



**July 24th 2008
General Meeting**

**Meeting Location:
4500 Glenwood Drive #F
Riverside, CA 92501
10:00 A.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Zembal at 10:22 A.M.

II. INTRODUCTION

Introductions were made and a sign in sheet was passed around.

Attendees: James Law – IERCD; Samantha Dempster – SAWA; Dolly Aguirre – SAWA; Dick Zembal – OCWD; Vicki Long – EMARCD; Tim Romo – SAWA; Sue Hoffman – SAWA; Bonnie Nash – OCWD; Adam Malisch – MSHCP; Diana Ruiz – RCRC; Jennifer Ares – IERCD; Anna Milloy – CDFG; Michael Flores – CDFG; Rory Paster – OCPW; Talula Barbee – OCWD; Jeff Brandt – CDFG; Henry Armijo – SAWA; Terry Reeser – SAWA; Nicole Peltier – SAWA; Jill Coumoutso – SAWA; Brett Mills – SAWA; Giovanni Avechavaleta – SAWA; and Jennette Corbitt – SAWA
Absent: Hayley Lovan – USACE; Gayle Holyoak & Bruce Scott - SJBRCD

III. REVIEW, AMEND AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Director Long motioned to approve the June 26th 2008 Quarterly Agency minutes with the following corrections on page 5:

V. Project Reports

c. Vicki Long – Elsinore-Murrieta-Anza RCD

EMARCD is working on a contract with Trout Unlimited in the San Mateo Creek area where they are trying to restore steelhead.

Director Ruiz seconded and the motion was passed with no objections.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

Chairperson Zembal shared the letter he sent to Colonel Thomas Magness – USACE, expressing SAWA's interest in doing the biological monitoring and management at the Santa Ana Marsh Grove.

SAWA received a correspondence from the San Jacinto River Watershed Council which they note that their annual budget is \$85,000. Chairperson Zembal asked if SAWA is still giving them a large portion. Director Long didn't believe so, and rather felt SAWA was giving them a \$10-15,000 donation and stated they are currently using Prop 50 grant money.

SAWA received the annual thank you plaque from the Children's Water Festival for participating; it will be displayed in the Chino Wetlands Office.

Dolly Aguirre shared a thank you letter that SAWA received from the Monte Vista Water District for contributing into their education program packets.

V. PROJECT REPORTS

a. Dick Zembal - OCWD

Burris Basin, located north of Anaheim Stadium on the off river system used for water percolation will be reconfigured. In that process, the 1.7 acre island out in the middle where we have had terns and skimmer nests in recent years is going to be fixed so it no longer is an impediment for water management. The birds nest on the top instead of the sides so there isn't a conflict between water management and nesting birds. This year we had 3 black skimmers at one time. Two of the nests hatched and according to Chairperson Zembal, it is the furthest inland record for black skimmer nesting. Youngsters have been pulled out and reported to have been doing fine, including 3 CA Least Tern nests, approximately 54 Forester's Tern nests, 10-12 Killdeer nests, and some stilt Avocet & mallard nests.

In the reconfiguration process, during the rebuild year there will be too much disturbance on the island, so we are going to put floating islands into the only section of the basin which will still have water and also participate in the preparation of the corps tern island, to offset temporal impacts to the colonially nesting seabirds. Additionally, we plan to take all the invasive out of the edge of Burris and replace those with native riparian elements to give a continuous riparian belt on the edge of Burris, which will be a significant island of habitat between the Santa Ana Canyon and the mouth of the river where there really is none now.

b. Hayley Lovan – USACE

Absent

c. Diana Ruiz – Riverside-Corona RCD

1. RCRCD's remaining active contract for Arundo removal is with Washburn Grove Management for the Clark Management Mitigation in Springbrook Wash. A walk-through was done with the contractor, and now Tim Romo is taking over the maintenance. All other contracts have been completed.
2. RCRCD is holding 150 Sana Ana Suckers in the Native Habitat Area stream at our facility.
3. RCRCD is currently holding 153 Speckled Dace and 224 Arroyo Chub from the Soboba Indian Reservation for their Indian Creek site.

