

Minutes

Elsinore-Murrieta-Anza Resource Conservation District Regular meeting, Friday, Dec. 10, 2010, 1:30pm Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve, Visitor Center

Motion to approve the agenda: Wheeler, second, Nelson, vote, 5-0

Call to order: 1:40pm

Attendees: Directors: Vicki Long, Pam Nelson and Bob Wheeler

Associate Directors: Kathi Head (1:45pm), Annika Knoppel (2:15)

Counsel: Ray Johnson (1:55)

NRCS rep: Bob Hewitt

10/8/10 minutes: motion to approve, Wheeler, second, Nelson, vote, 3-0.

Public comment: None

Financial Reports: Motion to approve, Wheeler, second Nelson, vote 3-0

Correspondence: We received the Conservation Star Award at the CARCD annual meeting in November. Long will look into the details.

District Expenses: no extraordinary expenses

Action Items: none

Old Business:

On-going projects and grant applications:

- California State Parks OHV Grant: Jan. 1st and the term for completion is 3 years.
- IRWMP projects: Rahn's injected irrigation project and the HOA Landscape education are still in the running as part of the "Irrigation Lands" group of the IRWMP. There will be one more cut.
- Annika's High Country Garden group is working with community groups to do their own projects and funding.
- The DWR groundwater study grant is still looking for a lead agency since the county doesn't want to manage it
- The RCRCDC is helping our RCD with grant searching
- SAWA has potential funding for our RCD in Lake Elsinore area

New Business:

- Wheeler passed out a handout with 3 topics:

1) RWQCB's new MS4 permit;

At the public hearing, the chairman of the Board made conclusive remarks saying that with Limited Impact Development (LID) methods the aquifers will fill up and bring back clean surface water. Wheeler is concerned that this water will never materialize and will just be used by developers. Also, Camp Pendleton is worried they will never get enough flow for their drinking water supply since all the water will be captured/recharged. But Nelson and others mentioned that Rancho Water District has to keep water flowing down the Santa Margarita and maybe the quantity will have to be increased. The permit needs to be approved by the State and there are appeals in from Wildomar and Co. Flood.

Wheeler, "this is a good permit, but the unintended consequences need to be resolved". Long said that if the cities and counties don't conform they can't get sewers permitted. It was suggested that we write a letter stating we approve of the permit, but they need to address the unintended consequences. Long will email Jason Uhley to see if we can support them since the Flood District is the lead for the municipalities.

- 2) Murrieta City General Plan update: A subsection covering a Los Alamos Specific Plan would incorporate a viable preservation area where equity and parity are considered. Small land owners say they are having to do all the conservation while big more powerful landowners are able to develop. Counsel Johnson will review the plan. Assoc. Dir. Head said that there are problems with the MSHCP and those small landowners have valid complaints. Johnson said there is much interest in reviewing the MSHCP particularly in respect to the implementation. Other concerns that a Murrieta Council member mentioned are the 215 widening at Keller Rd. and that the RCA is trying to get rid of the wildlife corridor across 15. In general, they would like to get rid of Core 2. There has been poor biological monitoring indicating less species in the Core. Long will bring up this at SAWA and tell them of the complaints about the biological monitoring. Johnson will respond to the NOP.
- 3) Proposal for electrical substation in Fallbrook area: This would connect transmission lines to the Nevada Hydro LEAPS project in Lake Elsinore. The lines would run along the Cleveland Nat'l. Forest (Santa Ana Mountains). Fallbrook Land Conservancy is considering selling a parcel for this purpose after Camp Pendleton refused. Johnson and Long will investigate this.

Monthly reports:

-NRCS, Bob Hewitt. The 7-year Watershed Recovery project is finishing up this month. Congress awarded \$126 million for remove dead and dying trees in the local 3 counties. They made mulch, firewood and construction wood from the removed lumber.

- EQIP and WHIP are the 2 most active programs in our area.
- Bob will be speaking with Matt Rahn about the SMER ag program.
- CIBG funds retrofits of tractors to control emissions. This is a popular program, as well.
- Organic EQIP program: This funds conservation practices such as, mulching, cover crops, saving water, reducing pollution, biological hedgerows for increasing pollinators, and erosion control.

Assoc. Dir. Head asked if he can help HOAs that are concerting to native landscapes. There is no funding for this, but Bob can advise. Long said that we are creating a program like this so Bob could advise us.

- WRP: an easement acquisition program for wetlands. Usually takes about 18 months to 2 years to create one of these.

Nelson is still working on the Ag Preservation Resolution and asked if Bob could help. She will send him the info in January.

Bob visited the Cahuilla Reservation to meet with Pedro Torres looking into erosion. Tribes are given incentives and help from the NRCS.

-Counsel, Ray Johnson.

He has been helping a group stop a Walmart in Menifee. They were successful . but now Walmart will put an initiative out to the voters. Menifee's Town Center is next to a flood channel and there are other big projects proposed without proper infrastructure to support them. There's also lots of development proposed in Perris. He is also working with a group that opposes the Kenny Robles Auto Center in Wildomar.

-Associate Director, Annika Knoppel.

There are 3 community projects being planned. 1) Community garden at the Boys and Girls Club property. 2) Demonstration garden using low water plants at Minor Park. 3) Demonstration garden of native plant species at the Hamilton Museum property. These will be a community effort since they don't qualify for Prop 84 funding.

Adjournment at 3:55pm: motion to approve, Nelson, second, Wheeler, vote, 3-0

Secretary's signature: *Ganda Nelson*