

**REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 02, 2004**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Inaugural Meeting of the Regional Conservation Authority was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by WRCOG Chairman Jim Venable in the County Administrative Center Board Hearing Room.

**II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Members of the RCA were welcomed to the inaugural meeting which was followed by self introductions:

Supervisor Jim Venable  
Supervisor Marion Ashley  
Supervisor John Tavaglione  
Supervisor Bob Buster  
Barbara Hanna, City of Banning  
Larry Dressel, City of Beaumont  
Martin Gibson, City of Canyon Lake  
Jeff Miller, City of Corona  
Robin Lowe, City of Hemet

Robert Schiffner, City of Lake Elsinore  
Charles White, City of Moreno Valley  
Kelly Seyarto, City of Murrieta  
Frank Hall, City of Norco  
Al Landers, City of Perris  
Ron Loveridge, City of Riverside  
Dale Stubblefield, City of San Jacinto  
Chuck Washington, City of Temecula

**Guests:**

Kelly Aldaheff, Aldaheff and Solar  
Gail Barton, RCHCA  
Dan Blankenship, BIA  
Jane Block, RCHCA  
Michael Coronado, P.E.  
Steve DeBaun, BB&K  
Barbara Dunmore, County of Riverside  
Jim Henderson, Jacobs

Darcy Kuenci, County of Riverside  
Richard Lashbrook, TLMA  
Kristi Lovelady, County of Riverside  
Steve Miller, City of Temecula  
Trent Pulliam, City of Moreno Valley  
Dan Silver, Endangered Habitat  
Carolyn Syms-Luna, County of Riverside  
Karin Watts-Bazin, County of Riverside

**WRCOG Staff:**

Rick Bishop, Executive Director  
Elgeritte Adidjaja, Staff Analyst  
Chris Brickel, Secretary

Danielle Maxson, Staff Analyst  
Barbara Spoonhour, Program Manager  
Kevin Viera, Program Manager

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

**IV. Public Comments**

At this time, Supervisor Jim Venable called for any comments from the public. Mr. Dan Silver thanked the board for all of the work that had been done to bring us to where we are today and the Endangered Habitats League welcomes the opportunity to work with this board in any possible way.

Ms. Gail Wanczuk Barton thanked all the cities for being so courageous.

Mr. Ed Sauls congratulated the committee for the work they are about to begin and offered his assistance. Supervisor Tavaglione thanked Mr. Ed Sauls for the tremendous leadership he as shown.

Ms. Robin Lowe introduced Jane Block and thanked her and the other members of the RCHCA who have given so much of their time and efforts to bring about this project.

**V. Proposed Approach To Today's RCA Board Meeting**

Chairman Venable began by inquiring as to the voting authority of those members present. Mr. Richard Lashbrook advised that the cities eligible to vote today are: Temecula, Moreno Valley, Hemet, Lake Elsinore, County of Riverside, Canyon Lake, San Jacinto, Norco, Corona, Banning and Riverside. Not eligible to vote today are: Calimesa, Perris, Murrieta. Jeff Miller called for clarification on jurisdictions approving the JPA but who may have added amendments or variations to the items. Mr. Bishop responded that the only jurisdiction they are aware of in that situation is Lake Elsinore.

**VI. Selection of Interim Chair and Vice Chair**

Nominations for Interim Chair were accepted from the members with the following names to be considered:

Robin Lowe  
Supervisor Venable

A recommendation was made that since the RCA meets directly after the Executive Committee, perhaps a continuation of the Executive Chair would allow for continuity.

M/S/C (Washington/Tavaglione) Adopt the WRCOG Chair and Vice Chair to act as the Chair and Vice Chair for the RCA for the interim period. Motion carried 13/0

**VII. Meeting Schedule For 2004**

Mr. Rick Bishop advised that a meeting schedule was developed for the committee's consideration with the meetings running commensurate with the WRCOG Executive Meetings. The schedule will show the WRCOG Executive meetings beginning at 2:00 p.m. and finishing by 3:30 p.m. with the RCA meeting beginning immediately thereafter.

M/S/C (Washington/Lowe) Adopt the meeting schedule as presented with dates for July and September to be decided. Meeting times to begin at 3:30 immediately following the Executive Committee. Motion carried 12/ 1- abstain.

**VIII. CONSENT AGENDA**

No consent items for this agenda.



## **IX. REPORTS**

### **IX.A MSHCP/JPA Adoption Status**

Richard Lashbrook provided a brief update advising that 13 of the 15 jurisdictions have approved the plan. As far as the status of the JPA is concerned, most jurisdictions have adopted. At this time we are unsure about Riverside. Murrieta, Perris and Calimesa still need to act on the final JPA.

