

Minutes:

Elsinore-Murrieta-Anza Resource Conservation District

Regular Meeting

Friday, June 12, 2009, 1:30 pm

Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve Visitor Center

*approved
7/2/09
G. Nelson*

Call to Order: President Long called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

Attendees:

Directors: Vicki Long, Pam Nelson, Bob Wheeler, Matt Rahn, and Terry Whittington

Associate Directors: Dan Matriasciano, Jon Kochersberger (absent)

Counsel: Ray Johnson (absent)

Public: Margie and Ken Gray, Tressa and Larry Coco, Greg Fankhanel (TRS) and Del Ross

Minutes of May, 2009: Motion to approve, Dir Rahn, second Dir. Nelson, approved, 3-0. Dir. Wheeler and Whittington arrived after this vote.

Public Comments: Ken and Margie Gray described the vehicular trespass on their property through the creekbed by the residents living above them (Rancho Glen Oaks and others). It has been used as a short cut and there is legal access by other routes. They have stopped the Rancho Glen Oaks HOA from grading in the creek and on their property (called Co. code enf.), but runoff of manure and silt is still a problem from the properties above. The Grays have begun fencing and would hope to put signage up describing the creek as sensitive habitat. Dir. Nelson reminded the Board of the project site visit she made with F&G and FWS reps hoping to get funds to help the restoration of this site, but the agencies could not help because of the continued impact from the area (HOA) above. The Grays are still hoping for help. Tressa and Larry Coco live in the Rancho Glen Oaks tract that has impacted the Grays and have been trying to get the Board of the HOA to respond to the Grays complaints as well as their own about the improper road maintenance that impacts the oak woodlands and adjacent tributaries. They would like John Green, the geomorphologist, to help their HOA with the road grading. Dir. Long mentioned she attended an HOA meeting where they said they intended to get Green's help. Tressa said that Green had not received a request yet. Dir. Long will send the HOA Board a reminder. Larry told the HOA Board that grading in the creeks is illegal, but they ignored him. Dir. Long said Hector Viray (Co. Code) is working with the HOA Board to correct the illegal grading. Tressa gave Dir. Long an email from M. Shetler (Riverside Co. admin) describing what the county thinks should be done. Larry mentioned that the HOA Board is receptive to suggestions from authorities only. Dir. Long will facilitate a meeting with the HOA, EMARCD and John Green. Assoc. Dir. Matriasciano mentioned the Firesafe Council will be meeting on the 15th at the Fire station #1 at 5:30pm to show off the new chipper purchased from grant funds. He invited the Cocos and Grays.

Presentations: none

Financial report: Dir. Whittington went over our accounts. He asked Dir. Long to explain the recent mitigation deposits. They which were for a new project with D.R. Horton.

She also pointed out the deposits from SAWA coming in monthly for housing.

Board Correspondence:

-Dir. Wheeler: He received an email from Shelli Lamb, RCRC, about a revision of the abatement of hazardous vegetation ordinance that will affect RCDs and other organizations with conservation properties. Dir. Long said she had already responded to her and will attend the hearing. Dir. Rahn asked what Dir. Long plans to say there. She said she will say the RCDs are trying to save habitat. He said we have to be careful because our property could be a liability if adjacent to private landowners. He added that clearing regulations are still dependent on Fish and Game Codes.

Board Action Items - Approval requires a majority vote of directors

District expenses:

- 1.1 Nigro & Nigro for accounting \$412.50. Dir. Wheeler, motion, Dir. Whittington, second, approved 5-0.
- 1.2 Live Oaks Associates for conservation easement, 1600 permit and mitigation project biological work. Dir. Rahn, motion, Dir. Whittington, second. Dir. Wheeler asked to see underlying documentation. Dir. Rahn rescinded his motion until we see a draft report.

Board Actions:

- 2.1 Greg Fankhanel, CPA from Teaman, Ramirez & Smith (TRS) described the payroll service they provide. Nigro & Nigro does not do this service and since we will soon have an employee we will need to hire someone. TRS services SAWA, IERC and many other government agencies. They do accounting, audits, etc. They have 4 dedicated staff members for payroll and have 35 clients. It is an on-site service where Quick Books can be used. Dir. Rahn mentioned it might be better to have one accounting firm do everything. This may be considered next meeting. Dir. Nelson mentioned if we got rid of the storage unit, this would cover the expense. Dir. Wheeler suggested we look at other firms. Dir. Whittington said the idea of a payroll firm was new to him and would like to mull it over and see other firms' presentations. Dir. Nelson, motioned to hire TRS, Dir. Rahn, seconded. Approved, 3-2.

Ken Gray asked for information on local native plant nurseries and Dir. Nelson said she would send him some.

- 2.2 Board reviewed the budget draft for fiscal year 2009-2010. Motion to approve, Dir. Nelson, second, Dir. Whittington. Discussion followed: Dir. Rahn pointed out that housing was \$900/mth and that the annual amount should be \$10,800, not \$10,000. Dir. Long will ask for the correction from SAWA as well as an agreement, since Dir. Whittington felt this deposit could be stopped at anytime and Dir. Wheeler questioned why SAWA would do this for us. Dir. Long explained that SAWA does this for Board member organizations to keep them functioning better. Dir. Whittington requested a document from Ray Johnson explaining the use of the benefactor's donation of \$40,000. He also questioned the Admin. fees of \$10,000. Dir. Long said this is based on five \$2000 deposits for mitigation projects. This is just an

estimate. We could also receive admin. funds when we spend the restricted monies. Dir. Nelson asked about travel mileage for the new manager. At \$.51/mile, the Board put in \$2500. The budget was approved with corrections, 4-1. Dir. Wheeler voted no because there were no benefactor documents for review yet.

- 2.3 Letter to County Planner & BOS addressing Anza project prepared by Dir. Nelson. Dir. Rahn, motion, Dir. Whittington, second. Approved, 5-0. Comments that we should send a similar letter when these projects come up. Dir. Whittington said this was a good letter.

Closed Session: Personnel matters 3pm

Came out of closed session at 3:12pm to announce that John Rogers has been selected as the District manager.

Reports:

Agency : Bob Hewitt, NRCS absent.

Director:

-Dir. Wheeler passed out a written report on management of conservation lands. He describes the liability that our Board has without having an endowment to cover any problems that may arise. Dir. Rahn suggested putting out "no trespassing signs" and that would cover many of the liability concerns. Dir. Wheeler said there would still be "off-site" damage of adjacent properties as another liability—debris leaving and clogging tributaries, and similar issues that would still require an endowment. Dir. Long answered that our property is purchased and since we own it, we have coverage by our insurance agent. Also, we will eventually have multiple endowments as we put conservation easements onto the property, as the one Fish and game is drafting. She stated Dir. Wheeler should be discussing this with our attorney before going to outside agencies and groups with questions.

Dir. Wheeler left the meeting.

-Dir. Long: Vicki reviewed her written report

-Dir. Rahn: Matt discussed SDSU's budget problems and the possible down-sizing of SMER. Our MOU and a JPA formation is on hold as a result.

-Dir Nelson: reviewed her written report and showed some of the items displayed at the Anza Earth day by exhibitor

Legal: Johnson and Sedlack, Ray Johnson, absent s

Closed Session: Manager start date. Came out to announce the date will be July 13th.

Adjournment: Motion, Dir. Long, second, Dir. Rahn, approved, 4-0.
4:27pm