



**May 22nd 2008
General Meeting**

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

Due to faulty recording equipment, the minutes for the May 22nd 2008 meeting have been summarized and will include corrections on the upcoming meeting minutes.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by chairperson Zembal at 10:11 a.m.
Chairperson Zembal officially welcomed Jennette Corbitt as the new Administrative Assistant for SAWA.

II. INTRODUCTION

Introductions were made and a sign in sheet was passed around.
Attendees: Mandy Parkes – IERCD; James Law – IERCD; Paul Webb – RPW; Samantha Dempster – SAWA; Dolly Aguirre – SAWA; Ken Kietzer – DPR; Brett Mills – SAWA; Dick Zembal – SAWA/OCWD; Vicki Long – EMARCD; Bruce Scott – SJRCD; Tim Romo – SAWA; Nicole Peltier – SAWA; Sue Hoffman – SAWA; Daniel Mc Michael – SAWA; Bonnie Nash – OCWD; Adam Malisch – MSHCP; Kerwin Russell – RCRC; Melody Aimar – SAWA; and Jennette Corbitt – SAWA
Absent: Jennifer Ares – IERCD and Hayley Lovan - USACE

III. REVIEW, AMENDMENT AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Director Scott motioned to approve the April 24th 2008 minutes with the spelling corrections under the Project Reports (g. MSHCP). Chairperson Zembal seconded and the motion was passed.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

SAWA received a thank you card from the Orange County Water District for participation in the 2008 Children's Water Festival.

V. PROJECT REPORTS

- a. Hayley Lovan – USACE
Chairperson Zembal spoke with Hayley and she regrets not being here for the meeting; however, he reported that she is interested in the work SAWA is doing for them regarding this year's mitigation funds. He noted that we need to verify if SAWA has done invoicing for the Corps of Engineers.

b. Kerwin Russell – Riverside-Corona RCD

RCD has been working with the Forestry Service on the Dace project. The funding for that project ran out months ago, so the district has been floating the Forestry Service to achieve maintaining the population. He reported speaking with them last week and they are trying to get funding for July. RCD spends a little over approximately \$200 each month for the food and upkeep. However, the downside is that a few surveys where the fish came from at Indian Creek (where the fire occurred between Soboba Indian Reservation and the Sherriff's Department), there have been three murders - so it is now locked down and he's not sure what Raul from Fish and Game is going to do about getting over there unless they come in from the Forestry Service side. Additionally, they got 90 juvenile suckers on the river the last two weeks and they're in the stream now along with the twenty left over from last year for the breeding population. Some parts of the river have good reproduction and other parts don't have any; so, it just depends on where you do the population survey. RCRCD has also been conducting Turtle surveys at Lee Lake, but they haven't caught anything so they plan to continue trapping on a regular basis. Brett Mills reported that there were 35 male Western Pond Turtles seen out at the Archery pond. There is some good activity out by Lake Matthew's drainage on the Bolton property. Kerwin reported that RCRCD completed the Arundo contracts and there is only maintenance left to do. Finally, the RCRCD pond is three acres and approximately eight feet deep with six trappings and reported that it is the first time this survey has been done.

c. Pam Nelson – Elsinore-Murrieta-Anza RCD

EMARCD is working on mapping/satellite imagery for June and is expected to be completed by the end of the summer. EMARCD received a request to do things by the regional board. She reported that sight visits are impossible to do with that specific mitigation so this will allow them to see what they have and what can be done, as well as making it available to share with other agencies. Additionally, she reported that EMARCD needs to do some removal in San Timoteo and mentioned that she was not sure if they're paying on that contract. Finally, they are working on the vireo in Murrieta Creek and they need to send someone out to the mouth of the San Jacinto basin.