4. We are pleased with the numbers of LBV at our various conservation easements in Temescal Wash. Jill Coumoutso has been doing a great job communicating stats with our staff. Jill reported they currently have 18 birds in 3M and 13 birds in Dos Logos.
5. Tim Romo and other SAWA staff have been spraying for Arundo and tamarisk on our conservation easement sites in Temescal Wash.
6. Brett Mills has been doing invasive aquatic species removal in Sycamore Park to protect the Arroyo Chub that have been re-introduced there. Brett is also working on the Lee Lake Pond Conservation Easement site to do presence/absence surveys for turtles.

d. Vicki Long – Elsinore-Murrieta-Anza RCD

Director Long reported that EMARCD is working with San Diego State on different projects and will be entering into some grant projects with them as well. They are currently looking for grants to build the district up and working with San Diego State will give them the opportunity to get some projects from the University and possible funding for a manager. Henry Armijo, one of SAWA's assistants, recently found 2 vireos in the Lake Elsinore area. Director Long is currently working on a new site to look for vireos in their district. After receiving permission from landowners she was able to pass on the information, including a map to Sue Hoffman.

e. Jennifer Ares – IERCD

Director Ares reported that she is working on some easements with Mandy Parkes. James Law reported on invasive species removal projects. The Seven Oaks Dam showed the cameras below water line, so IERCD is in the process of contacting them. East Twin Creek, off of waterman had their permit expired so Tim's crew is taking over that project. The Mission project has arundo under contract and the spraying looks good next to Martha McLean Anzo Narrows Park in Riverside. San Timoteo Creek slated for burn removal this fall. Small amounts of arundo in the upper San Bernardino city, off of Palm Avenue consist of no more than a couple of acres that will be removed this fall. Hwy 30 also expired, so Tim's crew will be taking over that project as well. Devil's canyon has been sprayed and is looking good. Santiago Oaks, SAWA's mitigation site in the upper Santiago Creek was sprayed and the lower part, down by the hospital was done, but the middle stretch has some tamarisk and arundo, so they are trying to get landowner approval; it consists of approximately 10 acres or less. Finally, regarding the Wetland Recovery project, SAWA should get some funding when Prop 84 kicks in.

f. Bruce Scott – San Jacinto RCD

Absent

g. Bonnie Nash – OCWD

Bonnie reported that they are currently finishing planting 10,000 mule fat at their new site, Splatters S Duck Hunting Club, which joins their property out at Prado. They are battling with Fish & Game about getting chub into their chub pond at Prado, but are dealing with the issues and the pond is filled and ready for fish. Jim Pike confirmed that they have 2 Willow Fly Catcher kids in the basin.

Prado Basin Water District had a two and a half million dollar grant through Prop 13 to put in a treatment wetland through Chino Creek. Because of problems with land owner permission, they asked the State permission to do a clean-up project on the Chino Hills Creek, where the inland water keeper will pick up trash, characterize and categorize the trash and try to develop an understanding of the source (quantity and quality). In regards to money for invasive control and planting, they held a meeting with San Bernardino County Parks where Chairperson Zembal presented the notion, if allowed to plant a 100 foot belt of shrubby riparian mule fat coyote bush along Chino Creek in the park. They would put in a 10 foot decomposed granite trail with 3 rail on either side located right in the regional park for as many miles that the money would support.

h. Tim Romo – SAWA

The SAWA crew has been busy and spread out in several different sites, but mostly working in Temescal Canyon. They are working on the other side of Mt. Rubidoux spraying a lot of tamarisk in that area. They are currently applying herbicides on the PAR project that will go into next week. Tim reported that he had a site tour on Tuesday with a couple of representatives from SAWPA and the State Water Resource Control Board. He will also be conducting second interviews on Friday with four candidates. He plans to take them out into the field to give them an idea of what kind of work to expect.

Additionally, he is researching decomposed granite and pavers to create an entrance from the parking lot to the Chino Creek office that will comply with ADA regulations. Director Long suggested retention blocks from Home Depot and Talula Barbee suggested SAWA look into stone pavers that have been significantly discounted due to having been baked at the wrong color.

Chairperson Zembal requested from Tim an electronic copy of sites and schedules to give to partners for expectation of work to be completed. He also asked that Tim give Jennette Corbitt a copy as well for distribution.

i. Ken Kietzer – DPR

Absent

j. Dolly Aguirre – SAWA Education Program

Water Discovery Program has started its marketing and has distributed brochures to several student summer program institutions as well as home school networks. The education staff is finishing up the school contact list which includes all elementary schools within the Santa Ana watershed. Upon completion, the list will be available to member RCDs.

