

MINUTES

ELSINORE-MURRIETA-ANZA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Meeting

Friday, June 5, 2015 1:30 PM

Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve

Visitor Center

39400 Clinton Keith Rd.

Murrieta, CA 92562

Call to Order-1:35 pm, meeting recorded by Rose Corona

Flag Salute

Roll Call:

Directors: Vicki Long, Rose Corona, Pam Nelson, Danny Martin, Dave Kuhlman-
All Present

Associate Directors: Dave McElroy –Present; Kathi Head (absent)

Counsel: Ray Johnson

Public: Greg Priamos-Riverside County Counsel

Randy Feeney, Rick Neugebauer

National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Bob Hewitt (absent)

Shellie Lamb and Kerwin Russell-Riverside Corona Resource Conservation
District

Oath of Office –David Kuhlman sworn in and signs official paperwork.

Motion to Approve the Agenda: Corona moved to approve the agenda with the
following changes in order:

Move following items ahead of the Approval of Minutes:

1. Item 2.4 – Election of Officers to beginning
2. Last Item of 3.0 Old Business –Discussion of Riverside County Counsel
serving as District Counsel
3. Item 2.5-Possible EMA board approval of Kelcey Stricker as Associate
Director to also include the additional candidates from Item 4.0 New
Business-Discussion, Randy Feeney and Rick Nuegebauer for
appointment to Associate Directors
4. Presentation and discussion of partnering with Riverside Corona RCD;
update and new opportunities.-Shelli Lamb and Kerwin Russell
5. To be followed with regular order from minutes to Adjournment

DISCUSSION: Director Martin inquired about item 2.2 as to changing the name
of to TEAM-Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta for a new District and also
discussion on postponing Randy Feeney and Rick Nuegebauer for appointment
to Associate Directors and why they were put down for the July meeting. There
was some confusion about the understanding of item 4.0 New Business
Discussion –Meeting for meeting for July. Clarification that the potential

nominations for Associate Directors would be discussed at this meeting and President Long explained that she needed to discuss the July meeting and it could have been made more clear. Director Martin wanted to make sure that when a board member requests to have something put on the agenda that it should be put in there the way they requested and he did not feel that was achieved. President Long acknowledged that she felt that she had understood that was how Director Martin wanted it. Directors agreed to move forward

Motion Approved: 3-2 Corona (yes) Kuhlman (yes) Martin (yes) Long (no) Nelson (no)

1.1 ELECTIONS-Open for nominations-Open the floor for nominations for President

Director Corona nominates Danny Martin-seconded by Director Kuhlman
Director Nelson nominates Director Long- seconded by Director Long

Vote Called accept motion to nominate Danny Martin for President – Corona (yes) Kuhlman (yes) Martin (yes) Long (no) Nelson (no) Motion to elect Danny Martin passes 3-2.

Open for nominations-Open the floor for nominations for Vice-President

Director Kuhlman nominates Director Corona-Seconded by Director Martin

Vote called to accept Motion to elect Rose Corona as Vice President – Kuhlman (yes) Corona (yes) Long (yes) Nelson (yes) Martin (yes) Motion passes 5-0.

Open for nominations-Open the floor for nominations for Secretary/Treasurer

Director Corona nominates Director Kuhlman-Seconded by Director Nelson

Vote called to accept Motion to elect Dave Kuhlman as Secretary/Treasurer – Corona (yes) Long (yes) Nelson (yes) Martin (yes) Kuhlman (yes) Motion passes 5-0.

1.2 DISCUSSION OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY COUNSEL SERVING AS DISTRICT COUNSEL

Director Corona asked for more background and for Mr. Priamos to speak about how this works. County Counsel Priamos agreed that it was necessary to have some background and the current counsel Ray Johnson would also have background to add as well.

