

MINUTES

Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, November 10, 2021, 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 Rose Corona

Flag Salute

Roll Call/Establish a Quorum

Directors Present: Rose Corona (President), Lisa Battiato (Vice President), Newt Parkes (Secretary/Treasurer), Teri Biancardi (Director), Randy Feeney (Director)

Directors Absent: None

Associate Directors Present: Rick Neugebauer

Associate Directors Absent: None

Office Manager: Deborah Getty – Present

Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCS): Robert Hewitt – Absent

District Counsel: Melissa Cushman – Present

Guest Speakers: None

Public Guests: Pacifica Hoffenburg – District Supervisor Chuck Washington's office, Jim Brady, Kathleen Hamilton and Sarah Zdanowski – Mission RCD

Approval of Agenda

President Corona makes a motion to approve the agenda with one minor change to new business. Item 2 – discussion and potential approval of implementing invasive removal at Greer Ranch **and Adeline Farms**, complete with consent calendar, correspondence, financials, and minutes as presented. Director Parkes seconds. President Corona calls for a vote.

- Rose Corona – Aye
- Randy Feeney – Aye
- Newt Parkes – Aye
- Terri Biancardi – Nay
- Lisa Battiato – Aye

Motion passed 4 – 1.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Corona introduces Kathleen Hamilton and discloses that she has known the Corona family for quite a long time. She is given 3 minutes to comment. Ms. Hamilton states that she has spent half of her life making sure that the Santa Rosa Plateau became the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve and she now feels it is in jeopardy. She states that the Mesa de Punta which is the southernmost part of the Santa Rosa Ecological Reserve, at the base of that and contiguous to it, is a 73-acre plot where there are plans to put an industrial cannabis operation. There are many concerns and even though she is not sure that TEAM RCD can assist any way, she wanted to make the Board aware. It has already been approved by the planning commission. Ms. Hamilton thanks the Board for their time.

Sarah Zdanowski introduces herself as a natural resource scientist or specialist at Mission RCD. She wanted to be present to answer any questions that may arise on the agenda item of the possibility of working with Mission RCD on the invasive species Arundo removal.

Jim Brady adds that he would like to leave information about the size of the operation proposed at the Santa Rosa Plateau. Brief discussion on the operation being approved by the planning commission but at the stage of needing to be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

II. ACTION ITEMS/ DISCUSSION CALENDAR

Item 1: Discussion and potential approval of going dark in December, 2021. President Corona calls for a motion to go dark in December 2021. Director Parkes moved and Director Feeney seconded. **Motion passed unanimously 5-0.**

Item 2: Discussion and potential approval of special MOU with Mission RCD for Arundo removal at TEAM RCD District. President Corona reports that Mission RCD has a grant for Arundo removal and the group that was targeted to have it completed decided not to proceed. Another group in the TEAM RCD District approached Mission and they have asked to collaborate with TEAM. The goal is to finalize the MOU so Mission can work with our LSA and permit. James with SAWA will work with them to make sure all the requirements are met with SAWA oversight, and approval by District Counsel, President Corona makes a motion to approve the MOU with minor corrections, if necessary, by District Counsel so it can be signed and Mission and its partners can get to work immediately. Director Battiato seconds. General discussion is had with minor edits suggested by Director Parkes. District Counsel notes she will check for format and discrepancies prior to finalizing. Sarah Zdanowski comments that Nature's Collective holds the grant and that Mission RCD holds all the permitting. President Corona calls for a vote. **Motion passed unanimously 5-0.**

Item 3: Discussion and potential approval of MOU with Coachella Valley RCD. President Corona reports the MOU is presented in a draft form. This MOU with Coachella Valley will provide backup should Mission RCD get backed up or unable to complete their obligations. President Corona makes a motion to approve the basic MOU with Coachella Valley RCD. Director Biancardi seconded. There is general discussion where Director Parkes comments on the indemnification language of the MOU. Melissa Cushman notes she will review prior to it being finalized. President Corona calls for a vote. **Motion passed unanimously 5-0.**

Item 4: Discussion and potential approval of setting a not to exceed (NTE) for legal costs. Director Parkes reports a summary of legal fees that show an increase over budget the first four months of the new fiscal year. After a general discussion it is determined that a motion is not required, just a general understanding that any legal assistance needed by any Board member other than the President should be put in writing to the office manager and the President. They will request an estimate of time required and bring to the Board for approval as needed immediately or quarterly. No motion necessary.

