



www.wrc-rca.org

MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority was called to order by Chairman Ashley at 12:30 p.m., Monday, October 2, 2017, in the Board Room of the Riverside County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, California, 92501.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

3. ROLL CALL

| Member Agency | Board Member Name | Status | Arrived |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------|----------|
| City of Banning | Daniela Andrade | Present | 11:35 AM |
| City of Beaumont | Julio Martinez | Present | 11:29 AM |
| City of Calimesa | Jeffrey Hewitt | Present | 11:31 AM |
| City of Canyon Lake | Larry Greene | Present | 11:25 AM |
| City of Corona | Eugene Montanez | Present | 11:30 AM |
| City of Eastvale | Clint Lorimore | Present | 12:36 PM |
| City of Hemet | Michael Perciful | Present | 11:33 AM |
| City of Jurupa Valley | Verne Lauritzen | Present | 11:21 AM |
| City of Lake Elsinore | Natasha Johnson | Absent | |
| City of Menifee | Matt Liesemeyer | Present | 11:29 AM |
| City of Moreno Valley | Jeffrey Giba | Present | 11:29 AM |
| City of Murrieta | Jonathan Ingram | Present | 11:28 AM |
| City of Norco | Kevin Bash | Present | 11:33 AM |
| City of Perris | David Starr Rabb | Present | 11:24 AM |
| City of Riverside | Mike Gardner, Alternate | Present | 11:26 AM |
| City of San Jacinto | Crystal Ruiz | Present | 11:33 AM |
| City of Temecula | Maryann Edwards | Present | 12:38 PM |
| City of Wildomar | Timothy Walker | Present | 11:25 AM |
| District 1 | Kevin Jeffries | Present | 11:21 AM |
| District 2 | John Tavaglione | Present | 12:38 PM |
| District 3 | Chuck Washington | Present | 11:19 AM |
| District 4 | V. Manuel Perez | Absent | |
| District 5 | Marion Ashley, Chairman | Present | 12:23 PM |

Chairman Ashley welcomed new Board Member Larry Greene, representing the City of Canyon Lake.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Ashley called for public comments regarding items not listed on the agenda. There were no public comments.

5. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS (This item provides the opportunity for the Board Members to report on attended meetings/conferences and any other items related to RCA activities.)

Chairman Ashley called for Board Member announcements. There were no announcements.

6. ADDITIONS/REVISIONS (The Board may add an item to the Agenda after making a finding that there is a need to take immediate action on the item and that the item came to the attention of the Board subsequent to the posting of the agenda. An action adding an item to the agenda requires 2/3 vote of the Board. If there are less than 2/3 of the Board Members present, adding an item requires a unanimous vote. Added items will be placed for discussion at the end of the agenda.)

Kristin Staudenmaier, Secretary II, announced that there were no additions or revisions.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 11, 2017 meeting of the RCA Board of Directors.

| | |
|------------------|--|
| RESULT: | APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED |
| MOVER: | San Jacinto |
| SECONDER: | Corona |
| AYES: | Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Hemet, Jurupa, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Norco, Perris, Riverside, San Jacinto, Wildomar, District 1, District 3, District 5 |
| ABSENT: | Eastvale, Lake Elsinore, Temecula, District 2, District 4 |

8. CONSENT CALENDAR (All matters listed under the Consent Calendar will be approved in a single motion unless a Board Member requests separate action on specific Consent Calendar item. The item will be pulled from the Consent Calendar and placed for discussion.)

| | |
|------------------|--|
| RESULT: | APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED |
| MOVER: | Corona |
| SECONDER: | District 3 |
| AYES: | Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Hemet, Jurupa, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Norco, Perris, Riverside, San Jacinto, Wildomar, District 1, District 3, District 5 |
| ABSENT: | Eastvale, Lake Elsinore, Temecula, District 2, District 4 |

8.1 WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MSHCP FEE COLLECTION REPORT FOR AUGUST 2017Overview

This item is for the RCA Board of Directors to receive and file the Western Riverside County MSHCP Fee Collection Report for September 2017.

9. RESOLUTION NO. 2017-006, RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY DECLARING SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

Charles Landry, Executive Director, presented this item. He stated that at the June 5, 2017 Board of Directors meeting, Board Members expressed concerns regarding the imposition of land use restrictions that could affect firefighting roads, access to trails, and property rights within and adjacent to the boundaries of the proposed refuge. He advised that RCA staff, together with Vice Chairman Ingram and the Executive Committee, addressed these concerns.