Robin Lowe questioned the amendments made by Lake Elsinore and whether this committee will be advised of the new language. Mr. Lashbrook advised that at the end of today's session, they will address some of the changes. Additional questions arose relative to jurisdictions and the JPA with a decision to wait until the March 2004 meeting to make any final decisions. Mr. Lashbrook advised he would be pleased to attend the next meeting and go over any changes made by jurisdictions. Mr. Bishop advised that perhaps an Ad Hoc committee could take up some of the recommendations for the JPA and development of By-Laws. Supervisor Ashley and Supervisor Tavaglione both suggested that everyone proceed with the structure in place today which is good and then appoint a committee to review any changes that are requested and approved by the jurisdictions.

M/S/C (Washington/Ashley) Action was approved by a unanimous vote of members present.

### **IX.B MSHCP Overview/Role of the RCA**

Mr. Richard Lashbrook introduced Carolyn Luna provided a brief overview of the roles and responsibilities of the RCA to help frame some of the future discussions. Her topics included:

- Roles and Responsibilities
- Implementation Agreement to be signed by the RCA
- RCA governed by a Board of Directors
- Duties and Responsibilities of Board Members
- Review of boundaries
- Cooperative Organizational Structure for Management of the MSHCP
- FCC – Funding Coordination Committee

She provided some insight on the Joint Action Review Process and the role played by the RCA Board. Additional comments included review of the Reserve Management Oversight Committee, Reserve Managers – Land Management Decisions, Independent Science Advisors Committee and Organizational Structure Tasks.

Mr. White inquired about the JPA and their right to exercise eminent domain. Ms. Luna advised they can exercise that right, however, Mr. Lashbrook added that the MSHCP does not presume the use of condemnation, they will focus on willing sellers. Mr. Lashbrook discussed on the roles of the permittees. Mr. Washington questioned the Reserve Management Oversight Committee and how this might affect compliance with state and federal regulations. Additional questions focused on the Executive Director role and how that position is defined and filled and possible non-compliance with state or federal agency in management of land.

M/S/C (Ashley/Washington) Action was approved by a unanimous vote of members present.



## **IX.C Legal Matters**

- a. Status of "No Surprises" Ruling**
- b. Local Action regarding the MSHCP**

Mr. Richard Lashbrook introduced Michelle Ouelette, current legal counsel defending the MSHCP, to address this item. She began by stating the "No Surprises" is a component of the Section 10 Permit – During 75 year permit term no additional money will be required of you or your developers in the event of unforeseen circumstances. This ruling will remain in effect unless it is severed by a court at which time additional decisions will need to be made relative to going forward with any development. Regarding legal action on the MSHCP, three lawsuits have been filed; (1) Vail Lake and Bill Johnson, (2) Goodlands Group in Lake Elsinore and the County and (3) Castle and Cooke, David Murdoch, Property Owners Association and the Farm Bureau. The actions have all been filed against the County and they are currently attempting to settle all of the litigation. Mr. Lashbrook suggested a closed session at the end of the next meeting to discuss the status of the litigation and the possible transfer of this litigation over to the RCA. Supervisor Venable advised that all future agendas will include a "Closed Session" item at the end of the meeting.

### **c. Legal Counsel**

M/S/C (Lowe/Tavaglione) 1. Receive Report. 2. Appoint Best, Best and Krieger as Legal Counsel to serve the RCA Board through June 30, 2005 and direct staff to return with a legal services contract.

## **IX.D Consideration of Resolution No. 04-01, a Resolution of the Board of Directors Of The Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Making Responsible Agency Findings Pursuant To The California environmental Quality Act For The Multiple Species habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community conservation Plan And Approving The Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan And Implementing Agreement, Adopting Environmental Findings Pursuant To The California Environmental Quality Act, And Adopting A Statement Of Overriding Considerations And Authorizing The Chair Of The Board To Execute The Implementing Agreement.**

M/S/C (Ashley/Tavaglione) Action was approved by a unanimous vote of members present.

## **IX.E Discussion of Staffing Arrangements**

Mr. Lashbrook advised that the RCA would contract with the County for the first three years for an Executive Director and Staff. He proposes to negotiate a contract appointing Carolyn Luna to act as the Executive Director for the RCA for a six - month period of time. The proposal would involve two steps:

1. Appoint Carolyn Luna as Interim Executive Director
2. Direct staff to negotiate and develop a contract for employee services between the County and the RCA.

M/S/C (Washington/Ashley) Direct Rick Bishop and Richard Lashbrook to develop a contract for review by the RCA Board that establishes contract services with county staff and integrates that contract with implementing the plan and at least two recommendations as to how the Executive Director or Program Manager over the plan would work with WRCOG or work separately. Motion Carried 10 / 1 abstain

XII. **Next Meeting:** Next meeting of the RCA will be held on March 1, 2004 at 3:30  
4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, CA Board Hearing Room

XIII. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.