

Elsinore-Murrieta-Anza Resource Conservation District

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, June 12, 2008 -- 2:00pm

Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve – Visitor Center
39400 Clinton Keith Road, Murrieta, CA 92562

Members Present:

Pamela Nelson, President
Vicki Long, Vice President
Bob Wheeler, Treasurer
Charolette Fox, Secretary
Terry Whittington, Director

Members Absent/Excused

Bob Hewitt, NRCS
Dan Matrisciano, Associate Director

Staff or Guests Present:

Dr. Rick Hopkins
Mary Leaming
Liz Grumbine

Reportable Closed Session Discussions

No Closed Session was held.

Motion to Approve the Agenda as Presented:

Approved as presented.

1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

President Pam Nelson called the meeting to order at 2:20pm. Self introductions were made.

2.0 Approval of Minutes

Minutes of May 8, 2008 were not ready for Board review, and will be presented with the June Minutes at the July Board meeting.

3.0 Public Comments

Mary Leaming introduced Liz Grumbine, co-owner of Willow Creek Springs Nursery, and Liz spoke briefly about the business that she and her husband have developed. Mary has six years experience in grant writing, and offered to help Pam prepare grants for EMARCD projects. The Board had no objection. M/S Wheeler/Nelson to accept Mary's offer.

As Mary and Liz needed to leave the meeting, the Board then took up Item 10.2 to discuss a possible date to tour the Willow Creek Springs Nursery. Pam agreed to coordinate with Mary and email tour dates to the Board.

4.0 Presentations

Dr. Rick Hopkins updated the Board on several items:

a) Riparian mapping is underway and satellite imagery is best for this time of year. The identification of all riparian systems will be mapped within this Resource Conservation District. He commented that boundaries are hard to delineate and the product used will include an electronic map of our District with a GIS layer. The resulting product will be a "living" document and EMARCD can pull additional information from it later. Data sharing with the County's MSHCP will be an even better tool for identifying corridors of already preserved mitigation parcels. The material can be magnified adequately, but field walks of properties will also be needed.

b) Dr. Hopkins asked the Board to consider various factors in regards to wildlife corridors, such as what money is available? Are they valuable linkages? What else is important?

c) Rick mentioned a possible new property for mitigation at the corner of Hilt and Rancho California Road, a site off Temecula Creek by Wilson Winery that had been presented through Jeff Brandt of California Fish & Game. The price looks good to Dr. Hopkins and he stated EMARCD should look at it and ask questions before committing.

As Dr. Hopkins needed to leave the meeting early, he also discussed Item 9.1 at this time, the Voluntary Trust received via an unnamed donor and presented to the Board by Ray Johnson, Attorney, at the May Board meeting. Rick suggested the Board could choose to use the money for connectivity of wildlife corridors, and that EMARCD should use a realtor to locate possible suitable properties. Vicki Long indicated that she would contact at least three realtors for their help.

The timeline set out for action by EMARCD is late October. After that, any decisions and money available from the Voluntary Trust will go to the City of Wildomar. Therefore, any offers have to be ready in August and September, and Dr. Hopkins will then rank these for Board consideration.

5.0 Financial Report

None

6.0 Correspondence

President Nelson reviewed correspondence and the Board was reminded of the upcoming SDRMA Conference, September 22-25 in Irvine. Vicki Long volunteered to go, and will donate her expenses in-kind.

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

7.1 Submission of Bills for Payment

A mapping payment of \$15,000 payable to Live Oak Associates will be required for services to be rendered. No invoice was presented. Vicki explained this invoice could be paid out of McCall money received from Fish & Game for conservation projects. M/S Whittington/Fox to pay for mapping services pending receipt of an invoice.

The Board discussed webhosting fees per information provided by Pam. Pam will be webmaster. A two-year fee costs \$48/year (\$3.95/mo); a one-year fee costs \$60/year (or \$5.00/mo). M/S Wheeler/Long to pay for two years of webhosting at a rate of \$48/year. Motion Carried 5-0. An invoice is to be presented at the Board meeting on July 10, 2008.

Pam submitted an In-kind donation of \$45 as the expense paid for raffle items at the Anza Earth Day event.

7.2 Mitigation Issues

See Item 4.0 and Dr. Hopkins presentation.

7.3 Letter of Support re Anza Water Rights

A letter of support on District letterhead will be sent to Kirk Kempthorne, Secretary of the Interior regarding water issues in Anza. The importance of the habitat will be included. M/S Long/Wheeler. Carried 5-0.

7.4 Letter to the County re Canyonlands Ag Exemption

Pam explained that Ida Martin has well-researched material on the Canyonlands and that an ag exemption requires farming within the last five years; this has not occurred. Therefore Ray Johnson will be asked what response EMARCD can make and request Ray to draft a letter for EMARCD. M/S Long/Wheeler. Carried 5-0.

The Board then discussed sending a letter to the County biologist to ask EMARCD be notified of appeals. Pam agreed to check with Ray to see if EMARCD can be noticed in future.

7.5 Letter to Fish & Game re Projects within the EMARCD District

Pam stated that Ray Johnson is to notify Fish & Game via letter stating that according to the code, money generated within district boundaries stays inside district boundaries.

M/S Whittington/Fox. Carried 5-0.

7.6 2008-2009 Budget

The draft budget prepared by Elizabeth Nigro was reviewed and amended to add two items: Webhosting Fees of \$60, and Consulting Fees for Live Oak Associates for \$5,000. M/S Long/Whittington to adopt the budget as amended. Carried 5-0.

7.7 CSDA Board of Directors Nomination

No nomination proposed for this Director position.

7.8 Financial Policy Change

On June 13, 2008, Pam emailed a language change for the Financial Policy to Board members. "The last sentence of 2010.10 is changed to: Request for reimbursement should be for a previously board-approved project, event or task and approved associated expenses." This change, represented by the underlined text, was reviewed at the meeting. M/S Long/Fox. Carried 5-0.

8.0 Reports

8.1 Agency Reports

None

8.2 Director's Reports

Pam referred to her written report and answered questions.

No other Director reports were made.

8.3 Associate Director's Report

None; Dan was not in attendance.

8.4 Firesafe Council Report

None; Dan was not in attendance.

8.5 Committee Reports

None presented.

9.0 Old Business

9.1 Wildomar acquisition - See Dr. Hopkins update, Item 4.0.

9.2 Letter to Fish & Game - See Item 7.5.

9.3 Meeting with Mission RCD - No word yet on a meeting date.

9.4 Public Documents Storage - Reminder to put records into storage unit.

10.0 New Business

10.1 Records Retention Policy - EMARCD will continue using Gmail and the storage unit.

10.2 Willow Creek Springs Tour - See Item 3.0

10.3 **Anza Electric Coop Annual Meeting** - EMARCD will set up a table July 26th.

10.4 **Master Gardener Event on October 4** - Perhaps EMARCD's participation would be to lead a breakout session on mitigation easements.

10.5 **Unvested Property for Sale**
This desirable property is listed with Rancon Realty. The Riverside Land Conservancy is interested.

11.0 **Adjournment**
The meeting was adjourned at 4:32pm.

Charolette Fox
Charolette Fox, Secretary

July 10, 2008
Date Approved