



SAWA MEETING MINUTES

May 28th 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 - RCRCDD; Vicki Long – EMARCD; Jennifer Ares – IERCD; Gayle Holyoak – SJBRCD; Lee Reeder - SAWA; Jennette Corbitt - SAWA; Adam Malisch - MSHCP; Jack Easton – Riverside Land Conservancy; Paul Webb - RPW; Kit Mac Nee & Paul Meinhold – Merrill Lynch; Hayley Lovan – USACE; Sue Hoffman – SAWA; Brett Mills – SAWA; Tim Romo – SAWA; Dolly Aguirre – SAWA; Samantha Dempster – SAWA; Bill Rice - RWQCB

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

Hayley Lovan – USACE

USACE is working on an IDIQ (Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quality), which is something of a catch all that will cover the biological requirements for mitigation services. The IDIQ will allow for different task orders to be awarded directly to the winning bid. They are finalizing the IDIQ and will be sending it out to bid pending final approval. They are trying to work into the scope of work specific requirements to protect the native species while conducting the invasive removal. SAWA is welcome to bid on the IDIQ.

Additionally, the golf course project should be out to bid this summer, but there has been some late changes regarding the new bridge to complete their embankment project. They would like any recommendations on features for the bridge regarding the bats in that location.

Jack Easton – Riverside Land Conservancy

RLC is looking at properties downstream in the San Timoteo area. They are about to start a grant program with Edison to begin implementing the restoration plan, trash cleanup, etc. They are also working with IERCD and the City of Beaumont on changing the funding from endowment to contract funding.

IV. REVIEW, AMEND AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Minutes from April 23, 2009

Director Ruiz motioned to approve the April 23, 2009 minutes. Director Holyoak seconded and the motion passed with no objections.

V. MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

a. Approve Consent Calendar: April 2009

Director Ruiz motioned to approve the April 2009 consent calendar. Director Holyoak seconded and the motion passed with no objections.

- b. Treasurer's Report - Diana Ruiz
None – Merrill Lynch presentation for this month
- c. ILF & Conservation Easement Report - Lee Reeder
Inquiries for mitigation projects are starting to come in.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

City of Orange – Mitigation for .79 acres in Santiago Creek. Lee Reeder contacted the City of Orange and is waiting to hear back.

Summer Youth Employment Program – Stimulus funding available from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The program consists of employing Youth in worksite locations within Orange County for 8 weeks, working up to 20 hours per week. The program start date is July 6, 2009 and ends on August 28, 2009. More information is available online at www.ocsummerjobs.org.

Cal State Los Angeles contacted SAWA to be a part of their internship program.

Lee Reeder will look into these programs further and see if it is something SAWA would be interested in taking advantage.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Check Signing Limit
Director Long motioned to approve increasing the single check signature limit to \$5000. Director Holyoak seconded and the motioned passed with no objections.
- b. Hall Easement Acceptance/Rejection
Greg Powers and Lee Reeder attended the probation hearing. Greg Powers created a 30 page outline of recommendations on what SAWA will incur in taking this easement. Key issues include: If we want to build a fence, we have to pay for it and allow Carson Hall access to drive vehicles on the property; he can update any bridges; he doesn't have to keep his horses off the property; and liability issues exposes SAWA to shoulder all litigation issues within the easement and anywhere on his property as a third party. Lee Reeder has been in contact with Jeff Brandt from Fish & Game and has made him aware of the issues facing taking the easement. Lee Reeder recommends that SAWA reject this easement.

Chairperson Zembal requested that Lee Reeder have legal counsel look into what it would take to have a subsidiary of SAWA or a sister organization as a registered corporation to hold actual easements. He would like to know if it would be possible to have something separate from SAWA in such a way that it would only be the assets of that corporation that would be at risk and not SAWA.

Director Long motioned to deny taking over the Hall Easement as written. Director Holyoak seconded and the motion passed with no objections. Due to conflict of interest within the RCRCD, Director Ruiz chose to abstain from any involvement with this easement, including participating in a vote.

- c. Mockingbird Easement Acceptance/Rejection
Currently, we are decided whether to proceed with this easement. We have the title and have done the title insurance and are looking into some questionable ownership issues. We are also trying to get the environmental trust to start filing for the quick claim. There are some utilities on the easements that are not clear on the property. We need to have a plotted easement map prepared by the title to determine whether the other easements on the property affect or interfere with the conservation easement. It is going to take some time to determine whether Western Municipal Water District

owns all of the land within the conservation easement area or if the developer still has any ownership on part of the property. We are getting pressure from the environmental trust because of deadlines. Recommend that SAWA inquire as to whether or not the environmental trust has obtained written approvals from Riverside County Planning Directors on the transfer of the easements, which they have not done as of yet,

Lee Reeder recommends we continue with the easement because it looks to be a good piece of property and it should be wrapped up by the end of June.

