



## **SAWA QUARTERLY AGENCY MEETING MINUTES**

June 25th 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 9:03 A.M.

### **II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Attendees: Dick Zembal - OCWD; Diana Ruiz - RCRCD; Vicki Long – EMARCD; Jennifer Ares – IERCD; Gayle Holyoak – SJBRCD; Lee Reeder - SAWA; Jennette Corbitt - SAWA; Bill Kronland - MSHCP; Jack Easton – Riverside Land Conservancy; Hayley Lovan – USACE; Sue Hoffman – SAWA; Melody Aimar – SAWA; Tim Romo – SAWA; Dolly Aguirre – SAWA; Michael Flores - CDFG; Anna Milloy - CDFG; Autumn De Woody - IEWK; Kai Palenscar - UCR Cal-IPC Student Chapter; and Bill Rice - RWQCB

### **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 May 28, 2009  
Director Ares motioned to approve the May 28, 2009 minutes. Director Ruiz seconded and the motion passed with no objections.

### **V. MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

- a. Approve Consent Calendar: May 2009  
Director Holyoak motioned to approve the May 2009 consent calendar. Director Ruiz seconded and the motion passed with no objections.
- b. Treasurer’s Report – Lee Reeder  
Last year SAWA lost 2M due to the economic situation. This year SAWA has received about 80% of the budgeted mitigation revenue. SAWA has earned about \$400K in financial investments for the year. Lee and Tim are working with SAWPA to invoice \$750K this month involving the prop 50 funding, in which SAWA only budgeted about \$120K for 2009. SAWA has \$250K leftover in funds from the task order where prop 50 left off for initial invasive removal.
- c. ILF & Conservation Easement Report - Lee Reeder  
About 80% of our mitigation budget for the year has already come in as well as some additional mitigation requests. Our prospective with the USACE is in process and Lee continues to monitor the process and will give updates as they occur.

The Mockingbird easement is on hold due to legal requirements and reporting with the county, so SAWA received an extension. Fish & Game did work with the City of Moreno Valley and we were able to take \$75K in mitigation funds and put it towards the Mockingbird easement which allows SAWA to do invasive removal, creation and ongoing restoration on the 11 acre parcel.

The District Attorney is working on an order to cease and assist with the co-defender of the Hall Easement, Dale Sexton.

## **VI. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

## **VII. ACTION ITEMS**

### **a. 2008 Financial Statements**

The audit committee met with the auditor and recommends approving the financial statements. The only two issues that came up in the audit involved changing the original \$750K endowment funding and the \$1.6M IERCD funding to be reported as restricted funds.

Additionally, the audit firm that won the bid for \$8K came into the exit audit and stated it actually cost them \$28K to perform the audit. They are now requesting the additional costs to be paid by SAWA. Laurie Marscher, the SAWA contract accountant stated that the additional costs were most likely due to the audit firm assigning a senior auditor, nearly a partner who's hourly rate was much higher than configured in the bid. The board opted not to pay the additional cost and requested that Lee notify the firm of their decision.

Director Long motioned to approve the 2008 Financial Statements. Director Holyoak seconded and the motion passed with no objections.

### **b. Biologist Position**

Currently, Giovanni Arechavaleta has been employed as a field assistant, but has been doing a biologist work. He has his degree in biology and is trained by SAWA biologists to perform these duties. Most likely SAWA will have to hire additional biologists with the upcoming projects planned with the USACE and additional revenue received, so it makes sense to promote Giovanni at this time.

Director Ruiz motioned to promote Giovanni Arechavaleta to Biologist, retroactive to June 01, 2009. Director Holyoak seconded and the motion passed with no objections.

### **c. ISR Third Position: Field Technician Assistant**

With the absence of Neftali the restoration crew started to fall behind, so SAWA hired a temporary person to help with the work. Coincidentally, Tim Romo, the Project Manager discovered having the third person makes the workload more productive. Lee needs Tim in the office more to assist with reporting and having a third crew member would allow for less of his time in the field with the crew.

Director Holyoak motioned to approve hiring a third person for the ISR. Director Ares seconded and the motion passed with no objections.

### **d. Cal-IPC Symposium Gold Sponsorship**

Already in the budget no need to take action.

## VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### a. Internship for College Students

Chairperson Zembal would like to have a couple of paid internships within the biologist and education departments. Dolly is working with WRI to get interns paid through USDA to assist with the field trip program. She requested to have two interns beginning in the fall. Chairperson Zembal suggested it might be too late to have an internship program set up for this summer, but would like to begin to establish it so we can implement it by the fall. The usual internship program consists of an intern working around 20 hours during the school year and no more than 35 hours in the summer. The schedule is flexible and usually set around the student class schedule. Director Ruiz requested to have a job description created for both a Naturalist and Biologist internship.