The staff is also preparing to assemble teacher packets which will be offered to interested educators. In order to maximize efforts with minimal resources, we will utilize RCRCD's method of marketing. Letters will be sent to principals who will distribute request forms to their teachers; interested teachers who mail back the request forms will receive a packet. These packets will be specific to region and offer other local environmental education opportunities. The staff is also distributing donation letters for giveaways.

This month, SAWA has completed two guided tours of the park for the students of Cal Poly Pomona and Cal State San Bernardino.

SAWA participated in Youth Safari Day hosted by Safari Club International. The booth offered nature walks, a newspaper pot activity, and information on SAWA and IERCD's projects. Next weekend on Sunday, August 3rd, SAWA will assist IERCD for the Lytle is Vital kick-off at the Lytle Creek Car Show.

SAWA will continue to work under IERCD for WRI's Lytle is Vital project.

The education staff attended a one day workshop focusing on grant writing and volunteer programs at Cal State Fullerton. Grant week will begin next week; the staff will acquire all the necessary documents and materials needed to write a well rounded application. Any RCDs interested in a needs list, please request after the meeting.

The Grant Applications Group (GAG) and SAWA's Environmental Education Committee (SEEC) met on July 7th. Meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month. Next meeting is scheduled for August 12, 2008 at IERCD's board room in Redlands. Please email if you are interested in a copy of this month's meeting minutes and/or grant opportunities.

Next month, on Thursday, August 14th, SAWA will be having a Water Discovery training day. The training will review all activity stations and will be held between 9am – 1pm.

SAWA is considering other types of alternative buildings for the Interpretive Center including wood construction yurts, straw bale construction, ceramic buildings, and earth ships. For further information on the development of the Center, please join us for the Interpretive meeting this coming Monday, August 28th at 2pm at the Chino office.

The Book Drive is coming to an end next week, and SAWA would like to extend much thanks to all of its donors. Over 75% of the list has been sponsored and we'd love to reach 100%! For those who have not paid, please try to do so within the next two weeks. Receipts will be sent out the second week of August.

VI. BIOLOGIST REPORT

a. Adam Malisch – MSCHP Biologist

Ongoing Projects

1. Passerine nest searching - Searching for and monitoring nests of CAGN, YWAR, LBVI, YBCH, WIFL, and NAWA within Core Areas to attempt to document successful reproduction as per species-specific objectives. Successful reproduction of CAGN in 8 cores; 5 successful cores for LBVI; 3 for YBCH; 5 for YWAR. There is 1 active WIFL nest but no successful cores.
2. Mammal movement - Only the camera station portion of this project is ongoing. Cameras in Bogart Park, San Tim-Cherry Valley Linkage near Singleton Road, Chino Hills SP near 91, and on Tri Valley near I-15 crossing. Will put them in all MSHCP identified 'mountain lion crossings or corridors'.
3. CA red-legged frog - Looked at Goodhart reservoir, water low and no frogs, but will look more after rain.
4. SKR surveys - Trapping for distribution at Silverado and Wilson Valley are complete. Potrero will be completed next week. Trapping for density begins the week after that.
5. Rare plant surveys - Continue to visit historically occupied locations for rare plants to confirm presence. We are doing a pilot study for detection probability to see if we can make a determination about when we can stop looking for a particular plant.
6. Turkey vulture - 20 Turkey vultures have been tagged and transmitterd. We have located one TV nest w/ 2 chicks. We will continue to monitor the chicks until they fledge.
7. Pond turtles - Trapping to determine presence at Cores. Got 35 turtles at Bolton property in early May. Trapped SJWA last 2 weeks. Got a snapper. Planning on trapping in Cajalco Creek on MWD property next week.
8. DSF - DSF surveys ongoing. We have had more than 100 fly encounters this year, including several newly emerged individuals (onsite reproduction).

Projects in Development

9. Terrestrial herps - Surveys for terrestrial herps in areas where we haven't incidentally detected them. Will focus on king snakes and

rubber boa in the mountains this fall using visual encounter surveys and artificial cover.

