



## **SAWA MEETING DRAFT MINUTES**

August 27th 2009

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

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Zembal called the meeting to order at 9:06 A.M.

### **II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Attendees: Chairperson Zembal – OCWD; Director Holyoak - SJBRCD; Bonnie Nash – OCWD; Director Ruiz – RCRCO; Director Ares – IERCD; Director Long – EMARCD; Lee Reeder – SAWA; Jennette Corbitt – SAWA; John Rogers – EMARCD; Dolly Aguirre – SAWA; Samantha Dempster – SAWA; Sue Hoffman – SAWA; Adam Malisch – MSHCP; Melodie Aimar – SAWA; Allyson Beckman – SAWA; Nicole Housel – SAWA; Jill Coumoutso – SAWA; Giovanni Arechevaleta - SAWA; Henry Armijo – SAWA; Lisa Pierce – WRI; Kai Palenscar - UCR Cal-IPC Student Chapter; Bill Rice – RWQCB; Bill Neill - SAROCWMA; Paul Webb - RPW

Absent: Tim Romo - SAWA

### **III. PUBLIC INPUT – Oral communication from the public audience on any subject matter within SAWA’s subject matter jurisdiction.**

#### Lisa Pierce – WRI

She presented a small grant of \$2500 to build a database design for managing conservation easements; mitigation sites; treatments; etc. with GIS and includes training for SAWA and the RCD’s. The board agreed there was already approved funding in the budget, therefore there was no need to take action on this item and Lee Reeder can sign the contract for the grant.

#### Kai Palenscar - UCR Cal-IPC Student Chapter

Interested in helping to restore sites; Kai is personally working on restoration sites with Arundo removal that are older than 5 years – Looking for funding opportunities and research projects.

#### Bill Rice – RWQCB

Planning to attend the bird festival in which he will be giving a presentation on water quality and how it affects the birds. They have pictures that he would like to display, but at this time he doesn’t have funds in his budget to have them put on poster boards – SAWA can help with the funding for the posters.

### **IV. REVIEW, AMEND AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **a. Approval of Minutes from July 23, 2009**

Lee Reeder pointed out that on page 4 under the ILF report, it should read prospectus.

Director Long motioned to approve the minutes from the July Meeting with the noted correction. Director Holyoak seconded and the motion passed with no objections.

**V. MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

a. Approve Consent Calendar: July 2009

Director Ruiz motioned to approve the July consent calendar. Director Long seconded and the motion passed with no objections.

b. ILF & Conservation Easement Report - Lee Reeder

ILF mitigations are starting to pickup; SAWA has had a few calls of interest this month.

Mockingbird Easement--The Riverside County Planning Director is expected soon to give consent for the transfer of the parcels. The Environmental Trust has received an extension until December.

Hall Easement - No news on any progress on the Hall Easement with any other agencies.

Chairperson Zembal would like to see a year to date mitigation funding table by project showing a summary of SAWA income at the monthly meetings.

**VI. CORRESPONDENCE / MEETING REPORTS**

None.

**VII. ACTION ITEMS**

a. MOU Between SAWA and IERCD regarding the Chino Creek Integrated Plan and Cleanup Project - Jennifer Ares

Director Ares reported that her district had put up some matching funds for this grant and her board was hoping to be compensated to some extent in perhaps using her staff time for work on some of the project. She came up with some hourly expenses under the tasks for her staff which is listed on the MOU.

Director Long motioned to approve the MOU for IERCD. Director Ruiz seconded and the motion passed with no objections.

**VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

a. Funding Post-Fire Weed Control in Northern Orange County - Bill Neill

Bill Neil reported that he has been focusing on invasive weeds particularly in the Featherly Park region which has already exceeded his budget for the year. He would like to know what the board plans to do for the remainder of this year regarding funding – he proposed a one time opportunity with additional funding or borrow from next year’s budget? Bill proposed an additional \$5,000 funding would take care of the extra time spent on Carbon Canyon due to the Chino Hills fire.

