



MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 8, 2008

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority was called to order by Vice Chairman Bob Buster at 1:04 p.m. in the Board Room of the County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, First Floor, Riverside, California 92501.

2. ROLL CALL

Board Members/Alternates Present

Marion Ashley*
Bob Buster
Larry Dressel
Maryann Edwards
Frank Hall
Jim Hyatt
Robin Lowe
Andy Melendrez
Jeff Stone*
John Tavaglione
Gary Thomasian
Charles White
Mark Yarbrough*
John Zaitz

Board Members Absent

John Machisic
Eugene Montanez
Robert Schiffner
Dale Stubblefield
Roy Wilson

*Arrived after start of the meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

RCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA

Page 2 of 7

September 8, 2008

4. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scott Dawson of the California Department of Fish and Game introduced Mary Brady, who was recently hired to fill the Monitoring Program Administrator position.

On behalf of the RCA Board, Vice Chairman Buster welcomed Mary Brady and stated that he looks forward to her presence at the meetings.

5. ADDITIONS/REVISIONS

Vice Chairman Buster pulled Agenda Item No. 7.1, *Adoption of Resolution No. 08-016 Approving the Acceptance of a Grant from the City of Temecula for the Acquisition of Real Property*, from the Consent Calendar. Board action will be taken on this item after the Closed Session.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/S/C (ZAITZ/WHITE) to approve the minutes of July 7, 2008 meeting of the RCA Board of Directors as submitted.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

M/S/C (THOMASIAN /EDWARDS) to approve the following Consent Calendar items:

7.2 MODIFICATION NO. 1 TO AGREEMENT NO. 08002 BETWEEN THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AND THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE FOR PARTIAL ANNUAL FUNDING OF AN INTERIM MONITORING PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR OR MONITORING PROGRAM COORDINATOR

- 1) Approve Modification No. 1 to Agreement No. 08002 between the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for Partial Annual Funding of an Interim Monitoring Program Administrator or Monitoring Program Coordinator; and
- 2) Authorize the Chairman, pursuant to Legal Counsel's review, to execute said Agreement on behalf of the Authority.

7.3 INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 08-015, AMENDING THE AUTHORITY'S BYLAWS CONCERNING THE PURCHASE AUTHORITY FOR SUPPLIES, MATERIALS, OR EQUIPMENT

- 1) Approve the introduction of Resolution No. 08-015, *Amending the Authority's Bylaws Concerning Purchase Authority for Supplies, Materials, or Equipment*; and
- 2) Direct staff to agendize this matter for possible adoption at the October 6, 2008 meeting of the RCA Board of Directors.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1 ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 08-02, ORDINANCE OF THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY ADOPTING A PURCHASING POLICY FOR SUPPLIES, MATERIALS, OR EQUIPMENT

M/S/C (LOWE/DRESSEL) to:

- 1) Adopt Ordinance 08-02 at the September 8, 2008 Regular Meeting of the RCA Board of Directors; and
- 2) Authorize the Clerk of the Board to publish a summary of the Ordinance with the names of the Board members voting for and against the Ordinance within 15 days after adoption of the Ordinance.

8.2 WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY PARTICIPATION ON CALIFORNIA SPECIAL DISTRICT ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE(S)

Honey Bernas, Director of Administrative Services, stated that the Authority is a member of the California Special District Association (CSDA). Last year, the Board expressed an interest in participating in the activities of the special districts. She advised that the CSDA is seeking participants to be involved in their Committees. There are a total of eight Committees and the list is attached to the staff report. The Committees meet at least twice annually in Sacramento. Participation is strictly voluntary and travel costs will be borne by the RCA.

In response to Vice Chairman Buster on the deadline for submitting interest in participation, Honey Bernas stated that application(s) for participation must be submitted by October 10, 2008.

RCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA

Page 4 of 7

September 8, 2008

Gary Thomasian asked staff to provide additional information related to the function of the various Committees.

After discussion, it was determined that Board Members wishing to participate to notify Honey Bernas.

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Charles Landry, Executive Director, reported on following items:

- The RCA moved to its new offices in the Riverside Centre Building, 3403 Tenth Street, Suite 320, Riverside, in August.
- Meetings were held with the representatives from the cities of Wildomar and Menifee regarding membership to the RCA joint powers agency.
- Services provided by Dave Driscoll, RCA Consultant, include surveying of RCA owned and adjoining properties for potential fire hazards and risks, working with Reserve Manager at Cal Fire to develop standardized fire response plans, research fire history of fire/burn patterns in RCA reserve lands in Western Riverside County. The contract is for \$50,000 for FY 08-09 and expenditures for this contract were \$15,000 in FY07-08.

