

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 3, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Board of Directors Meeting was called to order by Chair Natasha Johnson at 12:30 p.m., via Zoom Meeting ID 850 7931 4586, pursuant to Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-29-20.

2. ROLL CALL

Board of Directors/Alternates Present

Karen Spiegel*
Chuck Washington
Jeff Hewitt
Colleen Wallace
Julio Martinez*
Jeff Cervantez
Larry Greene
Tony Daddario
Jocelyn Yow
Linda Krupa
Lorena Barajas

Natasha Johnson
Lesa Sobek*
David Marquez
Jonathan Ingram*
Kevin Bash
David Starr Rabb
Crystal Ruiz
Maryann Edwards
Ben J. Benoit

Board of Directors Absent

Kevin Jeffries
V. Manuel Perez
Erin Edwards

*Arrived after the meeting was called to order.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member Greene.

At this time, Board Member Martinez joined the meeting.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no requests to speak from the public.

5. ADDITIONS / REVISIONS

There were no additions or revisions to the agenda.

6. CLOSED SESSION

At this time, Steve DeBaun, legal counsel, announced the Board would be going in to Closed Session to discuss the four items on the agenda.

At this time, Board Members Sobek and Spiegel joined the meeting.

6A. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8

Agency Negotiator: Executive Director or Designee

Item	Property Description	Property Owner	Buyer(s)
1	932-270-005 & 932-270-006	The Nature Conservancy (Schumacher)	RCA
2	932-160-026	The Nature Conservancy (LaFleur)	RCA
3	932-170-019	The Nature Conservancy (KS California)	RCA

6B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL: EXISTING LITIGATION

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)

Case No. RIC1901547

6C. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

There were no announcements from Closed Session.

At this time, Board Member Washington left the meeting.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR - *All matters on the Consent Calendar will be approved in a single motion unless a Board Member(s) requests separate action on specific item(s).*

M/S/C (M. Edwards/Greene) to approve the following Consent Calendar items.

7A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 5, 2021

7B. WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN FEE COLLECTION REPORT

This item is for the Board of Directors to receive and file the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) Fee Collection Report for March 2021.

7C. ADOPT RESOLUTIONS NOS. 2021-008, 2021-011, AND 2021-012 AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FOR ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY

This item is for the Board of Directors to:

- 1) Adopt Resolution No. 2021-008, *“Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Authorizing Entering into Grant Agreements with the Wildlife Conservation Board and Authorizing the Acquisition of All or a Portion of Assessor Parcel Number 932-160-026 Totaling Approximately 20.37 Acres in the County of Riverside”*;
- 2) Adopt Resolution No. 2021-011, *“Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Authorizing Entering into Grant Agreements with the Wildlife Conservation Board and Authorizing the Acquisition of All or a Portion of Assessor Parcel Numbers 932-270-005 and 932-270-006 Totaling Approximately 51.76 Acres in the County of Riverside”*; and
- 3) Adopt Resolution No. 2021-012, *“Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Authorizing Entering into Grant Agreements with the Wildlife Conservation Board and Authorizing the Acquisition of All or a Portion of Assessor Parcel Number 932-170-019 Totaling Approximately 20.18 Acres in the County of San Bernardino”*.

7D. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

This item is for the Board of Directors to receive and file an update on state and federal legislation.

8. AUTHORIZATION TO ACQUIRE TAX-DEFAULTED PROPERTIES FROM THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2021-013 OBJECTING TO THE PUBLIC SALE

At this time, Board Member Ingram joined the meeting.

Board Member Marquez asked whether any of the delinquent taxes due on the properties had been paid and whether the properties had already been appraised. Hector Casillas, Right of Way Manager, noted that none of the three properties had made a tax payment and they are still available. The properties are not being purchased based on their appraised value, but rather the amount of delinquent taxes due, so no appraisal has been completed.

