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MEETING MINUTES

July 2, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority was called to order by Chairman Jim Hyatt at 12:32 p.m. on Monday, July 2, 2012, in the Board Room of the Riverside County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, California, 92501.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Roger Berg, City of Beaumont, led the RCA Board members and those present in a flag salute.

3. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present

Marion Ashley*
Ben Benoit
Roger Berg
Randy Bonner
Bob Buster
Maryann Edwards
Thomas Fuhrman
Mike Gardner
Jim Hyatt
Linda Krupa
Verne Lauritzen
Alan Long
John Machisic
Eugene Montanez
Ron Roberts
Adam Rush
Mark Yarbrough

Board Members Absent

Kevin Bash
Bill Batey
John Benoit
Melissa Melendez
Scott Miller
John Tavaglione

*Arrived after start of the meeting

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

RCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Page 2 of 5

July 2, 2012

5. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tom Fuhrman reported on the increasing wild pig population nationwide which is creating environmental and agricultural problems and costing about \$1.5 billion/year. It is estimated that there are 90,000 wild pigs in California and about 5 million nationwide. A practice that the USFWS and Department of Agriculture utilize to control the pig population is hunting by helicopter. Animal rights organizations advocated installing cyclone fence, trapping, euthanasia, sterilization and/or relocation as an alternative. In San Diego, Riverside and Orange Counties, only ten wild pigs were hunted by hunters compared to 3,600 statewide. He noted that by giving some latitude to hunters, they can assist in controlling the wild pig population. At this time, hunters pay a fee of \$25/pig hunted. On June 27, 2012, The Press-Enterprise had an article on wild pig problem, which included an address to provide comments. He iterated the importance of the problem and encouraged RCA Board Members to provide their respective comments.

Chairman Hyatt thanked Tom Fuhrman for the information and prompted RCA Board Members to see him for additional information.

6. ADDITIONS/REVISIONS

There were no additions/revisions to the agenda.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/S/C (GARDNER/MONTANEZ) to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2012 meeting of the RCA Board of Directors, as submitted.

Abstention: Berg

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

8.1 AMENDMENT NO. 4 TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AND AHERN, ADCOCK AND DEVLIN, LLP, FOR MSHCP MITIGATION FEE ATTESTATION

Approve Amendment No. 4 to the Professional Services Agreement between the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority and Ahern, Adcock and Devlin, LLP, for MSHCP Mitigation Fee Attestation.

RCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Page 3 of 5

July 2, 2012

8.2 ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 12-005, RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AMENDING ITS BYLAWS TO UPDATE DELIVERY METHOD OF AGENDAS

Adopt Resolution No. 12-005, Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Amending Its Bylaws to Update Delivery Method of Agendas.

9. FACTORS LIMITING MULE DEER POPULATIONS

Chairman Hyatt introduced Jeff Villepique, an Associate Wildlife Biologist with the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) based in Big Bear. In addition to his responsibilities as Unit Biologist covering the San Bernardino Mountains and portions of Western Riverside County, he is also a helicopter net-gunner and leads the DFG Study of the San Gabriel Mountains Bighorn Sheep.

Jeff Villepique presented a report on the factors that contribute to limiting mule deer populations, including, but not limited to, precipitation, predation, habitat degradation, and human activities. In addition, he reported on mountain lion permits issued and lions killed; trends in mountain lions, bighorn sheep and mule deer from 1978 to 2003; and, comparison of rate of increase of mule deer vs. mountain lion. *(A copy of the overhead presentation is on file at RCA.)*

In response to Tom Fuhrman's request to review application for depredation permits, Jeff Villepique said that the Department of Fish and Game or law enforcement may issue a permit to persons who show evidence of damage of property, pets, livestock, etc. However, if wildlife threatens a person, their property, pets or livestock, or damage property, one does not need a permit to shoot. For example, for a mountain lion, the individual or an agent with a permit must start the chase within one mile of where the depredation occurred. However, application may vary at various regions.

Jeff Villepique continued and responded to questions presented by Tom Fuhrman, as follows: 1) the density requirement for deer is between 1 and 10 deer/square mile. This depends on the area as for an extremely dry area with little available food source; it may take as much as 10 square miles/per deer to meet their food demand; 2) with regard to the annual mountain lions killed and the cost, this is not tracked in dollars, as mountain lions could be killed under two "problem" conditions – public safety and depredation; 3) involvement of the hunting community on depredation hunts as a cost cutting measure as well as bring in revenues is a political decision. However, there may be liability issues; 4) he is not aware of the deer population in Riverside County, but in any case, the mountain lions are dependent on the availability of deer in order to survive; and, 5) hunters can apply for up to three deer tags. Statewide, for the 174,000 deer tags sold, 30,000 bucks and 469 does were killed.

RCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Page 4 of 5

July 2, 2012

On behalf of members of the RCA Board, Chairman Hyatt expressed his appreciation for Mr. Villepique's attendance and presentation.

10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

10.1 Loan Program Update

Charlie Landry, Executive Director, said that in effort to widen and gain political support for the loan program proposal, he and Doug Wheeler met with representatives of Williamson County, Texas, HCP on June 22, 2012 in Round Rock, Texas. The meeting also included staff members of Senator John Cornyn, Congressman John Carter, and the County Commissioners. RCA will exchange information with other Texas HCPs on the loan program proposal as well as other HCP matters. Following the Texas meeting, Doug Wheeler has scheduled Washington, D.C., meetings with the offices of Senator Cornyn and Congressman Carter to discuss support of the loan program. Subsequently, staff will be contacting other HCPs, including the Florida HCP. The transportation bill has passed with few amendments. Staff is working toward adding the loan program to appropriation bills, but may face difficulty with the current political situation and the upcoming presidential election.

11. LAND ACQUISITION UPDATE

Brian Beck, Land Acquisition Analyst, reported that there are four properties currently in escrow which are expected to close in two months. Currently, the total reserve land remains at 45,523 acres.

12. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

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

At this time, Michelle Ouellette, Legal Counsel, announced the Closed Session item, and Chairman Hyatt convened the meeting to Closed Session.

13. CLOSED SESSION ITEM

13.1 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION Pursuant to Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9

- **RIC 532973 Empire Homes**

After Closed Session, Chairman Hyatt reconvened the meeting. There were no announcements from the Closed Session item.

RCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Page 5 of 5

July 2, 2012

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no items to be considered, Chairman Hyatt adjourned the meeting. The next meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday, September 10, 2012, at 12:30 p.m. at the County of Riverside Administrative Center, Board Room, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, California.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Honey Bernas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "H".

Honey Bernas
Clerk of the Board