



Elsinore - Murrieta - Anza
Resource Conservation District

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
June 11, 2010
1:30 PM**

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

A meeting of the Elsinore-Murrieta-Anza Resource Conservation District was called to order at 1:49 PM by President Long. Present were the following:

Directors Long, Nelson, Whittington, and Wheeler

Associate Directors Knoppel and Matrisciano

General Manager Rogers

Attorney Sarah Krejca, representing General Counsel Johnson

Director Rahn was absent.

Visitor: Martha Bridges

Motion was made by Nelson, second by Whittington, passed 4-0, to approve the Agenda.

B. MINUTES OF APRIL 9, 2010

Motion was made by Nelson, second by Whittington, to approve Minutes of the April 9, 2010 regular meeting, as written.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

Martha Bridges reported that the Wildomar Planning Commission tabled consideration of the controversial Hoover Ranch project and has asked Staff to send the project back to the applicant for preparation of an

Environmental Impact Report. She has a copy of the latest letter from County Flood Control, and will provide EMARCD with a copy.

Ms. Bridges announced that she will be a candidate for the Wildomar City Council in the November General Election. She also mentioned that the LEAPS project is still not dead and will require future vigilance by opponents or skeptics.

D. FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial reports for April and May 2010 prepared by EMARCD's accounting firm were reviewed by the Board.

Acceptance of the two months financial reports was moved by Whittington, seconded by Nelson, approved 4-0.

Rogers reported that he discussed audit costs and requirements with three firms, receiving two responses. The firm of Rogers, Anderson, Malody and Scott, LLP of San Bernardino was recommended by TRS; they provided a written proposal for approximately \$ 8,700. Mr. Mike Zizi, a partner with the second firm, Leaf & Cole from San Diego, provided a verbal opinion that a compiled financial statement prepared by the District's current accountant would probably be acceptable.

Long stated that she had discussed the matter with both Greg Fankhanel of Teaman, Ramirez and Smith and with the County Auditor, and that she would authorize TRS to proceed with a compiled report for submittal to the County. She asked for the matter to be placed on the July agenda for further discussion.

Associate Director Head entered the meeting at 2:20 PM.

E. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Rogers presented correspondence as follows:

- 1.1. A letter from SDRMA renewing EMARCD's insurance package for a reduced premium of \$1,410.80, due to the District's favorable loss history.
- 1.2. Campaign mailer from Bob Topolovac, Candidate for Director, CSDA Region 9.
- 1.3. Audit Proposal from Rogers, Anderson, Malody and Scott, LLP.

F. DISTRICT EXPENSES

Rogers reported no extraordinary expenses for the months of April or May.

G. BOARD ACTION ITEMS

There were no items requiring immediate Board action.

H. OLD BUSINESS: Discussion of On-going Projects and Grant Applications.

H.1. OHV Grant: Rogers reported that EMARCD's application for the OHV grant was conditionally approved for \$28,000, as evidenced by the posting on the OLGA website on Monday, June 7. The application had been restructured as a Restoration rather than a Planning grant. There is a 28-day appeal period before the award will be confirmed.

Long stated that this award was largely due to Director Nelson's long-term interest along with four years of effort. Nelson will take the lead in carrying out the grant.

H.2 Agricultural Waiver Program. Talks continue with the Farm Bureau, RCWD and San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board regarding the Agricultural Waiver Program. Rogers and Long attended a meeting at SDRWQCB offices on April 30. EMARCD's role in the program will probably be limited. The next meeting is scheduled in San Diego on June 14.

J. NEW BUSINESS

J.1 Approval of 2010-2011 Budget. A draft budget was presented but was dismissed as being unrealistic. The State OHV grant should not be included in the budget. Long stated that SDRMA wants a realistic budget upon which to base their premiums. All grant references, donations and administrative fees must be removed.

The Board asked to review a revised budget at the July meeting.

J.2 Management Status of the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve. A public workshop will be held at the Visitor Center at 10:00 AM on Saturday, June 12 to discuss future plans for management and operation of the Visitor Center. Several Board members stated their intentions to attend. The Board declined to take any official position on the subject.

K. DIRECTORS' REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Discussion of the 2010-2011 EMARCD Budget. .

L. MONTHLY REPORTS:

Attorney Sarah Krejca reported that **District Counsel Johnson** is on vacation but will be returning for the July meeting of the Board.