He advised that the refuge was proposed in order to provide additional federal funding to the MSHCP. The state and federal governments are required to acquire one-third, or 56,000 acres of Additional Reserve Land. Currently, the only funds available to meet their obligation are through Section 6 Habitat Conservation Plan grant funds and state match. The Land and Water Conservation fund has approximately \$900 million allocated annually, versus Section 6 acquisition funding, which is approximately \$18 million annually. Establishing a refuge can benefit the Plan by providing additional federal funding and management of reserve lands.

The proposal is to establish a refuge in the eastern part of the Western Riverside County MSHCP where there is minimal population and development. The refuge will be established within the existing boundaries of the MSHCP and incorporate only existing Additional Reserve Land. The MSHCP will not expand past the requirements of the Plan nor increase the footprint. Private property rights will be fully protected in that the refuge will only be expanded when willing sellers ask to be included within the refuge. The acquisition process will use current MSHCP procedures and be performed by RCA. The resolution starts the process for RCA to negotiate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. RCA staff will brief the Board on a regular basis on the status of the planning process if it is decided to move forward. Final terms and conditions of the refuge will be brought back to the Board for final approval prior execution of any agreement.

Chairman Ashley asked if there were any questions of the Board of Directors.

Vice Chairman Ingram stated that RCA has been working on this resolution for quite some time and will proceed with caution. It is his belief that establishing a refuge can provide an additional funding stream for RCA. He stated that the resolution is clear on its objective. He advised that he spoke to other Member Agencies and developers in an effort to craft a resolution that was both acceptable and beneficial. He reiterated that the adoption of this resolution is the first step in the process. He stressed the importance of the refuge and how additional funding will help get the MSHCP to its completion. He thanked RCA staff and legal counsel for their work in addressing issues raised.

Overview

This item is for the RCA Board of Directors to adopt Resolution No. 2017-006, *Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Declaring Support for the Establishment of a National Wildlife Refuge within the Boundaries of the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan.*

Motion to: Approve Agenda Item No. 9 as recommended.

| | |
|------------------|--|
| RESULT: | APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED |
| MOVER: | District 5 |
| SECONDER: | District 3 |
| AYES: | Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Eastvale, Hemet, Jurupa, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Norco, Perris, Riverside, San Jacinto, Temecula, Wildomar, District 2, District 3, District 5 |
| NAYES: | District 1 |
| ABSENT: | Lake Elsinore, District 4 |

Board Members Lorimore, Edwards and Tavaglione arrived at the start of discussion of this item.

10. LAND ACQUISITION UPDATE

Charles Landry, Executive Director, advised that escrow had not closed on any additional properties since the last Board meeting, but several are in the process. Currently, the reserve is at approximately 56,944 acres. Charles Landry was asked what percentage of the total the acreage represents, to which he responded approximately 37 percent.

13. FEATURED SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Elizabeth "Betsy" Dionne, Ecological Resources Specialist, presented the Engelmann Oak, the featured species for the month of October. She provided the background information on the Engelmann Oak and reported on the monitoring and management activities and goals for this species. She identified the Santa Rosa Plateau as having the highest concentration of the Engelmann Oaks in Riverside County. She advised that the oak can be found in the Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve and the Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve. There are also small occurrences in Potrero, Sage and Palomar Mountain. She made reference to the early fossil record locations in California and Arizona. She gave a detailed description of how to identify the oak and how they reproduce. After her presentation, she invited questions from the Board Members. Several Board Members asked questions, and Betsy answered. Chairman Ashley thanked Betsy for a well-informed presentation.

12. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Chairman Ashley asked if any Board Member had items for the next meeting. There were no requested items.

13. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS:**13.1 CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR****Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8****Negotiating Parties:** RCA – Executive Director of Designee**Under Negotiation:** Price/Terms

| Item | Assessor Parcel No. | Property Owner(s)/Agent |
|------|---------------------------|--|
| 1 | 432-150-001 | MRD Development, LLC, Adam Bennecke, Jason Bennecke |
| 2 | Portion of 465-100-011 | George Godas, Phil Percival |

Closed Session, the meeting was reconvened. There were no announcements from closed session.

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other items before the RCA Board, Chairman Ashley adjourned the meeting at 1:05p.m. The next meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday, November 6, 2017, at 12:30 p.m. at the County of Riverside Administrative Center, Board Room, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, California.

Prepared by:



Rose Haro
RCA Administrative Manager

Respectfully submitted:



Honey Bernas
Director of Administrative Services