

## **MINUTES**

Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, August 11, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

Truax Building

41923 Second Street, Fourth Floor

Temecula, CA 92590

### **I. PRELIMINARY FUNCTIONS**

Call to Order: 4:00 p.m. meeting recorded by Rose Corona

#### **Flag Salute**

#### **Roll Call/Establish a Quorum**

**Directors Present:** Rose Corona (President), Newt Parkes (Secretary-Treasurer), Randy Feeney (Director) , Teri Biancardi (Director), Pablo Bryant-(Director) Rick Neugebauer- Associate Director

**Directors Absent-**None

**Associate Directors Present:** None

**Associate Directors Absent:** None

**Office Manager:** Darlene Gilbert-Present

#### **Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCS)**

**District Counsel:** Melissa Cushman-Absent

**Guest Speakers:** Mandy Parkes-Executive Director Inland Empire RCD

**Public Guests:** Margaret Meyncke, Karen Hanson, Jeff McClanahan

#### **Approval of Agenda**

President Corona asks for a motion to approve the agenda and minutes as presented. Director Parkes seconded. With no further discussion, President Corona calls for a vote. Unanimous vote-5-0.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Margaret Meyncke had started a new group called Temecula Valley Native Plant Network spoke regarding saying that the group is a new group started locally, it is unaffiliated and has no sponsoring organization consisting of educators, professors, professional people and plant enthusiasts. The goal is to promote native plants and those that are planting can be put on a map so they can be tracked by others interested in their program. She is also bringing it to the attention of cities, schools, libraries and other organizations and wanted the TEAM to know about them.

Karen Hanson also spoke who has started a Butterfly Garden project and is also involved in the Temecula Valley Native Plant Network. She further explained that the Winchester Creek Park has a Butterfly Garden. She went on to say that Temecula to start more Butterfly parks and is speaking to different cities to talk to them about changing their guidelines through the planning departments. AD Neugebauer asked about how the line is drawn between native and drought tolerant plants and how those overlap also how invasives are incorporated into that plan. With no further public speakers the Board moved on.

## **II. ACTION ITEMS**

### **Item 1: Update and review of final signed Vegetation Management Contract with Flood Control-**

President Corona proceeded to explain that the final year of the 5 year Vegetation Management Contract with Flood Control and that the contract has been signed for the remaining year. The initial hope that the contract could be amended to accommodate the Murrieta Creek work which was discussed at previous meetings. However, the contract did include the VV channel which is east of the Temecula Hospital. The Murrieta Creek project will be discussed in the next year's contract. By then TEAM and Flood Control will have a better idea if Army Corps will be continuing the remainder of the project. There was very positive feedback from Flood Control to continue another with another 5 year contract at the end of fiscal year 2023 and potentially expand to more projects. No further discussion necessary.

### **Item 2: Update on Greer Ranch Conservation Easement, responsibilities and progress of HOA/Lennar-**

President Corona proceeded to explain to the Board the history of the acquisition of the Greer Ranch Conservation Easement which was established over 15 years ago. She noted that although TEAM RCD has continued to fulfill its obligations under the originally signed documents however, in the last few years there has been a discussions as to the exact responsibilities of the HOA and TEAM RCD. In doing some research it was discovered that Lennar (the original developer) had not completed the formality of turning over the final legal ownership to the Greer Ranch HOA. So at this time, Lennar and Greer Ranch are working on finalizing this process and TEAM RCD will continue to provide the quarterly inspections and also the annual report to Greer Ranch.

She also gave the Board an update on the most recent quarterly reports that are being performed by Inland Empire RCD on behalf of TEAM RCD.

Director Biancardi then reminded President Corona that the Consent Calendar may not have been approved at the beginning of the meeting. President Corona asked for a motion to accept the consent calendar to include correspondence and financial reports. Motion seconded by Director Biancardi. No further discussion, motion passed 5-0.

**Item 3-Update, Discussion and potential approval on current progress on Cal-Recycle grants and potential submission of applications-** Director Biancardi proceeded to discuss the background of the CalRecycle programs. In summary, it is a farm and ranch solid waste cleanup program that, with the proper zoning, would allow citizens that own such property and have had solid waste or trash on their property, Cal-Recycle provides clean up grants for farmers and ranchers or owners of qualified properties. She also indicated that as an individual one cannot apply but must go through a district such as TEAM RCD. She also provided the Board with an update as to the contacts she has put together and posted with the various agencies with the flyer she has created. She also indicated that she has sent the flyer off to many people in Anza, Aguanga, Sage area and the High Country Journal. President Corona suggested that another contact would be the Back Country Horseman a group that rides up in the Anza/Aguanga area. Director Biancardi indicated that she would do so. Director Biancardi also spoke of Homeland having a lot of challenges, although Homeland is not within our district. Director Corona also mentioned that she would reach out to the Riverside County Farm Bureau.

