

MINUTES

Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, October 14, 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), Lisa Battiato (Vice President), Newt Parkes (Secretary/Treasurer), Teri Biancardi (Director), Randy Feeney (Director)

Directors Absent: None

Associate Directors Present: Rick Neugebauer

Associate Directors Absent: None

Office Manager: Deborah Getty – Present

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

District Counsel: Melissa Cushman – Present

Guest Speakers: None

Public Guests: None

Approval of Agenda

President Corona called for a motion to approve the agenda complete with consent calendar, correspondence and general information as presented. Director Parkes moved and Director Battiato seconded. **Motion passed unanimously 5-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

II. ACTION ITEMS/ DISCUSSION CALENDAR

Item 1: Discussion and potential approval to move the November 11th, 2021 Regular Board meeting to November 10th, 2021 in observance of Veteran's Day. This item was moved to first position on the agenda as Melissa Cushman was still in route due to traffic. President Corona makes a motion to move the November 11th, 2021 Regular Board meeting to November 10th, 2021 in observance of Veteran's Day. Director Parkes seconded. **Motion passed unanimously 5-0.**

Item 2: Conflict of Interest and voting interest memo. President Corona makes a motion to waive the attorney-client privilege for the legal advice and opinion only, but not for all content. Director Battiato seconds. President Corona calls for a vote.

- Rose Corona – Aye
- Randy Feeney – Aye
- Newt Parkes – Aye
- Terri Biancardi – Nay
- Lisa Battiato – Aye

Motion passed 4 – 1.

District Counsel Cushman proceeds to ask if there are any questions regarding the memorandum she prepared for the Board regarding compatible offices and conflicts of interest between being an appointed member of the TEAM RCD Board and elected member of the SAWA Board of Directors or Associate Directors of TEAM RCD and an elected member of the SAWA Board of Directors. She also noted that she had not received any specific questions except from Director Biancardi but would be happy to address any concerns or questions the Board might have starting with Director Biancardi's questions.

Director Biancardi indicated that she had read the memo and really didn't have questions indicating that her original question which was if there were any legal determination or stature that would prevent a voting director from serving on the SAWA board and noted that she hadn't found that there was any. She also noted that she didn't find there was examples of other agencies that had come up with the same recommendation, and therefore her questions were answered.

District Counsel asked to address those concerns noting that SAWA had its own conflict of interest code that is different from other conflict of interest codes. Unlike most agencies the one that TEAM RCD is somewhat general. Unlike the Political Reform Act that concentrates on financial interests, SAWA enacted one that concentrates on all kinds of interests not just financial and it is a lot broader than other organizations' codes which definitively state that non-financial interests needed to be considered along with financial interests. Ultimately although the conclusion of the memo was that although not illegal for someone to sit on the SAWA Board, it was inadvisable because conflicts could arise with some frequency.

Director Biancardi noted that she didn't agree with the legal opinion and voiced concerns about process of appointment should AD Neugebauer decide to resign, retire or be incapacitated in regards to his position at SAWA. Director Battiato responded by noting that the Board would simply vote as to who would take his place as the representative and if it were a Board member resigning it would then go back to the Board of Supervisors for a new appointment. No motion necessary.

Item 3: Discussion and potential approval of CSDA amended by-laws. President Corona makes a motion to approve the CSDA amended by-laws as presented. Director Parkes seconded. General discussion followed on review of the by-laws by both President Corona and Director Parkes. **Motion passed unanimously 5-0.**

III. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1: Update on invasive removal north of Winchester Road. President Corona reports that she talked with Imad Guirguis with Flood Control regarding potential invasive removal north of Winchester Road in the Murrieta Creek. She received a response via email that stated that Army Corps of Engineers were using the base inside upstream of Winchester as a storage site for sediment removal from Murrieta Creek Phase 1 and 2A and using it as a crop construction site for the sediment removal, therefore, Flood would not be interrupting their efforts. Director Biancardi added that she thinks Flood Control is hoping the handover should happen at the end of this year in which case TEAM RCD could have a second chance at invasive removal. No motion necessary.

Item 2: Discussion on MOU with Coachella Valley RCD.

