

# **WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, June 7, 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 896 3266 5692, pursuant to Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-29-20.

### **2. ROLL CALL**

#### **Board of Directors/Alternates Present**

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

Natasha Johnson  
David Marquez  
Jonathan Ingram  
Kevin Bash  
David Starr Rabb  
Erin Edwards\*  
Maryann Edwards  
Ben J. Benoit

#### **Board of Directors Absent**

Chuck Washington  
V. Manuel Perez  
Lesa Sobek  
Crystal Ruiz

\*Arrived after the meeting was called to order.

### **3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member Krupa.

A moment of silence was observed for Board Member Ruiz, who is currently ill and in the hospital.

At this time, Board Members Spiegel and E. Edwards arrived.

### **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. 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 (Hewitt/Greene) to approve the following Consent Calendar items.**

**6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 3, 2021**

**6B. FISCAL YEAR 2020/21 THIRD QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT**

This item is for the Board of Directors to receive and file the FY 2020/21 Third Quarter Financial Report.

**6C. WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN FEE COLLECTION REPORT FOR APRIL 2021**

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

**6D. FISCAL YEAR 2020/21 THIRD QUARTER CONSULTANT REPORTS**

This item is for the Board of Directors to receive and file the FY 2021/21 Consultant Reports.

**6E. RECURRING CONTRACTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021/22**

- 1) Approve the single-year recurring contracts in an amount not to exceed \$3,334,393, for FY 2021/22;
- 2) Approve the recurring contracts for specialized services in an amount not to exceed \$250,000, in FY 2021/22 and \$1,000,000, in FYs 2022/23 - 2025/26; and
- 3) Authorize the Chair or Executive Director, pursuant to legal counsel review, to execute the agreements on behalf of RCA.

**7. ADOPTION OF FISCAL YEAR 2021/22 BUDGET AND APPROVAL OF THE BIOLOGICAL MONITORING PROGRAM WORKPLANS**

Jennifer Fuller, Financial Administration Manager, provided a presentation on the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Budget. In accordance with past practice, 10% of participating special entities revenues will be allocated to the endowment for future preservation. The 2020 Nexus Study recommends that 15% of Local Development Mitigation Fee (LDMF) revenue also be allocated to the endowment. The MSHCP allows property owners who do not intend to file a development application to submit their properties for evaluation and possible acquisition under the Habitat Evaluation and Acquisition Negotiation Strategy (HANS process). Consistent with the current budget, staff recommends allocating 5% of LDMF revenue

collections to the acquisition of non-development HANS properties. The economic stability policy requires a minimum cash level of \$9 million, to be able to continue operations for at least 18 months.

The RCA staff anticipates the beginning fiscal year fund balance at \$54.9 million, just over half of this amount is restricted to how it can be spent or is reserved for non-spendable endowments. The Fiscal Year 2021/22 Budget includes estimated revenue sources of \$53.3 million and estimated uses of \$50.4 million.

Board Member Ingram inquired about the Auditing line item for \$85,000, and whether it was for the random audit process for the cities that have collected fees. Ms. Fuller noted that the audit fees listed is related to the RCA single audit and the annual financial audit. Any leftover amount would be used to pay the remainder of the cities agreed upon procedures audits for Fiscal Year 2020/21. The agreed upon procedures audits for Fiscal Year 2021/22 will be under RCTC's contract and will be reimbursed by the RCA. Board Member Ingram asked about the online payment process that was going to be implemented in an effort to eliminate the audit process, which could save money as well as giving us accurate data on permits and fees.

Anne Mayer, Executive Director, noted that the automatic fee collection is on the list of Board directed priorities, and staff has started doing the research and toured WRCOG's system. While this is something that is being pursued, it likely will not be fully implemented prior to needing the random audits. Board Member Ingram asked that a timeline for implementation be provided to the Board in the next couple months for reference.

**M/S/C (Ingram/Benoit) to:**

- 1) Adopt the FY 2021/22 Budget and related Resolution No. 2021-014, "Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Adopting the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Operating and Capital Budget Including Budget Policies";**
- 2) Approve the Biological Monitoring Program Work Plan and Cost Estimate included as Appendix B in the FY 2021/22 Budget; and**
- 3) Approve the Clinton Keith Road Overcrossing Mitigation Monitoring Reimbursable Program Work Plan and Cost Estimate included as Appendix C in the FY 2021/22 Budget.**

## **8. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

David Knudsen, Legislative Affairs Manager, provided a presentation on the legislative update for the RCA. The Legislative Affairs team have been working on advocating for federal funds using community project funding, congressionally directed spending, and programmatic funding. Advocating for state funds have included both Wildlife Prevention and Climate Resiliency Bond Measures and member budget requests. Altogether, there is currently \$123.4 million in federal fund requests, and \$253 million in state fund requests.

Mr. Knudsen shared a clip of the senate hearing from May 19<sup>th</sup> showing testimony provided by Ed Sullivan, Executive Director of the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency, in support of the RCA and Habitat Conservation Plans across California on the behalf of the California Habitat Conservation Plan Coalition. Mr. Sullivan's remarks are the result of a strong partnership with the coalition and the ongoing strategic communication with federal officials.

Chair Johnson expressed excitement at the comments made by Mr. Sullivan, as they are almost verbatim the priorities of the RCA.

Board Member M. Edwards asked that the RCA continue to have regular communication with state and federal officials to continue to increase the visibility of the RCA.

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

**9. PRESENTATION - SPECIES OF THE MONTH**

Betsy Dionne, Senior Management Analyst Management and Monitoring, provided a presentation on the species of the month, the Double-Crested Cormorant.

Board Member Greene noted that Canyon Lake has many cormorants, and they seem to be frequent visitors.

**10. BOARD OF DIRECTORS / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

***Overview***

Anne Mayer, Executive Director, reported that all cities have adopted all the necessary documentation for implementation of the Nexus Study Update. The County will be having their public hearing tomorrow, so it could possibly be adopted tomorrow as well. The last several months have been very busy, and there is a great appreciation for the RCA staff who worked hard with each of the member agencies and their staff to accomplish the adoptions. The next steps will be working toward implementation of the update. Ms. Mayer thanked the Board for their participation, leadership, and support in getting the Nexus Study Update adopted by their cities.

Chair Johnson echoed Ms. Mayer's comments and thanked the Board for the work that's been completed thus far. Ms. Johnson reminded the Board that staff is still available for any questions that may come up about the Nexus Study Update or implementation.

**11. 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 1:18 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled to be held on **Monday, July 12, 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