Mr. Priamos said that historically the RCD's have been represented by the County Counsel of Riverside over the years and this discussion was in no way a reflection on Counsel Johnson who has served the district with distinction for many years. Mr Priamos stated that the Public Resources code specifically designates the Riverside County Counsel as district counsel for the Resource Conservations districts. At one point, the County Counsel did act as District Counsel. The standard is that the counsel has to be ready, willing and able to perform the duties for the RCD's. For some reason which Mr. Priamos does not know, prior to Mr. Priamos' arrival as legal counsel, the previous County Counsel

stopped offering legal services to the District. The Board of Supervisors asked Mr. Priamos to look into those districts and entities that the county had been providing legal counsel to and had stopped for whatever reason and offer their services where appropriate, especially those that had very limited funds to support legal counsel.

Mr. Priamos has been represented public agencies for 27 years. Prior to coming to the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, he worked for the City Attorney's office in Riverside for 22 years and for the last 13 years was City Attorney. Appointed Priamos last July at which point the Board of Supervisors asked if Mr. Priamos could expand the legal services to the local entities that the County, by law that they are required to serve.

The County Counsel's office first reached out to the Coachella Valley RCD at the request of Supervisor Benoit and took over as their legal counsel last September. He was asked by Supervisor Jeffries to extend the same consideration to the EMARCD and offer their assistance that they may need.

The County Counsel's office is made up of 46 lawyers in 4 offices across the county and is a full service law firm and all the 40 or 50 other public agencies that they represent. Considering the limited resources of the district, Supervisors have asked County Counsel to serve as District Counsel and offer their services as needed.

President Martin asked if Ray Johnson had any comments. Mr. Johnson informed the board that he joined in 1998 as District Counsel because he could see that they had no assistance. The County provided no legal counsel and he has been there at no charge. He stated that if the county wanted to do it, he had no problem with it.

Mr. Priamos stated that as a private lawyer Mr. Johnson has been extremely gracious with his time and his service to the district. However as public lawyers the County Counsel is obligated and that it isn't discretionary and that they should be providing legal services as long as they are ready, willing and able to be District Counsel and therefore meeting their statutory duties under the law.

Director Nelson mentioned that she looked into choosing County Counsel but was told that there simply wasn't the resources (available legal counsel in the are at the time) but she added that was many years ago.

Motion to Appoint Greg Priamos as District Counsel: Motion made by Director Corona, Second by Director Kuhlman

Vote called to accept Motion to appoint Greg Priamos as District Counsel Corona(yes) Kuhlman (Yes) Vote interrupted for a question from Director Nelson:

Director Nelson wanted to know why the action was necessary to take a vote. Greg Priamos explained that the Public Resources Code states that the County Counsel SHALL use County Counsel presuming they are willing, ready and able to serve. Prior County Counsel declined to provide services and therefore Ray

Johnson was appointed District Counsel. Therefore a motion by the board to appoint County Counsel was necessary for legal reasons and formal action.

Kuhlman (yes) Corona (yes) Long (yes) Nelson (yes) Martin (yes) Motion passes 5-0.

Director Corona wanted all to thank Ray for his service to the district and Director Martin referred to Mr. Johnson as a "legend" and thanked him for his incredible service to the district.

1.3 APPOINTMENT OF ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS-

Discussion of Re-appointment of Kelcey Stricker, and possible appointments of Rick Neugebauer and Randy Feeney.

Director Corona asked Director Long to speak about Ms. Stricker's background for the benefit of those in the room and new director. Long discussed her various backgrounds in biology, teaching and her vast knowledge in conservation.

Director Martin mentioned that he had been so impressed by her background and had reached out to Kelcey and she was no longer interested in the position. Ms. Stricker was taken out of contention for Associate Director position.

Randy Feeney's background is in managing information systems and also accounting. Spent most of his summers around farmers and lives in La Cresta. Found out about the EMARCD through a friend and wanted to volunteer his time. He offered to build or rebuild the existing website for the District.

Rick Neugebauer lives in Murrieta and has grown up in Riverside did a number of habitat restorations and blue line creek projects. Has done a bit of farming, soil conservation and designated USDA farm land. Involved in Wine Country and other commercial development projects.

