



SAWA MEETING

April 23rd 2009
MINUTES

Meeting Location:
4500 Glenwood Drive
Riverside, CA 92501
9:00 A.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chariperson Zembal called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Attendees: Dick Zembal – OCWD; Gayle Holyoak – SJBRCD; Diana Ruiz – RCRCD; Vicki Long – EMARCD; Lee Reeder – SAWA; Jennette Corbitt – SAWA Henry Armijo – SAWA; Tim Romo – SAWA; Samantha Dempster – SAWA; Dolly Aguirre – SAWA; Brett Mills – SAWA; Sue Hoffman – SAWA; Bill Kronland – MSHCP; Jack Easton – Riverside Land Conservancy; Ken Kietzer – DPR; & Paul Webb – RPW
Absent: Jennifer Ares - IERCD

III. PUBLIC INPUT –

Oral communication from the public audience on any subject matter within SAWA's subject matter jurisdiction.

Jack Easton – Riverside Land Conservancy

They are currently working on several environmental trust easements with Fish & Wildlife Service in the Colton mitigation bank. They also recently entered a contract with IERCD and the City of Beaumont.

IV. REVIEW, AMEND AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Minutes from March 26, 2009

Director Holyoak motioned to approve the minutes from the March 26, 2009 meeting.

Director Ruiz seconded and the motion passed with no objections.

V. MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

a. Approve Consent Calendar: March 2009

Director Ruiz motioned to approve the March Consent calendar. Director Holyoak seconded and the motion passed with no objections.

b. Treasurer's Report - Diana Ruiz

Director Ruiz reported that she spoke to Kit Mac Nee from Merrill Lynch and our March report was up 2.5% and we have a goal of earning a total of 5%. Director Ruiz requested to have Merrill Lynch be placed on the May Board Meeting Agenda in order to give a full presentation on our current investments. Additionally, Kit Mac Nee expressed her interest in giving a retreat for the SAWA Board to discuss our investment strategy.

Lee Reeder announced that beginning next month, he will be adding a financial section to report on the status of the ILF Program and Conservation Easements.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

None

VII. ACTION ITEMS

None

VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Century American Mitigation Refund Request
Lee Reeder reported that they contacted SAWA to explore the possibility of refunding the \$365K mitigation fee paid to us in 2007 because they are not beginning their project for a couple of years. The initial mitigation involved 7.5 acres of eucalyptus removal and replanting and maintaining the area, in which most of the work has been completed. Currently, the project funding has already been spent by over 60% and we have made them aware of this. They paid us only \$25K per acre at the time and if they wait to pay us it will cost them \$125K per acre, so we hope they will reconsider the refund. Chairperson Zembal stated that we are responsible for following the rules of the original permit and we have to quantify those costs incurred. Lee is waiting to hear from our legal council regarding the commitment of the original agreement.
- b. Status of Hall Easement
Lee Reeder reported that he and Greg Powers will be present at the upcoming probation hearing in case the need arises to negotiate the terms of any reasonable requests. The co-defender, Mr. Sexton paid a settlement to SAWA for \$15K which we declined because it would not cover the initial costs, therefore we returned the payment and contacted the District Attorney.
- c. Status of Mockingbird Easement
We had the appraisal and now we are obtaining the title reports and title insurance. The best quote came in at \$700 from First American Company, a non-profit Environmental company.

IX. SAWA PROJECT REPORTS

- a. Lee Reeder – SAWA
 - Sent a draft ILF Program to the Army Corps
 - Filed the final Aspen report for the Army Corps work completed in 2008 and is available online to interested parties
 - Finished the annual financial audit and we are waiting for the final report from Eadie and Payne
 - The 2007 Annual Report was posted on the SAWA website earlier this month and the 2008 Annual Report was sent to the printer for 100 copies, in addition to being available for download online. Chairperson Zembal requested to send an announcement that the new 2008 Annual Report is completed and available for download on the SAWA website. Additionally, he would like to have the reporting agencies receive a hard copy.
 - Working with Riverside Land Conservancy to set aside some land in the San Mateo Badlands area, using the Reach 3 funding
 - Negotiations are going forward to see if we can gain some conservation easement over some downstream properties to increase the value of us investing and preserving the non-riparian area upstream, which is in IERCD's district so they would be the easement holder
 - We billed the City of Brea for the work on the Carbon Canyon project and applied \$18K of SAWPA funding for the tamarisk removal in the San Jacinto area. Both of these projects were funded without tapping into the ILF Program.
 - Working with Renee on the Prop 13 final report that SAWPA has requested.