Director Long motioned to continue to look into the easement. Director Ares seconded and the motion passed with no objections.

d. Spray Contract Extension for the PAR Project

PAR - 728 acre project site consisting of 350 acres that have already been removed. The contract for the south side has already expired and the contract for the north side expires December 31, 2009. Funding is under Prop 50, which is still frozen.

Tim Romo, SAWA Project Manager recommends two contract extensions; the south side contract needs to be extended through December 31, 2009 and extending the spray contract for a five-year plan to start January 01, 2010. Recovery funding has revitalized a lot of the funding. These funds will be reimbursed and we have revised the scope of the project.

Director Long motioned to approve the two contracts; the short term south side and the five year spray follow-up contract. Director Holyoak seconded and the motion passed with no objections.

VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Merrill Lynch Investment Presentation - Kit Mac Nee and Paul Meinhold

Representatives gave an economic update and a performance review with some recommendations to give SAWA a safe, reasonable return. They are not looking into being a short-term aggressive investment strategy. Currently, the money market is not going to earn SAWA anything. It is best to take it slow at this point and ease into the market. The overall premises are to pick good managers with long-term portfolios. Their priority is focusing on preserving the principal, following conservative recommendations and giving SAWA a good safe, return. SAWA needs to be in investment grade portfolio funds.

Director Ruiz motioned to accept the recommendations from Merrill Lynch. Director Long seconded and the motion passed with no objections.

Merrill Lynch representatives will return for another report at the August Meeting.

IX. SAWA PROJECT REPORTS

a. Lee Reeder - SAWA

- Following up on some mitigation requests.
- Determined that SAWA has spent about 2/3 of the funding from Century American. He will be speaking to legal counsel (Greg Powers) regarding the refund.
- The Fair Political Practices Commission concluded that SAWA is a non-profit organization and our board members are not required to sign the form 700. He needs to speak to legal counsel regarding the obligation of the degree to which we need to follow the Brown Act.

- Prop 50 funding should be back online soon. We are in the late stages of the paperwork and he is getting clarification regarding the administrative charges to include additional funding besides direct labor costs.
 - Working with USACE in initial stages of upcoming projects and funding.
 - 2008 annual report is being finalized and he will be asking the RCD's for some additional input within the next couple of weeks
 - Working on the Chino Creek project invasive species removal grant match leftover in partnership with IEUA and IERCD.
- b. Diana Ruiz – Riverside-Corona RCD
- Approaching the end of the fiscal year.
 - A couple of teams from Arlington High School won the state envirothon and will advance to the national competition in August.
 - Working on developing some interpretive signs for the SEP project in Temescal.
- c. Vicki Long – Elsinore-Murrieta-Anza RCD
- Working on getting the new office set up. They are planning to have the open house in mid July and will be inviting SAWA & the RCD's.
 - Interviewed for their new District Manager; hoping to have them in place by mid July.
 - Continue to work on their easement in Lake Elsinore.
 - Attended a meeting with Cal Trans regarding the underpasses along the 15 FWY. They will be working with MSHCP on monitoring some of the cameras located on the underpasses.
 - More vireos were found in their district.
- d. Jennifer Ares – Inland Empire RCD
- Helping with the Chino Creek grant, getting some of the supporting documentation including actual invoices dating back to 2004.
 - Working on mitigations with SAWA – Cal Trans in her district, she needs numbers from Sue for the traps and to schedule time to meet with Lee.
 - Working on the IERCD mitigation section for the Annual report.
- e. Gayle Holyoak – San Jacinto RCD
- Continue to work on the same projects, nothing new to report.
- f. Bonnie Nash – OCWD
Absent
- g. Tim Romo – SAWA
- The crew is busy spot spraying at various locations, including Carbon Canyon this week and will concentrate in San Jacinto next month. Have been seeing a lot of pepper weed sprout up in San Timoteo and spraying most of it before it seeds.
 - PAR project - 200 acre area above upstream that needs to be addressed in addition to the area downstream. Most of the concern is upstream from what has already been cut. Chairperson Zembal believes that area will be targeted with the USACE mitigation needs.
 - Carbon Canyon update - The fire chief wrote a letter to the Hata landowner in Carbon Canyon and we hope to get a response with permission to treat the arundo on his property. Chairperson Zembal is concerned about the potential fire fuel within the property coming into the dry season. Tim contacted State

Parks and received permission to spray on that property. Additionally, Claire informed him that she received about \$40K in funding for arundo removal in Carbon Canyon, but Tim doesn't know how much of that will go to SAWA.