## IX. PARTNERING AGENCY REPORTS

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

### CDFG – Anna Milloy

Anna attended a meeting with the USACE regarding the new ILF program. CDFG are already apart of the review committee and are trying to figure out how the ILF program is beneficial to them.

CDFG is doing African Clawed Frog trapping at the San Bernardino Golf Course on Waterman and would like some help from SAWA.

City of Beaumont filed a wastewater change petition. CDFG is concerned about how the reduction of water will affect the riparian habitat in Cooper's Creek and how the introduction of water into the other creeks will change the ephemeral habitat. CDFG filed a protest with the State Board regarding the change petition and hope to work with the city to do the appropriate biological studies.

### USACE – Hayley Lovan

USACE is getting closer to sending out an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Green River Golf Course Embankment Protection Project which was covered in their 2001 EIS for all of Prado and its vicinity of work. USACE is doing a supplemental EA to update the original.

USACE is getting closer to sending out the mitigation contract and will be putting a bid out for the golf course project and other projects coming out next year for construction in Reach 9; they are hoping SAWA will be one of the bidders.

USACE are going to remove the sustain bridge that provides the entrance to the middle of the construction of the Green River Golf Course in order to build a better and more complete embankment project to protect the 91 FWY. USACE identified an area upstream to build a new bridge. There will be a new road that will tie into the road leading into the golf course and allow for a bike path. Chairperson Zembal is concerned about the bat colony. USACE would like to build features in the new bridge that would provide habitat for the bats and appreciates any suggestions.

### Inland Empire Water Keeper – Autumn De Woody

Waiting for the status on the Federal stimulus funds for the Chino Creek and Mill Creek grant match with IEUA

Jack Easton– Riverside Land Conservancy

Working on a project down in Wilson Creek with the Marine Corps acquiring some scattered parcels that total around 2,000 acres in which the mitigation would be on base impacts for training programs and a parcel that is inside the administrative boundary of the National Forest. RLC is looking for funding to acquire this parcel.

Continue to work with the IERCD on the City of Beaumont and incorporating their open space city management. As well as working to find property in San Timoteo to repair habitat in which they can apply the mitigation funds available. They have taken a few parcels from the Environmental Trust Bankruptcy: one with a company in the Orange Crest area, repairing habitat; and one Delhi Fly Sands off of Riverside Avenue, just north of the San Bernardino County line, in which the parcel was direct funding from Fish & Wildlife Services for a Fly Habitat Impact project.

Kai Palenscar - UCR Cal-IPC Student Chapter

If SAWA has any local projects, UCR Cal-IPC has 7 or 8 graduate students that are interested in helping to restore sites; Kai is personally working on restoration sites with Arundo removal that are older than 5 years – James Law from IERCD volunteered to take him on a site tour and Tim Romo from SAWA volunteered to meet with him to discuss local projects.

Bill Rice – Regional Board

He attended a field trip at the Chino Wetlands Park and a tour with Bonnie at Prado. He took pictures and was able to put together a presentation for educational purposes to the general public and to report back to the Regional Board.

**X. SAWA PROJECT REPORTS**

a. Lee Reeder – SAWA

Besides what he already reported on, he will be sending the RCD's their 2008 annual mitigation sections for changes or revisions to their projects.

b. Diana Ruiz – Riverside-Corona RCD

She passed around the signs that RCD created for Dos Logos and thanked those individuals who had input. They created the signs with the goal that the golfers would take the time to read the signs, increasing the education and awareness of the public.

c. Vicki Long – Elsinore-Murrieta-Anza RCD

The EMARCD will have their Open House on July 16<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 – 6:00 PM, located at the new office 21535 Palomar Road in Wildomar. They hired their District Manager, John Rogers who will be at the Open House for everyone to meet. John will begin to attend the SAWA meetings in the future as the EMARCD representative.

EMARCD is working on finishing the MOU with the City of Murrieta for restoration projects

d. Jennifer Ares – Inland Empire RCD

James Law – WMA funding came in to help purchase supplies.

New district boundary map is completed and will be picked up later today from the printer, so hopefully it will be available for the next board meeting. Additionally, he will email it to Lee to post on the SAWA website.

Spoke with Louie Menuz and the dirt dumping seems to have stopped at the Mill Creek and Chino Creek sites where IERCD hosted a clean up.

e. Gayle Holyoak – San Jacinto RCD  
No changes to report

f. Bonnie Nash – OCWD

Spent a lot of time at Burris Basin working with the floating island, removing fish from the basin and monitoring the newly exposed land mass where least terns and other species have occupied – will be reconfigured to improve its pecculation. Creating riparian band and a floating island has helped the habitat.

They hired an intern who will start working at Prado and at the Anaheim facility on June 29<sup>th</sup> with the focus on fish work and some restoration.

