

Elsinore-Murrieta-Anza Resource Conservation District

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, November 9, 2006 - 4:00pm

Fire Station #84, 30650 Pauba Road, Temecula, CA 92592

Members Present:

Gary Watts, Vice President
Bob Wheeler, Treasurer
Charolette Fox, Secretary
Terry Whittington, Director
Dan Matrisciano, Associate Director
Vicki Long, Associate Director

Members Absent:

Pamela Nelson, President
Del Ross, Associate Director
Edward Stanton, Associate Director
Bob Hewitt, NRCS

Staff or Guests Present:

Denise Hill
Ida Martin
Ellen Christensen

Additions to the Agenda:

None

1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

Vice President Gary Watts called the meeting to order at 4:05pm.

2.0 Approval of Minutes

Minutes of October 24, 2006 were approved with one correction. On Page 2, remove "sample" from sentence beginning, "Sample MOUs of previous..."

3.0 Treasurer's Report

Bob Wheeler reported no change since the report given October 24, 2006.

4.0 Public Comments

None

5.0 Presentations

Guests Denise Hill and Ida Martin made an informational presentation on local land use problems and their relation to the MSHCP and CEQA. Visuals and posters were used extensively. Ida led the presentation by discussing the batch plant near Vail Lake and the heavy siltation/sedimentation occurring in Vail Lake and Temecula Creek. Aerial photos demonstrated the loss of habitat and the route of the road constructed by Superior, the aggregate quarry company. During construction, Superior hit the water table. Widespread vegetation destruction was visible in aerial photos shown.

Background

An ag exemption was issued by Jim Miller, former Code Enforcement Officer. This batch plant does not have a conditional use permit, and their surface mine permit expired on March 19, 2003. (A mining permit was issued to John Morrana in 1973 and another to C.L. Ferris.) Ida expressed concern that during the last several years, sedimentation removed from the quarry may have been reintroduced into the soil, and that she observed stockpiles of sediments disappearing overnight. Where did they go? A further concern is that contaminated soils are a suspected contaminate of the water stored at Vail Lake—a lake that releases drinking water to Camp Pendleton. The type and level of soil or water contamination is not known, as Ida has not conducted testing.

Denise Hill then spoke of three motorcross tracks in Aquanga and the grading that property owners have done. The properties have been cited for illegal grading but no remedial restoration has begun. Denise stated that there is no OHV statute interpretation defining what a "tract" is, and that the wine country is

being inundated with tracks. Are they legal or illegal? Aerial photos were provided to show the bull dozing that has occurred, and the photos are made a part of these official minutes.

Re revocation of Point X's grading permit: Denise requested the help of EMARCD, possibly to initiate a Grand Jury investigation. Another suggestion was a letter of support be developed and sent to Jay Orr, the County District Attorney appointed to head County Code Enforcement.

Bob Wheeler further referred to an email from Larry Ulvestad (and an attached letter from Cushman & Wakefield, a realtor, on behalf of a major automotive services contract) indicating a desire to lease or purchase a 50-100 acre parcel for an open-road testing track near the Cleveland National Forest as well as the Agua Tibia Wilderness. The material is made a part of these official minutes.

6.0 Action Items - Approval requires a majority vote of directors.

6.1 Based on the information received in these presentations, **Vice President Watts appointed an ad hoc committee** to investigate the implementation of the MSHCP and CEQA in our district, and to bring a recommendation to the board next month. Bob Wheeler was appointed chair.

6.2 Mitigation Committee issues:

6.2.1 Quinto do Lago and Via Carancho - Vicki Long reported that mitigation efforts have begun for Quinto do Lago. She recommended that EMARCD not take the mitigation project offered for Via Carancho.

6.2.2 Vicki explained the reasoning behind changing the status of the Mitigation Committee to that of a Standing Committee as the need to invest a degree of authority for the EMARCD board to interface better with our consultant, Dr. Rick Hopkins. After clarifying discussion, **Terry Whittington moved, Bob Wheeler seconded** that the Mitigation Committee be designated a Standing Committee of the Board, and be given authority to accept initial \$5,000 upfront fees to process mitigation projects prior to bringing a project recommendation to the board. **Motion carried 4-0**, Pam Nelson absent. In the absence of a board policy on this point, Charolette reminded the Committee that the board retains the right to veto committee-recommended projects.

