



SAWA MEETING MINUTES

March 26th, 2026
Meeting Location:
5029 La Mart Drive, Suite E
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

Kerwin Russell – RCRCD; Allyson Beckman – SAWA; James Law – SAWA; Tesa Madsen-Hepp – SAWA; Kimberly Kuznicki – SAWA; Brian Brady – SAWA; Teri Biancardi – TEAMRCD; 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 22, 2026
- b. Approve Financial Statements for January 2026
- c. Approve Financial Statements for February 2026

Director Biancardi moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Director Russell seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 3-0

Parkes	<i>Absent</i>	Russell	Aye	Alternate McMichael	<i>Absent</i>
Mills	Aye	Biancardi	Aye		

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. ILF Project – Brian Brady

Mr. Brady reported again that on 01/14/26 the ACOE provided the update that they are still working on SAWA's ILF closure process in regards to the SARMB RIBITS entries, the letters of assurance or similar, as needed, memorializing restriction of funds received from SAWA ILF to SAR Mitigation Bank-related activities, and the Corps to send letter to SAWA documenting acceptance of proposal to close out the ILF being drafted.

b. Treasurer's Report – Mandy Parkes

Absent. Director Mills reported on behalf of Ms. Parkes that there are only a couple of small outstanding past 90 days & 60 days. Director Mills added that the deposit detail brought in about \$470k give or take.

GENERAL ITEMS

VI. SAWA PROJECT REPORTS

a. Brian Brady, Executive Director – SAWA

Mr. Brady reported that Ms. Sheryl Parsons is no longer with OCWD. Mr. Brady added that SAWA has \$400k-\$450k on average in cash position, which is working cash for the company. Mr. Brady indicated that SAWA should have something closer to \$700-\$750 in working cash. Mr. Brady will work with BofA on what kind of terms the bank might have for a line of credit.

b. Kerwin Russell – RCRC

Mr. Russell reported that weeds are dying and need to be cut. Receiving log fire clearing notices from law enforcement.

c. David McMichael – OCWD

Absent

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

Ms. Biancardi reported that TEAMRCD are busy looking for a new District/ Project Manager. Applications close on Friday (3/27), and the district hopes to do interviews the following week. Ms. Biancardi added that the district sent their final application to the cannabis restoration grant opportunity. That would generate a lot of work with SAWA, if that happens. The district is waiting to hear how that goes.

e. Mandy Parkes – Inland Empire RCD

Absent

f. Brett Mills – San Jacinto Basin RCD

Mr. Mills reported that SAWA was out on the districts project doing weeding and spraying. SJBRCD is working on various conservation easements and working with IECF to get more mapping and fire counsel work done to help the local areas. The district is having problems with weed abatement on a lot of their sites.

g. Jennette El Morsy, Administrative Services Manager – SAWA

Absent

h. James Law, Habitat Restoration Services Manager – SAWA

Mr. Law reported on new job proposals and administrative tasks including ILF placement → No updates to report. City of Murrieta Fire – Cal Fire Grant. IECF – Pile of Rocks shaded fuel break. Riverside Flood Control – Lake Elsinore Clean Up with TEAM RCD. Riverside Flood Control – SARM 9 Project. Mr. Law also updated on other work within individual member agencies' jurisdictions:

- Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments: at TEAM RCD – Riverside Flood Projects.
- Riverside-Corona RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at the following: Waterman Alluvial, Lower Cactus Basin, Waterman Riparian and Lower Hole Creek.
- Inland Empire RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at: No treatments conducted since last report.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at: May Ranch and Aqua Bella.