Chairperson Zembal requested a break down for the expense of additional work conducted in Carbon Canyon due to the fire and suggested we talk to the people responsible for the Carbon Canyon funding first.

**IX. SAWA PROJECT REPORTS**

a. Dick Zembal – SAWA Chair

Passed out a summary of Lee Reeder’s evaluation to the board and asked them to write down any additional comments.

b. Lee Reeder – SAWA

1. Corps Solicitation--The actual solicitation for this \$5 million to \$10 million project came out late last week, so I have been going over the 125-page document and preparing a response. I have been pulling everything together for the bid process. The project involves non-native plant removal, habitat restoration, endangered species management, cowbird trapping, and five years of maintenance. The proposal, which will be in two volumes, is due September 21. I hope to have the draft done by Friday, Sept. 4 for review.

2. Corps Prospectus--I met with Jae Chung of the Army Corps regarding our Prospectus, which will define our relationship with the Corps for in-lieu fee mitigation well into the future. The California Department of Fish and Game had requested significant reorganization and changes to the document, which I did. Jae is happy with the changes, and they have resulted in a much better Prospectus, which is now headed for public review and final adoption. I will also be meeting soon with Jae about a separate in-lieu fee mitigation Prospectus that will cover the MSHCP areas and even some of the upper Santa Margarita Watershed.

3. Flooding--On Wednesday, the SAWA office flooded, causing significant damage. We have all been working under loud, uncomfortable conditions since then, and are working to get the office restored. Although all of our computers were on the floor, only one, Sue's, was rendered inoperative. However, I was able to recover all of her data. Three rooms need new carpet, and all the insulation under the building must be replaced. We are working with a disaster recovery firm and are getting an estimate soon for replacing carpet, insulation and baseboards.

4. Financial Review. I am working on the review and have asked Diana to join me on this in the next two weeks. Things are changing quickly right now. Mitigation revenue had been slow for the first seven months because of the downturn in the economy, but it has been picking up, with another \$65,000 coming in during August. We are also working on a couple of other mitigations. Also, because these weren't sure things, we didn't factor the Chino Creek Grant or the new Education grant into our revenue projections for the year, so those will help. Also, today we should be receiving our first Prop 50 check again after the funds were unfrozen for the PAR project. That will reimburse us for approximately \$70,000 of our work. This is the May invoice, and we have been submitting monthly invoices since then. We also will be billing \$235,000 for our yearly task order for maintenance of the former Proposition 13 areas, and that task order will be renewed by SAWPA in October.

5. Reporting--We have received the 2007 report from the printer. The day before the flooding I was going to take all tree boxes of the report and put them in my office. Luckily, I kept them in my car, because the entire print job would have been destroyed. I am continuing work on the new format for the 2008 report which will be much different. I attended a meeting early in August with Fish and Wildlife, Orange County Public Works, Fish and Game and Army Corps in Santa Ana. In light of OCPW renewing its 1600 permit, we were invited to review reporting requirements. I presented our biological reports, the 2007 Report and the 2008 report draft, as well as our online Aspen report for 2008. The agencies made several comments that will change the way the 2008 report is presented. I plan to finish the 2008 report as soon as the Corps solicitation is out of the way. I plan to have the 2009 report done by the end of February 2010.

6. Chino Creek Grant--We are working toward the new start date of November 1 for this \$1 million project. Laura Cashion of IEUA was able to get us a little more breathing room on this, so we have another month. Our emphasis right now is the bid process for the

contractors, which is very exacting. We will also have to apply this to the MOU with IERCD. We are also working with Waterkeeper, because they are joint on this contract with us.

c. Diana Ruiz – Riverside-Corona RCD

- The interpretive signs are being put up this week at the Dos Lagos golf course.
- RCRCD put together an insert for the RCRCD upcoming newsletter that focuses on protecting native fish and will provide copies to SAWA to distribute at the Bird Festival.
- Kerwin will be returning as the SAWA board member beginning next month.

