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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES Wednesday, January 15, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Executive Committee was called to order by Chairman Ingram at 12:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 15, 2020, at the RCA Conference Room, 3403 Tenth Street, Suite 320, Riverside, California, 92501.

2. ROLL CALL – was taken by April Boydd.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT	COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT
Jonathan Ingram, Chair – City of Murrieta	Crystal Ruiz – City of San Jacinto
Natasha Johnson, Vice Chair – City of Lake Elsinore	
Lesa Sobek – City of Menifee	
Kevin Jeffries – County of Riverside, District 1	
Jeff Hewitt – County of Riverside, District 5	

**Arrived after start of meeting ** Departed before meeting adjourned*

Tom Mullen, Interim Executive Director, requested that RCA Staff introduce themselves to the Executive Committee.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

4. COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Committee Member announcements.

5. ADDITIONS/REVISIONS

There were no additions or revisions.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 20, 2019

M/S/C (City of Lake Elsinore/City of Menifee) to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2019, meeting of the Executive Committee as submitted.

(5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain)

7. WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MSHCP FEE COLLECTION REPORT FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2019

Jennifer Fuller, Director of Administrative Services, reported that for the months of November and December 2019, the total of fee collection receipts was \$2,263,180.

M/S/C (County of Riverside District 5/City of Lake Elsinore) to approve this item as recommended:

- 1) Recommend that the RCA Board of Directors receive and file the Western Riverside County MSHCP Fee Collection Report for November and December 2019; and
- 2) Authorize staff to agendaize this matter for the February 3, 2020, meeting of the RCA Board of Directors.

(5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain)

8. DISCUSSION CONCERNING WILDFIRE ISSUES

Tom Mullen, Interim Executive Director, stated that Dave Driscoll, who worked for CDF, will work to create the Fire Management Plan. He will be attending meetings with the County of Riverside, CDF, and U.S. Forestry regarding a Fire Management Plan. RCA will follow-up on insurance.

John Field presented a map of the RCA areas of concern for fire risk.

Chair Ingram stated that RCA will be working on fire risk concerns over the next few months and will bring back more information as warranted.

Tom Mullen requested that the Executive Committee refer concerned constituents to the RCA as soon as possible.

Chair Ingram stated that Mr. Mullen will be essential in working with Sacramento and D.C. to try and get peripheral funding.

Board Member Hewitt stated that RCA needs to apply for every source of funds.

Chair Ingram mentioned that RCA will be meeting with the Wildlife Agencies to see if it's possible to use setback areas as defensible space and maintain them for areas that do not. He also stated that if RCA is able to do maintenance through the federal government that might allow for funding.

Board Member Hewitt mentioned the importance of insurance policies and having a Wildland Fire Agreement with the State.

9. DISCUSSION CONCERNING MOUNTAIN BIKING

Tom Mullen, Interim Executive Director, stated that Tricia Campbell is setting up a meeting with several groups regarding mountain biking issues.

Chair Ingram stated that multiple HOA's parallel open space areas. He stated that a year ago, there were approximately 17 to 18 miles of trails. There are now approximately 365 miles of trails built without permission affecting protected areas.

Tom Mullen stated that the Board of Supervisors might want to look at getting 5,000 to 10,000 acres in the Anza area to provide a recreational area for riders. If RCA can get a viable source of funding, maybe the RCA could assist with mitigation.

Chair Ingram stated that locals need access to the local trails. He stated that they looked at remapping everything to create trails and met with Walmart and bicycle groups and they are all onboard to participate. The big problem is that the riders are leaving trash and are trespassing on protected lands. There needs to be a mechanism in place to hold them accountable.

Board Member Hewitt stated that if RCA is going to restrict the riders on where they can ride, then they need to find lands for the riders to safely ride on and will need to find a way to maintain those lands.

Vice Chair Johnson stated that the challenge is creating a mechanism that will successfully hold the riders accountable and be sustainable and consistent.