- Orange County Water District: The HRS department conducted treatments at: Env Benefit Project Fund – D B M L.A. Morgan Truck Body and D B M Fontana Wood Treating.

i. Allyson Beckman, Wildlife Habitat Management Services Manager – SAWA
Ms. Beckman reported on USFWS Corps Mainstem Project (LBVI/BHCO). Began LBVI surveys. First SAWA detection on 3/13 (Prado 3/11). Biologists attended (virtually) biennial Riparian Birds Working Group meeting. Interviewing/hiring of seasonal biologist and BHCO assistants. BHCO trap deployment over two-week period (spring/summer trapping to begin on March 30th) including trap repairs in field. Season prep. OCWD (BHCO) – two dairy traps opened in January. Lennar Brea 265 (BHCO) – two traps deployed. Cielo Vista – one trap deployed. RLC (Meridian) – two traps deployed. SBVWCD – four traps deployed. Riverside County Flood (Reach 9) – biologist completed BNSF training and completed bioassessment of area. Ms. Beckman also updated that there was no other work within individual member agencies' jurisdictions.

j. Tesa Madsen-Hepp, MSHCP Biological Monitoring Program Administrator – SAWA
Ms. Madsen-Hepp reported on Monthly WRC MSHCP Management and Monitoring Coordination Meeting Presentation(s): 2/12 Presentation: *"Butterflies in a Changing Landscape: Plant Interactions, Migration, and Conservation"* by Dr. Jolene Saldivar, NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellow at San Diego State University; 3/12 Presentation: *"Western Riverside County MSHCP Annual Update – 2025"* by Harry Sandoval (RCA); Jonathan Reinig (Riverside County Regional Park & Open-Space District); Biological Monitoring Program Leads: Nick Peterson, Jennifer Hoffman, Nathan Kudla, Leah Dann, Masa Abe, Espie Sandoval. Updating protocols for 2026. Ms. Madsen-Hepp attended monthly RCA Managers Meetings. Ms. Madsen-Hepp submitted RCA Annual Work Plan for FY 2026-27. Working on streamlining permits and improving adaptive management with RCA. Hired Leah Dann into Botany Taxa Lead position and hired two new Field Biologists. Ms. Madsen-Hepp is preparing RCA Section 8.0 annual report for 2025; 2024 report finalized by RCA. Ms. Madsen-Hepp and Mr. Campanella are editing 2025 Summary and Survey Reports from Taxa Leads. Leads meeting on 2/25. Ms. Madsen-Hepp met with RCA Director Aaron Gabbe on 2 February to discuss future goals for the monitoring program. Annual in-person RCA BMP/RivCo Parks meeting held on 2/3. Currently conducting Vernal Pools, Loggerhead Shrike, White-tailed Kite, QCB, and artificial cover surveys. Ms. Madsen-Hepp and Ms. Drennen have started planning and training for database migration to Microsoft Azure SQL. Ms. Madsen-Hepp also updated on other MSHCP work including:

- Rare plants: 2025 Rare Plant Report – in progress. 2025 Engleman Oak Report - in progress. 2026 Rare Plant Surveys scheduled.
- Birds: 2025 Lincoln's Sparrow Report – in progress. 2025 Northern Harrier Report – in progress. 2026 White-tailed Kite surveys – in progress. 2026 Loggerhead Shrike surveys – in progress.
- Mammals: 2025-26 SR 60 Undercrossing camera trap – in progress. 2025-26 Anza Knowls Guzzler camera trap – in progress. 2025 Carnivore summary report – in progress. 2025 SBKR Report – in progress.
- Clinton Keith Overcrossing: 2024 Final Report – finalized.
- Herps/Fish: 2025 Arroyo Toad Report – in progress. 2025 Western Spadefoot Report – in progress. 2025 Artificial Cover Report – in progress. 2025 Drift Fence Camera Trap Report – in progress. 2026 Drift Fence Camera surveys – in progress. 2026 Artificial Cover surveys – in progress. 2026 Spadefoot surveys – in progress.

- Quino Checkerspot Butterfly: 2025 QCB Report – report in progress. 2026 QCB surveys – in progress.
- Delhi Sands Flower-loving Fly: 2025 DSF Report – in progress.
- Vernal Pools: 2025 VP Report – in progress. 2026 VP Surveys – in progress.
- Data/GIS Analysis: 2025 Datasets – 15 certified, 1 pending.

VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no Board Member comments at this time.

VIII. NEXT MEETING – April 23, 2026 will be held at the SAWA Headquarters, 5029 La Mart Drive, Suite E, Riverside, CA 92507 and remotely via Zoom.

IX. ADJOURN – The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 A.M.

Notice: All open session agenda materials will be available for inspection by members of the public at the SAWA office located at 5029 La Mart Drive, Suite E, 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.

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