



SAWA MEETING MINUTES

May 28th, 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 – RCRC; Max Barrett – SAWA; Brian Brady – SAWA; Allyson Beckman – SAWA; Kimberly Kuznicki – SAWA; Jennette El Morsy – SAWA; Tesa Madsen-Hepp – SAWA; Teri Biancardi – TEAMRCD; José 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 April 23, 2026

b. Approve Financial Statements for April 2026

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

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

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. ILF Project – Brian Brady

Mr. Brady reported that he and Mr. Law hosted a Zoom meeting for an update with Dudek and Dustin at Riverside Parks and added that everything is moving along. SAWA legal counsel, Greg Powers, will draft a transfer document for the funds going to Riverside. Mr. Powers is waiting for two documents; the first document from the Corps approving SAWA funding this project and wrapping up the ILF program, the second document from the County of Riverside to accept the funds and complete the paperwork needed regarding the mitigation bank that Dustin controls. Mr. Brady is anticipating bringing this item back to the Board in either June or July.

b. Treasurer's Report – Mandy Parkes

Absent; Ms. El Morsy reported that SAWA has collected all 2025 financials that were outstanding last month. Everything else is current and there isn't anything else past the 30-day mark.

GENERAL ITEMS

VI. SAWA PROJECT REPORTS

a. Brian Brady, Executive Director – SAWA

Mr. Brady reported the departure of Sheryl Parsons from OCWD. SAWA's Board Chairperson Mills and Mr. Brady met with OCWD's general manager John Kennedy and the Executive Director of Planning and Natural Resources Lisa Haney in early April to discuss OCWD's continuing role in support of SAWA operations. SAWA recently learned from Mr. Kennedy that OCWD will continue to be a SAWA member agency. Currently, OCWD is recruiting to find a replacement for Sheryl Parsons. Once on board, that individual will be OCWD's new SAWA representative. Mr. Brady added that after 15 years of outstanding service to SAWA, James Law has accepted a managerial position with the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District. SAWA wishes him all the best in his new role. SAWA staff continues department budget reviews in anticipation of the mid-year budgeting process.

b. Kerwin Russell – RCRC

Mr. Russell reported on land management work. A couple of RCRC sites in Corona have had their backflow valves stolen and can't get any irrigation when that happens. There are plastic units that are available on the market now that aren't metal. RCRC were going to put those in, but because it's a different type of equipment, the purchasing process takes a long time. RCRC has a lot of plant surveys going on and are trying to get through the last bit of growing season before summer gets here. RCRC have some fire clearance on some of the properties. Fortunately, RCRC is under the Public Resources Code AB 5811, where if land is conserved, a fire clearance is not requirement.

c. David McMichael – OCWD

Absent

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

Ms. Biancardi reported that TEAMRCD's master contract with Flood Control is coming to an end this fiscal year. TEAMRCD will need to get that up and running so that it can continue. TEAMRCD released their request for proposal for consultants to work on their districts wildlife-crossing project that is being funded by the Wildlife Conservation Board. TEAMRCD now has a District Manager, Clifton Meek. TEAMRCD were told their district won the cannabis grant 350 to do planning on RCA lands but have yet to hear back about anything more than that. TEAMRCD are looking to do a WPGP grant and would like to work with SJBRCD on that.

e. Mandy Parkes – Inland Empire RCD

Absent; Mr. Mora reported that IERCD have been busy with the end of the fiscal year approaching. IERCD have been doing work with garlic mustard and have made a lot of progress. IERCD received additional funding from the National Forest Foundation, and will continue working out there until the end of June.

f. Brett Mills – San Jacinto Basin RCD

Mr. Mills reported getting early weeding and focal surveys done, as well as biological surveys and assessments of project sites. SJBRCD are working on conservation easements and old projects coming back. Mr. Mills added that he would like to meet with Mr. Barrett to get SAWA's HRS Crew back out to work on some TEAMRCD sites that the crew have worked on in the past.

g. Jennette El Morsy, Administrative Services Manager – SAWA

Ms. El Morsy reported on A/R April Invoice Total \$391,301.05. HRS Department move to SBVMWD property to include office & yard space – June (?). RCA MSHCP FY 26-27 Budget submitted. ACOE/USFWS funding approved, waiting for funds to transfer to SAWA. Liability

Insurance renewal - June 1. Workers' Comp Insurance renewal - June 1. Preparing for Financial audit / fieldwork scheduled for July 6-10. Purchasing new iPhones for MSHCP staff. Lisa Schauer out on workers' comp. Recruitment for HRS Project Manager, posted on Conservation Job Board, Society of Ecological Restoration, SERCAL and Texas A&M Job Board. Laid off two HRS Technicians due to lack of project work until fall. MSHCP - Cal Fire Inspection, no violations.

