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MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority was called to order by Chairman Scott Miller at 12:37 p.m. Monday, January 6, 2014, in the Board Room of the Riverside County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, California 92501.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chairman Tavaglione led the RCA Board Members and meeting attendees in a flag salute.

3. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present

Marion Ashley, *Riverside County District 5*
Kevin Bash, *City of Norco*
Ben Benoit, *City of Wildomar*
Roger Berg, *City of Beaumont*
Jordan Ehrenkranz, *Alternate-City of Canyon Lake*
Debbie Franklin, *City of Banning*
Tom Fuhrman, *City of Menifee*
Mike Gardner, *Alternate-City of Riverside*
Jim Hyatt, *City of Calimesa*
Kevin Jeffries, *Riverside County District 1*
Natasha Johnson, *City of Lake Elsinore*
Verne Lauritzen, *City of Jurupa Valley**
Shellie Milne, *City of Hemet**
Scott Miller, *City of San Jacinto*
Jesse Molina, *City of Moreno Valley*
Eugene Montanez, *City of Corona*
Ron Roberts, *Alternate-Riverside County District 3*
Adam Rush, *City of Eastvale*
John Tavaglione, *Riverside County District 2*
Mark Yarbrough, *City of Perris**

Board Members Absent

John Benoit, *Riverside County District 4*
Maryann Edwards, *City of Temecula*
Harry Ramos, *City of Murrieta*

**Arrived after start of the meeting.*

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4. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

Chairman Miller welcomed Jeffrey Hewitt to the RCA Board as Calimesa's representative. He noted the representative change made by Riverside with Andy Melendrez as the primary representative and Mike Gardner as the alternate.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. MaryAnn Shushan Miller of Murrieta, California, representing the Los Alamos Neighbors' Association, presented her concerns in relation to acquisition and implementation policies as it related to small property owners. She thanked RCA Board Member Harry Ramos for participating and addressing conservation easements in Murrieta. She continued and read an excerpt of an article in the California Eminent Domain Report, posted in November 16, 2009, which pointed out the result of the Winchester 700 acquisition process. She requested that the RCA Board address waiver of HANS billings for small property owners. Her written comments were not submitted on time for public comments last month and she requested staff to distribute them to RCA Board members. *(A copy of Mrs. Miller's January 6, 2014 and December 2, 2013 submitted comments are on file.)*

Board Members Lauritzen, Milne, and Yarborough entered the meeting during the public comment.

2. Max Miller of Murrieta, California, representing the Los Alamos Neighbors' Association, spoke about the Association and the membership's objectives. Generally they communicate with other groups in Riverside County and share stories and letters received from property owners on issues and experiences that they had encountered. He then proceeded to read one such letter. Finally, he commented that small property owners should receive the same level of care as big business owners.
3. Vicki Long of Murrieta, California, briefed the RCA Board regarding mountain lion activities. She expressed their concern regarding the wildlife corridor in Temecula (where Palomar and Santa Ana mountains connect) as a result of a development that will be encroaching on the ability for wildlife to cross. To circumvent the issues, they are looking at multiple undercrossing, a bridge, and fencing. They are in the process of securing a contract to design the bridge and possibly retrofitting some of the under passes. She noted that there are number of collared lions that have attempted but failed to cross I-15 freeway safely and, therefore, ended up in Orange County and were struck. Reminiscent of panthers in Florida, kinked tails are identified to be present in the area and U.C. Davis is undergoing a genetics study to determine what is occurring in order to save them as well as other endangered species. She expressed an interest in setting up a workshop with RCA in order to discuss the issues and possibly come up with remedies in order to continue development and, at the same time, protect habitat and endangered species.

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6. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Board Member announcements.

7. ADDITIONS/REVISIONS

There were no additions/revisions to the agenda.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/S/C (BBENOIT/FRANKLIN) to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2013, as submitted.

ABSTAIN: JOHNSON

(Ayes 19/Nay 0/Abstention 1)

9. CONSENT CALENDAR

M/S/C (GARDNER/ASHLEY) to approve the following Consent Calendar item:

9.1 WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (MSHCP) LOCAL DEVELOPMENT MITIGATION FEE COLLECTION AND CIVIC/INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRIBUTION REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2013

Receive and file the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Local Development Mitigation Fee and Civic/Infrastructure Contribution Report for November 2013.

(Ayes 20/Nay 0/Abstention 0)

10. CHAIRMAN'S GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2014

Chairman Miller presented his goals and objectives for 2014, as follows:

Goal 1 – Increase Funding

- Setup federal loan program
- Gain additional federal and state funding in 2014
- Complete Nexus Study in 2014

Goal 2 - Continue Acquisitions

- Acquire 1,500 acres this year
- Develop policy and process on getting Additional Reserve Land credit for lands outside of Criteria Area

Goal 3 - Expedite Infrastructure

- Put priority on MSHCP coverage for permittee transportation projects
- Push the use of Participating Special Entities to cover non-Permittee projects
- Prepare Minor Amendment to allow changes to Covered Roads

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Goal 4 - Facilitate Development Process

- Work with the City of Hemet on their drainage master plan/master HANS process
- Continue to work in partnership with the City of Lake Elsinore on MSHCP issues
- Train Permittee staff/consultants

Goal 5 - Improve Land Management/Monitoring

- Continue to complete Habitat Management Unit (HMU) management plans
- Develop burrowing owl translocation standards in concert with Wildlife Agencies to standardize and streamline the process

Roger Berg raised issues for small property owners with regard to code enforcement, prevention and the conflicting role of fire management and environmental management. He asked whether a goal should be developed to resolve the problems that the property owners are faced with in order to conform to regulations.