d. Jennifer Ares – IERCD

Jennifer Ares was attending a conference and sent Mandy Parkes to report in her absence. Mandy reported that James worked with Tim, Neftoli and Cody on removing some arundo. Also, the IERCD met with the City of San Bernardino to expand their territory, but discovered it would be a tremendous overtaking and they're not sure if there are enough resources at this time. Jennifer and Mandy are working on several conservation easements to expand district land holdings. Mandy reported that IERCD is continuing to work with the City of Fontana to expand partnerships with cities in the district – environmental education programs

and native gardens at their nature center. Lastly, the IERCD is working on their final drafts.

e. Bruce Scott – San Jacinto RCD

Bruce reported that last month's reports covering both the Irrigation Efficiency and Manure Manifest Project are still active and ongoing. (Both projects are funded all or in part by SAWA) and wanted to spend some time today talking about other items of interest. He provided some background on the Canyon Lake and Lake Elsinore water quality Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) regulatory process and provided additional information regarding the watershed wide issue concerning water flows and run-off and how they affect the two 303-d listed lakes. The short-term goal is to raise the funds need to meet all the mandatory regulatory requirements and deadlines spelled out in the TMDL process, with the ultimate goal being to eventually get both Canyon Lake and Elsinore to meet the stated numeric clean water objectives as soon as possible. Budget and assessment allocations need for the multi year effort is approximately one million each year, to complete the current multiyear process. This affected everyone in one way or another.

He explained how a diverse stakeholder process was formed through the creation of the TMDL taskforce with a balanced representation made up of all the different responsible stakeholders. He explained how through the efforts of the Western Riverside Agriculture Coalition (WRCAC) on the task force and because of his involvement in the process he has been appointed the spokesperson representing all property owners with an agriculture land use designation and individual agriculture operators including dairies within the San Jacinto watershed. Approximately three hundred thousand dollars a year has been allocated and assigned for collected by the agriculture stakeholder for their portion of the TMDL requirements. He provided details on how this estimated impact and allocation was calculated using old outdated county land use data. Initial research has found that County Tax Assessors database information is maybe 10% accurate on the types of land use information need to provide accurate data for the process. WRCAC received a Prop 50 grant for this TMDL Ag implementation process to collect necessary data and to facilitate a voluntary collection process on behalf of all agriculture property owners and businesses. In order to collect the property land use information WRCAC has contracted with a firm to do aerial surveillance and GIS mapping of the entire watershed with human interpretations of every single parcel in the watershed highlighting those that appear to be in production agriculture. By June, we anticipate having the first deliverable to review. The objective of this task is to have a reasonably accurate land use database identify by parcel number so more accurate allocations can be assigned to agriculture given the enormous amount of land base that has been converted to urban. The data will also be used to generate voluntary billing invoices that can then be sent out. Those individuals that do not want to participate with the voluntary billing and collection process will face enforcement actions from the Regional Water Quality Control Board. WRCAC is in the process of completing

the first phase of the collection process with the voluntary dairy operator's portion, with a high level of compliance. WRCAC has also asked SJBRCD(as part of the grant) to assist them in doing individual property site reviews on smaller parcels 20 acres or less when requested by the property owner. The site review would determine their impacts, if after review they were found to have no significant sources or activities on the property and follow any recommended site improvement best management practices, they could then be considered for a lower assessment or excluded from the process. Chairperson Zembal wanted to know what kind of sharing of the mapping is available – MSHCP stated they need to do a similar project in the future and would benefit from sharing the mapping as well. Bruce indicated that the work WRCAC is doing was contracted with an outside firm but all the aerial surveillance work that has been done already should be on file with the company and useful for other uses.

f. Bonnie Nash – OCWD

Bonnie reported that the planting contract off of HWY 71 was finished and they put in 3200 mule fat. Additionally, OCWD is working on the next planting at Splatter S and hope to finish it by the second week of June. She reported that Kerwin and Brett helped them finish the shade structure at the fish tanks in the Anaheim facility. Also, OCWD assisted with the Least Tern colony in Huntington Beach and had a group of Corona high school students make artificial long eared owl nests. Finally, OCWD is busy with vireo and Bonnie reported that there is a flycatcher near the trailer in ponds at Prado.