Motion on the floor by Director Corona to appoint Randy Feeney as an Associate Director Nelson seconds

Kuhlman (yes) Corona (yes) Long (yes) Nelson (yes) Martin (yes) Motion passes 5-0.

Motion on the floor by Director Corona to appoint Rick Neugebauer as an Associate Director Long seconds

Call for a vote:

Kuhlman (yes) Corona (yes) Long (yes) Nelson (yes) Martin (yes) Motion passes 5-0.

1.4 PRESENTATION BY SHELLI LAMB AND KERWIN RUSSELL OF THE RIVERSIDE/CORONA RCD FOR POTENTIAL MERGER OR CONSOLIDATION OF CORONA/RIVERSIDE RCD WITH EMARCD

Ms. Lamb opened by offering her knowledge and information regarding potential merger of the two districts and indicated the her representation at today's meeting was more of a fact finding meeting in case board members had any questions they may have regarding the potential of a consolidation of the two districts. She noted that with there is a lot of work and responsibilities on RCD Boards not only legal and government codes, recording etc. She offered that at this point they wish to be a resource and an informational contact to investigate the possibilities.

Director Martin noted that at the moment it is his opinion that the Board is in the discovery stage of such a big move and would like to collect information. He asked to visit the Riverside Corona facility and encouraged other board members to go as well. Also noted the area covered by the EMARCD has vast land conservation issues that will need to eventually be addressed and managed. Director Martin added that staff would also be necessary in the future.

Director Corona noted that the new Board member as well as Associate Directors had not been present during the last presentation and all agreed to have Ms. Lamb show the presentation again in order to fully inform everyone present and open the floor for further questions and discussion.

5 MINUTE RECESS TO ALLOW SET UP FOR PRESENTATION

Lamb and Russell went over history and they have a staff of 14 people. The RCD provides resource management systems to public and private lands and help regulatory agencies and landowners reach their conservation goals. They receive tax monies. They also receive grants and have an in-lieu-of fee program which also provide funds for their district.

They focus on 3 major land uses which are native habitats, urban areas and agriculture. Covered the areas their district covers. They are also a multi-county district to include San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.

One goal of the organization is to create sustainable communities. Provided several examples to include Temescal Canyon project near a golf course. Ms. Lamb reiterated that as a RCD if any project is over \$1,000 that the RCD doing the mitigation is subject to paying prevailing wage.

Both Kerwin and Lamb outlined the challenges and work with different agencies that are necessary to make any mitigation and conservation happen. Also partnering with organizations and/or businesses can be a creative way to also conserve and preserve various areas that need mitigation and create partnerships.

They also have an extensive educational conservation programs which includes a land use learning center, and workshops on erosion control, irrigation water management, integrated pest management, and urban forestry.

They have a mini grant program which provides schools the ability to plant or do gardens on their school grounds. Also discussed the Riverside Citizen Science project and they are studying the tree canopy in Riverside County and have the public learn about the cooling effects of trees.

Mr. Russell spoke of those lands that are affected by flood waters and the RCD helps address habitat and soil transfers and how they work with the various agencies charged with maintaining those areas. He also spoke about the steelhead and fish projects they have and how they work.

They also have a regional 1600 permit that allows them to work with the various governmental and local agencies which oversee the conservation project enforcement in conjunction with the landowner or property owners to have projects and people work together. EMARCD with the hard work of Director Long has also been able to obtain a 1600 permit for the district which will allow the EMARCD to help local HOA's and others to manage their creek projects and other issues and the district can collect a fee for that. It will also require writing reports and but it allows the HOA's to not have to go to a variety of different agencies and incur sometimes not only high costs in obtaining permits but time in getting it done.

Director Corona asked if the HOA's did this themselves would they have to pull permits from every single agency (i.e. Fish and Wildlife, Army Corps of Engineers etc) Russell responded that it would depend on what they are doing but overall working with an RCD that has a 1600 permit allows much of this to be put under one umbrella but it would depend on the project.