h. Dolly Aguirre – SAWA

- May has been the busiest month for the Water Discovery Field Trip Program. This month alone, we have had 500 students pass through the Chino Creek Wetlands. To date, 900 students have experienced the Water Discovery Field Trip.
- The mural for the Interpretive Center has been completed. We are in final stages of setting up the displays. We hope to receive the 7" glass display from IEUA next month.
- SAWA will be participating in the Chino Wildfire Awareness Fair this Saturday, May 30th.
- The Chino office will assist in hosting a pervious concrete demonstration workshop this spring with California Nevada Cement Association. CNCA will generously donate a pervious concrete driveway for the office and are now donating four parking spaces which will be colored to match the existing pavers.
- A demonstration aquarium has also been donated to the Interpretive Center.
- On June 6th, we will be kicking off our bi-monthly Volunteer Work Parties for the Chino Creek Wetlands Park. The work parties will be held every other month on the first Saturday of the month. June 6th will include weeding in the park and constructing blue bird boxes.
- During the Green Expo, I met with assembly member Amina Carter of the 62nd district. The district is interested in created a pilot demonstration project within their service boundaries. This project would include elements of public outreach, green living, and the creation of green jobs. Last week, Mandy Parkes of IERCD and I met with district representatives and discussed the goals of the project. If possible, I'd like to put together a discussion item regarding SAWA's prospective involvement.

i. Ken Kietzer – DPR
Absent

X. SAWA / MSHCP BIOLOGIST REPORT

a. Bill Kronland – MSHCP Biologist (Adam Malisch gave the report)

- 15 FWY corridor monitoring at Gavilon Horse Feed & Indian Washes – mostly getting coyotes, but they did get some bobcats
- Looking for Northern Harrier nests – active nests in Wilson Valley wildlife area, adults still active at those nests, three chicks in the San Jacinto Wildlife area nests – keeping an eye out for females and juveniles.
- Continuing to do stream surveys looking for red-legged frogs in the Cleveland National Forest
- Checking the cover boards they set up last fall in the San Jacinto Mountains – Getting sage brush lizards and a couple of San Bernardino mountain king snakes
- Rare plant surveys are still ongoing
- Finished their continuing collaboration with San Diego Multi Species Plan on doing vegetation community monitoring with coastal sage brush – put in some Chaparral in the Anza Valley area
- Finished the Keno season – good this year, present and had good numbers
- Start trapping some pond turtles out in the San Jacinto area and Chino Creek
- Will start the Deli Sands Fly monitoring in Jurupa Hills this summer

- 2008 survey reports are complete and he will make sure SAWA receives a copy
- The data set of all of the species from 2008 should be completed by early June to have for the next landowner meeting
- RCA is redoing their website and part of it will be dedicated to MSHCP

b. Sue Hoffman – SAWA Lead Biologist

1. The first vireos have fledged from nests. It looks like we may increase our numbers from 2008. The subpopulations at San Timoteo and Norco have increased and we have found several vireos at Lake Elsinore. Parasitism was heavy in the nests found at Elsinore so we put up a cowbird trap at a nearby marina that immediately started catching cowbirds. Henry actually found the vireos and arranged for the placement of the cowbird trap with the marina managers; Talula is doing the nest monitoring. We have cut back on monitoring in San Timoteo due to safety concerns but we had enough coverage to ensure an accurate count of territories. We completed the first week of vireo assessment surveys in peripheral habitat; the second week of surveys will occur the week of June 1.
2. The Least Terns season has begun. We have 266 nets as of last Friday, May 22. There have been no major predation events as happened last year.
3. Focal species: Terry and Jill are following Yellow Warbler nests. Two male Willow Flycatchers were detected in Norco and Jill is observing them. She had found red-sided garter snakes at the Arundo removal site at Hamner and a Downy Woodpecker nest.
4. We are monitoring the spraying at Anzo Narrows and the extension area at Anza.
5. Herp arrays were open for the last month in Lake Perris the week of May 18.
6. We continue to do the raptor surveys in Cajon, San Timoteo, San Jacinto, and Lake Perris as the schedule allows.
7. The 2008 CCP small mammal trapping report is being completed.
8. Terry is working with Tetra Tech which is drilling wells for the new SARI line at the Green River Golf Course.
9. Brett participates in the Education Department Field Trips and continues to work on the Prado and CCP exotic aquatics one week a month.
10. We continue to work on RCRCD projects such as the nursery, the Amphibian program at Lee Lake, Sycamore, and SEP at Dos Lagos. One of our new seasonal cowbird assistants, Melanie LeVato, participated in the Lee Lake turtle trapping last week.
11. Biologists are scheduling and completing the bird surveys for the RCRCD. We have done the Dos Lagos survey and the Chandler Easement survey.

XI. NEXT MEETING - June 25th 2009 (Agency Meeting)

XII. ADJOURN - The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 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