g. Tim Romo – SAWA

Tim reported that the SAWA crew is busy cutting and spraying all county regions: San Bernardino/San Jacinto/Riverside - working on Santa Ana River up stream from Mission to Waterman. He reported that Santiago Creek maintaining Prospect Road to merge with Santa Ana River so his crew is doing the removal process of cut and spray. Additionally, they cut some growing on the side of the 60 FWY. Finally, Tim reported he has been busy working on updating some of SAWA's permits. Chairperson Zembal officially announced the Board approved Tim Romo as project Manager and extended his congratulations.

h. Ken Kietzer – DPR

Ken reported that the government has revised the budget proposal and it appears the parks are not anticipated to be closed, but it still must be approved. Additionally, Lake Perris is looking good. There might be some quagga muscles in the lake. There was a proposal to get boat inspections, including sanitation/wash stations - there is a big problem at DWR. Ken reported there are multiple delays on the EIR for dam repair that was due in June for reinforcing the dam. Also, Chino is looking at eagles. Additionally, the arundo removal project in the Santa Ana River did trespass a couple of acres/Orange County worked on it. Ken reported that the DPR is working on cowbird trapping, bird surveys, three cactus wren and a number of gnatcatchers. Lastly, they are busy attending meetings.

i. Dolly Aguire – SAWA Education Program

Dolly reported that they received the “Thank You” pencils they ordered to hand out to the students. The Board approved to purchase easy-ups as temporary shade over the picnic tables that are used by the students during lunch on the field trips, and can also be used during other events. Dolly suggested they order water bottles for the students because the limited water fountains are not enough for the number of students attending the field trips and tours. Chairperson Zembal asked if there was a budget that Dolly could use to purchase pre-approved supplies for the Education Program – Yes, and Dolly should get with Jennifer to order the easy-ups and water bottles. Dolly reported that IEUA had agreed to purchase enough water bottles for the remainder of this year’s school program, as well as planning to purchase water bottles with their logo on it for the future. Chairperson Zembal suggested Dolly might want to get the water bottles to the school before the event, so the students can fill them up and there is no question regarding any liability; however, he would like to eventually order water bottles with SAWA’s logo and possibly have some sort of recycle message on it as well. Additionally, Dolly attended a conservation meeting and established packets for distribution and is continuing to work on the marketing aspect of the Education Program. Dolly reported that Samantha attended a four day workshop and is now certified as an interpreter. Also, Dolly scheduled a meeting to discuss the Chino Interpretive Center and reported that the Education Program received new snake cages. Dolly is continuing to attend GAG N SEEK (grant writing) meetings. Finally, she reported the program was short handed for the Tuesday field trip and asked for Board approval to have Erin from RCRC help out. Chairperson Zembal informed Dolly that this was already approved by the Board and she only needed to give notice when she needed extra help – Brett also volunteered to help.

VI. BIOLOGIST REPORT

a. Adam Malisch – MSCHP Biologist

Adam reported that starting in July he would be working three weeks in Montana and two weeks here, so both he and Matt Talluto would be reporting. However, it is possible that he’ll be here for the Board meetings. Adam reported that Natalie would be gone at the end of the month and they had already interviewed internal staff. The new program lead will be Bob and he’ll be taking over starting Monday. Also MSHCP has new hires through SAWA and CPSG. Adam reported the surveys are continuing with passer and ness searching, they are having good luck with California gnatcatchers and getting some vireo. He passed around pictures captured from the SAWA cameras out at Bogart Park in the foothills, which included pictures of a coyote, lion, deer, bobcat and a bear. Chairperson Zembal requested Adam email him pdf copies of a few pictures and suggested SAWA purchase a camera for the Chino wetlands park. Adam reported that MSCHP ordered another ten cameras through Fish and Game. Also, he reported they were in the in-between phase of SKR trapping – trapping in Silverado, Wilson & Luis Valleys - new places where it has never been done. There is a problem because the animals are being forced back into the mountains

where it's drying up. He reported on the big turkey vulture monit - transporters find nests, they are using Pete Bloom's cage and received many birds, which resulted in having to use all 20 transmitters/tagged. So far it has been a good experiment. Also, they are working on the pond turtle trapping effort that Brett reported on. Finally, they rapped up Keno and sent the data to Carlsbad and released the survey reports for 2007. If anyone would like to request a copy, MSHCP has a pdf version available on cds.

