

MINUTES

Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District Regular Board Meeting Thursday, August 10, 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

District Counsel: Aaron Gettis

Public Guests: Margaret Mikey (Native Plant Network), Karen Hansen, Randy Feeney, Sebastian Valente, Keir Thomas (NRCS)

Approval of Agenda:

Secretary Parkes moved to approve the agenda as presented, Director McClenahan seconded. Upon roll call, the agenda was unanimously approved.

Public Comments:

Margaret Mikey spoke regarding the Monarch Coalition, promoting “education, advocacy and fun” and noted that the group could be reached on Facebook. Ms. Mikey would like to establish a relationship with TEAM RCD for cooperation in future events promoting butterfly gardens and habitats. She can be reached at m.mikey@gmail.com. Ms. Hansen spoke regarding the Sierra Club and her interest in wildlife and promoting legislation supporting residential use of native plants.

II. Action Items:

1. Director McClenahan moved to approve the Minutes of the Board of Directors Regular Meeting of June 8, 2023, as presented, Secretary Parkes seconded. Upon roll call, the minutes were unanimously approved.
2. Secretary/Treasurer Parkes moved to approve the Financial and Management Reports for the period ending July 31, 2023, as presented, Director Corona seconded. Upon roll call, the Financial and Management Reports were unanimously approved.

3. Director Corona moved to approve the bills paid, bills to paid or reimbursed, and accounts receivable, as presented, Director McClenahan seconded. Upon roll call, these items were unanimously approved.
4. Vice President Bryant moved to approve the proposed Letter of Authorization to Chase Bank making Teri Biancardi the Authorized Representative for TEAMRCD bank accounts as presented, Director McClenahan seconded. Upon roll call, the letter was unanimously approved.
5. Vice President Bryant moved to approve authorizing Teri Biancardi as the listed contact for TEAMRCD's Post Office Box, Secretary Parkes seconded. Upon roll call, the President Biancardi was unanimously approved as the Post Office contact.
6. The board next discussed the MOA and associated documentation for the National Association of Conservation Districts Urban and Community Conservation Grant of \$10,000 to be used to establish a program for the organization Cultivating Inclusion. President Biancardi provided an update, summarizing her discussions with Mission RCD for implementation of the grant and the possible hiring of a business consultant to prepare the business plan. Following discussion, Director Corona moved to accept the grant and to complete the documentation required for acceptance of the grant. Director McClenahan seconded. Upon roll call, the motion was unanimously approved.

III. New Business:

1. Director Corona moved that the board approve the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District projects as presented for fiscal year 2023-24 and authorize President Biancardi contract, Director Parkes seconded. Upon roll call, the motion was unanimously approved.
2. The board next considered the draft budget for fiscal year 2023-24. In discussion, the directors noted that the \$10,000 grant approved at this meeting should be included in the budget before it was finalized and forwarded to the County Auditors office. Director Corona also questioned whether renewal fees for the LSA with the State of California were properly calculated, noting that the difference might be several thousand dollars. Director Corona also noted that much of the projected interest income was restricted and could only be spent on maintaining the conservation easements. The board further discussed the estimated for attorneys' fees. With the number of items under discussion, the board considered whether the budget should be approved preliminarily and provided to the County Auditor's office prior to the August 25, 2023, deadline and then later amended and resubmitted. The board then discussed holding a special meeting to review a revised and updated budget and possibly approve the budget for a timely submission to the County. Upon discussion, a majority of the board stated their calendars were clear for a special meeting on September 25, 2023. Approval of the budget was tabled until it could be revised and considered at a future meeting.

3. Director Corona moved to approve the New Options consulting agreement at an estimated \$960 per month as presented. Director McClenahan seconded. Upon voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.
4. Secretary/Treasurer Parkes moved to approve retaining Nigro and Nigro for the annual audit in the amount of \$3000, Director Corona seconded. Upon voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.
5. Office Manager Shirer presented her findings and recommendations for a new email host. The board raised questions regarding the potential loss of data during a transfer and requested additional information. The matter was tabled.
6. The board next discussed the proposed Santa Ana Watershed Association Policy. The board discussed the fiduciary duties owed by the TEAM RCD representative to TEAM RCD and/or to SAWA, what should be the extent and timing of TEAM RCD's comments to the representative on SAWA matters, and what the term of the SAWA appointment should be. Following discussion, President Biancardi withdrew the proposal for revision and reconsideration at future meeting.
7. The board then discussed the appointment of a current representative to SAWA, determining that Director Corona was already named as the alternate and could continue to serve as the liaison to SAWA.
8. The board next discussed the Water Efficiency and Technical Assistance grant award and then impact of the decision of Rancho California Water District to not renew its agreement with TEAM RCD for implementation of its crop swap and AIEP programs. The board discussed other possible uses of the grant funds, including moving into other markets in San Diego County for crop swap and AIEP services. Following discussion, no action was taken to approve and accept the grant award. President Biancardi stated she would reach out to partners and other grant managers for feedback on how to handle a significant change in the scope of work for a submitted grant.
9. The board next discussed updating the retention policy and finding an appropriate location for storage of physical records. President Biancardi stated that she had begun discussion the County of Riverside to provide physical space. Director Corona noted past problems with access to the records and issues with perceived conflicts of interest if the records were stored in a county office. The board discussed the pros and cons, including costs, of renting a storage unit. Following this discussion, no action was taken by the board, but President Biancardi will continue to research the issue.
10. President Biancardi requested board feedback for responding to requests for Letters of Support. The board cautioned against supporting organizations that TEAM RCD does not have a pre-existing relationship with and/or is unknown to TEAM RCD. No action was taken.

IV. Management Report:

Office Manager Shirer reported that a new "family" Dropbox was established to store electronic records and make them available to all directors.

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

Director Bryant moved to adjourn the meeting; Director Corona seconded. Upon voice vote, the motion to adjourn passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

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

Dated: 10/12/23



Newt Parkes, Secretary/Treasurer