- Working with the new contact at SAWPA on finalizing the new scope of work for the Prop 50 funds in the PAR area
- Working on the renewal of the MSHCP contract
- Invited to join the Faculty Workshop in Sacramento at the CA Democratic State Convention where he was asked to run the Community Service Fair
- Starting to get more initial mitigation requests

b. Diana Ruiz – Riverside-Corona RCD

From Kerwin Russell:

- Brett and Tim are continuing to cut and treat arundo re-growth along the La Sierra Creek and Sycamore Canyon and will be doing follow-up treatments as well on the 20 acres that were removed.
- Kerwin has been doing fish population assessments for sucker in the mainstem with assistance from Brett and Nicole. Monthly visits are made based on water flow, vegetation and temperature.
- Kerwin, Arlee and Shani completed the CRAM training.
- The Dace project with the Forest Service will hopefully be relocating the Indian Creek Dace back to Indian Creek, but will conduct pathology reports prior to the relocation process to verify they are healthy.
- The turtle trapping at Lee Lake will begin at the end of the week and start in Sycamore Canyon with the help of Brett & Nicole.
- Monthly surveys at Coal Water Creek are done to determine species composition and condition. Meetings are being held with Fish & Game to help plan conservation activities.

Outreach events:

- A lot of activities are being done with the upcoming Earth Day, including the Earthnight at Western Municipal Water District and at Chino.
- Conducted a joint tour with the Smithsonian Institute and the Riverside Municipal Museum where there was a variety of professionals that spoke about their efforts in citizen science. RCRCDD provided an evening reception in the demonstration garden
- Upcoming events include some activities with the Habitat for Humanity and a tour with the Inlandia group.
- RCRCDD started a new Kiwanis partnership with a Memorial Grove and Arbor Walk. Copies of the plant lists, gardening with natives and the RCRCDD newsletter are available to those interested.

Director Ruiz shared with the board the Self Monitoring Tool for Non-Profit Boards to review

c. Vicki Long – Elsinore-Murrieta-Anza RCD

Thanks to SAWA, Director Long is working on putting together their new office. They are considering having an open house some time in June. She is also busy interviewing new candidates for the District Manager position. She is learning more about the Brown Act and attended a training for more information.

They continue to work on the easement at the mouth of the river. She thinks they will be able to work on some enhancement projects for SAWA.

They recaptured Louie, the mountain lion and are using his data.

Director Long is meeting with Flood Control to start up their education efforts.

They finalized an easement they had been working on for over two and a half years for 250 acres with Fish & Wildlife. Currently they are looking at some small easements that RCA is sending their way.

d. Jennifer Ares – Inland Empire RCD
Absent

e. Gayle Holyoak – San Jacinto RCD
Continue to work on Tamarisk removal in the wildlife area. Tim met with Scott and determined it seems to be around 10 acres in which they will contract it out through Washburn.

f. Bonnie Nash – OCWD (Chairperson Zembal gave the report)
All of the biologists, Tim, Henry & Brett attended the CRAM training this week. Chairperson Zembal stated SAWA would be using this CRAM tool as a mitigation tool. The new projects will have CRAM assessment on the initial project and annually thereafter. The wildlife component was removed from the CRAM training, but SAWA is going to continue to use it with the bird count. SCCWRP (Southern Ca Coastal Waters Research Program) is a documentation of a point in time of a particular assessment of an area in the wetlands. Depending on the size of the area, you may have to do a number of assessments.

The annual water festival is next week on Tuesday & Wednesday at the Nixon Library and they are expecting around 5,000 children. SAWA will host a booth along with OCWD.

Chairperson Zembal drafted a letter to the USACE regarding the eucalyptus removal and using it for mitigation credits.

OCWD is still working on the Chub project that has not been approved by Fish & Game.

g. Tim Romo – SAWA

Least Tern Island

- * Early April, I discussed with Sue, plans for least tern island.
- * It was decided to apply one more treatment & terminate for the season.
- * The task could not be completed because access was blocked due to heavy construction.
- * Consequent to time constraints, I have not re-visited the island so I do not know the status or have recent pictures to give a progress report.
- * I would like to return to the island and remove the burlap sacks of bio-mass that were left behind.

