

MINUTES

Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, November 9, 2023, at 4:00 PM

Truax Building
41923 Second Street, Fourth Floor
Temecula, CA 92590

I. Preliminary Functions

Call to Order, 4:00 p.m., meeting recorded by Rae Shirer

Flag Salute

Roll Call/Establish a Quorum

Directors Present: Teri Biancardi (President), Newt Parkes (Secretary/Treasurer), Jeff McClenahan (Director), Pablo Bryant (Vice President), Rose Corona (Director)

Directors Absent: None

Office Manager: Rae Shirer

Public Guests: Randy Feeney, Bradley Greenman, Keir Thomas (NRCS)

I. Approval of Agenda:

Director Corona requested that the agenda be pulled. She then requested that #4 be moved from the consent calendar to action items. She further requested that #5 be tabled to the next available meeting and that items 7 and 8 be pulled for further discussion. Director Corona read her November 9, 2023, email sent to all directors regarding the status of her objection to payment of 4 outstanding invoices to Riverside County Counsel. President Biancardi called for a motion to approve the agenda with item 4 moved to action items. Director Bryant moved to approve the agenda as revised, Director Parkes seconded. Upon voice vote, the agenda was approved.

II. Approval of Consent Calendar:

Director Corona requested that the minutes be pulled. She stated that she had a discussion with Sebastian Valente regarding his comments at the last meeting. He wished to clarify that he was not volunteering to serve TEAM RCD at this time but was only asking what the plan for volunteers would be going forward. President Biancardi then moved that the minutes be approved, with a revision to make this change. Director Bryant seconded. Upon voice vote, the revised minutes were approved.

President Biancardi then moved to approve the consent calendar. Director Bryant seconded. Upon voice vote, the consent calendar was approved.

III. Action Items:

4. The board next considered the proposal to allow the Secretary/Treasurer to take independent action to approve the reinvestment of certificates of deposit if board review cannot be obtained in a timely manner. Director Corona moved to approve the proposal; Director Bryand seconded. Upon voice vote, the proposal was unanimously approved, Director Parkes abstaining.
5. The board discussed the 4 outstanding legal bills which are subject to ongoing objections by Director Corona. The office of the County Counsel responded to Director Corona's correspondence to Mr. Minh, however Director Corona is further addressing this with the County Auditor, as well as the state auditor and controller. President Biancardi moved to approve payment of the outstanding invoices; Director Bryant seconded. Upon voice vote, the motion was approved 4-1, with Director Corona voting nay.
6. Manager Shirer reported on the status of the email transition, requesting approval to go forward with archiving and transitioning to the Microsoft platform. Public comment was received from Bradley Greenman, attorney for Government Watchdogs. Mr. Greenman stated that he had only heard from County Counsel on November 9th, prior to this board meeting, regarding the 3-step plan to archive existing email. President Biancardi moved to authorize the office manager to implement the transition to the Microsoft platform at a cost not to exceed \$1800 for export costs and subscription fees and to proceed with the archive of existing email in native and eml format as of December 31, 2023, at a cost not to exceed \$2000. Director Bryant seconded. Upon voice vote, the motion was approved 4-1, with Director Corona voting nay.
7. The board next discussed the NACD "Cultivating Inclusion" grant. Director Corona stated that no statement of work could be approved until a director was appointed as manager of the grant and a plan for expenditures was approved. Following discussion, Director Bryant moved to approve the statement of work for Mission RCD; Director McClenahan seconded. Upon voice vote, the motion was approved 3-1, with Director Parkes abstaining and Director Corona voting nay.
8. The board next considered the status of the WETA grant. President Biancardi stated that the agreement has not yet been signed although it has been received. She then discussed the issue of project management for the grant, which contains a greater allocation to project management than was anticipated but not enough to hire a full-time program manager. President Biancardi proposes that, in addition to Mission RCD work, that TEAM RCD recruit and hire a Climate Corp fellow to assist in managing the project. Director Corona asked that TEAM RCD send out a RFP to other parties, including SAWA, for project management. Director Corona agreed to work with President Biancardi to write the RFP. President Biancardi stated that a contract with Climate Corp needs to be signed by December 31st. President Biancardi requested authority to work with the WETA team to submit a budget modification and necessary paperwork; to issue

- an RFP for project management work as described in the proposed Mission RCD statement of work, draft a Climate Corp job description for a fellow and prepare for contract approval (with legal oversight). Director Parkes moved to grant the authority as presented. Director Parkes seconded Upon voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.
9. Director McClenahan provided an update regarding the strategic plan and suggested that work on the five-year plan resume after the first of the year. He reported that he had spoken with Bill Long and notified him that planning was on hold.
 10. President Biancardi asked Director Corona for some background regarding TEAM RCD mitigation projects. Director Corona reported that the conservation easement program statewide had been troubled, with many RCDs unable to effectively manage the endowments. The program now contains a due diligence requirement in order to qualify as a mitigation manager. President Biancardi noted that conservation easements would be a possible avenue for TEAM RCD in the future.
 11. Due to pressing grant deadlines and other business, the December meeting will not be cancelled.

IV. Management Report:

Manager Shirer reported on the progress of the document retention project, stating that a rough sort into 10 boxes, sorted by document typed, had been completed. She is now inventorying the individual file folders.

V. Directors' Reports:

The directors then reported on interesting projects and conversations happening in the area. No future action items were noted in this discussion.

VI. Future Agenda Items:

VII: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the board, upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Regular Meeting: December 14, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Dated: 12/14/2023


Newt Parkes, Secretary/Treasurer