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MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 6, 2009

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority was called to order by Chairman Bob Buster at 1:01 p.m. in the Board Room of the County Administrative Center, First Floor, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, California 92501.

2. ROLL CALL

Board Members/Alternates Present

Marion Ashley
Bob Buster
Larry Dressel
Maryann Edwards
Jordan Ehrenkranz
Frank Hall
Jim Hyatt
Robin Lowe
John Machisic
John Mansperger
Andy Melendrez
Eugene Montanez
Jeff Stone
John Tavaglione
Gary Thomasian
Mark Yarbrough

Board Members Absent

Bill Batey
Melissa Melendez
Roy Wilson

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

4. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Board Member announcements.

5. ADDITIONS/REVISIONS

There were no additions or revisions to the agenda.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/S/C (LOWE/MONTANEZ) to approve the minutes of March 2, 2009, as submitted.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

M/S/C (MONTANEZ/HYATT) to approve the following Consent Calendar items:

7.1 FISCAL YEAR 2008-09 SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

Receive and file the Fiscal Year 2008-09 Second Quarter Financial Report.

7.2 SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT OF MSHCP MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Receive and file the Semi-Annual Report of MSHCP Management Activities.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

8.1 INTRODUCTION OF LEE REEDER, SANTA ANA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Charlie Landry, Executive Director, introduced and welcomed Lee Reeder, Executive Director of the Santa Ana Watershed Association, who provides biological monitoring services for the RCA.

8.2 MONITORING PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

At this time, Charlie Landry introduced Mary Grady of the California Department of Fish and Game. She is the Monitoring Program Administrator for the Biological Monitoring Program, and she will provide a report on the services provided to the RCA.

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Mary Grady reviewed the Biological Monitoring Program, including: 1) Requirements; 2) Program Structure; 3) Species Objectives; 4) Budget; 5) Survey Priorities; 6) Field Surveys; 7) Collaborations; 8) Activities To Date; and, 9) Future Requirements. She also presented some survey pictures of plants, mammals, birds, and herpetology as well maps of survey locations from 2006 to 2008. She said that monthly meetings are held with Reserve Managers to share timely information with managers and researchers in the Plan Area. In addition, information is shared with a number of agencies to further monitoring goals and avoid duplicative efforts to allow contribution to regional understanding of species and their habitats, as well as learn from other efforts. She said that 32 species objectives have been met and progress is being made toward meeting 99 more species objectives. They have developed: 1) Protocols, sampling design, and methods for data analysis; 2) Operations and Training Manuals; and, 3) Integrated database that will house MSHCP survey data. Surveys will continue to document the status of species objectives through time. Long-term monitoring will include ecological processes, condition of vegetation communities and look at any potential threats. Direct feedback to managers will be made through adaptive management.

Maryann Edwards noted that there is a cooperative agreement with San Diego State University. She asked if this is at the Santa Margarita Reserve and what type of work is being done, and if a particular type of research is limited to the time of the year due to water flow. Mary Grady responded that they are working on herpetology surveys (reptiles and amphibians). She will report back if there are other animals documented at the Reserve. She acknowledged that a lot of the research is limited by rainfall and by water flow.

Jim Hyatt, noting the current condition of the economy, asked if the budget will remain about the same next year and whether results of the surveys are shared with other agencies. Mary Grady said that the budget has been declining each year since 2006. The \$500,000 for FY 2008-09 is the contribution from the California Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The wildlife agencies share information in order to have an overall perspective of species status within the plan area and adjacent counties.

Gary Thomasian asked if students are used for field research work and Mary Grady said the students with PhDs, Master and Bachelor of Science degrees, ranging from 20 to 50 years of age, are used for field research. They are broken down into field crew, program leads, and lead biologists.

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In response to Gary Thomasians's question if trans-locations are being done, Mary Grady said that for the first five years, they will be in an inventory phase. After that, it will be determined if there is a need for trans-locations and/or restoration of habitats. They are in collaboration with University of California at Davis to do tracking survey of mountain lions. They also attend meetings of the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency in order to further their management and research goals. They are open to collaborate and share data with other agencies.

Eugene Montanez asked if during the first five years of inventory, there is a cause for concern with any species or plants, and Mary Grady said that certain species have not been seen such as the Red Legged Frogs. They intend to conduct more surveys this year. A five-year review will be prepared next year on species requiring more protection and on species with no problems which could possibly be removed.

In response to Chairman Buster's question if visitors are welcome to the field surveys, Mary Grady invited interested Board Members to the field surveys.

9. LAND ACQUISITION UPDATE

Ken Graff, Director of Land Acquisition, reported that since the last RCA Board Meeting, 192.7 acres were added and the total acquired reserve assembly stands at 43,760 acres.

10. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

No additional items for discussion at the next meeting were suggested by the Board Members.

At this time, Chairman Buster adjourned the meeting to Closed Session.

11. CLOSED SESSION:

Steve DeBaun, Legal Counsel, announced that under Agenda Item 11A, the RCA Board will discuss possible exposure to litigation relating to the San Jacinto River Ranchos, LLC, acquisition.

- 11A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**
Pursuant to Subdivision (b) of Government Code Section 54945.9
Exposure to Litigation
Number of Potential Case: One (1)

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11B. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8

Negotiating Parties: RCA – Director of Land Acquisition and or Designee
Under Negotiation: Price/Terms

Item	Assessor Parcel Nos.	Property Owners
1	547-160-004, 553-220-015	San Jacinto River Ranchos, LLC; Meadows at Lone Cone, LLC
2	572-020-003	Fortunato Rivera; Horatio Hizon; Norie Hizon; Norv Rivera; Belle Rivera; Mercy Ferido; Tercy Ferido; Judith Razipour; Shapour Razipour; Dottie Arcaro; Antonio Arcaro; Cynthia Hooks; Warren Hooks

After the Closed Session, Chairman Buster reconvened the meeting. There were no announcements from the Closed Session.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other items before the RCA Board of Directors, Chairman Buster adjourned the meeting. The next meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday, May 11, 2009, at 1:00 p.m., at the County Administrative Center, Board Room, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, California.

Respectfully submitted,



Honey Bernas
Clerk of the Board