



SAWA MEETING MINUTES

July 23rd 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 9:04 A.M.

II. **INTRODUCTIONS**

Attendees: Chairperson Zembal – OCWD; Director Holyoak - SJBRCD; Bonnie Nash – OCWD; Kerwin Russell – RCRC; Director Long – EMARCD; Lee Reeder – SAWA; Jennette – SAWA; John Rogers – EMARCD; Dolly Aguirre – SAWA; Samantha Dempster – SAWA; Anna Milloy – CADFG; Jill Coumoutso – SAWA; Sue Hoffman – SAWA; Hayley Lovan – USACE; Brett Mills – SAWA; Director Ares – IERCD; and Bill Kronland – MSHCP
Absent: Tim Romo - SAWA

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

None.

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

a. Approval of Minutes from June 25, 2009

Alternate Russell pointed out the correct abbreviation on page seven for SAROCWMA.

Director Long motioned to approve the June 25, 2009 minutes. Director Holyoak seconded and the motion passed with no objections.

V. **MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

a. Treasurer's Report

None – Lee Reeder is in the process of doing a mid-year review of the budget and he hopes to meet with Director Ruiz to prepare a presentation for the next board meeting.

b. Approve Consent Calendar: June 2009

Director Long motioned to approve the June 2009 Consent Calendar. Director Holyoak seconded and the motion passed with no objections.

c. ILF & Conservation Easement Report - Lee Reeder

Mitigation revenue is approximately 10-15% lower than the expected budget for mid-year.

Next month SAWA will be getting a check for \$135K from Friends Christian Church in Yorba Linda for a mitigation that was ordered over two years ago. Additionally, there will be a mitigation coming in soon from Union Pacific Railroad.

Mockingbird Easement is proceeding. The Environmental Trust received another extension until the end of the year because they were not properly recorded with the county. SAWA already did a habitat plan for half an acre for removal and ongoing restoration. The

appropriate law enforcement was notified regarding the pot farm that was discovered by the streambed in which it was immediately cleared up.

SAWA rejected the Hall Easement, but Fish & Game is working on being able to take that easement on directly, in which SAWA would work with them.

Chairperson Zembal spoke to Jay Chung from USACE about Western Riverside County having a separate ILF for wetlands work specific to the MSHCP area. Since Jay wanted it to be separate, he actually wrote the new ILF prospectus for SAWA. This new ILF prospectus is in addition to the ILF prospectus for the watershed wide that was submitted last month from SAWA which according to Jay seems to be on track and should be accepted by the Corps. Lee volunteered to pdf a copy and email it to the board.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Chairperson Zembal was asked to give a presentation on the watershed program at the Third National Conference on Ecosystem and Restoration last week.

Cal Trans requested that SAWA review the Habitat Mitigation Monitoring Plan from LSA for the eastbound 91FWY which would use an acre (+) in the lower basin as their creation.

Letters from Eadie & Payne regarding the audit, previously discussed at the last board meeting – actual copies for the board were distributed.

2009 River Walk is scheduled for September 17th - if interested, contact Bonnie from OCWD for more information.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

a. Acceptance of New Auditor

Director Long motioned to approve hiring Rogers, Anderson, Malody and Scott, LLP as the new audit firm. Alternate Russell seconded and the motion passed with no objections.

b. Acceptance or Rejection of Check From Dale Sexton

The Deputy District Attorney wants SAWA to reconsider taking the mitigation funds. Chairperson Zembal suggests SAWA put off receiving the funds from Sexton until Fish & Game decide to take the Hall easement and contract SAWA to do the mitigation.

Director Long motioned to approve accepting the Sexton funding in order to do restoration pending that Fish & Game take the Hall easement. Director Ares seconded and the motion passed with no objections.

c. Hall Easement Restoration

Jeff Brandt from Fish & Game would like SAWA to reconsider taking the Hall easement because it is the first time in this area where the courts have ordered a conservation easement due to a penalty ordinance/code violation.

Director Long motioned to approve using the earmarked funding for restoration activities in the Hall Easement available to SAWA in the event that Fish and Game successfully receive an easement in that area. Director Ares seconded and the motion passed with no objections.

VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

None.

