

REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY MINUTES SEPTEMBER 13, 2004

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority was called to order by Chairman, Robin Lowe.

2. ROLL CALL

Barbara Hanna, City of Banning
Larry Dressel, City of Beaumont
Shenna Moqet, City of Calimesa
Eugene Montanez, City of Corona
Robin Lowe, City of Hemet
Robert Schiffner, City of Lake Elsinore
Kelly Seyarto, City of Murrieta
Frank Hall, City of Norco
Dom Betro, City of Riverside
Chuck Washington, City of Temecula
Supervisor Bob Buster
Supervisor Jim Venable
Supervisor John Tavaglione
Supervisor Marion Ashley

Guests:

Jane Block
Gail Wanczuk
Leslie McNair, California Dept of Fish & Game
Scott Dawson, California Dept of Fish & Game
Kelly Block, Alhadeff & Solar
Ken Graff, Riverside County BOS
Darcy Kuenzi, Office of Supervisor Ashley
Tony Carstens, Director TLMA
Dan Silver
Greg Neal

Staff:

Rick Bishop, Executive Director WRCOG
Patricia Lock Dawson
Kevin Viera
Bill Hodge
Steve DeBaun, BBK
Michelle Ouelette, BBK
Carolyn Luna
Chris Brickel

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Comments were heard from Ms. Jane Block regarding the problem of cash flow and just how it will affect the acquiring of critical lands and responding to property owners needs. She commented on the 50,000 acres to be acquired by the Federal and State Governments through the Endangered Species Act Funds or Land and Water Conservation Fund. She continued, requesting that staff explore options for accessing funds and bring recommendations back to the Board.

Chairman Lowe requested Carolyn Luna to agendize this for a future agenda and for appropriate committees.

4. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

No comments were heard from RCA Board Members

5. MINUTE APPROVAL – July 12, 2004

M/S/C (Ashley/Washington) Approve minutes of July 12, 2004 meeting as presented
Motion carried 12/1-abstention.

6. POLICY CALENDAR

6.1 RCHCA/RCA MOU Concerning Cooperation in Habitat Conservation Planning and Management for the Long-term SKR HCP and the MSHCP

Carolyn Luna spoke briefly on the commitment and benefits of coordinating the approach to the development of the work to be done. Revisions will be required and staff will start on those revisions with a goal of November, 2004 for availability. Supervisor Buster added comments on the urgency in obtaining various species information. The county and the jurisdictions need to be aware of just what is out there and what should be done.

M/S/C (Washington/Hall) Approve the presentation. Motion carried 13/1 abstention from City of Calimesa.

6.2 Program Administrative Issues

- a. Ms. Ouellette discussed the Calimesa and Lake Elsinore MOU Policy Issues and implementation of the MSHCP agreement. She continued referring to the new Administrative Committee of the RCA who will review the requested changes to the by-laws and the JPA after meetings have been held with the two jurisdictions in question.
- b. The Monthly Revenue Report included in the agenda, was reviewed by Carolyn Luna with emphasis on jurisdictions transmitting the reports and revenue on a monthly basis rather than quarterly this fiscal year. Additional discussion focused on using electronic transfer for the submissions with some additional comments on the new banking law to eliminate the “float” period. Ms. Luna continued reviewing the remittance form advising that in addition to receiving fees, the RCA is required to report to the resource agencies. These forms have been distributed to City Managers and must accompany all checks.
- * Referring back to Item 6.2a – Sheena Moqet, City of Calimesa, made a comment in reference to Calimesa adding more land area in to the MSHCP. Their MOU was structured in order to put additional land in to the MSHCP.
- c. Mr. Rick Bishop introduced Patricia Lock-Dawson who reviewed the Work Plan with two strategies; the short term and the long term. She mentioned the two workshops advising that both were informative and well attended. Manuals, distributed at the workshops, included specific information on the HANS Review Process, Criteria Process, Policy Procedures, CEQA Process, Permit Review, Fee Collection and Model Forms. Visits to each jurisdiction are planned along with setting up workshops for the Public Works Directors. Ms. Lock-Dawson accepted questions that focused mainly on establishing some incentives for the cities’ staff.
- d. Michelle Ouellette discussed the Implementation Agreement and the Fee Ordinance.
- e. Ms. Ouellette reviewed the fee requirements for Public Entities such as school districts and water districts. Temecula USD is the first such application to be received.

6.3 Legislative Platform

Mr. Bill Hodge reviewed legislation relating to developing a platform for the Regional Conservation Authority to monitor state and federal legislation relating to MSHCP matters. The platform will also address the sponsorship of legislation in both arenas. He called attention to the draft letters in the agenda package. The RCA Board will consider a draft platform at the November 04 meeting with adoption in December 2004. A draft policy statement on the "No-Surprises Issue" is also included in the agenda for member's review. With no questions from members, Ms. Lowe thanked Mr. Hodge for his presentation.

M/S/C (Hall/Seyarto) Approve the process for the RCA to move forward with the draft letter. Motion carried 13/0.

Late Breaking item: Chairperson Lowe asked members to consider the letter from Larry Parrish that was forwarded to all members. In letter from Larry Parish, CEO County of Riverside stated the county's decision to remove Carolyn Luna as the General Manager of the RCA so that Ms. Luna could focus on providing assistance to the county on implementing the MSHCP. This item became available after the agenda was prepared and sent to members but it is asked to be considered today in closed session as a matter of urgency.

M/S/C (Buster/Seyarto) to consider and approve the request to add a closed session item as a late breaking item to discuss the appointment of a new General Manager for the agency. The motion was passed unanimously

Chairperson Lowe requested a closed session to follow immediately after adjournment of this meeting.

7. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

No Items Mentioned.

8. CLOSED SESSION

Review and discussion on letter received from Mr. Larry Parrish previously added to the agenda as a late breaking item.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned until a special meeting September 22, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.