Chairman Miller noted that with this particular item, each situation has a different set of issues. Perhaps this year, efforts should be made to bring clarity and understanding on the responsibility of the city, RCA, the Wildlife Agencies, and the property owners.

Charlie Landry, Executive Director, said that the Plan allows for weed abatement in conservation areas. He noted that staff will review the matter further, but it may be just a matter of clarification.

Shellie Milne recognized the assistance and efforts of RCA and its staff in working with Hemet and the property owners to clarify the issues and do what is best for the City west Hemet vernal pool area.

In response to Kevin Bash's question if a goal covering the issues of small property owners is being proposed, Roger Berg said that he will submit the issues to the Executive Director to determine the course of action to take. Such proposal will be brought back to the RCA Board.

Tom Fuhrman said that staff noted the objective of having 60 pairs of burrowing owls and that perhaps once the quota is reached, requirements for new projects could be relaxed. Charlie Landry said that the burrowing owl is a broad topic, as it is a countywide issue, and a high priority for the RCA.

11. RATIFICATION OF CHAIRMAN'S APPOINTMENT OF THE 2014 RCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman Miller presented his membership appointment and requested ratification of his 2014 Executive Committee appointment, as follows:

- Scott Miller, **Chairman**

- Maryann Edwards

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- John Tavaglione, **Vice Chairman**
- Marion Ashley, **Past Chairman**
- Ben Benoit
- Natasha Johnson
- Jeff Stone

M/S/C (RUSH/LAURITZEN) to ratify the Chairman's 2014 Executive Committee appointment.

(Ayes 20/Nay 0/Abstention 0)

12. RECOGNITION OF PAST RCA BOARD/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Miller noted the changes in the RCA Board and Executive Committee and expressed his gratitude and appreciation for past members' time and contributions. Changes to the RCA Board were as follows:

RCA Board

City of Riverside - Andy Melendrez, Representative/Mike Gardner, Alternate
City of Calimesa – Jeffrey Hewitt, Representative/Jim Hyatt, Alternate

Chairman Miller called on Jim Hyatt to come up to the podium. At this time, he recognized Mr. Hyatt's active and endless drive during his time as an RCA Board Member, Vice Chairman, and Chairman in order to meet and fulfill the obligations of the RCA. Chairman Miller also noted Jim Hyatt's commitment in pursuing funding for RCA at the federal and state level. On behalf of the RCA Board, Chairman Miller, Vice-Chairman Tavaglione and Charlie Landry presented Jim Hyatt a plaque as a token of the Board's appreciation.

Jim Hyatt mentioned the rewards gained by serving on the RCA Board which included saving and preserving land for the future for his children, grandchildren and the community. With regard to the City of Calimesa, he noted RCA's efforts to save Kramer Canyon (170 acres). He commended the RCA Board Members and staff.

13. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

13.1 Loan Program

Charlie Landry stated that the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) has gone through the Conference Committees of the Senate and the House. The proposed loan program is included in the Senate version. The House has passed its own Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) which does not include the provision. However, it is highly likely that the provision will be included in the final bill because there does not appear to be any opponents of the provision. However, there are other issues that are being addressed in the WRDA bill. Additionally, staff and its lobbyists are working to make certain that the loan program language is included in the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovative Act (TIFIA) proposed legislation. In order to continue RCA's efforts on

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the loan program, a trip to Washington, D.C. will be scheduled in the coming months.

14. LAND ACQUISITION UPDATE

Charlie Landry reported that since the last RCA Board meeting, 58 acres were added to the reserve, bringing the reserve total to 46,821 acres.

15. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

There were no items requested by the RCA Board Members for the next meeting.

At this time, Chairman Miller advised those present of the memorial service for former RCA Board Member John Machisic, which will be held on Sunday, January 19, 2014, at 1:00 p.m. at the Sun Lakes Country Club. He recalled Mr. Machisic's involvement and contributions in various community boards in Banning and in Western Riverside County. On behalf of the RCA Board, Chairman Miller dedicated and closed the public portion of RCA's Board meeting in honor and memory of John Machisic.

The RCA Board meeting was adjourned to Closed Session

16. CLOSED SESSION ITEM

16.1 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION Pursuant to Paragraph 1 of Subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9

- **MCC1300222 Warren Road Partners, L.P., vs. Western Riverside
County Regional Conservation Authority**

There was no announcement from the Closed Session item. With no other items before the RCA Board, the meeting was adjourned.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday, February 3, 2014, at 12:30 p.m., at the County of Riverside Administrative Center, Board Room, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, California.

Respectfully submitted,



Honey Bernas
Clerk of the Board