IX. PARTNERING AGENCY REPORTS

This is an opportunity for partnering agencies to discuss projects in cooperation and/or interest to the meeting attendees.

Hayley Lovan – USACE

Announced that the Corps is going to pre-advertise for the Arundo removal contract and SAWA should check the website daily to see when the project goes out to bid. Additionally, the Environmental Assessment for the Green River Golf Club Channel went out last week.

Anna Milloy – Fish & Game

They are looking for a project to apply to the Sycamore area.

X. SAWA PROJECT REPORTS

a. Lee Reeder – SAWA

- The 2007 Annual is currently at the printers and should be available next week. The 2008 Annual will be ready for the next USACE regulatory meeting for reporting purposes.
- Currently developing SAWA's workplan for the next 3 years (2010, 2011 & 2012) – set a goal for completion by the end of September.
- Reporting purposes are becoming more stringent to where we have to include complete habitat management plans and habitat assessment value for specific areas and mitigation projects, so Lee is working on developing systems for reporting.
- This month he will be working with Director Ruiz on the mid-year budget revision and should be available at the next board meeting.

b. Kerwin Russell – Riverside-Corona RCD

- Weed management area – getting IOU's from the state, the contractors are willing to continue to do the work and accept the IOU's. Still spaying and continuing to treat the pepperweed so they don't get behind.
- RCRCRCD received the Sucker study with Fish & Wildlife Services. In the next couple of months they will be busy with repairing some equipment and will start to breed suckers in the near future.
- Brett and other SAWA staff have been helping RCRCRCD with turtle trapping – they have not found any pond turtles, but they did get some sliders. They are in the process of doing some habitat restoration over the next couple of years for the pond turtles.

c. Vicki Long – Elsinore-Murrieta-Anza RCD

- EMARCD had their open house, which was successful.
- Working on a project at the mouth of the San Jacinto River, the easement should be available to them by the end of the year which should create some new projects to do with SAWA.
- Vireo have been found around Lake Elsinore.
- Director Long introduced John Rogers, the new District Manager for EMARCD.

d. Jennifer Ares – Inland Empire RCD

- Director Ares volunteered to have James do some mapping for SAWA.
- James is helping Melody in San Timoteo with vireo monitoring.
- James met with Kai from the UCR Cal-IPC student chapter to work together on Arundo removal sites that are over 5 years old – Kai is willing to do the planting and conduct a study. Director Ares believes she might be able to use the earmarked funding for this project.
- Announced that they have an Intern from Cal Poly (environmental major) – hoping he can actively assist or at least observe during the SAWA volunteer day.

e. Gayle Holyoak – San Jacinto RCD

- Director Holyoak reported that they received the money from the state for the Dairy Grant.
- The Department of Water Resource Grant might be completed by the end of the year with the reports.
- Announced she observed an area in town that has a lot of tamarisk – will notify Tim to have him assess the area.

f. Bonnie Nash – OCWD

- We are busy moving into our new facility. We are still waiting on water, phone and internet service. The date for our "Open House" will be announced soon.
- Talula has gone into "map Mode" and is preparing to map all of the OCWD and SAWA LBV/WIFL territories for 2009 bird season.
- Two new restoration contracts are wrapping up in the Basin, one at Hwy 71 and the other at Pigeon Hill. We will be taking over watering and maintenance of those 2 areas soon.
- We continue assisting UCR grad students with their chub study and their beetle study. The chub have been put in the pond in our wetlands and are being closely monitored.
- Dave and Dick met with IEUA regarding the landscaping plans surrounding the Chino trailer. Dave will be "tweaking" the landscape plan to hopefully accommodate everyone's needs and desires.
- Our new intern, Eric Peralta is on board and staying busy, watering, weeding, and replanting the Diversion Channel restoration sites, restoring the native stream at our Anaheim facility, and assisting the UCR grad students with their projects. He is preparing to start a Prado insect collection during the off season.
- Tim's restoration crew has been out at Prado the last couple of weeks and has made a lot of progress controlling the arundo re-sprouts along both sides of the diversion channel. They will be continuing to work at Prado every Wednesday and we really appreciate their hard work.

g. Tim Romo – SAWA (Lee Reeder)

