SAWA MEETING MINUTES

March 13th, 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

Brian Brady – SAWA; James Law – SAWA; Jennette El Morsy – SAWA; Sheryl Parsons – OCWD; Teri Biancardi – TEAMRCD; Kerwin Russell – RCRCD; Jose Mora – IERCD; Brett Mills – SJBRCD.

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 January 23, 2025

Director Biancardi moved to approve the minutes for January 23, 2025. Director Russell seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0

Alternate Mora	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parsons	Aye
Mills	Aye	Biancardi	Aye		

b. Approve Financial Statement for January 2025

c. Approve Financial Statement for February 2025

Director Russell asked if there was any outstanding. Ms. El Morsy reported that there is one for Chino Hills that's within the 60-day range, for which payment is expected soon. There is nothing over 90 days. Everything else is within the 30-day range.

Director Parsons moved to approve the financial statements for January & February 2025. Director Biancardi 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 that SAWA is Making some progress. Mr. Law added that at the last meeting with the Corps, they designated an employee to be SAWA's liaison for this project. The Corps apologized for the delay between their last meeting and the next one which is scheduled for April 2nd. The Corps said that by the time they have their next meeting, they should have legal input as well.

b. Treasurer's Report – Mandy Parkes
Absent; Director Mills reported the deposit detail was $172,349.58 and $136,626.63 in the AR aging detail. Mr. Mills added that they are all in the 1 to 30-day range except for the one from Chino Hills Carbon Canyon.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

a. Discussion and Possible Approval of Anticipated OCWD Cowbird Trapping Contract
Mr. Brady reported that the Orange County Water District issued an RFP on January 24, 2025, requesting proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide brown-headed cowbird trapping within the Prado Basin starting in late March 2025. In response to the RFP, SAWA submitted a timely proposal, with a not-to-exceed cost of $105,600. SAWA's proposal was based upon its' standard cost recovery methodologies. It is expected that the OCWD Board will approve this trapping contract with SAWA at their March 19th meeting. SAWA recommends that the Board authorize the Executive Director, Brian Brady, to enter into the subject contract as approved by OCWD. Director Russell inquired if it was a one-year or multi-year contract. Mr. Brady reported that it is a three-year contract.
Director Biancardi moved to authorize the Executive Directed to enter into, and approve the anticipated OCWD Cowbird Trapping Contract. Director Mora seconded, and the motion passed, 4-0-1

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

GENERAL ITEMS

VII. SAWA PROJECT REPORTS

a. Brian Brady, Executive Director – SAWA
Mr. Brady reported being contacted by Douglas Chermak of Lozeau | Drury LLP in Oakland, CA. They are a boutique environmental law firm representing non-profit environmental and recreational groups, labor organizations, neighborhood associations and Indian tribes to create and protect livable neighborhoods and cities, clean up air and water pollution, protect endangered species, protect open spaces and reduce exposures to toxic pollutants. Douglas and Mr. Brady are finalizing an arrangement whereby SAWA would be awarded court directed mitigation funds to be applied to projects in the watershed. An initial project amount of $50,000 is being discussed. Staff have been reviewing several elements of the strategic plan metrics for discussion with the Board. Staff have been carefully following the actions of the incoming federal administration with implications for SAWA's continued federal funding. For a copy of Mr. Brady's presentation, "Strategic Planning Metrics Update", please contact Jennette El Morsy at jennette@sawatershed.org or (951)780-1012 ext. 101.

b. Kerwin Russell – RCRCD
Mr. Russell reported dealing with the rain. The weeds are coming so the crew will be busy over the next couple of months. There have been some rain related issues, but nothing out of the ordinary to report.

c. Sheryl Parsons – OCWD
Ms. Parsons reported that SAWA's HRS Dept. is wrapping up some Arundo removal. Cowbirds going through next week and OCWD will get started on that and are getting ready for Vireo monitoring as the nesting season is approaching.

d. Teri Biancardi – Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD
Ms. Biancardi reported TEAMRCD is making the final push for their Community Wildfire Defense Grant that they are working on with the Inland Empire Community Foundation and SAWA. TEAMRCD have not submitted their first invoice for reimbursement of their new employee, which is federal funding through NRCS, so they are waiting to see what happens.

e. Mandy Parkes – Inland Empire RCD
Absent; Alternate Mr. Mora reported that IERCD are getting ready to deal with the weeds after all the rain.

f. Brett Mills – San Jacinto Basin RCD
Mr. Mills reported that SJBRCD is working on a grant with IECF and SAWA. SJBRCD are also working on a few of their conservation parcels.

g. Jennette El Morsy, Administrative Services Manager – SAWA
Ms. El Morsy reported on A/R February invoice totaling $295,257.86. A-13 warehouse flood/insurance claim. Assisting SBVMWD with DIR compliance. End of year financials. Updating SAWA website. Ongoing IT updates. Working on purging files according to SAWA Document Retention Policy. In the process of hiring 8 BHCO Field Assistants - seasonal part-time. Recruitment for Restoration Technicians. Avian Flu information. WHMS and MSHCP biologists CPR/First Aid & Wilderness Training.

h. James Law, Habitat Restoration Services Manager – SAWA
Mr. Law reported on ILF placement; the next meeting scheduled for the beginning of April. New job proposals – potential permitting grant becoming available, new project for SBVMWD at Yucaipa Regional Park scheduled, Canyon Hills HOA renewal, Riverside Flood – Lake Elsinore Clean Up. Mr. Law also updated 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. Also, working on CWPP projects with Ms. Biancardi and Mr. Mills.
- Riverside-Corona RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at: Cactus Basins, SBVMWD – Anza Extension and planting at SBVMWD – Waterman Cactus Basins.
- Inland Empire RCD: SAWA's HRS department had no treatments conducted since the last report.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: The HRS department had no treatments conducted since the last report. Working with Mr. Mills and Ms. Biancardi on CWPP projects.
- Orange County Water District: The HRS department conducted treatments at: OCWD – Prado – Fall 24 and IECF – Prado – Fall 24.

i. Melody Aimar, Biological Programs Manager – SAWA
Absent; Mr. Brady reported that SAWA are waiting for about $0.5M in USFWS federal funds to be released to cover staff work.

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

IX. **NEXT MEETING** – April 24, 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 9:29 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