



Elsinore - Murrieta - Anza
Resource Conservation District

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
March 12, 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 1:37 PM by President Long. Present were the following:

Directors Long, Rahn, Whittington, and Wheeler
Associate Director Matrisciano
General Manager Rogers
General Counsel Johnson

Director Nelson was absent.

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

B. MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 13, 2009

Motion was made by Long, second by Wheeler, to approve Minutes of the February 19, 2010 regular meeting, as written. Vote on the motion was postponed due to a lack of quorum of those in attendance at the February meeting.

Director Nelson arrived at 1:43 PM.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

D. FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial reports prepared by EMARCD's accounting firm were reviewed by the Board. Wheeler questioned the negative entries in some columns in the budget reconciliation report; Treasurer Whittington explained that these items were items under budget amounts. For example, the budget calls for an annual budget of \$2,000 for legal fees, but nothing has yet been spent, so the report shows the line item as being \$2,000 under budget.

Acceptance of the financial reports was moved by Wheeler, seconded by Nelson, approved 5-0.

Long called for the question as to the February minutes; moved by Nelson, second by Wheeler, minutes were approved 3-0, with Rahn and Whittington abstaining.

E. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Rogers presented correspondence as follows:

1.1. California Special Districts Association Board of Directors, Call for Nominations. Nominations are being accepted for Seat B in Region 6 (San Diego, Imperial and Riverside Counties) Any District Director or management employee is eligible; nominations close may 28.

1.2. City of Lake Elsinore, Diamond Specific Plan. Few details were available from the mailed notification; questions were raised if the SP affected the Casino property that EMARCD is in the process of obtaining. Long volunteered to look into the matter at the City of Lake Elsinore. Wheeler expressed concern about seismic safety issues in the area.

1.3. March 3 Letter from Phil Williams, soliciting support for his reappointment to the Special District seat on Riverside County Local Agency Formation Commission. The Board noted that the nominating meeting of the Riverside County Special Districts Association is scheduled for April 15, following EMARCD's April 9 meeting. A decision will be made at that meeting.

1.4. California Special Districts Magazine, Jan-Feb 2010; copies were distributed.

1.5. Center for Public Deliberation, announcement of a water leaders' discussion forum to be held March 17 at Mary Phillips Senior Center in Temecula. Wheeler said he was planning to attend.

F. DISTRICT EXPENSES

Rogers reported that extraordinary expenses this month included purchase of updated Microsoft Office software (\$378.86) which will be offset by a donation from Long, payment

of the previously authorized \$300 annual membership in the Irrigation Association, and renewal of Workers' Compensation Insurance with State Fund for \$182.16

Associate Director Head entered the meeting at 2:00 PM

F. BOARD ACTION ITEMS

2.1 Consideration of Appointing Ms. Annika Knoppel as Associate Director of EMARCD. Ms. Knoppel was introduced to the Directors, and her resume was circulated. Her appointment was moved by Whittington, seconded by Nelson, approved 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Adoption of Board Resolution "Approving the Filing of an Application for Grant Funding from the California State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division Trust Fund".

Rogers explained that the application requirements for the OHV Grant included a resolution of the Board of Directors to approve such an application, and presented a draft for Board consideration.

Approval of the Resolution as presented was moved by Nelson, seconded by Whittington, approved 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS Long reported on her ongoing involvement in educational programs at UC Riverside Extension, including a grant writing class taught by Eldon Baber, She is receiving a lot of valuable information, including handouts and information on strategies and techniques for preparing successful grant applications. She has been working on a "fantasy grant" as a class exercise. Her other class is on GIS and GPS applications; she has made a number of contacts with individuals who may prove to be valuable resources for EMARCD.

Rogers reported on his ongoing efforts with outreach on the OHV Grant. Head asked why the grant was needed; Rogers and Nelson responded with an explanation of widespread illegal use of various Bureau of Reclamation open space around the District. District Counsel Johnson said he would write a letter supporting the application. Wheeler said he had mapping from his work on the Riverside County Integrated Plan that might be of assistance. Head asked if any of the cities within the District were involved; Rogers and Nelson responded that none of the properties in question were within City boundaries. Rahn said he would respond on behalf of San Diego State University.

DIRECTORS' REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: None.

