

MINUTES

Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

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), Newt Parkes (Secretary-Treasurer), Randy Feeney (Director), Teri Biancardi (Director), Pablo Bryant-(Director-Elect)

Directors Absent-None

Associate Directors Present: Rick Neugebauer- Rick Neugebauer-Associate Director

Associate Directors Absent: None

Office Manager: Deborah Getty-Present

Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCS) Waiting to new representative to be named- Bob Hewitt retired.

District Counsel: Melissa Cushman-Present

Guest Speakers: None

Public Guests: Pacifica Hoffenburg-Supervisor Chuck Washington's office, Damien Fussel, Supervisor Kevin Jeffries office.

Approval of Agenda

President Corona asks for a motion to approve the agenda to include the Consent Calendar, correspondence, financials and minutes as presented. Director Biancardi moves to make the motion, Director Parkes seconds. President Corona calls for a vote. Vote-4-0.

President Corona takes a moment to introduce new Director Pablo Bryant and asks him to tell the Board a little about himself. Director Bryant states that he manages the Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve

and has been there for over 20 years. He states that he has been in the Valley since the mid-90s as a research associate and married, two kids, five dogs and that he is interested in cleaning up the watershed.

District Counsel Cushman asks if Director Bryant has been sworn in yet and he responds by saying that he had not at which point District Counsel states that he will just be an observer for this particular meeting.

II. ACTION ITEMS

Item 1: Discussion and potential approval of a new office manager. President Corona STATES THAT Deb Getty the current office manager will be leaving TEAM RCD to pursue other opportunities in her career. President Corona also stated that temporarily she has someone to do the typing etc for the time being but since there is no one permanent at the moment she asked to table the item and move to the next item.

Item 2: Discussion and Update on Arundo Removal partnership with Mission RCD.- President Corona reminded the Board of a partnership with Mission RCD using the Long Term Streambed Agreement in coordination with a grant they had where they needed to use the monies to finish off the grant requirements. They found a project in our area and with our supervision through James Law, the removal has been completed and TEAM RCD is just waiting for the final reports which will be included in the 2022 CDFW reports. Billing to Mission RCD will be forwarded once billing is received from SAWA.

Item 3: Update on MOU with Coachella Valley-President Corona reported that the MOU with Coachella Valley passed their Board and has been signed and delivered. The collaboration would be a backstop and help to Mission RCD if there were a time that Luis at Mission would need help in doing the water audits.

Item 4: Update on the Annual audit.-Director Parkes summarized the Annual Audit as follows. The audit is based on an end date of June 30 explaining that the auditors prepare an overview of the plan, scope and timing for the financial statement audits. He noted that they adhere to generally accepted accounting principles which includes discussions with management and bookkeeping. He said that the audit went well and the auditors encountered no disagreements or significant issues or difficulties in performing their audit and that no audit adjustments were noted or necessary. Director Parkes also said that the important information to note was that the net position of the District increased by \$116,613.00 during that year or an 8.66% increase. Also, the net position of the District increased to \$1.436 million over the year.

Director Biancardi ask if a large chunk of the income came from the existing Flood Control contract in which the response was yes however, President Corona pointed out that the District also gets quite a bit of funding from the AEIP, Crop Swap and Rootstock programs that are run in collaboration with the Rancho California Water District. President Corona also explained briefly the history of the Board prior and their finances prior to 2014 and what TEAM RCD had done going forward to be more transparent with the County in order to assure compliance and transparency with their books. President Corona also went on to explain how the Flood Control projects came about and, with input from AD Neugebauer explained how the District works on a "fee for service" basis.

Director Parkes added additional information regarding how profits and losses are reflected in the audit due to the fact that work on many of these projects are confined to specific times of year due to nesting season and CDFW restrictions therefore some months may look like a loss, but only because the work has not been billed or TEAM RCD did not receive revenue for that work in the month that it was done. Further, she explained that how the initial projects expanded for Flood Control and how many of the projects came under budget which allowed left over funds to be used again at existing sites to get some of the vegetation under control and it also which included bi-monthly monitory for homeless which is ongoing. This assists the community outreach and homeless task forces to be made aware of encampments and work toward moving and assisting those homeless prior to it expanding out of the control of the local law enforcement and community services.