Ms. Lamb reviewed the various plans and agencies that they interact with and the various reports and obligations that become the responsibility of the RCD's when working with various agencies on conservation projects and how in-lieu-of fee programs work. Basically, they entity writes a check to RCRCD so the district takes the responsibility to do the mitigation and do the monitoring long term management and reporting.

Director Long asked if we merged with RCRCD would the district as a combined district now be able to have the same thing happen because at this time all of our money is going to San Luis Rey (inaudible) management. Ms. Lamb indicated that they could do an amendment to their in-lieu-of fee program to include the areas that EMARCD now covers.

At the present time RCRCD has over 1500 acres under their jurisdiction either in fee title or conservation easements. They also for a fee provide technical assistance. Kerwin Russell is their certified water conservation manager and certified irrigated auditor with the irrigation association. Russell discussed different projects that they manage and how they handle it. They do water usage assessment for homeowners and farmers and soil sample analysis at their location.

They are funded through Western Municipal Water District, City of Corona and City of Riverside. Under the new programs, including turf replacement projects

that many water districts are adopting due to the California drought, that the RCRCDD is paid a fee to go in to do the verification on all the projects. Mentioned the various projects that they and Mr. Russell in particular has been involved in include Santa Anita Racetrack, the LA Coliseum, Hollywood Park etc.

Director Corona wanted to clarify that these turf replacement and similar programs don't cost the landowner to have the RCRCDD do the analysis or the verification. But one must go through the local water district in order to become part of the program in order to get reimbursed for their grass and to have verification come from the Riverside Corona district that the project was completed to specifications. But it all depends on the water district and what their requirements are. Rancho water for example wants pre and post verification. Others may just leave it up to the RCRCDD to decide.

Associate Director Neugebauer asked if RCRCDD had a staff that they worked with and Lamb clarified that it is their own staff that helps work these programs. Russell indicated that most of their staff are certified or trained in multiple areas and fields in order to best utilize their expertise in more areas.

They also provide a list for homeowners as to the plant/soil relationship which can determine what kind of plants the homeowner may want to put in and how much water they are going to need. They also do water quality testing especially where there are major spills and monitor the sites on a regular basis.

They do charge \$20.00 to landowners who want to come in and do the testing themselves at the lab. Mr. Russell manages the weed management program in the Santa Ana River. Associate Director Rick Neugebauer asked if they are still actively eradicating the Erondo Cane. Russell replied that they are. They are also doing it on the easements they own along with other invasive species. They have over 33 active restoration projects that they are doing.

They have an active nursery but are looking to contract that service out. They are re-focusing on growing and collecting only native plants and without running the risk of having invasive plants infiltrate. So they don't want to bring in plants from outside the state. They will provide the plants to local nurseries. AD Neugebauer asked if those would be re-sold through the RCRCDD and they said no due to the cost of maintaining their own nursery. Lamb indicated that it makes more sense to collect and provide those resources to native plant nurseries to take care of and sell to the public or for restoration projects. Therefore more people can benefit.

They do slope and road failure, erosion control and a variety of other services. They also have a California Food and Ag Bio Control program and a variety of other programs. Ms. Lamb invited all staff and members to come to visit and opened up for questions and that they are there for resources if needed.

Director Long wanted to know about the make-up of the board. One of the concerns she said that one of the concerns is that there may not be enough Ag representation on the board of the RCRCDD to satisfy or address the needs of the area covered by the EMARCD and that Ag would be phased out. She listed several people who are affiliated or in agriculture to include John Gless farmer and rancher, Alfred Bonnet who was an Ag Engineer, Roy Tacano who is a

grove manager, Carl Pongs who is Green Valley Growers and his wife is on the Riverside Country Farm Bureau.