They have two landscape contractors doing projects in the basin. Both projects include the removal of non-native weeds and planting natives. Both projects will be irrigated with drip irrigation from large storage tanks.

Bonnie & Talula have been spending Tuesday mornings down at Huntington Beach monitoring the tern colony.

They have all been working the Prado Basin vireo and Talula has been working the Temescal Canyon vireo, but the season is winding down.

Bill Watson was finally given permission by Fish & Game to put arroyo chub in one of their ponds in the wetlands, which he did yesterday. He has a grad student who is doing her masters project on how well the chub will keep the mosquito larvae under control in a real wetland setting.

Dave finished the landscape planting plan for the Chino SAWA facility.

Talula is doing BBS in the main stem at Van Buren.

Finally have some chub in the ponds at the wetlands.

The new facility is almost complete and they will be moving in the middle of July.

Pete Bloom is on contract again at Prado, banding raptures and installing barn owl boxes and long-eared owl artificial nests.

g. Tim Romo – SAWA

The SAWA restoration department was a recipient of free chemicals, equipment & reimbursements this month and wishes to extend their appreciation to James Law, from IERCD; RCRCD; OCWD; SAROCWMA & CDFA.

- OCWD made a contribution to SAWA, for equipment & chemicals totaling \$8,000, in which backpack sprayers, water tanks, water pumps, herbicides and surfactants were purchased.

- RCRCD, through SAROCWMA, through CDFA reimbursed SAWA in the amount just short of \$2,000 for equipment and supplies for which SAWA purchased restoration supplies previously in March in preparation for spring & CDFA funds that were paid.

h. Dolly Aguirre – SAWA

June marked the kickoff for the Chino Wetlands' Volunteer Work Parties. We had a successful turnout of 25 volunteers who participated in weeding and bird box construction. These Work Parties will occur on the first Saturday of every other month.

The next event is scheduled for August 6<sup>th</sup>. All staff are encouraged to attend, especially those experienced with bird box construction. The October 3<sup>rd</sup> event will offer an herbarium workshop led by David McMichael.

We are continuing to offer Water Discovery Field Trips and park tours. For July and August, a summer program will be in effect. Summer marketing packets have been sent to various youth organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club and Summer Day Camps.

Event-wise, we had a successful booth at the Chino Wildfire Event offering information on Arundo. The community was very receptive and appreciative of SAWA's removal efforts. In July, the ed staff will be offering make and take stations at the Healthy Fontana Community Night and at Safari Days in Prado.

We have also begun coordinating the Bird Festival scheduled for Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. This event will take place in the Chino Wetlands and focus migratory birds. We are seeking agencies and organizations to host activity booths. If you are interested or have any questions, please speak with me.

The Children's Library Book Drive for the Interpretive Center has come around again! This year, the book list will be circulated electronically and posted on the SAWA website. We had great sponsor and a lot of support last year so I'm hoping for the same. Please keep an eye out for a Book Drive email!

Lastly, a Pervious Concrete Workshop is being held today at 1pm in IEUA's Event Center. SAWA's Executive Director will be presenting an Appreciation Certificate to the Partnership of Southern California Concrete Producers for their donations of a driveway and parking spaces at the Chino Office.

i. Ken Kietzer - DPR  
Absent

## **XI. SAWA / MSHCP BIOLOGIST REPORT**

a. Bill Kronland – MSHCP Biologist

### BIRDS

#### NOHA nest search

- Wrapping-up nest searches. Returning to sites and looking for fledglings.
- Found 3 nests [SJWA ( $n = 2$ ), Wilson Valley ( $n = 1$ )].
- One successful nest (SJWA): 2 of 4 nestlings observed as fledglings.
- Wilson Valley female remained on non-viable eggs for an extended period.

#### NOHA nest habitat

- Crew training week of 22 June, will begin survey week of 29 June.
- Gather baseline data on habitat features that hypothetically affect NOHA nest selection (e.g., vegetation cover, average maximum vegetation height, effective vegetation height, distance to potential threats and hydrological features).
- Four 10-m radius plots: 1 at nest, 3 distributed at 30m, 60m, and 90m from nest at 120° angles. Point-intercept for % cover, checkerboard for effective height.

#### Lake Birds

- Fall/winter project, beginning to think about it.

- Will focus on 4 open-water species: bald eagle, double-crested cormorant, osprey, and peregrine falcon.
- Leasing towards point-count surveys along lake shores using scopes.

## PLANTS

### *Penstoma* detectability

- Aim: pilot effort to test our methods of detecting a rare-plant species.
- Will begin next week, survey for up to 4 weeks or until cumulative POS approaches 1.
- POD estimated in a presence/absence (occupancy) framework.