d. Vicki Long – Elsinore-Murrieta-Anza RCD

- Working with Pat Killroy regarding Lake Elsinore and easements that they will be working on in conjunction with SAWA. They would like to work on the invasives in the outflow.
- Vicki has a meeting with SAWPA to discuss helping out with Lake Elsinore.
- There was a huge fish die out in Lake Elsinore because Fish & Game overstocked the fish and the heat caused the water to become shallow which made the fish die.
- Vicki requested that either Tim or James map out the area above Canyon Lake which borders the EMARCD & SJBRCD because there is a large amount of tamarisk and other invasives that needs to be removed.

e. Jennifer Ares – Inland Empire RCD

- San Timoteo - They drafted the scope of work and have all of the permits for the Tree of Heaven project, but they still need to do a bid walk. James is adding pepperweed to the scope of work.
- There is a willing seller for the Riverside Land Conservancy project, but she needs to follow up.
- James mapped out an area that the San Bernardino Flood Control was concerned about in regards to some arundo that needs to be removed.
- There is also some arundo in the Mission area in Redlands that they need to get landowner approvals for.

f. Gayle Holyoak – San Jacinto RCD

Nothing new to report.

g. Bonnie Nash – OCWD

- Bonnie introduced Eric Peralta, the new intern who will be putting in fish at the Anaheim facility next week and has been busy doing various projects.
- They have a couple of Eagle Scout projects they are currently assisting with, that include working on pond turtles and making some artificial floats to put out at some of the dried up diary ponds, as well as putting some osprey platforms at the Anaheim facility.
- OCWD is busy doing sucker surveys and working on their restoration sites.
- Pond turtle surveys – try to rescue them and put them in at the Chino Creek Wetlands Park.
- September 17<sup>th</sup> is the Annual River Walk, everyone is welcome to come out and help.
- The staff has settled into the new trailer.

h. Tim Romo – SAWA (Report by Lee Reeder)

**PAR Project**

- A check in the amount of \$70,629.40 was mailed to SAWA August 26<sup>th</sup> from SAWPA. This is the first payment from prop 50 funds for the PAR project.
- Monthly invoices will be sent to SAWPA by the 15<sup>th</sup> for processing. It may take up to 6 weeks for payment by the State.

- Currently, SAWA has matching funds credit for this project in the amount of \$552,813.59. With a total of \$94,803.10 invoiced to date, the matching fund credit balance is \$428,010.49. The significance of this credit is that we can submit invoices to SAWPA for payment until this balance reduces down to zero before SAWA has to produce additional matching funds. Of course the State of CA could issue another freeze.
- Herbicide treatments continue non-stop in all the areas previously cut and control is very good.
- I recommend we start the removal phase soon to complete this project by the next vireo season.

### **Carbon Canyon**

- Control efforts continued in May, June & July but, the majority of the treatments occurred in June. All areas on private property have been controlled very well. We still do not have permission on some properties.
- All Caltrans right of ways have been controlled very well too, by Bill Neill. Bill has also started spraying on property owned by Aeras.
- State Parks properties in Carbon Canyon have not been controlled although as soon as I get a management plan to Ken, we should be good to go.
- The City of Brea has paid about \$9,000 to SAWA for an invoice we submitted. Another Invoice will be submitted soon in the amount of \$4,300 for work completed by SAWA. We Are also going to bill the City of Brea for invoices paid to Riparian Repairs for about \$2,000 for work completed in Carbon Canyon. This would leave a balance of about \$9,500 In the City of Brea account.

### **SAWA Crew**

- Hamner project – The crew has been spraying this site and control is very good.
- Temescale Canyon – The crew has spent a fair amount of their time on this project. Next week they will be spraying at the 3M Plant area.
- Prado – The crew has been spraying sprouting eucalyptus trees at the Hwy 71 site to Keep this area controlled. The crew has also controlled areas around the ponds and canal to keep these areas free of arundo for easy access.
- Training – The crew has started their annual safety training for all herbicides and surfactants, heat stress, and general safety required by the CDPR. They should complete this training by mid September.
- Chairperson Zembal suggested SAWA alter the work schedule or bring the crew into the office when the temperature rises above 100° to ensure they don't get heat stress.