10. Lake and marsh birds - Surveys for resident lake and marsh-dwelling Covered bird species to meet species objectives.

b. Sue Hoffman – SAWA Lead Biologist

1. The vireo season is winding down. Numbers will be up in both our managed areas and the areas covered by our assessment surveys. Our last assessment surveys took place the week of July 7. Most of the cowbird traps will be closed by July 31. We are planning to keep four of the assistants on part-time during the fall/winter to help with projects. These assistants have been very reliable and interested in the work. Two or three will be helping with the winter cowbird trapping. We can use additional help in other projects that we hope will stimulate their interest in issues surrounding the restoration and management of natural resources. Proposed projects include helping biologists with herp arrays and raptor surveys, veg management at the SAWA nursery, CCP and Prado, helping with the FHQ fish stream and Prado aquatics, building blue bird boxes, and preparing the Corps Least Tern site by removing vegetation, and assisting with winter bird surveys.
2. Nesting at the Huntington Beach Least Tern Colony is also winding down. Surveys for chicks and fledglings continue twice a week.
3. We monitored the spraying at Anzo Narrows. Pest Masters will return probably in early August.
4. Herp arrays are open in Lake Perris this week. Unfortunately, we had 5 snake traps stolen from the array site. We had been storing them at the site, hidden under brush, when not in use. The site was so isolated we didn't think they would be disturbed. We will replace them and take them out now when traps are closed.
5. We are finishing up the breeding bird surveys.
6. We attended the meeting with Jennifer Ares and the City of Riverside to assess the Anzo Narrows woolly-star mitigation site. During the assessment we questioned the identification of the plants. Subsequently, Andrew Sanders, curator of vascular plants at UCR, identified the plants as subspecies densifolium, not the endangered sanctorum.
7. Focus species work included willow flycatcher and following up on historical sightings of the cactus wren. Two family groups of yellow warblers were detected at Hidden Valley, by Henry Armijo, one of our field assistants who is helping out with vireo monitoring.

8. At the Lamppost biology meeting on July 7, we reviewed current practices on coping with heat.

VII. BIOLOGIST PRESENTATION - Cancelled

- a. Nicole Peltier – SAWA Biologist
 - i. Endangered plant discovery, woolly-star in Anza Narrows. Subsequently, Andrew Sanders, curator of vascular plants at UCR, identified the plants as subspecies *densifolium*, not the endangered *sanctorum*.

VIII. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Jeff Brandt – CDFG shared a letter they received from Forestry Service regarding some veg/exotics removal, south of the 15 FWY. If SAWA or partner agencies are performing any large scale work, Jeff would appreciate prior notification, via courtesy call or email to warn them of any on-going efforts so they can notify their wardens to be taken off the admin list. Jeff reported that Michael Horn is really stretched for time and stressed that every minute they save can be invested elsewhere.

Additionally, Jeff requested to be notified of any known problem areas with long-term maintenance, such as Chino Creek. Chairperson Zembal informed Jeff of the greater Prado clean-up project and told him he would pass on more information.

Also, Jeff reported that he will be focusing on the annual reports for the Regional program, so either Anna Milloy or Michael Flores will be covering for him and attending the SAWA meetings. He would appreciate any feed back relative to the streambed.

Anna Milloy questioned whether there were any other known sites for the woolly-star. Chairperson Zembal shared that the woolly-star is a plant that cries out for management, and the problem lies with landownership approval. Sue Hoffman (SAWA Lead Biologist) informed the group that SAWA was going to check out a new site in Colton on Friday. Director Ares also stated she will contact Director Lovan from the USACE about the possibility of having a woolly-star mitigation site that can be put on the preserve. She will also look into the Redlands Conservancy because they own a good piece of Santa Ana Area in the Mentone area.

The ATV damage in the mainstem has been a serious problem. Jeff asked to be notified so CDFG can use that as an outreach opportunity before having to rely on enforcement. James Law – IERCD shared that he had been contacted by Bill Neil regarding Weed Management Area (WMA) meetings. He would like to know if SAWA still plans to donate their annual \$10,000. Chairperson Zembal asked Director Ruiz (SAWA treasurer) to verify that the donation to WMA is an annual line on the budget.

Jeff Brandt requested that SAWA get him a list of mitigation projects.

IX. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on August 28th 2008.

X. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 A.M.

Please post 72 hours before meeting

Inland Empire RCD • Orange County Water District • Riverside-Corona RCD •
San Jacinto Basin RCD • Elsinore Murrieta Anza • US Army Corps of Engineers