Item 5-Discussion and potential discussion for hiring a new bookkeeping company-With the departure of the office manager, the President has found an affordable bookkeeping company called New Options which is an independent bookkeeping company owned by Rae Shirer keeping the existing rate that the former office manager was paid. After a motion by the President, and a second by Newt Parkes. Motion passed 4-1.

Item 5-Update on Greer Ranch/Adeline Farms/Benton Channel monitoring-AD Neugebauer reported that the year end bio-monitoring reports had been forwarded to CDFW and they are completed and done for the 2021 year. The report says that the water flow on Adeline Farms although pretty full in December there weren't any major problems out there with any of the conservation easements. President Corona added that Greer Ranch has quarterly monitoring and that work for those projects will be slated at a time that works around nesting season. This would include some invasive removal at Greer Ranch and that we plan to work with SAWA to do some habitat restoration in the Adeline Farms area. After giving a brief overview of a potential long term project that would use existing "urban slobber" from the outlets from the tract homes, President Corona said she would be reaching out to Army Corps for a potential meeting to see what can be achieved in this area.

Item 6-Update on yearly CDFW reporting-President Corona noted that all the appropriate reporting to CDFW for all projects for 2021 were submitted on time with the exception of the Arundo Removal which still had some work to be done in January. This work will be reported to CDFW on the 2022 reports. There was a small issue regarding an overpayment of \$360.00 but the agency is looking into it to see if reimbursement is applicable.

NEW BUSINESS

Item 1-Form 700 submittals-Outgoing office manager reminded the Board to submit their Form 700's by April 1. No motion necessary.

Item 2-Discussion on Potential Grant with Cal-Recycle for Anza/Aguanga/Area- Director Biancardi proceeded to inform the Board of a potential grant with Cal-Recycle called the Farm & Ranch Solid Waste Abatement Grant Program that she has been working with President Corona on. The program provides grant funds for removal of unauthorized solid waste disposal that has occurred on a farm or ranch parcel(s), property is in need of cleanup to abate a nuisance or public health and safety threat and/or a threat to the environment, Property is zoned or otherwise authorized for agricultural activities.

The grant possibility was brought to the attention of President Corona in late January when she was contacted by Stephanie Becker with Cal-Recycle who had been contacted by a citizen in our District who had her unauthorized waste left on her property which is located within the district. After phone calls with CalRecycle, AD Rick Neugebauer who checked the APN's, the owner of the property and contacting SAWA to do a site inspection, Ms. Corona arranged a phone call with Cal-Recycle, Director Biancardi, since this was her assigned area, Jeff Brandt from CDFW and James Law from SAWA to discuss the possibility of applying for the grant based on information gathered.

The timeline was very short (one week) and Director Biancardi along with James Law were asked to put together a budget for this project and Director Biancardi along with Director Corona would fill out all the applicable paperwork by Nov. 10 with the exception of a final motion to approve the grant application as submitted and the accompanying resolution which needed to be passed by this meeting. The budget was an estimate based on site inspection and SAWA would be using the California Conservation Corps to do some of the work. All paperwork was submitted to CalRecycle by November 9th in time to make the deadline with a written copy of the approved resolution to follow after the meeting.

President Corona asked Director Biancardi to make a motion to approve the grant submission and the resolution. Director Parkes seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously approved 4-1.

Item 3-Update on increase in Liability Insurance- Director Parkes gave a report about the update on the increase in liability insurance from SDRMA. In 2021 we paid \$2650.00 roughly and this year's amount will be between \$3,052 to \$3244.00. AD Neugebauer asked what the limits were and Director Parkes said he didn't know but would find out. Director Parkes said that Errors and Omissions insurance was covered in this policy.