Associate Director Feeney said that he had been reading up about the RCD program historically and that he understood that its original intent was to help farmers with soil and water conservation and what he was seeing in the presentation appeared to be different in focus so it seemed confusing. He understood that the RCD's were supposed to help farmers, protect their farms, help them get the most out of their farms, help manage their water so they could water their farms so it is a bit confusing.

Russell explained that although that is still true in some areas agriculture is no longer predominant and so districts need to help and assist the landowner to manage their property if the need arises. Lamb said that although it started out that way it now Division 9 of the state code requires that conservation includes a lot more things so it has evolved over the years.

Ms. Lamb stated that she felt that the most important issue facing the board is to decide what the Resource needs issues are in our area. She feels if the two were to consolidate she would want to have a workshop to see what needs our board sees as the main resource needs of our existing area. What are the priorities as they pertain to water, air, soil etc.

Russell also reminded the board that even though the board may have priorities that the board must consider a way to fund it. A lot of time it is the Board's ability to fund a project is what drives being able to help and do things.

Director Nelson mentioned that over the years she has been on the board, obtaining monies has been difficult. She has looked into grants that may work but there are always caveats that require up front monies, matching funds or other requirements that force the board to start looking into piecemeal smaller grants to gather the funds necessary to fund a project. She has been frustrated with that over the years and sees the consolidation as a way to have the funds and the staff to do projects.

AD Neugebauer stated that it was his opinion that the EMARCD has the same opportunities but the EMARCD may have missed the opportunities to do the same things. Martin added however that the RCRCD has a tax base to work from where the EMARCD does not.

Ms. Lamb offered that her current budget will be close to 5 million and very little of that has to do with the tax base because that is the kind of projects they have been able to find and bring into the RCRCD. Director Kuhlman asked what portion of the budget was tax base and Lamb responded that 1/6th is tax or approximately \$800,000.00.

End of presentation. Director Long added that RCRCD has been there for EMARCD providing resources, technical support and staff. EMARCD is working on a field modification at Bear Creek and the contract with Rancho California Water District and there help is truly appreciated.

Director Nelson inquired as to how things will work at this point since Director Long had been working on all the various projects and grants as President. She wanted to know with the new election how that would change and how things

would be implemented. Director Long asked if Director Martin if he wanted to take it over. Director Martin responded that the Board will have to go through a huge transition between the contracts Director Long has already confirmed and the ones he wants to work on. Director Long offered to continue on and Director Martin asked that we continue to focus on what we presently have and we'll move forward from there.

ITEM 1.5?-FINANCIAL REPORTS

3 month Financial Reports and there was a vote in the past to do quarterly rather than monthly reports. Present CPA is Van Lant & Fankhanel that does the financials for the district. District is on a non-calendar year but a fiscal year. Fiscal year is from July 1-June 30.

Director Martin had questions about the financials to Director Long for clarification of accounts on the Trial Balance. Clarified which funds belong to which accounts.

The Union Bank account is reflected in the amount that has \$11,000 approximately in the bank.

The Wells Fargo Account -\$26,701.85 that is the General Fund

The Union Bank Checking Account comes off of non-wasting endowments which can't be touched

Director Long said that the \$11,000 from the Union Bank account is interest from the easements

The \$200,000 account is for the easements and are for both easements

The Restricted Deposits are Developer Fees that were paid in and are held until work by EMARCD is done. We hold those until they get ready to be used. Fees are paid to professionals to do the work.

\$98,000 (approx.) Account is for EMARCD owned land for mitigation on Clinton Keith

Motion to approve the Financial Statements by Director Martin, Second by Director Nelson

Discussion-AD (Associate Director) Nuegebauer asked regarding developer fees for mitigation deposits if there was a follow up and timing and dates when they can be used for mitigation purposes or do they stay restricted. His question was to clarify what he was hearing that there are projects that can't be done because there is no money and he was trying to make a connection between the two.