- Last Monday SAWA hosted a PAR tour for State representative, Steve McMasters and SAWPA representative, Pete Vitt.
- PAR funding is back - SAWA submitted the invoices from the past and we will continue to invoice on a monthly basis, to include administrative costs. We currently have a match that should last us for the duration of the PAR contract.
- SAWA crew is working more efficiently with the third person on board. Tim is available to assist with reporting.
- Tim will be sending maps and reports to the board for PAR and Carbon Canyon after he returns from vacation.

h. Dolly Aguirre – SAWA

- This month we are coordinating and marketing SAWA's First Annual Bird Festival which will be held on September 26th from 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. at the Chino Creek Wetlands Park. Currently, we have OCWD & IERCD participating in the event. Dolly would like to encourage the other member and agency partners to participate in the event. She is seeking organizations to host activity or informational booths and donations for raffles. The festival is going to be composed of booths, along with a guided tour of the wetlands park. They are working with the City of Chino in doing a "Healthy Chino Walk" combined with the bird walk during the event. They have silver-footed this event with all of their chapters in the local bird clubs – she is still waiting for their response. Marketing is approached through emails, flyer distribution, local newspaper ads in *The Daily Bulletin* & *The Chino Champion*, paid for by IEUA.

- The Education Program is continuing to offer tours of the park.
- They participated in two events this month: The City of Fontana's Variety Night and the Safari International Youth Safari Day at the Prado Wetlands.
- The Chino Creek Wetlands Park is going to be listed as a *Healthy Walking Site*.
- SAWA is developing a "Student-Based Demonstration Garden" in the Wetlands Park. SAWA was awarded a \$5,000 Grant from the Green Works Grant Program, through Project Learning Tree. The funding will assist with the start up program, in which SAWA has partnered with IEUA 's *A Garden In Every School Program*. The program is set to begin in October, but will end with a grand opening celebration in April 2010 that will include student involvement ranging from the 2nd to the 12th grade.
- The Chino Creek Wetland's bimonthly work party is scheduled for Saturday, August 1st from 8:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M. Everyone is welcome to come out and join in on the weeding and bird box construction.
- We are still waiting to hear back from CA Parks & Recreation regarding the budget.
- We sent out two small proposals to the Captain Planet Foundation and the Monsanto Fund. SAWA considered applying for a Tree Partnership Grant from AQ&D, but they were unable to secure a city partner.
- We will be receiving at least one intern through the WRI Watershed Management Grant Program to assist in next year's Education Program.
- Samantha is working on recruiting additional interns.
- The Annual Book Drive is coming to a close, so if you have not yet sponsored a book it is not too late and she would encourage you to take a look at the list that is posted on the SAWA website.

i. Ken Kietzer – DPR
Absent

XI. SAWA / MSHCP BIOLOGIST REPORT

a. Bill Kronland – MSHCP Biologist

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. Getting bobcats at Gavilan Wash and Indian Wash. Camera at Lamb's Canyon at a culvert under State Highway 79 was destroyed by fire. The cameras are monitored monthly.
2. Delhi fly
Surveys started first week in July. We are seeing lots of flies.
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.
4. Stream Surveys/RLF
Focus on RLF surveying in the Cleveland. Finding lots of newts. Have surveyed about 250 stream segments. Found several pot farms and notified appropriate law enforcement.
5. Geckos
Cover board survey. Station set up begins this week. Will test cover board method against transects and searching natural cover.
6. Rare plant surveys
Visiting historically occupied locations for rare plants to confirm presence or MSHCP specified level of conservation.
7. Penstemon detectability

- Pilot effort to test our methods for rare plant detection; going well.
8. Lake birds
Survey for covered Lake birds present in winter. Have started establishing Stations.
Will work with OCWD/SAWA in Prado area.

Projects in Development

9. Fairy Shrimp Surveys
El Nino year expected. We are evaluation training needs and assessing potential for vernal pools in areas that have been acquired since last fairy shrimp surveys.

