



Elsinore - Murrieta - Anza  
Resource Conservation District

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
April 9, 2010  
1:30 PM**

**A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

A meeting of the Elsinore-Murrieta-Anza Resource Conservation District was called to order at 1:49 PM by President Long. Present were the following:

Directors Long, Nelson, Whittington, and Wheeler  
Associate Director Knoppel  
General Manager Rogers  
General Counsel Johnson

Director Rahn was absent.

Visitors: Ken Dodd, Holly Shiralipour, Dan Wood

Motion was made by Whittington, second by Nelson, passed 4-0, to approve the Agenda.

**B. MINUTES OF MARCH 12, 2010**

Motion was made by Nelson, second by Whittington, to approve Minutes of the March 12, 2010 regular meeting, as written.

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**D. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Financial reports prepared by EMARCD's accounting firm were reviewed by the Board.

Acceptance of the financial reports was moved by Whittington, seconded by Nelson, approved 4-0.

Rogers reported that the District financial records had not been audited since 2002, when TRS audited the records for FY 2000. He was directed to confer with District Accountant Laurie K. Marscher as to audit requirements, and to obtain recommendations for soliciting proposals.

**E. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**

Rogers presented correspondence as follows:

- 1.1. Letters from Arlene Schafer, CSDA Board Candidate, dated March 23 and April 2, 2010.
- 1.2. Letter from Special Districts Association of Riverside County dated March 26, 2010 re: LAFCO .
- 1.3. Letter from District Counsel Johnson to the Wildomar Planning Commission dated March 15, 2010 re: Hoover Ranch, City NOI #08-0164
- 1.4. Meeting Notice, "Southern California – Baja Region of Resource Conservation Districts, Spring 2010 Regional Meeting and Tour" April 13 at Mission RCD, Fallbrook.
- 1.5. Letter from Special Districts Risk Management Authority dated April 2, 2010 re: EMARCD five-year favorable loss experience resulting in 12% premium reduction for FY 2010-2011.

**F. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Martha Bridges asked to speak on District Counsel's letter to City of Wildomar re: Hoover Ranch project. She is "appalled at the way the City is handling planning projects. They need to stop or just hand the City over to developers". She is very concerned about the way both the Planning Commission and City Council are handling environmental issues and running things in general. There are gaping holes in their planning process and in their support for environmental concerns.

Associate Director Head entered the meeting at 2:03 PM.

Johnson responded that his letter brings up many issues not considered during the approval process, including groundwater, flooding, and proposed channelization of Murrieta Creek. The WQMP appears to inadequately deal with a number of issues, including

excavation in the flood way, excavation into groundwater to reach the required depth for the overexcavation recommended in their geotechnical reports. Groundwater is reported at 7' to 15' below existing grade, but overexcavation will extend 7' to 21' below grade. The agreement previously reached between the County and the citizens group URGE (Urban River Greenbelt Environment) called for maintaining the natural channel upstream of Tenaja Road, but this project requires channelization. Riverside County Flood Control applied for a Section 404 permit from the Army Corps of Engineers, but was turned down as ACOE ruled that URGE had a superior plan. The Hoover Ranch plan should require a new 404 permit, but the applicant claims one is not required as they are building up to the floodway, but not into it.

As a result of these errors or omissions and others, he is requesting that the City require a full EIR.

Letters in opposition to the project from the Sierra Club and from Del Ross were noted; a copy of the Ross letter dated April 8 was sent to EMARCD. Planning Director Dave Hogan recommended approval of the project, however it was continued without discussion to the May 5 meeting.

Wheeler questioned District Counsel regarding the Murrieta Creek project; there was a confirmed agreement for the design between the County and the City of Temecula. How can the City of Wildomar override this? Counsel responded that north of Tenaja Road, there was really no "plan".

Ms. Bridges reported that she would have a large citizen's contingent at the May 5 meeting.

Johnson said that the Dodson environmental documents were internally inconsistent and poorly written; he was surprised as Dodson generally does the best work of any area consultant. City staff may have amended Dodson's report. The documents were also not sent to the State Clearinghouse,

#### **F. DISTRICT EXPENSES**

The Board asked that the dues invoice for Southern California Baja Region, CARCD, be held for consideration at the May meeting.

#### **G. BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

2.1 Resolution Authorizing Delegate to Vote on Behalf of the District for the Special District representative to LAFCO.

Resolution 10-02 was presented for consideration; approval was moved by Nelson, seconded by Whittington, approved 4-0.

**PRESENTATION:**

Mr. Ken Dodd, principal of marketing firm Final Touch Marketing, presented his ideas for teaching tools focusing on environmental principles. He has been in Temecula since 1977, and wants to do things for the community. He displayed a series of cartoon-based posters and educational booklets featuring characters "Pokie and the Professor" which he hopes to use as part of a nationwide campaign. He envisions a similar format aimed at water conservation, and would like to make the series available at no charge for use by EMARCD in any of their programs. He acknowledged EMARCD's lack of budget capacity for anything like this, but would not raise any question about copyright issues.