Vice Chairman Buster reported on attending a Conference on Wildlands Urban Interface Fire Hazard that Dave Driscoll also attended. He spoke about Dave Driscoll as very knowledgeable in his field, is known by professionals throughout the country and he was able to put a face on Riverside County's issues, especially with the County's dramatic landscapes. For the first time, there are comprehensive, emerging voices for wildlife, habitat, and conservation areas from a variety of viewpoints in Riverside County. This is a great potential for mutually beneficial financial arrangements between fire and conservation. Dave Driscoll, who is aware of the issues and who has contacts with the professionals is valuable to RCA in many ways. The agreements with various disciplines to enhance RCA's conservation efforts are extremely important.

10. LAND ACQUISITION UPDATE

Ken Graff reported that since its last meeting, RCA closed on three additional properties for a total of 122 acres. Another 2,050 acres will be added to the acquisition once the Winchester 700 property completes escrow.

11. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- A. Mark Yarbrough commented on a Press Enterprise newspaper article relating to the RCA consultants that stated, "*The habitat plan approved by state and federal wildlife officials, gives the Agency the power to approve building projects without*

RCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA

Page 5 of 7

September 8, 2008

submitting them for state and federal review.” It is his understanding that this JPA does not have any land use authority.

Michelle Ouellette said that the point that they might be trying to make is that the “take” authorization of the Federal and State Endangered Species Act would be given to the County and the cities under the MSHCP.

Mark Yarbrough felt that it would be appropriate to send a request for clarification to the Press Enterprise so that the public is clear on the agency’s authority.

- B. Gary Thomasian asked about road standards and designs related to roads through the habitat areas to avoid interference with the migration of animals and habitats. This matter was posed in a comment letter that Murrieta received relating to Antelope Road.

Michelle Ouellette said that roads were considered as part of the MSHCP when it was approved. As the roads go through the entitlement process, they should be consistent with the MSHCP. In certain instances, there are best management practices and other measures that will need to be complied with to minimize certain impacts. There were 146 species that were looked at in the Plan and it was found that given the amount of conservation that the Plan was going to accomplish that would outweigh any potential impacts to those species. Some of the roads are conditionally covered. To some extent, we did want to get “take” coverage for the roads now as part of the Plan rather than requiring additional mitigation as we proceed. It does not mean that the City could not take a look at those issues but tying it back to the Plan does give the City ready analysis. She requested a copy of the comment letter for further review and comment. She suggested that perhaps a presentation be made at the October meeting on road coverage, measures and other aspects of the Plan.

Charles Landry said RCA looks at linkages and whether or not certain types of species can move through the area.

Martie Killough suggested that perhaps large culverts could be built under the roads not only as a way for animals to get across but also for safety for the drivers.

Maryann Edwards noted a recent study by San Diego State University on the reserve south of Temecula wherein cameras were installed on the culvert under the I-15, and they recorded as many as 350 crossings in a month.

Jim Hyatt reported on a field review of the conserved land owned by the RCA in Calimesa to check on the damage from the fire that occurred months ago and how it is recovering. He spotted a deer and red tail hawks and saw bobcat and coyote tracks. The fire damaged sycamore and live oak trees are recovering very nicely.

RCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA

Page 6 of 7

September 8, 2008

He also discovered a critter counter in the area. He would be interested in receiving an activity report on these critter counters. Ken Graff said that the Monitoring Program has cameras at all of the linkages. He suggested that the newly hired Monitoring Program Administrator, Mary Brady, present a report to the RCA Board on the activities at the various conserved areas.

C. Andy Melendrez suggested that staff report annually on activities, such as development, that might be occurring in the neighboring counties that is adjoining Western Riverside County's conserved areas.

12. CLOSED SESSION:

12A. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8

Negotiating Parties: RCA – Director of Land Acquisition and Property Management or Designee

Under Negotiation: Price/Terms

Item	Assessor Parcel Nos.	Property Owners
1	366-320-045	Joe Clark, Robert Clark, David J. Clark Trust
2	940-040-003 940-080-001	Nassef Francis, Julie Francis, N & A Development and Leasing Company
3	470-110-016 470-110-017 470-110-018	Mel Bennett, Steve Holgate, Blaine Womer, Life Spring Assembly of God Riverside Church, Shelbran Investments
4	391-790-005	William Bishop, Raymond Bishop, Donald Bishop, David Bishop, Brian Bishop, Paula Bishop, Bishop Family Trust, Estate of Robert H. Bishop
5	932-180-017	John Hermann, Edna Hermann

12B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL: ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Pursuant to Subdivision (b) of Government Code Section 54956.9

Exposure to Litigation

Number of Potential Case: 1

Steve DeBaun and Michelle Ouellette, Legal Counsels, left the Board Room.

12C. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION

Pursuant to Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9

- **Case No. RIC 493432**
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