### Rare plant surveys

- Focus on Plummer's mariposa lily (*Calochortus plummerae*; CAPL) and Smooth tarplant (*Centromadia pungens*; CEPU).
- Searching/searched Jurupa Hills, San Timeteo, Sycamore Canyon, and Winchester.
- CAPL: found at Jurupa Hills (< 500 individuals) and San Timeteo (< 500 individuals).
- CEPU: found for 1<sup>st</sup> time at Sycamore Canyon.
- Will start Cherry Valley area and San Jacinto Mountains in July.

### Fly Veg

- Will happen after fly surveys are complete, but not sure what we will measure.

## DELHI FLY

- Began checking Teledyne site last week for flies in flight.
- Began flying last year around 26 June, and went until mid-August.
- Currently training field crews in fly/insect identification.
- USFWS test will be administered, but date not yet scheduled.
- Will begin setting-up transects 25 June.

## HERPS

### Red-legged frog/Stream Surveys

- Focused on Santa Ana Mountains and SRP.
- Surveyed 250 stream segments, 38 miles worth of surveys (all of accessible San Mateo Canyon based on our accessibility model).
- Scouted much mileage for stream segments containing or potentially containing pools.
- Will survey 10 more segments where marijuana gardens have recently been removed, and have a small handful of streams to scout in Santa Ana Mountains (about 2 weeks worth of work).
- Our notification to wardens of active marijuana cultivation has led to the removal of about 3800 pot plants.
- We have not detected red-legged frog.

### Western Pond Turtle

- Currently on 2<sup>nd</sup> week of trapping Railroad Canyon Lake where San Jacinto River enters (1 slider, no CNLM).
- Have trapped along Santa Ana River and had 2 CNLM; each in separate ox-box ponds in Norco near Grapewin Avenue.
- Also, had 5 spiny soft shells and 7 sliders on Santa Ana River.
- Trapped Chino Creek and had 2 soft shells and 1 slider.
- Will return to Chino Creek in cooperation with SAWA (Brett Mills) to trap another 4 weeks or so.
- Will scout Cajalco Creek and Santa Ana River near I-15 for potential trap sites.

### San Diego Banded Gecko

- Detection study to confirm zeros where we should have detected species last year based on available habitat.
- Cover board survey (we need carpeting).
- Focus on cores where we have detected them: Lake Perris/SJWA, MSR, Sage/Vail Lake.
- Begin Mid-July.
- In design stage, but should have it ready to go soon.

### MAMMALS

- Installed camera on I-10 at San Geronio Wash.
- Getting bobcat under I-15 at Gavilan Wash and Indian Wash.

### BURROWING OWLS

- Working with area managers to monitor BUOW management projects.
- Move toward implementing Adaptive Management Principles.

### b. Sue Hoffman – SAWA Lead Biologist

1. The 2009 vireo season is going well. Numbers are up in many, if not most, locations. The cowbird program is also progressing well. A trap at a new location in Hidden Valley was vandalized but has been repaired and is back in service.
2. Focal species work this season includes yellow warblers and yellow-breasted chats – 3 nests have been found by David McMicheal, Jim Pike, and Dick Zembal. We are monitoring the Huntington Beach Least Tern colony. There are over 300 nests and no major predation events have occurred as happened last year. There is currently a problem with a pair of American Kestrels that are preying on chicks.
3. We are monitoring the spraying at Anza Narrows. James Law has been sharing the monitoring duties there and we thank him! We continue to report Arundo sightings in the watershed to Tim Romo.
4. The results of the year of herp studies at Lake Perris are available at the door. We will be selecting another site in the next couple of months.
5. We had scheduled 2 raptor surveys a month per site (We have four: Cajon, San Timoteo, San Jacinto, and Lake Perris) but the need to double up at San Timoteo has required postponing or cancelling many of them. We will try to schedule more of our field assistants to help on a regular basis.
6. Field assistants have been helping with other projects such as turtle trapping at Lee Lake and installing fencing for Least Tern chicks at Burris.
7. We have been receiving inquiries about volunteer work and internships. Two professors at San Jacinto Community College have referred students to us. One of those professors is a former MSCHP biologist.
8. Exotic aquatic activities continue. We continue to trap the CCP ponds for African Clawed frogs. We have removed over 300 frogs since trapping began and about 70 in the last month. We are looking into more permanent methods of control. One suggestion is to trap Chino Creek at the outflow to see what the numbers are. The Dept. of Fish and Game has asked for some help trapping on the river.
9. We built 14 blue bird boxes at the Saturday Work Day and participate in the Education Dept's Field Trips. Thanks Jennette for helping with the Field Trips when Brett had to work to draw down the fish stream early in the month!

10. We continue to work on RCRC D projects such as the nursery, the Amphibian program at Lee Lake, and SEP at Dos Lagos. We are also participating in turtle trapping with MSCHP. Biologists are doing bird surveys for the RCRC D.

**XII. NEXT MEETING** - July 23rd 2009

**XIII. ADJOURN** - The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 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