Director Long said that these are contracts we have with developers. When we take on evaluating an easement that they want to offer us, before we take on an endowment that we require per our policies deposits from them to work on their project. We would have district counsel look at the wording and look at the language and we also had Biologist Rick Hopkins and his firm Live Oak Associates who the Board hired 10 years ago to go out and work with Army

Corps of Engineers, Cal Fish and Wildlife and US Fish and Wildlife to meet whatever the requirements are on the easements.

There was a clarification that the fees are to process and hire professionals but not necessarily do any direct work to the project. That is additional.

Director Martin asked if there were bills to approve.

Director Corona asked what the \$5,000 check was for and that was to the CPA's for the audit. The P&L's and Balance sheets were not in this. This is an independent audit required by the state.

Director Martin suggested that going forward a monthly P&L and a Balance sheet to make it easier. Turn it over to Treasurer, consolidate it into a Treasurer's Report at every meeting and put it in a standard operation mode.

Call for vote to approve the Financials

Nelson (yes) Long (yes) Corona (yes) Kuhlman (Yes) Martin (Yes) Motion approved and passed 5-0

CORRESPONDENCE-NONE

ITEM 2.3 BUDGET JULY 2015-JUNE 2016

Director Long indicated that the budget is a result of all the money that is actually coming in. We get approximately \$19,000 for the year until next July, that is coming in along with other smaller monies for admin services from other areas that come in to include Rancho Water District and the project we are working with them on.

Director Corona asked what the \$400.00 was for. Long responded that these are "dues". This is money that is paid to California Special Districts Association and we get our insurance through them. The dues are paid from us to them.

Director Martin made the recommendation that the Budget appeared reasonable with exception of the cost of the audit. Director Long disagreed but informed the board that she needed to know what the intent would be since she already signed a letter of agreement with the present auditors but says that can be undone. She had received other bids in the past for up to \$17,000 to do the audit and found this firm reasonable.

Martin discussed that since the audit has been done that there is now a standard for any other accounting firm to go by so it shouldn't be as intensive to obtain information based on the minimal bills and things we are doing. Something to look at and Director Long recommended that we need to file by November and to stay with these people for November and after that go out for bid.

Director Corona asked for clarification because the board had already paid \$5,000 for work but that was for 2014. Director Long informed the board that audits are very detailed and the accountants and auditors go through every piece of paper. She indicated that this firm Cox, Valdez and Silberstein usually charges \$12,000.00 for audits. AD Neugebauer said he felt it was a reasonable price.

Motion to approve the Budget 2015-2016 made by Director Martin Second by Director Long

Call for vote to approve the Budget

Corona (yes) Kuhlman (Yes) Nelson(Yes) Long (Yes) Martin (yes) Motion approved and passed 5-0

Item 2.2 – discussion and possible approval of new name for new District-RC TEAM RCD

Director Martin made a motion to table, Second Director Corona

No Discussion

Call for vote to approve motion to table Item 2.2

Corona (yes) Kuhlman (Yes) Nelson(Yes) Long (Yes) Martin (yes) Motion approved and passed 5-0

Director Long asked to go back to Item 2.1-DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2015-01 CONSOLIDATION OF AMA AND RIVERSIDE CORONA AND ADOPTION OF CEQA EXEMPTION

She wanted the Board to be aware of the resolution written up by Ray Johnson outlining the process for consolidation that comes from LAFCO that was in the packet for today's agenda. Just for FYI.

Greg Priamos, District Counsel asked for backup of the agenda and information for today's meeting. Director Long promised to send it to him electronically.

Motion to table Item 2.1 **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2015-01 CONSOLIDATION OF AMA AND RIVERSIDE CORONA AND ADOPTION OF CEQA EXEMPTION** made by Director Martin, No second. Motion interrupted by discussion.

Discussion – Director Nelson stated that this was an opportunity (consolidation) that doesn't come around very often. She is very interested in it because of the fact that they have money and staff and they are ready to go. Boards do transition and the board of the RCRCD board right now is okay with it. Director Nelson recommends that the District not drag our feet.