**Item 4-Update on SALC grants and discussion on potential for NACD grants-** Executive Director for Inland Empire RCD Mandy Parkes took the floor and proceeded to discuss the SALC grants that had been up for discussion in previous meetings. She proceeded to say that IERCD had a SALC grant and described the challenges that TEAM RCD might find in taking on a large grant from a major Bureau of the State without sufficient staff and a tax base, the challenges of meeting the deliverables with any large grant. She also suggested that perhaps NACD grants may be easier for the District to manage with a partnership with other RCD's such as Inland Empire or Mission or perhaps all three. She described how with the tax base her district works with and the additional staff, how they manage their SALC grants. The NACD grants may work better in that TEAM would not have to wait for the monies to come after the grant is complete and they are very flexible in being able to change should challenges arise that may have to redirect the focus of the grant. She also mentioned the CARCD is also an organization that we could partner with other RCD's that would be something that would be advantageous for TEAM RCD.

Ms. Parkes went on to describe several grants that Inland Empire is working on including the regional fire and forestry capacity building grant that deals with actual treatment, fuels treatment, dead tree removal. But there are many others and exploring the possibilities would be probably be very beneficial for TEAM RCD.

President Corona added that she saw the challenges of fulfilling grant requirements in order to finally get paid for the grant itself when doing the Boot Strap grants a few years back. Although TEAM finally got paid there was a tremendous amount of back and forth to ensure all the correct paperwork was submitted.

AD Neugebauer noted that he just wanted state that what TEAM RCD has been able to establish and achieve has been astonishing and that due to the work of the Board and the relationships that have been built with different entities, RCWD, Inland Empire and Mission RCD's, SAWA and others the District has finally started to thrive and so TEAM is in more of a position to start taking on these grants with partners. Director Biancardi asked about the Americorps Program and if IERCD had worked with those. Ms. Parkes responded that they have and things have worked out well for them. Ms. Parkes concluded by summarizing the various grants that might work for TEAM and offered to help wherever possible.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Item 1: Discussion and potential approval for TEAM RCD to host a Regional RCD meeting-** President Corona noted that there has been discussions with Ms. Parkes to collaborate on a potential Regional Meeting for Southern California prior to the annual CARCD meeting. The decision was made to have an in person meeting hopefully on a Saturday since it is more convenient for people to come. President Corona mentioned that she had spoken with Jeff Brandt of CDFW Cannabis division, and the remaining RCD's would be invited which would include Riverside-Corona, San Jacinto, Coachella Valley, Inland Empire and Mission RCD to see who would like to attend. The decision was made for the President to find a location in Temecula the first of second week in November. President Corona said she would find some locations and then reach out to the other RCD's to see what dates might work and what the potential attendance would be. November 5 and 12<sup>th</sup> were tentative dates to consider. Margaret Meyncke, guest, was recognized by the chair because she wanted to know if the public was allowed to attend such a meeting and it was indicated that, yes, the public could come but were required to pay for their own lunch if they were attending. President Corona made a motion to have TEAM RCD host the Regional meeting in November. Seconded by Randy Feeney. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

**Item 2: discussion and Potential Approval of Shared Employee w/ IERCD-** President Corona discussed the potential of sharing an employee to do some of the outstanding filing and administrative work for TEAM RCD on a shared basis with IERCD. Ms. Parkes indicated that we already have an MOU and this would provide the employee that they have to have more hours and help expand her knowledge by working with other RCD's. Ms. Parkes informed the Board that she has an agreement and the costs would be shared once a regular schedule is coordinated

with IERCD and regular hours and times of work are arranged on a monthly basis. President Corona asked for a motion. Director Biancardi made a motion to accept a shared employee with IERCD, Second by Newt Parkes. Motion passed 5-0.

