

MINUTES

Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, September 9, 2021 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 Rose Corona

Flag Salute

Roll Call/Establish a Quorum

Directors Present: Rose Corona (President), Newt Parkes (Secretary/Treasurer), Teri Biancardi (Director), Randy Feeney (Director)

Directors Absent: Lisa Battiato (Vice President)

Associate Directors Present: Rick Neugebauer

Associate Directors Absent: None

Office Manager: Deborah Getty – Present

Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCS): Robert Hewitt – Absent

District Counsel: Emily Headlee – Present

Guest Speakers: Darcy Cook, District Manager of Mission Resource Conservation District

Public Guests: Pacifica Hoffenburg – District Supervisor Chuck Washington's office.

Approval of Agenda

President Corona called for a motion to approve the agenda complete with consent calendar and correspondence as presented. Director Parkes moved and Director Biancardi seconded. **Motion passed unanimously 4-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

II. ACTION ITEMS/ DISCUSSION CALENDAR

Item 1: Update on NRCS activity and ongoing projects. No report at this time as Bob Hewitt is not present. No motion necessary.

Item 2: Discussion on outreach of guest Natalie Solaris with UCCE Small Farms, Community Educator Specialist II, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties for input on small farmers. Natalie Solaris being unable to attend will be invited to another meeting to introduce herself and see how she can learn more about TEAM RCD. She had reached out to President Corona to see how she might possibly educate everyone on the agriculture program. No motion necessary.

Item 3: Discussion and potential approval – Board requested Agenda items to be submitted no later than Thursday at 5 pm prior to agenda posting. General discussion on timing of agenda requests being made submitted with enough administrative time to complete. President Corona makes a motion that a request for any agenda item be submitted a week prior or no later than Thursday at 5 pm prior to agenda posting for the convenience of the office manager. Director Feeney seconds. **Motion passed unanimously 4-0.**

III. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1: Discussion of the Temecula Elementary School invasive removal project. President Corona reports that she received a call from Joyce Tooke in regards to Temecula Elementary School and the channel located between the school and the church. With quite a bit of homeless seen in that channel, the city and law enforcement have been called in to help clean up and move the homeless. The grounds manager was told to contact the RCD for assistance to clean up all that is overgrown excluding invasives and native plants. James Law felt it would take roughly four to five hours to clean and provided us a cost to review the project. TEAM RCD provided a proposal so that the school district could issue a purchase order. Once received, next steps will be taken. No motion necessary.

Item 2: Discussion on Empire Creek Project.

AD Neugebauer reports that he received a call from Larry Markham who is a very recognized land entitlement specialist civil engineer that has worked in the valley for thirty years. He shared that the Empire Creek property is not conservation and will not be considered conservation. It will be cleared as necessary and what is left there will be what was originally there, which is the creek. President Corona adds that she had spoken with them about having a meeting with James Law of SAWA to get the invasive removed and they have agreed to that and are going to meet with us on September 13, 2021. No motion necessary

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Item 1: Update on Homeless Task Force.

Director Parkes reports that the most recent monitoring reports show that San Gertudis Channel and Temecula Creek continue to have additional activity. He has reached out to Mike Wooten from Temecula on a monthly basis to report what has been discovered. The recent report has been forwarded to Mr. Wooten as well as Director Parkes has left a voicemail requesting an opportunity for him, Mr. Wooten and Rose Corona to meet. Additionally, there has been some activity on the Tualota Creek 3 project. The activity was adjacent to our project that they identified to be some pretty active homeless activity. Director Parkes notified Brian Ambrose in Murrieta. A quick update on the Anchor in Lake Elsinore was provided. No motion necessary.

Item 2: SAWA Report

AD Neugebauer reports that SAWA has been working on the ILF program which is the In-Lieu fee or money that is received from the Army Corps of Engineers and others to keep things moving forward. A golf course project that wraps around the McMillian project is seriously being considered by SAWA for purchase as it potentially make a great wetland habitat area. It is only in the beginning steps and a small task force will be assembled to review the potential. Director Biancardi asks about a previous discussion a few months ago that SAWA possibly would be expanding their Board to include another seat. AD

Neugebauer explains it is still at the discussion phase for agency additions. AD Neugebauer also explained that what originally directed that dialogue was that there are other water agencies, other participants in the watershed such as San Bernardino Valley Water District and other agencies that are very interested in participating with SAWA from their professional side of things. That's why SAWA entered that discussion and SAWA is at this time considering how they can move forward with that expansion. It's under review with the bylaws and also how SAWA would make that work or expand. No motion necessary.

Item 3: Update and discussion on AEIP and CropSWAP reports.

No report at this time as Director Battiato is not present. No motion necessary.

Item 4: Update on Anza/Aguanga area.

Director Biancardi reports that the Department of Pesticide Regulation has closed their pilot project to do well testing, but they expanded to include two wells from Anza. They both have been adjacent to some of the illegal grows and they are opposite sides of the valley. There's a broad screen of toxic things that they are searching for and if the hit comes up, they they'll be included in a larger kind of study. Director Biancardi feels this is a real preliminary important first step to us to begin to get a better understanding of just the state of water in Anza. Director Biancardi mentions the link that was included in the correspondence section of the Board packet for the grant committee to possibly review. It may be a good opportunity for TEAM because it is an environmental education program or the environmental education grant for disadvantaged communities. Timing is tight with a deadline of October 8th, 2021. No motion necessary.

Item 5: Update on NRCS activity and ongoing projects.

No report at this time as Bob Hewitt is not present. Director Biancardi asks about the consent calendar. President Corona states that is was approved at the beginning of the meeting. Director Biancardi states she did not hear that and has some corrections to the minutes. A recommendation is made from legal counsel for a motion to be made to hear the proposal for corrections. Director Parkes moves and President Corona seconds in order for Director Biancardi to comment.

Director Biancardi stated that there were some spelling errors in the last minutes which needed correction and expressed concern regarding a comment at the previous meeting made by Director Battiato in regards to her concerns regarding citizens who wished to remain anonymous in regards to well drilling. Director Biancardi stated she did not feel her response was reflected in the minutes and the President stated that she would have her response from the transcript sent to her for her to review. The discussion continued to note that the minutes were in draft form and made available to the public at the same time they are made available to the Board. If the Board decides corrections are needed, they can be presented and voted on. Motion made to close discussion by Newt Parkes, seconded by Rose Corona. **Motion passed unanimously 4-0.**

Item 6: Update and discussion of the TEAM RCD website progress.

Deborah Getty reports that she and Darcy Cook will schedule a meeting to gather some additional information to continue to enhance the website. No motion necessary.

V. SPEAKERS AND PRESENTATIONS

President Corona introduces Darcy Cook, Mission RCD Executive Director. Darcy being our partner, collaborator and friend. Mission RCD has some exciting things they are doing that she reviewed that hopefully would provide a way to give back to the community.

An in depth discussion was provided on:

- Healthy Soils Program
- Agri-ecology food and farming Pathways Program
- State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Healthy (SWEEP) Program
- Cooperative Wildlife Roundtable Discussion and group

VI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, President Corona motions to adjourn the meeting and Director Biancardi seconded. **Motion passed unanimously 4-0.** Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.


Secretary/Treasurer