Director Martin recommends that the Board table the discussion of the Consolidation until Board members have time to do more research and go to the RCRCD and visit their facility and explore what is there. Director Long suggested that it be posted and go up the same day to visit the facility where the Board Members of the EMARCD could meet their board members and use up one day of their time for the consideration of the RCRCD. Director Martin wanted to go independently and spend half an hour with both Ms. Lamb and Mr. Russell and report back to the board. Then possibly after that go up as a Board. He recognizes the opportunity and he suggested we table it

altogether or postpone it indefinitely until all the Board Members can get the information and then collectively come back and discuss as to how the Board can pull this off.

Motion to table Item 2.1 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2015-01 CONSOLIDATION OF AMA AND RIVERSIDE CORONA AND ADOPTION OF CEQA EXEMPTION made by Director Martin, Second by Director Corona

Call for vote to approve motion to table Item 2.1

Corona (yes) Kuhlman (Yes) Nelson(Yes) Long (Yes) Martin (yes) Motion approved and passed 5-0

3.0 OLD BUSINESS

DISCUSSION OF ON-GOING PROJECTS AND GRANT APPLICATIONS

Director Martin discussed his recommended grant proposal to get off-site grant money for water conservation. He had a discussion with Justin Hesley at the Rancho California Water District and basically they were uninterested. They have an off-set program already going. They are working on the Developer comes in and tell the Developer to buy water rights in De Luz which could create a checkerboard effect for water rights in that area. This similar situation has occurred in San Diego.

He also attended the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed group and basically it is all about turf and replacing turf in return for funds from Metropolitan Water District.

Director Martin said he also testified at a joint finance/audit and joint Board meeting at RCWD that put up a proposal change the size of a farm from 1 acre to 3.5 acres. If you had under 3.5 acres then you were put on a residential tier. When asked several questions by the Board voted that until staff could get more information back to the public. It is Director Martin's opinion that they are reclassifying domestic Ag users into residential so what is next? Are they going to reclassify wine growers into residential as well?

Director Corona mentioned that the standard set by the Riverside County Farm Bureau to qualify as a farmer is one acre. And with the specialty crops etc that the standard set by the Farm Bureau should be considered.

VICKI LONG-LEADERSHIP AWARDS PROGRAMS –Thanked everyone for attending the Ponte event where Mr. Ponte received the Leadership Award this year.

VICKI LONG-SAFE CROSSINGS FOR WILDLIFE PROJECT- Nothing new to report.

ROSE CORONA/PAM NELSON –AG IN THE CLASSROOM

Director Corona made note that Ag in the Classroom is already an existing program which could be put on the EMARCD website for the benefit of the public

to access along with other services available from universities, Conservation Districts etc. but at this point we haven't had someone actively working on the website postings.

Director Nelson said that her concern was how would educators know how to get to the website or that the website is where they needed to go to get the information?

Director Corona mentioned there were places such as Peach Jar which disseminates information to the schools and teachers on information like this. A simple e-blast to educators OR the Unified School Districts would take a little time to collect e-mails but overall, the EMARCD

Randy Feeney volunteered to do the website for the district and make those kinds of changes on an ongoing basis.

Director Long indicated that although we had a website person she didn't feel he would have any trouble giving it up.

DIRECTOR CORONA-CHANGE IN MEETING PLACES

Report that there was one location that Director Corona had found for free. The owner of the Truax building offered his boardroom for the meetings for free. They are located at Mercedes and Second Ave in Old Town Temecula across from City Hall.

Director Nelson says for her it doesn't matter. Her concern was to have it consistent. Director Corona mentioned that the Board may want to consider having it later in the day to accommodate the people with businesses or who work late.

Murrieta and Temecula libraries are also places that can be used but will need to be looked into. Nelson said although we are a special district and often they are free the location needs to charge for set up etc. Bigger concern seems to be the time and day. Late afternoon on Thursday seemed to work for everyone so we're done at a reasonable time.