OLD BUSINESS

Item 1-Update on Temecula Elementary invasive removal project and Empire Creek Project-President Corona updated the Board about the progress of the invasive removal near Temecula Elementary. There is nothing to report at this point and TEAM is waiting for a response from CDFW to see if some of the limbing of the trees can go higher to allow law enforcement and the school to see within the channel that needs the vegetation removal. No motion necessary.

Item 2-Update on Clinton Keith Property and Rivers and Lands Conservancy-President Corona and AD Neugebauer hosted a phone call with RLC on January 22 to discuss further the possibilities of RLC obtaining the 75 acres from TEAM RCD. The meeting went well and RLC will be waiting for more information for a future discussion. President Corona explained the background to the Board on how the property was obtained and the outstanding issues that still need to be addressed. TEAM RCD is waiting for that information to be pulled from the CDFW archives at which point the former contact for CDFW, Jeff Brandt, will be discussing it with the current contact Heather Pert in order to get her up to speed on the history of this property in order to move forward. Nothing more to report until more information is obtained.

Item 3-Homeless Monitoring report-Director Parkes reported that there was not much new other that there have been 3-4 sites where homeless and transient activity seem to be consistently showing up. That would be Tualota Creek 3, Santa Gertrudis Channel and the Temecula Creek AD 159. He noted

that although he consistently makes the task forces aware of the activity there does not seem to be much change in that TEAM RCD has no enforcement responsibilities. Director Parkes said that the Task Force headed by Mike Wooten they had taken some action but not all of the places but they are on the priority list. He suggested that we have the Mr. Wooten and the Task force attend one of our meetings and discuss their goals and mission at one of the meetings. President Corona asked Director Parkes to reach out as to a convenient time for them to attend.

Continued conversation included the good work that is going on in Lake Elsinore and "The Anchor" project there and Damien Fussel from Supervisor Jeffries office spoke on how the new redistricting may change how homelessness in Lake Elsinore is going to be addressed since two supervisors will be sharing that particular District.

Item 4-SAWA Report-AD Neugebauer noted that there was nothing to report, that it had been reasonably quiet with ongoing things that SAWA does with a lot of people working remotely. He indicated that Hames is probably the big force of nature that keeps all the projects going which reflects with the income revenue and profit stream. End of report.

At this time President Corona asks District Counsel how to allow Director Biancardi to do her report on Anza/Aguanga since Director Corona missed putting her report into the agenda. Director Biancardi said she had nothing to report but wanted to make a comment on the SAWA report. District Counsel commented that if Director Biancardi had nothing to report then that that would be fine but she could make a comment on one of the other items.

President Corona allowed Director Biancardi to make her comments. Director Biancardi was concerned about a pending item at SAWA regarding Category A Directors which had come up at a previous SAWA meeting at which she made a public comment requesting that there be no vote on the item until the TEAM RCD Board had a chance to review it. AD Neugebauer responded by outlining his authority given to him by the Board by majority vote to represent TEAM RCD and his capacity as President of the SAWA Board to put forth an agenda for the SAWA Board to continue forward with their business as a separate entity. After further exchanges, the Board then moved on to the next item on the agenda.

Item 5-Update on AIEP, Crop Swap Reports-Randy Feeney/Deb Getty- Director Feeney is taking over the Water Audit and Crop Swap programs that were formerly administrated by Director Lisa Battiato. Director Feeney reported that Deb Getty had had a short training time with him and he was just getting up to speed. Not a lot was going on right now but soon the Rancho Water District would be gearing up and doing their annual marketing and advertising to growers. No motion necessary

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None reported.

ADJOURNMENT

President Corona asks for a motion to adjourn. Director Parkes moves, Randy Feeney seconds. Unanimously approved 4-1. Meeting adjourned 5:01 p.m.

Secretary/Treasurer-Date