

# Elsinore-Murrieta-Anza Resource Conservation District

## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, March 13, 2008 -- 2:00pm  
Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve – Visitor Center  
39400 Clinton Keith Road, Murrieta, CA 92562

### Members Present:

Pamela Nelson, President  
Vicki Long, Vice President  
Bob Wheeler, Treasurer  
Charolette Fox, Secretary

### Members Absent/Excused

Bob Hewitt, NRCS  
Terry Whittington, Director  
Dan Matrisciano, Associate Director

### Staff or Guests Present:

Ray Johnson, Attny at Law  
Rob Blaskovich of Wachovia Securities

### Reportable Closed Session Discussions

No Closed Session was held.

### Motion to Approve the Agenda as Presented:

Accepted by acclaim.

#### 1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

President Pam Nelson called the meeting to order at 2:20pm. Self introductions were made.

#### 2.0 Approval of Minutes

Secretary Charolette Fox was excused for the regular meeting of February 14, 2008. In her absence, President Pam Nelson took notes and these were submitted via email to all Board members prior to the meeting. The notes were read aloud and accepted by acclaim as the official record.

#### 3.0 Financial Report

Well's Fargo Account is available to Board members via internet. Vicki reported a \$2,000 fee received to the General Fund and a \$10,000 refundable deposit. During discussion, Bob asked for additional information (an accountant's report). It was noted that all funds are restricted, with the exception of the General Fund, which is not restricted.

#### 4.0 Public Comments

Guest Ray Johnson had attended an Anza Water meeting with Pam. He reported that residents were there and his impression was that developers don't want to know what the water reserves for [that area] are. Jackie Spanley is working with the Water Master and a followup meeting with Jackie, Pam and Bob is advised.

#### 5.0 Presentations

Rob Blaskovich, an Investment & Financial Advisor with Wachovia Securities (formerly known as A.G. Edwards), presented his credentials and explained the services he provides for his client base. He explained that Wachovia Securities is a full service firm and would be able to advise on risk assessment and growth potential on investment accounts. He talked about diversified portfolios and "mitigation of volatility" in today's investment climate.

Vicki explained the conservative nature of the EMARCD, and discussion turned to investment in money market funds, Certificates of Deposits. Unlike other firms which offer \$100,000 insurance, Wachovia provides \$1M (\$1,000,000) per account, and offers ease of access through checking accounts.

Rob spoke of his oversight of his accounts, stating that it is his philosophy that if he provides the services EMARCD chooses, that his advise and consultation is free. Also, there are no investment fees charged by Wachovia.

During discussion, Vicki mentioned that she, Fish & Game, and developers were in line to receive \$75,000 if one new project moves forward. She explained the written reports that EMARCD must file on easements. In that regard, Dr. Hopkins is preparing an easement agreement, and a report will be forthcoming for Board review. Copies of the report will be sent to the Regional Board, Fish & Game. She pointed out that the \$75,000 could be invested in a Money Market Account.

Mr. Blaskovich was thanked for his time and presentation. No decision was made regarding Wachovia Securities.

## **6.0 Correspondence**

President Nelson briefly discussed correspondence and materials that had been received.

## **7.0 Action Items - Approval requires a majority vote of directors.**

### **7.1 Submission of Bills for Payment**

- a) Invoice from Live Oak Associates for \$15,000. Unanimously approved for payment.
- b) Invoice from Jacran Media for mapping service in the amount of \$200.00. This amount will be reimbursed to EMARCD by Trout Unlimited. Vicki will invoice Trout Unlimited. Unanimously approved for payment.

### **7.2 Mitigation Issues - CEQA Compliance**

Ray Johnson joined the general discussion on CEQA, EMARCD's responsibilities for compliance, and resources available for consultation. Mr. Johnson had copied pertinent information which he provided to Vicki. He reminded the Board that the Riverside County Council (Joel Rank), is our most local public resource for legal guidance and advice on CEQA matters. Vicki suggested that more timely response could be available from Mr. Johnson, an attorney experienced in environmental issues and asked if he would agree to be EMARCD's attorney of record, and serve on retainer. M/S Long/Nelson that Ray Johnson be retained as the attorney of record. Motion carried 4-0, Terry Whittington absent.

### **7.3 Mitigation Policy and Meeting with Mission RCD**

The Mitigation Policy was presented and adopted. M/S Long/Fox, Carried 4-0, with 1 absence.

Vicki reported on a meeting with Mission RCD, indicating that Jeff Brandt of Fish & Game attended. At the meeting, Jeff Brandt offered 30 acres mitigation to Mission RCD on property in Murrieta. Vicki explained that EMARCD mitigation efforts include looking for acreage in Murrieta, an area where EMARCD currently has no easements, but Mission RCD does. A letter sent to LAFCO by President Nelson and Vice President Long mentioned that this reach beyond Mission's district boundaries undercuts EMARCD's efforts in the Santa Margarita watershed.

Ray Johnson commented on the Public Resources Code which [seems to] limit RCDs to work within their district boundaries. Bob explained to Mr. Johnson that there had been an earlier agreement with Mission RCD and what the basic provisions of that agreement had been. However, in the meantime that agreement has been rescinded, and Jeff Brandt has been made aware of this.

The plan for mitigation would allow individuals to restore or remove invasive plants, as well as deal with river bank erosion. This was a report item and no immediate action was taken.

- 7.4 Retain Services of an Investment Company  
Refer to Item 5.0. No action was taken to enter into an agreement with Wachovia Securities.

## 8.0 Reports

- 8.1 **Agency Reports**  
None

- 8.2 **Director's Reports**  
Pam and Vicki submitted written reports.

Charollette updated the Board on recent legislation. Dan inquired about SB 1618.

Ray Johnson commented on his work with the County of Riverside and also mentioned that the San Luis Rey Water District was sued by the Endangered Habitat League and the Pala Reservation. This resulted in a stipulated judgment being rescinded and development was stopped. President Nelson asked if Pala leased property to race track developers, and will get copies of any permits to review.

Bob reported on the Anza meeting held March 12, saying Vern Lauritzen's presentation made several assumptions and erroneous statements. Pam will follow up on the grant for an Anza water study.

- 8.3 **Associate Director's Report**  
None

- 8.4 **Firesafe Council Report**  
None

- 8.5 **Committee Reports**  
None

## 9.0 Old Business

Pam asked if there were questions about announcements or reminders as presented on the Agenda. There were no questions.

## 10.0 New Business

The Fifth Annual Riverside Water Symposium is on May 1. EMARCD Board members may make reservations at a reduced cost of \$80. Contact Andrew Serafini directly at 951-275-5800 and mention EMARCD. For more information go to [www.rivcoh2o.com](http://www.rivcoh2o.com).

## 11.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25pm.

  
Charollette Fox, Secretary

  
Date Approved