



SAWA MEETING MINUTES

Quarterly Agency

Meeting Location:

March 26, 2009

4500 Glenwood Drive, Bldg. A

Riverside, CA 92501

9:00 A.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Zembal at 9:05 A.M.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Attendees: Dick Zembal – OCWD; Gayle Holyoak – SJBRCD; Jennifer Ares – IERCD; Diana Ruiz – RCRC; Vicki Long – EMARCD; Lee Reeder – SAWA; Jennette Corbitt – SAWA; Sue Hoffman – SAWA; Henry Armijo – SAWA; Nicole Peltier – SAWA; Anna Milloy – CDFG; Michael Flores – CDFG; Terry Reeser – SAWA; Bill Kronland – MSHCP; Tim Romo – SAWA; James Law – IERCD; Rory Paster – OC Public Works; Paul Webb – RPW; and Bill Neill – SAROCWMA.

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

Approval of Minutes from February 26, 2009

Director Ruiz pointed out one typo on page 6 that should read “future”. Director Long motioned to approved the Minutes from February 26, 2009. Director Ruiz seconded and the motion passed with no objections.

V. MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

a. Approve Consent Calendar: February 2009

Director Long motioned to approve the financial statements. Director Holyoak seconded and the motion passed with no objections.

b. Treasurer’s Report - Diana Ruiz

None

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Director Ares passed around an article from CARCD that was distributed to all of the Resource Conservation Districts, which gave an update on the RCD Conference. It incorporated the SAWA tour and highlighted the Santa Ana Watershed.

Lee Reeder reported that the new Employee Policy & Procedure Manual was completed by the Attorney and had been given to the board for approval.

Chairperson Zembal received a correspondence from the Army Corps regarding the Eucalyptus conversion in the Prado Basin and it was decided that SAWA will be able to

continue with the project again, but it cannot be in perpetuity. This is a good source of income for SAWA in which we will be able to do creation work when called for.

Chairperson Zembal announced that he and Lee were collaborating on the beginning piece of work for the new In-Lieu-Fee Agreements with the Army Corps. They are drafting pieces of a perspective and have asked Jay Chung from the Army Corps to review it before it is submitted.

Chairperson Zembal announced that he spoke with Hailey Lovan from the Corps regarding some future funding for mitigation. The one piece of work that we had to get estimates for costs for the work at the river mouth on birds came in at \$34K.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

a. Mileage Rate Reimbursement

Director Long motioned to approve changing the Mileage Rate Reimbursement from .585 to .550 to reflect the change from the IRS. Director Holyoak seconded and the motion passed with no objections.

The board approved to have the Mileage Rate Reimbursement automatically reflects the standard recommendation rate from the IRS.

VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Status of Hall Easement

Lee Reeder reported that Mr. Hall has a court hearing scheduled for May 1, 2009. SAWA has requested to have Greg Powers (Legal Representation for SAWA) attend in case the need arises for negotiation of the terms of the easement agreement. The co-defendant, Mr. Sexton agreed on a settlement of payment to SAWA for \$15K. Currently, SAWA is holding the payment and attempting to gain more money for the costs of the easement. The board requested to have Lee Reeder attend the hearing as well.

b. Status of Mockingbird Easement

Lee Reeder reported that the appraisal has been done and legal is now reviewing it. Lee should hear back from Greg Powers shortly to discuss it and then they will move forward with the title and quick claim. Lee shared that we have until June and doesn't foresee any problems.

IX. PARTNERING AGENCY REPORTS

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

Anna Malloy – CDFG has a 1600 agreement in which they would like to have SAWA remove approximately 5 acres of arundo, tamarisk & castor bean in Sycamore Canyon. They would like to come up with some kind of language to put into the agreements so the clients understand that the reporting process is done by SAWA.

X. SAWA PROJECT REPORTS

a. Lee Reeder – SAWA

Some mitigation money and requests are beginning to come in, for example, we just received a check for \$75K. Lee will be sending out a mitigation table to the board next week that shows the current projects, funding and progress for each project. He will be including this mitigation table in the board packets beginning next month.

He is posting the 2007 Annual Report on the SAWA website and sending it to the printers and plans to post the 2008 Annual Report sometime in May.

The draft Aspen report will also be posted on the SAWA website today. The index of the report will be an interactive webpage. Additionally, it is available as a full pdf. Lee thanked Tim Romo and Renee Latu for their help on the report. Lee stated that he would like to use this report as the model form for all of SAWA's future reports.

Currently, we are in the middle of the financial audit, which should be completed by next week.

He met with Fish & Game regarding SAWA's long-term relationship.

He is working with Nancy Bernosky from SAWPA regarding the Prop 50 funding. They are looking to revise the scope of the project since the funding is still frozen. They applied some of the work that has already been completed to other funds that will be available later. This way SAWA did not lose the funding that was already put into the project and allows us to continue with the project.

