



SAWA MEETING MINUTES

January 26th, 2023
 Meeting Location:
 1835 Chicago Avenue, Suite C
 Riverside, CA 92507
 9:00 A.M.

BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Neugebauer called the meeting to order at 9:03 A.M.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Brett Mills – SJBRCD; Melody Aimar – SAWA; James Law – SAWA; Kerwin Russell – RCRCD; Brian Brady – SAWA; Rick Neugebauer – TEAMRCD; Jennette El Morsy – SAWA;

III. PUBLIC INPUT – Oral communication from the public audience on any subject matter within SAWA’s subject matter jurisdiction. There was no public input at this time.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. Approve Audit & Finance Committee Minutes for December 12, 2022
- b. Approve Minutes for December 15, 2022
- c. Approve Financial Statement for December 2022

Director Mills moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Director Russell seconded and the motion passed unanimously, 3-0

Neugebauer	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parkes	Absent
Zembal	Absent	Mills	Aye		

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. ILF Project – Brian Brady

Mr. Brady redirected the reporting to Mr. Law, who reported that SAWA is working with two people. One individual is an independent contractor that used to work with the City of Lake Elsinore. She is the liaison that is introducing SAWA and what SAWA would like to do. This contact has SAWA’s mission in regards to what SAWA is looking to do, as far as goals in mitigation and is drafting up a presentation for the city. The contact will be sending Mr. Law the draft in the following week. Once the proposal draft is complete, they will set up a meeting to present it.

- b. Treasurer’s Report – Mandy Parkes
Absent

GENERAL ITEMS

VI. SAWA PROJECT REPORTS

a. Brian Brady, Executive Director – SAWA

Mr. Brady reported the Chino Valley Fire District is applying for state and federal government funds in support of Fire Station 68 and Essential Resource Facility (ERF) located in the southwestern end of San Bernardino County in Chino Hills. The Fire District has requested letters of support from partners (such as SAWA) to include with the application packets. SAWA have sent them the requested letters. Paul Meinhold of Merrill Lynch is scheduled to meet with the Board at the February meeting to discuss financial markets and SAWA's portfolio. Work continues on revamping of SAWA's website with the assistance of CV Strategies. Staff will be requesting short bios from the board members. Budget preparation for the RCA Contract 2023-2024 fiscal year has begun. Final agreement on the SAWA's budget estimates by RCA is expected at the end of March. Next month Mr. Brady will bring the contract renewal for accounting services to the board.

b. Kerwin Russell – RCRC

Mr. Russell reported getting a lot of rain at RCRC restoration sites and more is to be expected.

c. Dick Zembal – OCWD

Absent

d. Rick Neugebauer – Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD

Mr. Neugebauer reported that TEAMRCD went dark last month and had nothing new to report.

e. Mandy Parkes – Inland Empire RCD

Absent

f. Brett Mills – San Jacinto Basin RCD

Mr. Mills reported needing to get Mr. Law's crew out for clean-up. There are a few conservation projects SJBRCD are hoping to see finalized in 2023.

g. David McMichael – OCWD

Absent

h. Jennette El Morsy, Administrative Services Manager – SAWA

Ms. El Morsy reported on A/R December invoice totaling \$357,211.52. Finished 2021 financial audit. Finalizing end of year financials. Preparing for year-end: W2's and 1099's. SAM Government Registration Renewal. Working on IRS Form 5500 data for Retirement Plan Annual year-end questionnaire and census. Researching new IT server for SAWA. Working with IT to transition staff to Microsoft 360 that we received free as Non-Profit. Recruitment for WHMS Biologist. Recruitment for BHCO Field Assistants. Restocking Covid supplies as needed. Working on emergency evacuation kits.

i. James Law, Habitat Restoration Services Manager – SAWA

Mr. Law reported Prop 84 site management, TEAM RCD/Riv Flood Assessments project updates, Riv Flood – New project Riverside Canyon Crest, ILF admin, Arundo Harvester Pilot Project, RLC – Meridian and SBVMWD 2 projects. Mr. Law also updated on other work within individual member agencies jurisdictions:

- Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments to: Riv Flood – Lake Elsinore, TEAM RCD – Fall 22 and homeless monitoring.
- Riverside Corona RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at the following: Prop 84 and SAWPA Van Buren Bridge.
- Inland Empire RCD: SAWA's HRS department conducted treatment at: Prop 84, Carbon Canyon Fire Safe Council, RLC – Verdemon and SBVMWD facilities maintenances.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at: SCE – 1.2, Wolfskill 1.47 and RLC – Alessandro Arroyo.
- Orange County Water District: The HRS department conducted treatments at: Prop 84, CDFW – Upstream River Rd., Irvine Park.

j. Melody Aimar, Biological Programs Manager – SAWA

Ms. Aimar reported on MSHCP Dept. Monthly WRC MSHCP management and monitoring coordination meetings. Presentation: 1/12 – *“Herbicide Trials to Control Stinknet in Occupied San Jacinto Valley Crownscale Habitat”*, by Ana Sawyer (Riverside County Parks, Natural Resources Specialist – MSHCP). RCA working to upload presentations to their website for public viewing. Preparing posters/presentations for TWS Conference and SAR Symposium. Mr. Campanella managing remote workflow; updating Operations Manual. Cleveland National Forest “Nominal Affects” letter received. Monthly Leads meeting via Zoom for project updates. Ms. Aimar attended monthly RCA Managers Meetings; attended monthly SDMMP meetings. Ms. Aimar is preparing FY2023-24 and 5-year budget/SOW. 2022 reports in progress. Ms. Aimar also updated on other MSHCP work including:

- Rare plants: Rare plant surveys – ongoing (black walnut). Engelmann Oak surveys – complete. Preparing for Brand's Phacelia poster for SAR Symposium.
- Riparian Birds: Preparing for 2023 surveys – begins in March.
- White-tailed Kite: Preparing for 2023 surveys – begins in January.
- Cactus Wren: Preparing for 2023 surveys– begins in March.
- Mammals: LAPM surveys – Preparing for 2023 surveys, preparing posters for TWS and SAR Symposium. SR 60 Undercrossing – Camera traps installed.
- Herps/Fish: Artificial Cover surveys – installation in progress.
- Clinton Keith Overcrossing: Camera traps at overcrossing/undercrossing – preparing poster for TWS.
- Quino Checkerspot Butterfly: Report – in progress. Installing 2 HOBO stations.
- Delhi Sands Flower-loving Fly: Report – in progress.
- Vernal Pools: Surveys in progress.
- Data/GIS Analysis: Transition to electronic data collection – in progress.

Ms. Aimar reported on WHMS Dept. Biologist I/II announcement posted. 2022 Final Report submitted to agencies on 12/23/22. IEUA – Winter/Breeding Bird Surveys – 2021-22 surveys complete; report complete and submitted, 2022-23 surveys in progress. BHCO – Winter dairy traps in Prado and San Jacinto open. BHCO contracts reporting – in progress. Database being updated for CNDDDB/45-day report submission. Regulatory reporting – in progress. 2nd Biologist completed ArcGIS training class. Ms. Aimar attends Prop 84 monthly meeting. Ms. Aimar coordinating with SBVMWD and Riv. Co Parks Rangers on homeless camp safety. District 2 Homeless Solutions and Veg/Habitat Management Working Group meetings. Ms. Aimar attends multiple weekly virtual meetings. Ms. Aimar is renewing 2023 contracts – no changes. Ms. Aimar also reported on other work within individual member agencies jurisdictions:

- Inland Empire RCD: Goose Creek LBVI monitoring – Final report submitted to agencies.
- Orange County Water District: Prop 84 Arundo biomonitoring – in progress as needed. Tricolored Blackbird surveys – report in progress. Sunnyslope SAS restoration and substrate surveys – on going. California Least Tern monitoring – data submitted to CDFW; report in progress. Manager/Biologist attends weekly NR meeting.
- Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD: No work this month.
- Riverside Corona RCD: No work this month.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: No work this month.

VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no Board Member comments at this time.

VIII. NEXT MEETING – February 23, 2023 will be held at the SAWA Headquarters, 1835 Chicago Avenue, Suite C, Riverside, CA 92507 and remotely via Zoom.

IX. ADJOURN – The meeting adjourned at 9:43 A.M.

Notice: All open session agenda materials will be available for inspection by members of the public at the SAWA office located at 1835 Chicago Avenue, Suite C, Riverside, CA 92507. Please contact Maria Arellano at (951) 780-1012 x106 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 Administrative Services Manager at (951) 780-1012 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