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MEETING MINUTES

December 6, 2010

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 Gary Thomasian at 1:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, First Floor, Riverside, California, 92501.

2. ROLL CALL

Board Members/Alternates Present

Bill Batey
Bob Buster
Kevin Bash
John Denver
Maryann Edwards
Scott Farnam
Mike Gardner
Jim Hyatt
Robin Lowe
John Machisic
Melissa Melendez
Eugene Montanez
Karen Spiegel
Jeff Stone
Mark Yarbrough
Ella Zanowic

Board Members Absent

John Benoit
Bob Cashman
Steve Di Memmo
Jordan Ehrenkranz

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

4. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

At this time, Jim Hyatt introduced Calimesa's 2011 Mayor Ella Zanowic and Councilmember Jeff Hewitt to the RCA Board.

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5. ADDITIONS/REVISIONS

There were no additions/revisions to the agenda.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/S/C (GARDNER/STONE) to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2010 meeting of the RCA Board of Directors.

Abstained: Ashley

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

7.1 PROPOSED 2011 RCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

Adopt the proposed 2011 meeting schedule of the RCA Board of Directors and Executive Committee.

7.2 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION WITH INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2010

Receive and file the Financial Statements and Supplementary Information with Independent Auditors' Report for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2010.

8. BIOLOGICAL MONITORING PROGRAM CARNIVORE PRESENTATION

Adam Malisch, RCA Consultant/Program Administrator for the Western Riverside County MSHCP Biological Program, presented the Carnivore Monitoring Report for 2008-2010 and covered the following subjects: 1) Covered carnivore species (Mountain Lion, Coyote, Bobcat, Long-tailed Weasel); 2) Monitoring objectives and techniques; 3) Survey locations; and, 4) Monitoring technique assessment. On an annual basis, the Monitoring Program produces a detailed survey report for efforts underway. All survey reports for prior years are posted on the RCA website. The 2010 report is currently being prepared and will be posted when it is completed.

Melissa Melendez asked why coyotes and weasels are being tracked and what the data collected is being used for. Adam Malisch said that they are tracked because they are a covered species under the MSHCP.

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Jeff Stone asked if the long-tailed weasels are indigenous to Riverside County, nocturnal, and what the extent of their growth. He also asked the number of coyotes and mountain lions spotted in Riverside County. Adam Malisch responded they are nocturnal and indigenous to Riverside. They are smaller than a rabbit and difficult to detect as they only come out in the evenings.

Maryann Edwards spoke about sightings of mountain lions on the west side of I-15 on the Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve. She asked if mountain lions are tracked when they cross the freeway to the Palomar/Santa Ana Range. She understood that there is a camera installed in the culvert under the freeway.

Adam Malisch stated that the Wildlife Center tracks mountain lion movement and that they are known to exist on both sides of the I-15. There was a monitoring program camera installed near the Pechanga Creek. However, use of the camera was curtailed because it was vandalized.

Charlie Landry, Executive Director, said that the monitoring program is currently headed by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). The initial requirement for the monitoring/management program was for eight (8) years with CDFG and RCA has been providing funding the program. After year eight, the program will entirely be RCA's responsibility. Because of this, staff is looking for efficiencies that could be made to be able to fund the program when that time comes.

Robin Lowe said that the initial purpose was to identify the areas where the species are spotted. The annual report should include data in order to determine migration of species, as well as provide information if development encroachment is forcing the species to move or if an identified corridor is actually being used, i.e., there are corridors in the Temecula area that are not being used.

A number of questions were posed by RCA Board Members such as: 1) The purpose and application of tracking data being collected; 2) Whether RCA is receiving return on its investment in the current monitoring efforts; and, 3) If there is an overlap of efforts of agencies and organizations with regard to species tracking and observation.

The RCA Board directed staff to bring this item back to provide additional information, including a presentation of the monitoring process. Additionally, it was noted that in light of decreasing revenues, each program should be evaluated.

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – UPDATE REGARDING LOAN PROGRAM

Charlie Landry stated that staff is working with Senator Dianne Feinstein's and Congressman Ken Calvert's offices. Senator Feinstein's office has submitted a request to the Congressional Budget Office to do a scoring analysis on the proposed loan program and the result is expected soon.

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10. LAND ACQUISITION UPDATE

Brian Beck, Land Acquisition Analyst, reported that since the last RCA Board meeting, RCA closed on three properties totaling 696 acres bringing the total reserve land to 42,871 acres.

11. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

M/S/C (ASHLEY/TAVAGLIONE) to nominate Jeff Stone as RCA's Chairman for 2011.

M/S/C (MELENDEZ/STONE) to nominate Jim Hyatt as RCA's Vice Chairman for 2011.

With no other nominations before the RCA Board, nominations for 2011 Chairman and Vice Chairman were closed. Unanimously, Jeff Stone and Jim Hyatt were elected as RCA's Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2011.

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Jim Hyatt suggested that there is a need to review original agreements that were negotiated by RCA and how it fits with the MSHCP.

John Tavaglione stated that he will be making trips to Washington, D.C., this year and, given the current economy and funding constraints, to let him know if can assist with any RCA matters in D.C.

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

13. SERVICE AWARDS PRESENTATION

13.1 SERVICE AWARD

On behalf of the RCA Board of Directors, Chairman Thomasian recognized Robin Lowe's years of dedicated service since inception of the RCA and her numerous contributions toward the implementation of the MSHCP.

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13.2 CHAIRMAN SERVICE AWARD

Incoming Chairman Jeff Stone and Charlie Landry presented a memento to Gary Thomasian to recognize his leadership in 2010 during which time approximately 1,470 acres of additional reserve land was acquired.

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

Jeff Stone left the meeting.

14. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS:

- 14.1 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**
Pursuant to Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9
- RIC 10004733 Calvary Chapel
 - RIC 10015716 Wilhelm Ranch

- 14.2 CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR**
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8
Negotiating Parties: RCA – Executive Director or Designee
Under Negotiation: Price/Terms

Item	Assessor Parcel Nos.	Property Owners
1	465-020-010 and 465-020-011	Wilhelm Ranch, Tammy Wilhelm, Ed Sauls

The meeting was reconvened. There were no announcements from the Closed Session.

15. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other items to be discussed, Chairman Thomasian adjourned the meeting. The next meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday, February 7, 2011 at 1:00 p.m., at the County of Riverside Administrative Center, Board Room, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, California.

Respectfully submitted,



Honey Bernas
Clerk of the Board