He attended a meeting in Sacramento on the California Invasive Species Council. It included people from various resource agencies that are concerned about water and invasive species. He was the team leader for the Southern California portion and they had the opportunity to go to 15 different legislative offices to discuss the new Invasive Species Council and the importance of funding to continue their work, in which they received some good responses.

Tomorrow he has a meeting in Los Angeles with the State Water Resource Board Task Force.

b. Diana Ruiz – Riverside-Corona RCD

RCRCD continued with its ongoing programs providing land treatment, resource management assistance, education and volunteer programs. Due to the water crisis, RCRCD has shifted some of its focus to water conservation and irrigation water management.

RCRCD just completed a newsletter with insert about landscaping with native plants.

Conservation District representatives met to discuss education programs, interactions, and ideas for programs that might address the educational needs of the entire watershed. SAWA education staff also participated and discussed having a SAWA education committee meeting. Some board members requested that a future meeting follow a SAWA meeting. We would like to plan a future date.

Upcoming outreach events:

- Smithsonian Institute and the Riverside Municipal Museum: Citizen Science April 5-10. More at <http://www.riversideca.gov/museum/>. Tour of Native Habitat and stream, Thursday after 5 PM
- Kiwanis tree planting at the Arbor Walk: April 4
- Earthnight: Ap 22, 4PM at Western Municipal Water District
- Splash Fest: May 9, 11 AM-3PM at Corona Crossings
- Duck Days: May 16 at Hidden Valley Wildlife Area
- Riverside City-County Arroyo Committee tour of the LandUse Learning Center: May 13

From Kerwin Russell:

Checking regrowth of *Arundo*. Tim has a large area to cover and Brett and I will be checking to see if any new growth is occurring. Found one clump in La Sierra Creek last month. Tim will treat soon.

Will start turtle trapping in Temescal along with bullfrog traps starting in April.

Weed Management Area will start treating pepperweed off Cajalco Road starting in April with funds from SAWA. WMA also treating weeds in Orange County in Caspers Park and around Big Bear Lake (San Bernardino County Ag office is doing this as a partner with the WMA) with funds from CDFA grant.

c. Vicki Long – Elsinore-Murrieta-Anza RCD

Director Long expressed her gratitude for the housing funding from SAWA.

They are hoping to have the easement in San Jacinto by the end of April. She and Lee spoke regarding some future restoration work for SAWA once the easement is in hand.

Director Long requested to have the RCD's advertise for her District Manager position. She will send the job description for them to post.

Director Long announced that Louie, the mountain lion they are tracking had slipped out of the collar.

d. Jennifer Ares – Inland Empire RCD

Director Ares assisted a little with the financial audit.

Director Ares attended the Redlands Land Conservancy this week to discuss the San Timoteo restoration plan. Lee is going to attend the next meeting so he can take over the SAWA mitigation land purchase.

IERCD are going to do the Tree of Heaven removal with the Reach 3B mitigation funds. They can not get Union Pacific to give them access to remove the Tree of Heaven; however, the other contracts from the meeting might be able to gain access. They are now attempting to gain access as a group that are willing to do the restoration efforts.

Mission Project is going well.

James Law is working on a map of the watershed and the boundaries of the Resource Conservation Districts that we can use to reference during the meetings. Eventually she would like to add the different projects to the map. Lee announced that he is looking into some software from Echo Layers.

e. Gayle Holyoak – San Jacinto RCD

Director Holyoak received an inquiry regarding several acres of removal at the wildlife area. She spoke to Lee and he thought there might be some funding to begin the process.

Tim Romo volunteered to work with her and will do a site visit next week. He feels it would be a good idea to start spraying ASAP.

f. Bonnie Nash – OCWD

Absent – Report from Chairperson Zembal

Chairperson Zembal reported that there was a small plane that crashed in Prado during the SAWA docent training last week. Terry Reeser said it occurred during the birding session of the training and consequently they were unable to find any birds. Bonnie was involved with the rescue crew but unfortunately, there were two individuals that were killed in the crash.

g. Tim Romo – SAWA

Reported that Neftali had his surgery on Tuesday and everything looks to have gone well. He is going to take some time off work while his eyesight continues to heal. In the meantime, Brett Mills has been assisting with the excessive work load.

He passed around a report for Carbon Canyon that showed the progress of the project and the expenses for the first month. The project is really going well, but there is still a landowner that has a significant amount of land that SAWA has not received permission to spray. Tim reported that the arundo is 8 to 25 feet tall in that area.

The board discussed having a banner made that could be displayed during removal projects, stating the project is sponsored by SAWA.

Bill Neill is still going to work on the Carbon Canyon project as well. He would like to devote time on the weekends for this project.

Chairperson Zembal requested to contact Claire S. regarding the original \$5K devoted to the Carbon Canyon project.

h. Dolly Aguirre – SAWA

Absent – Report from Lee Reeder

SAWA's 1st Annual Docent Training Program started the beginning of this month. We have completed three of the six trainings. The education staff would like to extend thanks to all the presenters for their hard work and commitment to the program. We are planning a lunch and quasi-graduation ceremony during the last training day on April 10th. All presenters are invited to join.