Sycamore Canyon

- * Arundo was partially removed and sprayed.
- * The remaining arundo was sprayed with imazapyr.
- * A total of 3,000 sq ft was removed and or sprayed.
- * Vireo were not present when the treatment occurred.

La Sierra Woodcrest

- * Arundo was sprayed with rodeo, a stand of 70 canes.
- * Castor bean was sprayed in the surrounding area totaling about 2,000 sq ft.
- * We treated the more noticeable targets but we will be re-visiting this site.
- * Vireo were not present during the application.

San Timoteo Canyon

- * Melody alerted me two years ago of some pepperweed that was thriving in an area of San Tim that was not part of the contract.
- * 3.5 acres of pepperweed were treated prior to seeding.
- * A second treatment was necessary for rapidly sprouting pepperweed.
- * Vireo were not present nor were any birds chased out of the pepperweed field.

Carbon Canyon

- * An assessment was made and castor bean was a dominant species overtaking the site. Approx: 1.5 acres sprayed within a 4 acre area.
- * Other invasive species were sprayed, Approx: 1.5 acres within the same 4 acres.
- * Brea will be invoiced for March & Aprils treatments for \$1433.95.
- * The Caltrans permit was finally secured.
- * Bill Neill fully treated all of the atundo within the Caltrans right of ways.
- * Caltrans consists of 5 acres of arundo.
- * The Carbon Canyon Fire Council was approved for \$40,000 for Carbon Canyon Restoration.
- * I am waiting to hear the details and how much will be allocated to SAWA's project in this area.
- * Lesley Hill, a biologist with Caltrans, contacted me and inquired about the CC project. She is trying to get funding for future planting on Caltrans R of W.

PAR Project

- * RPW completed their treatments in all areas of the PAR site.
- * The contract has now expired in some areas of the PAR site for spraying.
- * I will be submitting an action item regarding a contract extension to continue future treatments.

CRAM Training

- * I along with other SAWA personal, completed a CRAM training course this week.
- * I would like to be involved with future CRAM assessments to keep up on the practice.

h. Dolly Aguirre – SAWA

This month concluded the six-week docent training program. SAWA and partnering agency staff including OCWD, IEUA, and USACOE successfully trained 15 volunteers in a variety of environmental topics. Volunteers are ready to assist SAWA in the areas of public outreach, biology, and habitat restoration.

The education staff has been busy this month with several Earth Day events. SAWA has or will participate in the Dos Lagos Event, Butterfly Days, CCP Earth Day Event, CBWCD Earth Day, CREEC Earth Day in SB, and OC's Children Water Education Festival. Next month, we will be hosting booths at the Splash Festival, the Green Expo and Chino's Fire Event.

To promote Earth Day stewardship, SAWA recruited 100 students for the CCP Earth Day Event and held two in-class presentations.

SAWA continues to run Water Discovery Field Trip Programs and wetland parks tours for schools and organizations. Last weekend, United Way and IERCD generously planted and donated several native plants for SAWA's Chino office landscape. Many thanks are extended to both of those agencies.

The Chino office will also assist in hosting a pervious concrete demonstration workshop this spring with California Nevada Cement Association. CNCA will generously donate a pervious concrete driveway for the office and a demonstration aquarium for the Interpretive Center.

The Interpretive Center mural is being completed this week and the Center will be officially up and running by next month.

Funding wise, we had a site visit from DOPR for the Habitat Conservation Fund. A proposal was submitted this month for a Project Learning Tree GreenWorks grant for a demonstration garden.

i. Ken Kietzer – DPR

State parks:

Continue with annual weed work, catching a lot of birds. Chino State Park – trying to raise \$500K from Stater Brothers & Coca Cola and help the public become more aware of the impact of wildfires. Lake Perris draft EIR for the Dam Repair should be available in June. Tentative weed burning just under 250 acres. Reports from Melody regarding paint ball activity was reported, said they would try to step up control. Met with James Law from IERCD outside of Chino Hills State Park and helped him prioritize weed control and restoration, targeted areas of control in the high quality sage. James requested a rite of entry permit in San Timoteo and will check on the status. Ken would appreciate coordination to assist with weed treatment in the Chino State Park.

DPR is working on a small growing facility in Lake Perris where they are trying to grow some plants and would like to meet with someone from RCRCD for assistance – Contact Arlee.