PAM NELSON-MURRIETA CREEK TRAIL PROJECT-June 6

Various cities are participating in ribbon cutting event and you show up in sort of a round robin to watch ribbon cutting.

NEW BUSINESS –Moved to beginning of meeting.

MONTHLY REPORTS-

DISTRICT COUNSEL – NOTHING TO REPORT

AGENCY REPORTS – BOB HEWITT – (ABSENT)

EMARCD DIRECTORS REPORTS

Vicki Long – Fire Safe council

SAWA is hiring an new accountant and the only thing they are discussing is lessening the stipend.

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR-Dave McElroy wanted to encourage the merger or consolidation of the two districts.

AD Neugebauer asked for a contact list of all the Board Members and Associate Directors.

District Counsel stated that going back to the meeting location that there has to be a resolution regarding a change of location. Regular time and place needs to be established and published

Greg Priamos asked to clarify conversations via e-mail and the Brown Act. A meeting is considered any congregation of a majority of those who vote. Any discussion has to be pursuant to a notice. Three or more cannot engage in a meeting that is within the subject matter of jurisdiction. Avoid at all costs pushing "reply to all" on an e-mail. As long as the discussion is one way without discussion. Counsel advised to do it through the chair. What we don't want to do is have ongoing conversations via e-mail according to Counsel.

Director Kuhlman asked about committees that can be less than a quorum. You can have two kinds. Standing committees have ongoing jurisdiction. District Counsel Priamos stated that, for example, you could have a finance committee meeting and you would follow all the same rules that a regular meeting would have to have. But they could not get together in advance and deliberate and discuss anything that might end up on the next meeting's agenda.

Then there is ad hoc committee. You could make a committee whose job is to make recommendations (or one purpose committees) to the board in various areas. Those are not subject to the Brown Act. District Counsel said that he will send out the training which includes conflicts, Brown Acts etc and anyone can contact Mr. Priamos directly. If he feels it would be helpful to all District Counsel would send that out to all Board members and Associate Directors.

The example of meeting at the RCRCd with the whole board would require posting and notice of such and the same from the RCRCd so the public could attend. District Counsel said that any particular examples can be directed to him and he would give everyone access to him personally.

All business MUST be conducted at the meetings. NO WEBLOGS. This would be a clear violation of the law.

DISCUSSION OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY, MARCH AND APRIL OF 2015

Director Corona asked about the keys to the office. Director Long explained that if the Board wanted to replace her as Office Manager then she would gladly give up the keys but did not want to be responsible for records if everyone had access to them.

There is more information that Director Corona wanted and said she would contact Director Long and agreed to meet her at the office to obtain the records. Director Long also offered to take new members to the office. Question arose whether it had to be a Board member or could it be a volunteer. District Counsel said it could be a paid employee or a volunteer as well. Director Long also wanted to make it clear that doing the job takes time to learn so it isn't something someone can just step into.

Ms. Long has been volunteering as Office Manager as well as President and is unpaid since it is illegal to pay a board member.

Director Martin motioned to approve the minutes, Director Long seconded.

Discussion – none

Call for vote

Long (yes) Nelson (yes) Kuhlman (abstain-was not a director at the time) Corona (no) Martin (no) Motion did not pass Tie vote 2-2.

Motion to move the meeting for July to July 2 at 1:30 pm.

Director Corona was questioned as to what information she needed and she stated she needed time to go through what she had just been given to her. Director Long reminded the board the minutes needed to be approved soon so the audits can be completed and so the Board can start taking easements again. Motion made by Dave Kuhlman to discuss office manager position. District Counsel advised that the Board would have to have a voting majority to change the agenda. Office manager position to be discussed at the next meeting.


MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING –Director Martin motion, Second Director Kuhlman

Unanimous vote 5-0

MEETING ADJOURNED- 3:43PM


David Kuhlman-Secretary/Treasurer - Date

7/7/2015

 7/28/15