Completed Projects

10. Scent Stations
Scent tablet and track plate survey. Focus was in Wilson Valley area. Ongoing. All target species found in all Core Areas.
11. Quino
The flight season is over. Quino veg has dried up at Silverado - didn't see any Quino at sentinel site two weeks in a row.
12. Northern Harrier
Wrapping up. Found nests in Wilson Valley and San Jacinto Wildlife Area. Wilson Valley adults abandoned eggs after 60 days. Reason for nest failure not known. SJWA - one nest failed and chicks are fledging from the other nest. Will do veg sampling around the nests.
13. 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.
14. Winter Raptors
Surveys are complete. Data analysis ongoing.
15. Cover Boards
Using Cover Boards to detect Covered snakes. San Jacinto Mountains, Banning Bench, Iron Springs, SMER. Finished until next spring.
16. Stream Surveys/RLF
Focus on RLF surveying in the Cleveland. Found lots of newts. Have surveyed about 250 stream segments. Found several pot farms and notified appropriate law enforcement.

b. Sue Hoffman – SAWA Lead Biologist

Project Updates

1. The 2009 vireo season is winding down. As of this week, we still had nests with eggs. Some of these nests are due to fledge in early August.
2. Jill Coumoutso detected a banded vireo in Norco and contacted Dr. Barbara Kus, who bands vireo nestlings in San Diego. Dr. Kus came up and mist-netted the bird so we could read the band. It fledged from a site near Oceanside on the San Luis Rey in July 2008.
3. During vireo monitoring of the fingers of riparian habitat that extend from the Mockingbird Estates easement, Melody Airmar found an employee of a landscape company weed-whacking around willows within the orange fencing that demarcates environmentally sensitive areas. His company is under contract with the City of Riverside for weed management in this area of Mockingbird and he is out weed-whacking every 2 weeks. We emailed Lee Reeder asking him if he would contact the city and initiate talks between City and the biologists so we could coordinate the work with the City next season.
4. Terry Reeser is working with DFG and the City of Chino Hills on vireo presence in riparian corridors in Chino and Chino Hills. One of our assessment sites in Chino Hills had a vireo for the first time since we have been monitoring. We discovered that the

- site was slated for development through a newspaper article so he notified the city's Planning Office which took the news well and seemed glad to get the information.
5. We are getting calls from consultants requesting pre-project information on vireos in locations throughout the watershed. We have worked with Edison, LSA, and Dudek.
 6. We continue to monitor *Arundo* spraying at Anza Narrows. We also are notifying Tim Romo and the project manager of invasives we find when we are in the field. We are currently talking to Tim regarding a large patch of pepper weed adjacent to a site in San Timoteo he has been spraying. The original site looks good but it has spread.
 7. Melody Airmar may have detected a nesting site for the orange-throated whiptail. We purchased an infrared, motion-detecting video camera (for about \$300). We had immediately put out a request for video camera but decided it would be better to buy one for SAWA. Karin Cleary-Rose of DFG and Barbara Kus of USGS volunteered to loan us cameras - Dr. Kus's camera is a \$6,000 - and we thank them for their offers.
 8. We spent an afternoon with Bobby Goodman, a professor at Citrus College, who consults on western pond turtle relocation, and Barry Neuhas, a graduate student who is interested in this work. We discussed SAWA's interest in relocating pond turtles from abandoned dairy ponds. We toured the CCP park and they were very positive about putting pond turtles in CCP. There was some discussion on how to best rid the pond of the African clawed frog. We think it may be possible to work with the IEUA when they draw down the ponds for maintenance.
 9. We are starting to survey for bat activity along the river. Jill Coumoutso put out a bat detector in Norco, results are not in yet. We are helping Hayley Lovan with information regarding bat roosts for the Green Rivers project.
 10. We are considering putting in herp arrays at March SKR Preserve and/or Sycamore. We are planning to start night drives soon. We are also considering putting out boards at the San Jacinto Wildlife Refuge. We are checking with MSHCP to see what has been done in the past so we do not duplicate.
 11. We are helping with turtle and exotic trapping. We helped the DFG trap in San Bernardino and we are helping MSHCP with turtle trapping in Prado. Trapping the CCP ponds is scheduled for next week.
 12. We continue to work on the sucker, arroyo chub and dace program and maintain the fish stream at the RCRC.
 13. A focal species observation of note was a flock of about 50 tri-colored blackbirds in Chino Hills State Park. The working group was notified.
 14. We continue to work on RCRC projects such as the nursery, the Amphibian program at Lee Lake, SEP at Dos Lagos and bird surveys.

XII. NEXT MEETING - August 27th 2009

XIII. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 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