### **i. Dolly Aguirre – SAWA**

- SAWA's first annual Bird Festival is scheduled for September 26th from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. The festival will offer activities and informational booths, food, music and a raffle. It will incorporate a Healthy Chino Bird Walk at 10:00 A.M. SAWA staff is hosting several booths, including: a banding registration booth; a biologist booth; a bat booth; a feather mask booth; wood duck booth and a rapture encounter booth. Other participating agencies include: IERCD; RCRC; OCWD; SWRCB; City of Chino; Rubidoux Nature Center; United Way; Wild Birds Unlimited and IEUA. We are anticipating between 100-200 visitors.
- SAWA is coordinating a "Garden In Every School" - Demonstration Garden Project which will be kicking off in October. The project will consist of 100 students in the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. It is funded through the Project Green Works Grant from Project Learning Tree.
- August 1<sup>st</sup> delivered another successful bimonthly volunteer work party at the Chino Creek Wetlands Park consisting of over 30 people assisting with weeding and bird box construction. The next work party is scheduled for Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> in which a herbarium workshop will be held.
- The Education Department participated in the Chino Farmer's Market Night this month in which they had a successful make and take activity booth.

- The Annual Book Drive closed this month and they raised over \$1000.00 in book sponsorship.
- SAWA received the award letter for the Habitat Conservation Fund from the Department of Parks and Recreation, but we are still awaiting the grant contract. This grant of \$207,900.00 will help fund the Water Discovery Program, which is a mini grant program for five consecutive years.
- Dolly will be on vacation beginning next week, so she asks that all questions regarding the Bird Festival be directed to Samantha Dempster who will be the lead on this event.

j. Ken Kietzer – DPR  
Absent

### **SAWA / MSHCP BIOLOGIST REPORT**

a. Bill Kronland – MSHCP Biologist (Adam Malisch)  
2009 Species Project Updates

#### **Ongoing Projects**

1. Camera Stations  
Cameras in Bogart Park, San Tim-Cherry Valley Linkage near Singleton Road, Chino Hills SP near 91, on Tri Valley near I-15 crossing, and San Gorgonio Wash. The cameras are monitored monthly. Will soon begin additional opportunistic sign surveys in linkages with camera stations.
2. Delhi fly  
Surveys started first week in July. We have seen lots of flies, but observations are diminishing. Veg sampling to begin when surveys end.
3. Pond turtle  
Working in conjunction with USGS and DFG. Have found pond turtles in Santa Ana River. Also spiny soft shells and many sliders. Trying to coordinate with OCWD/SAWA in Prado area.
4. Geckos  
Neither cover boards nor transect surveys producing desired observations. Switching to testing nocturnal transect surveys.
5. Lake birds  
Survey for covered Lake birds present in winter. Have started establishing/ground-truthing stations – surveys to start mid September. Will work with OCWD/SAWA in Prado area.

#### **Projects in Development**

6. Fairy Shrimp Surveys  
El Nino year expected. We are evaluating training needs and assessing potential for vernal pools in areas that have been acquired since last fairy shrimp surveys.
7. Long-tailed weasel  
Difficult to detect species. Plan to use scent stations focused on locations most likely used within Core Areas.
8. Engelmann oak  
Annual surveys to monitor Engelmann oak recruitment. Surveys to begin in October.

#### **Completed Projects**

9. Penstemon Detectability  
Pilot effort to test our methods for rare plant detection.
10. Pilot CSS/Chap habitat  
Continuing collaboration with SDSU. Sampling complete at MSR, and Lake Elsinore and Silverado. We expect this to evolve into our long-term veg monitoring strategy.
11. Rare Plant Surveys  
Visited historically-occupied locations for rare plants to confirm presence or MSHCP-specified level of conservation.