Item 5: Discussion and potential approval of legal review and potential correspondence with Greer Ranch on easement parameters and District responsibilities. AD Neugebauer and President Corona bring the Board up to speed on what transpired last year. President Corona is waiting to find out from Heather Pert with CDFW for clarification of what TEAM RCD's responsibilities are. With the information, a letter may need to be drafted by Melissa Cushman to reaffirm our responsibilities. General discussion in regard to moving the process along while TEAM RCD is dark in December. No motion necessary.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1: Discussion of ISC3 Climate Collaborative. Director Biancardi presents information on the ISC3 Climate Collaborative and recommends TEAM RCD has a representative there and puts herself forward. General discussion as to those already involved such as WRCOG and goals of the collaborative and whether TEAM RCD should be involved at this level or time. President Corona makes a motion to wait until further information is presented. Director Parkes seconded. General discussion and Director Biancardi adds that there really isn't any information to bring other than presented. President Corona amends her motion that until we have further information and legislation has been passed at the State and County level to see where and how TEAM RCD can be involved. Director Parkes seconded. President Corona calls for a vote.

- Rose Corona – Aye
- Randy Feeney – Aye
- Newt Parkes – Aye
- Terri Biancardi – Nay
- Lisa Battiato – Nay

Motion passed 3 - 2.

Item 2: Discussion and potential approval of implementing invasive removal at Greer Ranch and Adeline Farms. President Corona presents estimates from IERCD to complete the invasive removals at Greer Ranch at a cost of \$950.00 and Adeline Farms at a cost of \$1,140.00. These costs will be covered from the interest of the CD's. President Corona calls for a motion to approve this work and costs. Director Battiato seconded. **Motion passed unanimously 5 – 0.**

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Item 1: Update on Temecula Elementary invasive removal project and Empire Creek project. President Corona reports that Temecula Elementary has sent the purchase order and SAWA can go in and complete the estimate for cleaning out the channel. This estimate will provide a cost to remove the invasives and limb out the trees. As for Empire Creek which is owned by Paradise, President Corona reports that SAWA has prepared a proposal through TEAM RCD and are waiting for their review and acceptance. No motion necessary.

Item 2: Update on CD Account. Director Parkes reports that the CD's that were opened six months ago came due and rolled over. In the rollover process Chase misapplied the interest into the CD accounts rather than the checking account. They researched, documented, and applied the interest in the proper account. In six months, the CD's will mature again, and a tickler has been set to review any options with the Board prior to the automatic rollover. General discussion on potential options which will be revisited at that time. No motion necessary.

Item 3: Update on Homeless Task Force.

Director Parkes reports he received the reports and forwarded them on to Mike Wooten. The reports indicate that there seems to be more activity in the San Gertudis channel, Temecula Creek channel AD 159 and Tocaloca Creek 3. Mr. Wooten has been invited to come and make a presentation to the Board at a future meeting. No new updates on the Lake Elsinore homeless task force other than Director Parkes will be attending an upcoming meeting. No motion necessary.

Item 4: SAWA Report

AD Neugebauer reports that there is nothing new to report on SAWA and revisits the previous discussion and notes the following: "We should have a plan if we have a project. Let's put that piece together first and then say we've got a project if they even have money to give." President Corona moves the conversation along to the next agenda item. Director Biancardi wishing to comment, asks about SAWA and notes that she attended the last SAWA meeting. During the meeting, the expansion of the category aide directors came up. Director Biancardi requested a presentation from AD Nuegebauer. AD Nuegebauer notes it is not ready to discuss at the Board level until more information is gathered. No motion necessary.

Item 5: Update and discussion on AEIP and CropSWAP reports.

Director Battiato reports that Deb Getty has been helpful in organizing a communal source for the spreadsheet and files to be stored. At this point, Director Battiato will be approving the invoices so that there is a two-part process. Director Battiato is also working with Coachella Valley RCD with respect to what kind of reporting that is put together for RCWD. Deb Getty adds that at a recent meeting with Kyle Jeffries with RCWD they have decided to have all approval of the AIEP applications go through their website and then send to TEAM RCD. The process will run just like the current CropSWAP process. The website has been updated with that change. No motion necessary.

Item 6: Update on Anza/Aguanga area.

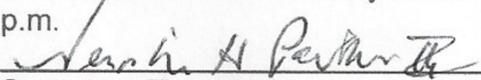
Director Biancardi reports that the Rural Communities Group (RCC) is having a meeting today. There will be a number of Water Board people attending as well. They plan to discuss a water consolidation proposal. Director Biancardi has been trying to determine how we can work with the Sheriff's department to see if we can isolate areas that potentially have been contaminated by the illegal grows. Also, Director Biancardi comments that she is working with a farmer locally who is very interested in pursuing the Healthy Soils Program. Understanding that we have a partnership with Mission RCD she requests to talk with Darcy Cook about this to see if they have technical support. No motion necessary.

Item 7: Update and discussion of the TEAM RCD website progress. Deb Getty reports that on the recommendation from President Corona a root stock page has been added as well as the suggested updates from RCWD. There is also a partner's section added where you may find a link to our partners. No motion necessary.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, President Corona calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Parkes moved and Director Feeney seconded. **Motion passed unanimously 5-0.** Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.


Secretary/Treasurer