Wheeler offered congratulations to Dodd's approach, and expressed hope that EMARCD could use the material.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Discussion of On-going Projects and Grant Applications. Rogers reported that comments had been received from State Parks Department regarding our OHV Grant application; revisions have to be made and submitted by May 3. Talks continue with the Farm Bureau, RCWD and San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board regarding the Agricultural Waiver Program. EMARCD's possible contribution to the program may be as the administrator of the program. Next meeting is scheduled at SDRWQCB on April 30.

Long reported that EMARCD has no realistic expectation for additional funding. State bond sales are slow, and future funding sources may be problematic.

Regarding our educational initiative to HOA Boards, Wheeler reported that there is an association of private HOA's. Head reported that she has the name and will furnish it to us.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**DIRECTORS' REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** None.

**MONTHLY REPORTS:**

**District Counsel Johnson** reported that he has had several conversations with the proponent of the "Casino" project in Lake Elsinore, and that negotiations are moving forward. He is proposing a \$120,000 endowment, to which they have not yet agreed. They will realize a tax write-off of approximately \$800,000 upon completion of the transaction.

He has reviewed the D.R. Horton Country Roads easement agreement, and feels that it is quite one-sided. He is working with Kelly Alhadeff to complete a substantial revision. Long said that the easement will require considerable monitoring, for which funding will be required.

A request has been received from Greer Ranch regarding the acceptance of the Greer Ranch easement in fee. He has some concerns, but is not ready to report further to the Board on the matter.

**District Manager Rogers'** report has been previously given as noted above.

**Director's Reports:** **Wheeler** expressed concern about the Lakeview project in Nuevo. Although outside of EMARCD's boundary, it is a project with serious problems, proposing 15,000 housing units and a population of 30,000 to 40,000 people. **Long** said she thought Riverside Conservation Agency was working on the issue. **Johnson** questioned whether they had a will-serve letter from Western Municipal Water District; shortages are going to affect everybody, there will be no guarantees as to water availability, no guaranteed sustainability for current residences. Roll-backs will affect everyone. The Board may want to ask Western to establish policies for coming water shortages. **Long** suggested that we should approach RCWD's Board about guaranteeing water to farmers. Proposition 84 is really about funding new sources of water. **Johnson** said there is no new water – the only option may be desalinization or recycling. Orange County Water Authority is already doing it.

**Johnson** spoke in favor of a Board planning session. Where does EMARCD go from here, what do we want to accomplish. A workshop is the appropriate medium to answer that question. **Nelson** said that one was held about five years ago, and it is time to do it again. It will probably take more than one day.

**Nelson** reported on a Sierra Club Alternative Energy Forum to be held April 22; she is planning to attend. She questioned **Johnson** about Assembly Bill 811; it is a Solar Initiative, issuing bonds for solar retrofit and energy efficiency retrofit projects. Another Beauty Mountain cleanup will be held on April 17, a continuation of the September event. Meet at the Oak Grove Fire Station at 8:45 AM.

**Wheeler** asked about land application of sewage sludge to lands in the Vail Lake area. **Nelson** said she understood that RCWD is monitoring the situation and does not perceive any problem.


**Natural Resources Conservation Service.** The Board welcomed **Holly J. Shiralipour**, RC&D Coordinator, who reported on her activities since starting her job in October 2009. She is employed by the Department of Agriculture, spending 25% of her time on NRCS activities and 75% on South Coast Resource Conservation and Development Area activities. The RC&D's were established through the 1962 Agriculture Act; South Coast is the most densely populated of all the RC&D's. It has been effectively dormant for some time, and her job is to revitalize it as an organization. On Monday, April 26, the RC&D will be meeting at the Frontier Project in Rancho Cucamonga, a LEED Platinum project; the meeting will include tours of the building.

On other activities, Shiralipour reported working on the Department's Agricultural Water Enhancement Plan (AWEP) grants due May 17, on a RC&D Strategic 5-year Plan, on a Fire Summit to be held in Diamond Bar on June 2, and on a South Coast Air Quality Management Grant due May 26. 4H has a Summer Science Engineering and Technical program, including a Riverside County Field Day and an "Envirothon" at Joshua Tree National Park. Canon Camera is a major sponsor. She is always looking for more participation in RC&D activities. Nelson suggested cooperation with the City of Murrieta, who is putting on an Energy Fair later this year. Other non-profits worth contacting would be Inland Empire Waterkeepers and Riverside Land Conservancy. Knoppel said she would like to assist by getting nursery growers involved as plant suppliers to RC&D projects.

Director Whitaker left the meeting at 4:00 PM.

Shiralipour would like to develop a program for Landscape Architects and nurseries to buy in to the use of drought-tolerant, non-invasive, fire-resistant plants. Some people feel that "natives" are "not pretty enough", with too much foliage and not enough flowers. Head said that she has heard complaints at the Colony; the new drought-tolerant landscape doesn't "look as nice as the old landscaping they took out." People are not giving it a chance to develop; the new landscaping will look fine once it has a chance to mature, and as people get used to it, it will become more acceptable. Educational efforts are needed to justify the benefits to residents, and explain why they need to get rid of turf. There are real benefits, but people need to change their expectations.

**Adjournment:** Moved by Wheeler, second by Nelson, to adjourn to 1:30 PM May 14, 2010, approved 3-0, at 4:10 PM



Pamela Nelson  
Secretary of the Board

Approved by Board of Directors June 11, 2010

Ayes 4 Noes 0 Abstained 0