b. Sue Hoffman – SAWA Lead Biologist

1. Vireo News. The 2007 vireo report was sent out to the regulatory agencies. Some sites, such as San Timoteo and Temescal, have seen increases in vireo numbers this year. We did the first of the vireo assessment surveys the week of April 28. The next week of assessment surveys is scheduled for the week of June 2. We closed the cowbird trap at the San Jacinto refuge because there was a family of loggerhead shrikes near by and juvenile shrikes too often enter the traps and die. This family is the second shrike family at San Jacinto this year. We are coordinating nest monitoring locations with MSHCP biologists who are doing chat and yellow warbler nest searchers.
2. Focal Species news. There have been a few sightings of willow flycatchers in Norco on the river and at Prado. Jill and Terry are following a few yellow warbler nests. Melody has joined a working group dedicated to determining the status of the cactus wren; Melody is trying to determine the number of cactus wrens in the watershed. Terry and Sue are working with State Parks to detect golden eagles in Chino Hills State Park and determine their breeding status. A flock of about 300 tri-colored blackbirds were detected at Fisherman's Retreat in San Timoteo; Tom Paulek was notified. We temporarily closed the cowbird trap at Fisherman's Retreat because we caught about 100 tri-colored blackbirds. We also helped with the pond turtle trapping in Temescal.
3. We have begun to monitor the Huntington Beach Least Tern colony in earnest, which means twice a week. Last Friday, 5/16/08, we had 18 nests. On Tuesday, 5/20/08 we had 129! Last year there were about 450 nests at the colony.
4. We installed herp arrays in Lake Perris and will open them next month.
5. We ran the BioBlitz for Santiago Creek Week. Surveys along Santiago Creek were done in Black Star Canyon, Modjeska Canyon, Irvine Regional Park, Santiago Regional Park, the Cambridge mitigation site, and Riverview Gold Course, where the creek enters the Santa Ana River. A vireo was detected at the golf course.
6. We are continuing with the Breeding Bird Surveys in San Timoteo, Mockingbird, Norco and 3M.

7. We are monitoring spray jobs at Anzo Narrows and Mockingbird for SAWA and at the Boulder mitigation site for the RCRC.
8. We came across an arundo removal operation with heavy equipment near an occupied vireo territory on the river adjacent to the Green River Golf Course and we notified Fish and Game, USFWS, and the Army Corps of Engineers. The operation has been terminated temporarily.
9. Men playing war with paintballs have found Mockingbird Canyon again and we are trying to set up a meeting with local authorities to enforce current regulations. Local authorities are not being very responsive.
10. We assisted the coordinators of “Keep America Beautiful” by supplying info on the vireo territories in the clean up area. Thank you Melody and Talula, and Tim!
11. We are working with the education staff to ready the Chino office.
12. Melody received her Master’s Degree in Environmental Studies from California State University at Fullerton. Congratulations, Melody!!!

VII. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Chairperson Zembal reported the Corps of Engineers need 19 acres of restoration in the canyon down by the car wash. They want to put together a short list for a field trip to look at sites that have had in the past, significant restoration with sucker in mind, as well as the water back into Hidden Valley, and to see the amount spent on development outflow. There is continued work on the Santa Ana River marsh. They need to write up a management plan – jointly with Huntington/County of Orange. Reported on a 300 acre easement / City of Chino, located in the middle of the preserve. Dangerment & Associates want to get into easement and are talking to the City of Chino. There is no public access and want a wildlife easement to manage and asked for a letter of interest out of SAWA. Lastly, he reported that the Least Tern breeding site is covered with weeds.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is an Agency meeting and will be held on June 26th 2008 – please RSVP as lunch will be served.

IX. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.