6.2.3 Further, **Terry Whittington moved, Charolette Fox seconded** that the committee be authorized to forward appropriate projects to the consultant using the previously approved retainer policy with the signature of the Chair of the Mitigation Committee or the President of the RCD; consultant costs not to exceed the retainer amount. **Motion carried 4-0**, Pam Nelson absent.

6.2.4 **Moved by Bob Wheeler, seconded by Terry Whittington** that EMARCD approve the MOU for Dr. Rick Hopkins as mitigation Consultant. **Motion carried 4-0**, Pam Nelson absent.

6.3 Upcoming Conferences: Request for approval of costs for representatives Del Ross and Pam Nelson to attend the 13th Annual California Aquatic Bioassessment Conference in Davis was briefly discussed. In the absence of both Del and Pam there was not enough information for the board to adequately consider the request. Cost estimates were not presented. **No action was taken.**

7.0 Committee Reports

7.1 Mitigation Committee - See Items 6.2.1 to 6.2.4.

- 7.2 **Watershed Committee** - Bob Wheeler commented on the Hoover Ranch that seeks to build houses in the floodplain. A suggestion was to leverage the developer (Markham) to help with mitigation. In addition, Bob thought perhaps the Bureau of Reclamation as well as Regional Water Quality could be partners on Murrieta Creek or Warm Springs Creek to fund.

There will be an informational report presented next meeting.

- 7.3 **Schoolhouse/Office at Alamos** - No report.

8.0 Other Reports

8.1 Agency Reports

Bob Hewitt, NRCS - No report.

8.2 Director's Reports

8.2.1 **Pam Nelson** - No report.

8.2.2 **Charolette Fox** reported that she is participating in the Delta Vision Plan process to develop environmental safeguards and infrastructure programs for the protection of water supplies affecting all of California. Per Executive Order, an emergency Delta Plan must be in place by June, 2008.

She accepted an invitation from the South Coast AQMD to participate in the Air Quality Institute, a program for community leaders. The Inland Empire has the world's fifth worst air quality for ozone and particulate matter emissions, exceeding EPA and CARB regulations. The Institute seeks to educate and formulate solutions.

There has been no newsletter for the last two months and questions of the purpose and audience for the newsletter, as well as the type of articles and who contributes them, were raised. Further board discussion is needed.

8.2.3 **Terry Whittington** spoke about SOS and a possible action by the City of Temecula to annex property that is already within its Sphere of Influence. If taken, this action could thwart efforts of Granite Construction Company to develop a rock quarry on the south side of I-15 near the Riverside County line.

8.2.4 **Bob Wheeler** briefly spoke of consequences of overtopping in the event of an incident at Lake Perris.

8.2.5 **Gary Watts** - If passed, Proposition 84 means money may be available for EMARCD to partner with other agencies; members should be alert to opportunities.

8.3 Associate Director's Reports

8.3.1 **Ed Stanton** - No report.

8.3.2 **Del Ross** - No Report.

8.3.3 **Dan Matrisciano** - As heard and discussed earlier, Dan reiterated that off-road vehicle problems continue.

8.3.4 **Vicki Long** reported that LAFCO and boundary issues are ongoing. Last month's San Jacinto Basin RCD meeting did not take place as planned. This raises the question, "Would we be interested in the boundary change affecting Elsinore, if the rest of our boundary changes aren't made?" EMARCD's application for additional changes on the northern boundary has not been submitted. (The application is very detailed and

involved.) As yet, neither the RCRCO nor SJBRCD have sent letters to agree to the northern boundary change(s). Does the request need to go through a CEQA negative declaration? Bob Wheeler indicated there is no physical change to the environment in changing the boundary, so that the change of boundary is probably exempt from CEQA.

9.0 Other Business

There was no other business to come before the board.

10.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Vice President Gary Watts at 6:15pm.

Charollette Fox
Charollette Fox, Secretary

12-14-06
Date Approved