MONTHLY REPORTS:

District Counsel Johnson said that his efforts on behalf of the District were ongoing with respect to the D.R. Horton Country Roads easement and the "Casino" property in Lake Elsinore. He will contact Rancho California Water District regarding their granting contracts to Mission Resource Conservation District, and will also prepare a letter to the City of Wildomar Planning Commission prior to the scheduled public hearing on March 17 about the proposed Hoover Ranch project. Wheeler both commented on the long history of this project, and the fact that both Murrieta and Riverside County have past community efforts to protect lands along Murrieta Creek. Long stated that many residents in Wildomar have long been opposed to the project, and the current approval seems to ignore their concerns.

Wheeler asked Johnson about the Cornerstone Church expansion; Johnson replied that it is currently undergoing redesign by the applicant to lessen the amount of grading, and that an EIR addressing traffic among other issues will be required.

District Manager Rogers had no further report on activities other than as noted above.

Director's Reports:

Director Rahn reported as follows:

1. He is involved in ongoing efforts to oppose Liberty Quarry.
2. Bills currently under consideration by the California legislature would seriously weaken the CEQA process. The legislation involves "midnight deals" and favored committee assignments, He is keeping track of the situation, and will advise of any action needed. Johnson said that he was also aware of the proposed changes; they may result in changes that would not be challengeable in court.
3. An initiative change to CEQA may be on the November General Election. It is being presented as a "job creation" bill, with signatures currently being gathered.
4. Senator Hollingsworth is pursuing a bill to channelize Murrieta Creek.
5. Currently working on a project relationship with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to establish hedgerows within existing groves, using the grove on SMRER as a model.
6. San Diego State is working on a Strategic Plan for the Reserve, integrating efforts of the RCD's, Cities and other agencies, not including any private groups.
7. The Memorandum of Intent between SDSU and EMARCD is currently stalled at the SDSU Business Affairs Department. They are heavily impacted by the State's budget shortfall, and have limited time to work on the MOI.
8. An application is being pursued with Federal Fish & Wildlife Service to evaluate wildlife movement on golf courses. Funding was being provided by the Southern California Golf Association for evaluation of two local courses, Temecula Creek and Pechanga, but has been pulled back by the Association.

9. Another project mentioned was a joint effort with Pharma to investigate the use of golf course turf to mitigate the presence of pharmaceuticals in reclaimed water; this could involve the RCD as holder of mitigation land, and be initiated through a joint white paper between the University and EMARCD.

10. Ted Griswold is an attorney and client of Rahn's who is working on a trickle application watering system for citrus, avocados and vineyards, allowing direct injection of fertilizer. He currently has a 20-acre test plot in operation. Rahn will put him in touch with Rogers for possible future cooperative ventures.

President Long reported as follows:

1. She is currently working on a Proposition 84 / IRWMP grant for Spring 2011.
2. She met with a developer concerning 126 acres of mitigation land in the Skunk Hollow area of French Valley, and another project in the Morgan Hill area involving gnatcatcher and willow fly catcher habitat. Riverside Conservation Agency would rather not accept isolated mitigation parcels, but would prefer that they go to EMARCD instead.
3. Greer Ranch would like EMARCD to consider taking ownership of their mitigation land in fee title rather than as an easement. The transfer would have to include an endowment.
4. She is still working with Bob Kast at City of Murrieta regarding planting in mitigation land.
5. Wildomar does not yet have any mitigation land, but they would like to create some trails and open space in cooperation with EMARCD. Director Wheeler said he would like to see their trails plan.

Director Nelson submitted a written report dated March 11, 2010:

1. County Planning Commission continuance of Vail Lake General Plan Amendment.
2. Planning Commission approval of tentative map in Anza with no concern about water situation.
3. Volunteered at Small Farms conference in Del Mar, Feb. 28-Mar 2, 2010
4. Attended Symposium on Soil Health, Coachella RCD, March 8.
- 5.

Director Wheeler questioned the status of the MOU's with various cities and agencies. He also reported a CSDA effort to support State legislation leading to a simple majority requirement for a balanced budget.

Associate Director Report:

Knoppel is working on Anza Earth Day activities. She has a \$5,000 grant from the Anza Electric Cooperative. The Cooperative may be a source of funding for EMARCD's farm conference.

Fire Safe Council:

Matrisciano commented on the off-road vehicle problem associated with BLM lands, and will submit a comment in favor of EMARCD's State OHV grant application. The local Fire Safe Council is partnering with South Coast RC&D on a Community Wildfire protection plan involving both BLM and California Division of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Adjournment: Moved by Whittington, second by Nelson, to adjourn to 1:30 PM April 9, 2010, approved 5-0, at 3:44 PM



Pamela Nelson
Secretary of the Board

Approved by Board of Directors April 9, 2010

Ayes A Noes 0 Abstained 0