In addition to items previously discussed above, **District Manager Rogers** reported on his participation in the Anza Earth Day on May 22. He also noted the next meeting of the Upper Santa Margarita River Integrated Regional Water Management Plan meeting at

Rancho California Water District on June 16. Long, Wheeler and Nelson will attend along with Knoppel (representing Anza).

Director's Reports:

Long reported on continuing negotiations on the D.R. Horton maintenance agreement and the Casino property in Lake Elsinore. She is working on a pond turtle relocation project with Kerwin Russel of Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District; she will provide Rogers with documentation for the District files. Long and Nelson have completed a grant proposal to Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (RCFC&WCD) for an educational effort, "To Provide Public Education Support Services for the Santa Ana, Santa Margarita and Whitewater River Watershed Regions of Riverside County, for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and the Municipal Separated Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit Programs". Rogers requested a file copy of the grant application for the District office files.

Nelson reported on a letter she had written on behalf of the Sierra Club opposing the Sunrise Powerlink project proposed by SDG&E. She also expressed concern that the State's budget difficulties could affect continuation of the Williamson Act for agricultural land preservation, as the State's ability to reimburse counties to offset lost property tax revenue will be very limited or nonexistent.

Wheeler's written report was received and distributed.

Associate Director's Reports:

Knoppel reported on Anza Earth Day on May 22. About 100 people attended. There has been a group of six people engaged in ongoing efforts as a steering committee to create a sustainable Anza community. They intend to link with other grass roots organizations and individuals with interest in the areas of solar power, organic farming or gardening, ground water, and farmer's rights. **Nelson** applauded the effort, and said that the County is still holding a \$50,000 grant from USGS intended to fund a groundwater study. Matching funds are needed, and a source has never been identified. The new committee might be able to take advantage of this. **Long** asked if the Disadvantaged Community Outreach component of the IRWMP might be tapped for this purpose. Since RCFC&WCD and EMARCD are the only Districts whose territory covers Anza, EMARCD might be a logical participant.

Knoppel said that the next meeting of the Anza group was scheduled for June 22.

Wheeler related some additional history of the Anza situation; the County approved the Mission and Goals of the Anza MAC years ago, and has been trying to undermine the community ever since. He and Nelson were on the original committee that established the Mission and Goals.

Knoppel further reported on a horse manure management presentation to be held June 19 in Rainbow, sponsored by Mission RCD.

Head has been to a number of meetings in Murrieta about solar energy. City representative Bryan Ambrose has been most involved, and they have demonstrated the first customer installation where the electric meter actually runs in reverse. Although concentration thus far on power, they will be expanding into potable water and pool heating.


At the Colony, all grass around the clubhouse has been replaced with low-water use landscaping. She wants to develop a photo presentation with "before and after" examples. The project is receiving mixed reactions from Colony residents; people resist change. The new plants haven't had much opportunity to grow and fill in. Colony management is hiring an outside designer for future projects, instead of having projects designed by Valley Crest Landscaping. Ron Whipple (EVMWD) has strongly endorsed the work of Valley Crest. The Colony Board is doing their best, and are holding firm despite criticism, but they may suffer in upcoming elections.

Fire Safe Council: Dan Matrisciano, President and EMARCD Associate Director. A very successful Fire Summit was held on June 2 at the south Coast Air Quality Management District offices in Diamond Bar, attended by about 150 participants. Holly Shiralipour organized the event. A fire emergency plan is being prepared in accordance with Federal guidelines for each community in the southwest area. Tenaja, La Cresta and DeLuz are among the 23 different communities included in the plan.

Head asked if the Fire Safe Council could address a situation at the Colony, where the golf course, which is under separate ownership from the residential common areas, has stopped watering the "rough" areas along the course. They have become dry and appear to be a significant fire hazard.

Wheeler asked if the Regional Area Safety Task Force (RAST), a seven-county effort, was still active, He stressed the importance of the Fire Safe Council.

Adjournment: Moved by Whittington, second by Nelson, to adjourn to 1:30 PM July 9, 2010, approved 3-0, at 3:25 PM


Pamela Nelson
Secretary of the Board

Approved by Board of Directors July 9, 2010

Ayes 4 Noes 0 Abstained 0