M/S/C (Marquez/Sobek) to:

- 1) **Authorize the acquisition of tax-defaulted properties from the Riverside County Treasurer-Tax Collector for open space for wildlife and plant life conservation in an amount not to exceed \$56,462; and;**

- 2) **Adopt Resolution No. 2021-013, “Resolution of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Objecting to the Public Sale and Approving the Purchase of the Tax-Defaulted Property from the Riverside County Treasurer-Tax Collector”.**

9. DRAFT PUBLIC OUTREACH PLAN

Cheryl Donahue, Public Affairs Manager, provided a presentation on the Draft Public Outreach Plan for the RCA. The draft plan focuses on more ways the RCA can help to build a bridge to the community. Building upon the previously laid foundation, the public outreach goals are being improved with experienced staff, digital campaigns, and a deliberate process with quarterly updates provided to the Board. Since the beginning of the year, the team has been learning about the RCA, gathered baseline data from social media accounts, expanded the contact database, and reformatted The Vista newsletter.

Chair Johnson expressed excitement at the presentation and for the Board to see not only all the work that has gone into this plan, but also that there will be quarterly updates with measurable metrics.

Board Member Ingram noted that years back, when a public outreach effort was started, the goal was to target foundations, environmental groups, or landowners who were interested in donating land or capital to fund land purchases. He inquired whether that idea was included in the new plan. Ms. Donahue stated this is something she would look at and noted that there is currently a place on the RCA website for donations.

Board Member Martinez mentioned that as a teacher at a local school district, if the RCA was looking for a small district to target some ideas, he would be willing to assist.

Board Member Benoit stated that a similar program was started at the Air Quality and Mobility District (AQMD) several years ago with similar starting stats, now, at least 4 years later, they have over 9,500 followers on Twitter. AQMD is now working to have all their educational material on YouTube to allow any teacher access to the information.

Lisa Mobley, Clerk of the Board, noted that the RCA meetings are being broadcast on YouTube, and the meetings that have been conducted via Zoom since the beginning of the year, will also be uploaded and available to the public.

Board Member Daddario asked staff to send out this presentation to the Board for their review.

Board Member M. Edwards inquired as to whether the education piece of the plan included something for high schoolers and career technical students interested in internships or apprenticeships. Ms. Donahue noted that the very first efforts have just been put together for the education piece of this plan, but she will make note of the suggestion and take it into consideration.

Board Member Sobek thanked staff for the presentation and their efforts and asked about the distribution of the newsletter. Ms. Donahue noted that the newsletter gets sent to the RCA Board, as well as all council members in Western Riverside cities.

This item is for the Board of Directors to receive a presentation summarizing the Draft Public Outreach plan.

10. ROUGH STEP COMPLIANCE COMMUNICATION

Tricia Campbell, Reserve Management and Monitoring Manager, provided a presentation on the Rough Step Compliance Communication. The RCA will be reaching out to the MSHCP permittees who have jurisdiction in the three Rough Step units that are out of balance. Under the MSHCP, a permittee is not to authorize removal of a vegetation community that is out of Rough Step compliance.

This item is for the Board of Directors to receive and file this informational item on Rough Step Compliance Communication.

11. PRESENTATION – GETTING TO KNOW THE MSHCP

Tricia Campbell, Reserve Management and Monitoring Manager, provided a presentation on the MSHCP permittees. The MSHCP permittees are comprised of 18 cities, as well as, the County of Riverside, Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Regional Park and Open Space District, Department of Waste Resources, RCTC, the RCA, the California Department of Transportation, and California Department of Parks and Recreation. All permittees are signatory to the implementing agreement and fulfill their requirements of the MSHCP through a discretionary approval process. Apart from the MSHCP permittees, there are also partners or cooperating agencies. Partners or cooperating agencies play an integral role in supporting the permittees of the MSHCP.

12. BOARD OF DIRECTORS / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Overview

Anne Mayer, Executive Director, provided a Nexus Study Update. Currently, 94% of jurisdictions have made significant progress on the approval and adoption of the Nexus Study Update. At the end of this week, there will be at least 11 jurisdictions which have fully adopted the Nexus Study. Staff remains on stand-by for each of the council meetings, both before to help city staff and ensure Board Members have all the information they need, and during the council meetings to make sure someone is on hand to answer any questions that might arise.

Chair Johnson thanked staff for the support that has been offered to the various council meetings. This proactive approach has ensured that city staff and council members are ready to consider the Nexus Study Update.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for consideration by the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Board of Directors, Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 1:22 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled to be held on **Monday, June 7, 2021**, via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lisa", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lisa Mobley
Administrative Services Manager/
Clerk of the Board