The Water Discovery Field Trip Program continues this month. So far, we have had over two hundred students pass through the park in March.

The education staff has participated in the San Jacinto Blue Bird Walk, Kid's Fitness Challenge, the Lewis Rubidoux Center's Butterfly Days, and a Project Learning Tree Workshop.

SAWA's Interpretive Center is currently being renovated and the mural is anticipated to be completed by early April. Thank you to Prado staff for snake-sitting. Chairperson Zembal requested to have a picture of the mural emailed to the board.

SAWA has been assisting IEUA's coordination efforts for the Chino Creek Wetlands Earth Day Event. SAWA will recruit a hundred students to become Earth Day stewards for the event. Please join us for this event on April 22nd. Festivities will begin at 3:30pm.

i. Ken Kietzer – DPR

Absent

XI. SAWA / MSHCP BIOLOGIST REPORT

a. Bill Kronland – MSHCP Biologist

- Finished the walking winter raptor surveys, in which all of the data has been entered and is being reviewed.
- They are finishing the 2008 annual reports
- Finished the winter carnivoral surveys and are currently reviewing the data.
- More detections this year because of the expanded surveys to drainage. They were able to detect all 4 species.
- Keno surveys – flying at Skinner & Silverado ranch. They are doing vegetation surveys to identify the characteristics of the habitat in which there are presence and absence.
- Began stream surveys for red-legged frog - getting to every stream that is accessible
- Started checking cover boards in the San Jacinto Mountains and found sage brush lizards.
- Still running camera stations, just received Caltrans permit to set up along the 15 FWY. They are still waiting for the permit for along the Interstate 10.
- The crew at Hidden Valley built metal boxes to put the cameras in to help with theft and plan to start to deploy them in May.
- Northern harrier project – They are trying to document presence of breeding and they are just starting to see them pair up and found them in the San Jacinto wildlife area, Lake Elsinore and the Wilson Valley area.
- Bird Plant surveys – CSS, Chaparral, MSR, and Anza Quina region have changes in the community

b. Sue Hoffman – SAWA Lead Biologist

1. The 2009 vireo season has begun. The first vireo was found on 3/13 at Prado.
2. We have spent much of the last 2 weeks training our new cowbird assistants. We held an orientation meeting with them on March 13. We would like to thank Jennette for her efforts on getting them hired on.
3. We are monitoring the spraying at Anzo Narrows. No vireos have yet been detected.
4. Herp arrays were open in Lake Perris last week. The catch of the week was a rosy boa.
5. We are working up the data for the winter bird surveys and finishing up the breeding bird survey data.
6. We continue to do the raptor surveys in Cajon, San Timoteo, San Jacinto, and Lake Perris.
7. The 2008 CCP small mammal trapping report is being completed.
8. The 2008 CCP Tree Swallow Box Report is available at the door. We will continue to monitor the boxes at CCP and 7 boxes in the San Jacinto River above State St. this season.
9. The 2008 Least Tern Report is available at the door. Plan for a second volunteer day at the Santa Ana Marsh Least Tern Island were cancelled after we decided that Tim's crew has done such a good job removing vegetation that it was not needed.
10. We are working on new sensitive species accounts for woolly star, rubber boa, grasshopper sparrow, rufous-crowned sparrow, and San Diego pocket mouse. The biologists are also working to update the older species accounts. We continue the field work with the cactus wren and loggerhead shrike. Nicole attended at the Burrowing Owl Consortium in Escondido and Jill is planning on attending a bat workshop.
11. We have a camera placed at the extreme west end of the Green River Golf Course at Coal Canyon but nothing of interest has been filmed. This site is of interest to State Parks because it may be a wildlife corridor. The current work is experimenting with the best way to use the camera. Formalizing the project is delayed due to the State budget problems.

12. We are participating in the docent training for the SAWA Education Department. Jill and Terry presented a program on local birds. Nicole and Talula presented local small mammals. Melody presented a program on local herps. Brett Mills is attending docent training for his work with the Education Department. He participates in the field trips. Henry Armijo also participates in Prado and SAWA Education Dept. field trips by bringing his falcons for the kids to see.
13. Brett and Henry continue to work on the Prado exotic aquatics one week a month and do a show and tell of the exotics for the Prado field trips. We will also be trapping the ponds at CCP, probably one week a month also.
14. Many biologists went to the MSCHP monthly meeting on the burrowing owl.
15. We continue to work on RCRCO projects such as the nursery and SEP and will help with bird and amphibian surveys this season.
16. Brett continues to help with the maintenance at the Chino Office and with Tim's crew installed a porch cover over the front door to the office.

XII. BIOLOGIST PRESENTATION

- a. Sue Hoffman – SAWA Biologist
“Least Bell Vireo Update” – See Attached Report

XIII. NEXT MEETING - April 23rd 2009

XIV. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 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