President Corona notes that Lance Anderson with Mission RCD has pulled himself back from the CropSWAP programs which was causing delays in getting audits done in a timely manner. In his place is Luis Ramos at Mission RCD who is taking over who is working hard to get up to speed. Director Battiato and President Corona thought it would make sense to see who else might help in an emergency situation if Mr. Ramos needed assistance if a lot of requests starting coming in. Coachella Valley RCD is equipped to do so and the general director Yvonne Franco indicated to President Corona that they would be interested to help if necessary and she would discuss with her Board. General discussion on preparing an MOU once it is ready to move forward where District Counsel Melissa Cushman discloses that she represents Coachella Valley RCD and therefore could not write the MOU however the District's Counsel's office could provide someone to create such a document if necessary and approved by the Board. No motion necessary

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Item 1: Update on Firesafe progress. President Corona reports that TEAM RCD continues to work with Mission RCD on the emergency preparedness for the fires as well as several others from San Diego County that are involved in the discussion. Director Feeney had reported that La Cresta has a very good evacuation plan which President Corona plans to participate in on a zoom call for more information. President Corona continues to reach out to the Department of Emergency Services in Riverside and Cal Fire. Through her efforts, she connected with Brianna Baca of Lighthouse Risk and Insurance Solutions who is helpful with helping HOA's with high fire zone ratings in an effort to provide a resource for the communities that are having difficulty obtaining fire insurance or having their insurance cancelled in this state. Brianna's info is included in the packet. No motion necessary.

Item 2: Update on Temecula Elementary invasive removal project and Empire Creek project.

President Corona reports that Temecula Elementary is still waiting for their purchase order to come back so work can proceed. As for Empire Creek which is owned by Paradise, President Corona reports that James Law is putting the finishing touches on the bid proposal through TEAM RCD so we may complete that work. No motion necessary.

Item 3: Update on Agri-ecology project and Farm Bureau presentation. President Corona reports that she and Scott Murray were on a Zoom meeting for Riverside County Farm Bureau where Scott provided a very brief presentation. They seemed very interested and are excited to receive more information. No motion necessary.

Item 4: Update on Homeless Task Force.

Director Parkes reports there seems to be a little more activity on a couple of the sites in Temecula which he continues to report to Mike Wooten. In the Tocalota Creek 2 site there was a campsite found just outside the boundary. Director Parkes reported to both Brian Ambrose in Murrieta as well as Mike Wooten of Temecula. Mr. Ambrose reported back that it wasn't part of Murrieta. Director Parkes was

able to attend an in person meeting for the Lake Elsinore homeless task force. There is a second round of project home key funding that is coming available which will enable some extensions to the work they are doing at the Anchor. Non-homeless related, Director Parkes learned with directly meeting with Nicole Daley that they are going to be applying for some grant money from the Clean California Local Grant Program, a community litter and abatement beautification and/or educational program. There may be some areas around the lake that they're dealing with that have invasive species and needs some attending to. Director Parkes thinks there may be a reasonable opportunity for TEAM RCD to get involved in doing the work that they are getting the grant money for should they receive it. AD Nuegebauer adds that he knows that SAWA is looking for additional locations to use their ILF funds for the removal of invasives and SAWA would be happy to work them on that. No motion necessary.

Item 5: SAWA Report

AD Neugebauer reports that SAWA had borrowed approximately \$431,000.00 from the PPP program and that money has been forgiven. He also reports that he and his wife Lisa will be attending the Rivers and Lands Gala event. No motion necessary.

Item 6: Update and discussion on AEIP and CropSWAP reports.

Director Battiato reiterates that Lance has stepped back and she has great faith in Luis. Unfortunately, Lance was unable to fully train Luis so there is a bit of a learning curve. Director Battiato is working with Deb on getting an all-access organizational site up for all who participate to access the spreadsheet and current information. No motion necessary.

Item 7: Update on Anza/Aguanga area.

Director Biancardi reports that the Department for Pesticide Regulation did their testing of the two wells. There probably won't be any reports for at least 30 days. President Corona provides the name and contact information of Dan Atkinson with the Riverside County Sheriff Department to Director Biancardi. Mr. Atkinson is in charge of the Cannabis division and suggested TEAM RCD seek out the press releases associated with the Hemet station located on their website for current information. No motion necessary.

Item 8: Update and discussion of the TEAM RCD website progress.

No report given.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, President Corona calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Battiato moved and Director Parkes seconded. **Motion passed unanimously 5-0.** Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.



Secretary/Treasurer