**Item 3-Discussion and Update on Clinton Keith Property-**President Corona gave the Board an update on the 75 acres of property owned by TEAM RCD off of Clinton Keith Road that had been purchased in 2009. The District has some mitigation monies that go with the property and the Board had decided that perhaps it could be given to another Conservation organization to maintain and work. The President has been in discussions with Rivers and Lands Conservancy to see if they would be interested in taking the property. WE have asked SAWA to do a site assessment to enable to have further discussions with RLC. It is hoped that TEAM should be able to get a report within 2-3 weeks and hopefully have something to discuss at the next meeting.

**Item 4-Discussion and potential approval for document archiving, storage and duplicative documents-** President Corona reported that the Board has a lot of duplicative paperwork and would like to have it scanned and stored in the Cloud. The Board would keep the required documents in the files however duplicative ones would be scanned (if they had not been already). President asked for a motion to go forward with storage of old documents to the cloud. Newt Parkes made the motion and Randy Feeney seconded the motion. No further discussion, motion passed 5-0.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Item 1-Update on Homeless Monitoring-** Director Newt Parkes noted in his report that during the June meeting he reported that one of the project sites Tualota Creek had a homeless issue associated with it. It has been cleaned up and hasn't had any homeless return. Two other sites however still have not been addressed (Santa Gertrudis and Temecula Creek III) have lots of activity and continued activity. We have reported that to the appropriate city departments have been contacted and we will continue to monitor. He also mentioned that Lake Elsinore has yet to find a replacement for Nicole Daily of the homeless task force however they continue to be on top of grant applications and continue their SWAG and Anchor work. Director Parkes met with Lindsay Sisti and Brian Ambrose who are in charge of the homeless outreach and coordination for the City of Murrieta have met with Director Parkes and agreed to speak at our September meeting.

Director Biancardi bought up a side note that Mike Woods from City of Temecula was interested in using goats for vegetation management in a particular area and she reports that Mr. Woods keeps reporting it to Flood Control but they don't do the vegetation management in that particular area. It might be managed by TEAM RCD but the exact site wasn't specified. Director Biancardi wanted to know if it was TEAM's choice of locations or Flood Control. President Corona noted that it was up to Flood Control to choose those sites and that is dependent on their budget. She also noted that if there were other areas that belong to the City that we could certainly work on the areas they want. We would just send SAWA over to do a site inspection and give the City an amount for the work. We are the last group that will

go in as a rule. It will usually be law enforcement, assistance groups for the homeless, City and/or hazmat or responsible party, wait 90 days to see if there is return of encampment and then TEAM RCD can do work. Director Biancardi also wanted to know what was the connection between the RCD and the homeless monitoring that was getting reported on. President Corona responded by letting the Board know that this was something she had requested at the beginning of the contract in order to keep an eye on the sites on a regular basis so not too many homeless could move in before something was addressed. We did not want the Flood Control projects we were working on getting overrun by encampments.

**Item 2: SAWA Update-** A.D. Neugebauer said that it had been pretty quiet so there was nothing new to report.

**Item 3: Crop/Swap and AIEP Program Report and presentation of new AirTable program-** Director Feeney showed a presentation of the new Airtable Platform that TEAM will be using going forward to work on shared projects with our partners. It made it so there is a more effective way for multiple agencies to work on projects without the back and forth of e-mailing on a standard e-mail stream. It focuses on accountability for the people involved but also allows for only those individuals involved to address certain issues while allowing managerial and supervisors to oversee the work without having to get involved in responding to every little item.

Director Feeney showed on the overhead the basics of the program and not only how it is working for TEAM, RCWD and for Mission in our water audit and crop swap programs, but how it can work for other programs that we have with other organizations. Director Biancardi asked if it could be used for the Cal-Recycle Program and she was told yes. It is hopeful that TEAM will be able to get SAWA and Flood Control on the projects to make it easier for all to review shared projects together.

**Item 5:** Update on Flood Control Santa Margarita Outreach Program-Director Bryant reached out to SAWA and has come up with a date for September 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> for a watershed clean up. Pablo got a firm commitment from Pam Nelson with Sierra Clb to provide people for the community aspect of it. By next meeting he will have a more firm report on the actual nuts and bolts of operation for the event. Nothing more to report.

**Item 5: Report on Anza/Aguanga Area-** Director Biancardi had nothing to report.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None reported.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items, President Corona mad a motion to adjourn.  
Director Bryant made the motion. Director Parkes seconded the motion.  
Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting ended at 5:15 p.m.

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Secretary/Treasurer-Date