12. Scent Stations  
Scent tablet and track plate surveys. Focus was in Wilson Valley area. All target species found in all Core Areas.
  13. Quino  
The flight season and vegetation sampling are over for 2009.
  14. Northern Harrier  
Found nests in Wilson Valley and San Jacinto Wildlife Area. Wilson Valley – adults abandoned eggs after 60 days. SJWA – one nest successfully fledged chicks and one nest failed.
  15. Cover Boards  
Using Cover Boards to detect Covered snakes and higher elevation lizards in San Jacinto Mountains, Banning Bench, Iron Springs and SMER. Finished until late fall when we will begin checking the boards again.
  16. Stream Surveys/RLF  
Focused on RLF surveys in the Cleveland. No RLF but lots of newts and several pot Farms – notified appropriate law enforcement.
- b. Sue Hoffman – SAWA Lead Biologist
1. The 2009 vireo season is in the data crunch and report writing mode. Cowbird traps remain open in San Jacinto and the Santa Ana Canyon. All the other traps have been brought in. One trap in the Santa Ana Canyon caught 82 birds in one day and 76 another day. We received a request from the Eastern Municipal Water District to close a trap on its property due to construction that was starting. We closed it the same day.
  2. Raptor surveys in Cajon, Lake Perris, and San Timoteo have started up again.
  3. We have pulled the herp arrays out of Lake Perris and are working on getting the permits for March and Sycamore.
  4. We have started night drives for herps in Lake Perris and Chino Hills State Park.
  5. We are working the MSCHP biologists to help with an open water bird study along the river including Prado and the Englemann Oak surveys.
  6. We are walking transects thorough out the watershed this summer and fall looking for the horned lizard. Transects are in Mira Loma, Gavilon Hills, Chino Hills State Park, Green River Golf Course, and the floodplain below Costco in the Santa Ana Canyon. Terry is in charge of this project.
  7. Jill and Terry have set up the Anabat equipment for a 48 hour survey of the river at Featherly Park, Gypsum Canyon Rd. They put the equipment in a container to hide it and then locked it in a cowbird cage to deter vandalism. It is at the RV park so should be fairly safe.
  8. We are consulting with Ron Nadeau, manager at Featherly Park for O.C. Parks, on creating trails for accessing Arundo for removal.
  9. We trapped the CCP ponds last week. Eight African Clawed Frogs were caught in 5 trap days in the detention pond, the pond that the front pond and the creek between the buildings drains into. We have trapped out 310 AFC this year so far.
  10. We are working up our 2009 BBS data.
  11. We are writing the 2009 Least Tern Report. Members of the team got together for lunch.
  12. CRAM surveys of our bird plots are being scheduled for September and early October.
  13. Melody is organizing the biology presentations for the Sept 26 Bird Festival which will include a large display of watershed residents and migratory birds. Jill will have a display on local bats. Henry is bringing his hawks, Jennie, goshawk, and April, the Harris hawk.

14. We are discussing setting up another watershed-wide Veg Management meeting Melody met with CDFG regarding the weed-whacking incidents at Mockingbird.
15. Talula Barbee is working on a short presentation on vireo and cowbird management in Temescal including Lake Elsinore.
16. When in the field, we are collection plants for David's herbarium class in October for the docents/volunteers.
17. We continue to work on the sucker, arroyo chub and dace programs and maintain the fish stream at the RCRC.
18. We continue to work on RCRC projects such as the nursery, the Amphibian program at Lee Lake, SEP at Dos Lagos and bird surveys. SAWA staff working at the RCRC did CPR training.
19. Jill will do a pre and post work bird survey at Goose Creek Golf Course for the IERCD.

I. **NEXT MEETING** - September 24th 2009 (AGENCY MEETING)

**ADJOURN** – The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 A.M.

**Notice: All open session agenda materials will be available for inspection by members of the public at the SAWA office located at 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