Chair Ingram stated that RCA is looking at who can help with funding and an endowment. He will be working with RCA staff to create a mapping system of the areas the public can ride in and the cost associated with it.

Chair Ingram stated that Tricia Campbell is working to set up a meeting to work through these issues. The key to everything coming together will be bringing in the bike manufacturers, bicycle clubs, equestrians, and others involved.

10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

10.1 UPDATE REGARDING WEBSITE

Tom Mullen, Interim Executive Director, stated that RCA staff had a meeting Tuesday to go over the website. He stated that staff will be making some slight modifications. The RCA should be able to bring the website to the next Executive Committee meeting for a preview.

Chair Ingram asked if a calculator will be on the website to assist the public in totaling the estimated fees.

Tom Mullen stated that he will look into the calculator on the website.

Vice Chair Johnson asked what the timeline is for the website to be finished.

Tom Mullen stated that RCA should be able to bring the website forward at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Chair Ingram requested that RCA staff forward the link to the Executive Committee for review if the website is finished before the next Executive Committee meeting.

Vice Chair Johnson asked why the Executive Committee needs to see the website first.

Chair Ingram stated that he wants the Executive Committee to make sure that it has everything that is supposed to be incorporated. He wants to make sure the city or the public can access all of the documents they need. He also wants to make sure they can access a calculator that will estimate the MSHCP fee associated with their project.

Tom Mullen stated that having the public be able to go on the website and pull up the area they are interested in and calculate the MSHCP fees will save staff time and give the public an idea of the estimated fees associated with the land they are interested in.

Board Member Hewitt stated that it needs to be clear when using the calculator that it is only an estimate.

10.2 NEXUS STUDY UPDATE

Honey Bernas, Deputy Executive Director, stated that RCA staff and the Chair had a conference call with the BIA.

Tom Mullen stated that RCA staff set the BIA up with the RCA's contractor so that they can go over the numbers together. RCA staff will meet again with the BIA to discuss the numbers once they have had time to review them and possibly bring to the Board in March depending on how things go with the BIA.

Tom Mullen stated that it is important to understand that these are not bondable fees, which means that in a recession RCA will not receive as much funding. RCA needs a bondable source of funds.

Chair Ingram stated that in regards to the Nexus Study if RCA does a onetime fee it is so astronomical it won't work and that he does not see another option, but to extend the plan a minimum of another 15 years to reduce the impact. RCA needs to focus on bondable funds and make sure that the BIA and everyone else is on board to figure out how to fund the Plan.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: *(Committee members are invited to suggest additional items to be brought forward for future discussion.)*

Chair Ingram stated that RCA will be working with Lake Elsinore regarding the Poppy issue and they will be working with the Wildlife Agencies regarding the Lake's Edge (Lakeshore Town Center Project) to assist the city in any way possible.

Chair Ingram requested that a discussion be brought back to the Executive Committee to look at a way for RCA to offer people the ability to pay fees in advance and possibly for RCA to collect fees directly. He also requested that Steve DeBaun, General Counsel, reach out to WRCOG on their process and bring the information back to the Executive Committee.

Chair Ingram requested that the Poppy issue be added to the February Board of Directors meeting for discussion.

Vice Chair Johnson requested that RCA add an update on the recruitment process for the Executive Director to every future Executive Committee agenda until the Executive Director is hired.

Board Member Hewitt requested a smooth transition in management and for RCA to keep doing what they are doing and find better funding sources.

Vice Chair Johnson requested that RCA continue to focus on transparency and bringing awareness to RCA.

12. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS:

12.1 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957

Title: Executive Director

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After closed session, the meeting was reconvened. There were no announcements from General Counsel on closed session.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no more items before the Executive Committee, Chairman Ingram adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m. The next meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Executive Committee will be held on Wednesday, February 19, 2020, at 12:00 p.m., at the Riverside Centre, 3403 Tenth Street, Suite 320, Third Floor, RCA Conference Room, Riverside, California, 92501.

Prepared by:



April Boydd
Administrative Manager

Respectfully submitted:



Jennifer Fuller
Director of Administrative Services