X. SAWA / MSHCP BIOLOGIST REPORT

a. Bill Kronland – MSHCP Biologist

2008 annual reports are finished and will be made available on CD next month

Birds (NOHA)

- On third (final) round of searching transects.
- 1 active nest at Wilson Valley w/ 5 eggs, 2 weeks ago. Will check again on Monday or Tuesday, but look to still be active.
- No active pairs or firm indications of pairing anywhere else. But female-juvenile males appear to be hanging out together at SJWA, and one male flying around w/ and/or w/out females. One female at Hidden Valley, one female at Potrero and females at Lake Elsinore. J-ranch, adult-juvy-adult female hanging out.
- No individuals detected at Garner Valley.

Plants

Quino Veg

- Vegetation assessment complete: equal number of occupied and unoccupied plots at each site
- Will follow phenology of plantago (host plant) each week until dried: testing hypothesis that length of growing season affects next years eruption.

Vegetation Community

- Finished MSR and areas east of Lake Elsinore.
- Working on Potrero and will begin/finish Silverado next month.

Rare Plant Surveys

- Doing opportunistically as personal become available.
- Recorded 2 covered species for first time during inventory phase: *Convolvulus simulans*, a morning glory at Alberhil, and *Mimulus difusus*, Palomar monkey flower at Lake Skinner.

MAMALS

- Will begin installing camera station along I-15 underpasses next week

Quino

- Individuals still flying at Silverado.
- Finished at Lake Skinner and Oak Mountain area.

HERPS

Stream Surveys

- Scouted much of SAMs except for San Mateo Canyon (Start Next Week). Also, getting into SRP.
- Over 70 stream surveys to date~12 at SRP, remaining across SAMs.
- 1,400 or more California newts across SAMs w/ signs of breeding, and one egg mass at SRP. Thus, meeting species objectives.
- Found 1 pond turtle at SRP and 1 at Los Alamos Canyon in San Mateo Wilderness.

Cover Boards

- San Jacinto Mnts, Banning Bench, Iron Springs, SMER.
- Mountain king snake at Thomas Mnt, south of Garner Valley.
- Sage Brush lizards, too

Pond Turtle Trapping

- *Coordination efforts with CDFG and USGS.*
- *BMP will focus on Santa Ana River: Chino Creek (Prado), ponds along river.*

Mike Zerwekh

- *Found southern pacific rattle snake on an off-day.*
- *Is fine and will be released from hospital tomorrow.*

+ *Delhi on radar*

b. Sue Hoffman – SAWA Lead Biologist

1. The 2009 vireo season is well underway and we have chicks in nests. The assistants were trained quickly and are doing a great job. One of our traps was noticed and put on an Internet geo-cache and subsequently vandalized.
2. Focal species scheduled for extra work this season are Terry's project with the horned lizards. Jill will continue to look for Yellow Warbler nests. Allyson is compiling the distribution data on the Roufus-Crowned Sparrow. Nicole is working on the Loggerhead Shrikes in San Jacinto We will follow up on sightings of Willow Flycatchers to see if they remain in the area to breed.
3. We are monitoring the spraying at Anzo Narrows, the extension area at Anza, and at PAR on the north side of the river.
4. Herp arrays were open in Lake Perris the week of April 6. May will be our last week of surveys at Lake Perris and we are considering our next location.
5. We continue to do the raptor surveys in Cajon, San Timoteo, San Jacinto, and Lake Perris.
6. The 2008 CCP small mammal trapping report is being completed.
7. We are starting to prepare for the Least Tern season. They have arrived in San Diego.
8. Brett continues to work on the Prado exotic aquatics one week a month and we have scheduled trapping at the CCP ponds for the same week. One African clawed frog was caught last month in the ponds at the front of the IEAU buildings.
9. We continue to work on RCRC projects such as the nursery, the Amphibian program at Lee Lake, and SEP at Dos Lagos.
10. Biologists are scheduling and completing the bird surveys for the RCRC. We have done the Dos Lagos survey and the Chandler Easement survey.
11. Many of the staff went to a three day training session on CRAM earlier this week.

XI. NEXT MEETING - May 28th 2009

XII. ADJOURN - The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 A.M.

Notice: All open session agenda materials will be available for inspection by members of the public at the SAWA office located at 6075 Kimball Avenue, Bldg. D, Chino CA, 91708. Please contact Jennette Corbitt at (909) 606-1933 x101 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 Executive Assistant at (909) 606-1933 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