, one person was very upset and wanted to put a bulldozer through the easement right away. People are a little bit in a frenzy right now. IERCD are trying to find a balance between explaining the limits on work that can be done because properties are encumbered by easements. Introducing people to resources. Cal Fire has great resources. One thing that has emerged from the LA fires is the benefits of home hardening. It isn't a cure all, but it certainly is one thing you can control if you have the funding to do it. IERCD has been trying to get people connected there and not minimize people's concerns but try to help them understand the limits to maintenance in managed areas.

f. Brett Mills – San Jacinto Basin RCD

Mr. Mills reported working on grants and trying to get some of SJBRCD's sites in order. SJBRCD are working on their LSA. CDFW is pushing to modify that for some of the cannabis and other things.

g. Jennette El Morsy, Administrative Services Manager – SAWA

Ms. El Morsy reported December invoice total $352,173.74. RCA MSHCP FY 25-26 Budget. Updated CA Labor Laws and posted in office and warehouse. A-13 warehouse flood/insurance claim. USFWS FRR. End of the year financials. Employee W-2s and Vendor 1099s. Updating SAWA website. Ongoing IT updates. Working on purging files according to SAWA Document Retention Policy. In the process of hiring 2 new HRS Technicians / Recruitment for 2 additional

techs. Recruitment for BHCO Field Assistants - seasonal part-time (8). WHMS and MSHCP biologists CPR/First Aid and Wilderness Training. Employee Defensive Driver Training for HRS crew. Ceiling tiles in 3 warehouse units repaired.

h. James Law, Habitat Restoration Services – SAWA
Mr. Law reported on the ILF Placement: meeting with Parks and Dudek on 1/16/2025 and new job proposals including RCRCD - Ryan Bambino Park, CWPP Project Grants. Mr. Law also updated on other work completed within individual member agency jurisdictions:

- Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments to: TEAM RCD – Riv. Flood projects and homeless monitoring. Mr. Law is also working on CWPP projects with Teri and Brett.
- Riverside-Corona RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at the following: SBVMWD – SAR River Corridor.
- Inland Empire RCD: SAWA's HRS department conducted treatments at: SBVMWD – Hidden Valley Creek, Waterman Riparian, SAR – River Corridor Project.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at: Not treatments have been conducted since the last board meeting within this district. Working with Brett and Teri on CWPP Projects.
- Orange County Water District: The HRS department conducted treatments at: OCWD – Prado – Fall 24.

i. Melody Aimar, Biological Programs Manager – SAWA
Absent

VIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS
There were no Board Member comments at this time.

IX. NEXT MEETING – February 27, 2025 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 9:42 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