h. Max Barrett, Interim Habitat Restoration Services Manager – SAWA

Mr. Barrett reported on new jobs proposals and administrative tasks including ILF placement; Meeting with Dudek, Riverside County Parks and SAWPA. SAWA to draft monies transfer document. Riverside County Parks is going to forward the updated parcels to pull the mitigation credits from and Dudek will revise the temporal loss analysis. City of Murrieta Fire – Cal Fire Grant – Met with Gabe at Murrieta Fire and project is supposed to come online in September. Riverside Flood Control – SARM 9 Project. Mr. Barrett 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 areas: Waterman Alluvial, Lower Cactus Basin, Waterman Riparian and Hidden Valley Creek.
- Inland Empire RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at: SBVMWD Enhance recharge basins.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at: Wolfskill 1.47 and SCE 1.2.
- Orange County Water District: The HRS department conducted treatments at: Env Benefit Project Fund – D B M L.A. Morgan Truck Body, OCWD – Prado Fall 25 and D B M Fontana Wood Treating.

i. Allyson Beckman, Wildlife Habitat Management Services Manager – SAWA

Ms. Beckman reported on correspondence with USACE/USFWS regarding funding. While ACOE expects additional funding authorization sometime in July, SAWA may have to consider staff layoffs after the first of July. Ms. Beckman and biologist conducting LBVI surveys and nest monitoring. Seasonal biologist conducting LBVI assessment surveys. BHCO trapping. Scheduling and conducting bioassessments beginning the week of 5/18 on HRS Dept. projects. 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): 5/14 Presentation: "*A bi-national California red-legged frog (Rana draytonii) translocation: Baja California Mexico to Southern California*" by Adam Backlin, Ecologist, US Geological Survey. Updating protocols for 2026. Ms. Tesa Madsen-Hepp attended monthly RCA Managers Meeting. Working on streamlining permits and improving adaptive management with RCA. Ms. Madsen-Hepp submitted RCA Section 8.0 annual report for 2025. Ms. Madsen-Hepp, Mr. Campanella, and Taxa Leads are editing 2025 RCA Survey Reports. Ms. Madsen-Hepp and Mr. Campanella are working on developing new fire and heat safety protocols. Ms. Madsen-Hepp met with USFWS Regional Supervisor and former BMP Program Administrator Karin Cleary-Rose on 4 May to discuss goals for the monitoring program and strategic direction. Ms. Madsen-Hepp and GIS Analyst, Ms. Rivera Del Rio, met with RCA Management and Monitoring Manager and GIS team to discuss shared GIS challenges and solutions for sharing data. Currently conducting Loggerhead Shrike, White-tailed Kite, Riparian Birds, QCB, AKR Habitat, Arroyo Toad, Rare Plants, and artificial cover

surveys. Ms. Madsen-Hepp and Database Manager, Ms. Drennen, are planning and training for database migration to Microsoft Azure SQL after RCA reports. Ms. Madsen-Hepp also updated on other MSHCP work including:

- Rare plants: 2025 Rare Plant Report – draft submitted to RCA. 2025 Engleman Oak Report – finalized. 2026 Rare Plant surveys – in progress.
- Birds: 2025 Lincoln’s Sparrow Report – finalized. 2025 Northern Harrier Report – finalized. 2026 White-tailed Kite surveys – in progress. 2026 Loggerhead Shrike surveys – in progress. 2026 Riparian Birds 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 – finalized. 2025 SBKR Report – draft submitted to RCA. 2026 AKR habitat and trapping surveys – in progress.
- Clinton Keith Overcrossing: 2024 Final Report – finalized.
- Herps/Fish: 2025 Arroyo Toad Report – finalized. 2025 Western Spadefoot Report – due 2027. 2025 Artificial Cover Report – finalized. 2025 Drift Fence Camera Trap Report – finalized. 2026 Drift Fence Camera surveys – in progress. 2026 Artificial Cover surveys – in progress. 2026 Arroyo Toad surveys – in progress.
- Quino Checkerspot Butterfly: 2025 QCB Report – draft submitted to RCA. 2026 QCB surveys – in progress.
- Delhi Sands Flower-loving Fly: 2025 DSF Report – in progress.
- Vernal Pools: 2025 VP Report – finalized. 2026 VP Surveys – in progress.
- Data/GIS Analysis: 2025 Datasets – 16 certified.

VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Director Biancardi stated that with Mr. Law leaving, SAWA could do a competitive analysis with other firms. Ms. Biancardi requested a special project for SAWA staff to put together rate sheets for the last five years to see how those compare now to five years ago, and perhaps including the rate sheets for competitors. Ms. Biancardi added wanting to see more details on SAWA’s overhead.

VIII. NEXT MEETING – June 25, 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 9:54 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