

MINUTES

Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

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), Newt Parkes (Secretary-Treasurer), Randy Feeney (Director), Teri Biancardi (Director), Pablo Bryant-(Director) Darlene Gilbert-Temporary Office Manager.

Directors Absent-None

Associate Directors Present: Rick Neugebauer- Rick Neugebauer-Associate Director

Associate Directors Absent: None

Office Manager: Darlene Gilbert-Present

Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCS) Waiting to new representative to be named- Bob Hewitt retired.

District Counsel: Melissa Cushman-Present

Guest Speakers: Bob Cullen-Assistant Chief Engineer Riverside County Flood Control, Julianna Adams, Riverside County Flood Control

Public Guests: Sebastian Valente, Brian Brady, Executive Director -SAWA, James Law-SAWA

Approval of Agenda

President Corona asks for a motion to approve the agenda to include the Consent Calendar, correspondence, financials and minutes as presented. Director Biancardi moves to make the motion, Director Parkes seconds. President Corona calls for a vote. Vote-5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS-NONE

II. ACTION ITEMS

Item 1: Update on the MOU with Mission Arundo Removal in regards to final billing. -President Corona states that the Arundo Removal in coordination with Mission RCD and a grant they partnered with TEAM RCD on, is now completed. It has been reviewed by James Law at SAWA to make sure all the appropriate CDFW requirements were achieved and it will be included in the year end report to CDFW. Billing has been forwarded to Mission RCD and TEAM RCD is simply waiting for payment. No motion necessary. Unanimously approved 5-0.

Item 2: Discussion and Potential Approval for Mission RCD to work in the district in partnership with TEAM RCD on the Healthy Soils Program.- President Corona reminded the Board of a partnership with Mission RCD on the Healthy Soils Program which TEAM RCD would like to learn and implement in our District. Mission RCD has someone who is in our District who would like to make his farm into a "Learning Farm" for the area and the public and use it as a model for the community to emulate and hopefully replicate. The owner needs the Healthy Soils program implemented rather quickly and TEAM RCD doesn't have their program in place yet, so she asks that we allow Mission to work in our District on that pilot project so he can move forward. President Corona makes the motion. Randy Feeney Seconds. No further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Item 1: Update on Cal-Recycle Grant-Director Biancardi notes that she did some follow up with the head of Cal-Recycle, Stephanie Becker, and that she and Stephanie were going to find out for sure one way or the other about the final decision on the grant by April 19. Director Biancardi noted that in speaking to Ms. Becker that the grant had been oversubscribed, in other words, there were a lot of application requesting money than they had in the actual grant. Director Biancardi also noted that at some point she and TEAM RCD is going to have to sit down with the individual who originally requested the grant and see if she was going to commit to her portion of the project. Director Biancardi's shared that whether the client went through with the project or not, that we should not look at this as a defeat if we aren't awarded the grant since there would still be other chances, approximately 3 times a year to find other projects that fit the requirements of this grant. Director Biancardi also made a point of acknowledging James Law and the incredible job he did in supplying TEAM RCD with all the needed information in order to complete the grant on time. President Corona also asked Director Biancardi to explain to the guests and specifically for the benefit of SAWA and Riverside Flood Control the overall view of the grant and where we are from here.

Director Biancardi proceeded to explain how the process began originally with the client calling Cal-Recycle and how they eventually contacted TEAM RCD and how

through this process it alerted TEAM RCD to other possibilities for the district. She also mentioned that many of these grants are favorable to DAC (Disadvantaged Communities) communities when awards are handed out. President Corona added that the client would have to pay a share of the costs once the final amount of the grant was decided. Although grants are required to go through a governmental agency, those monies would not be provided in full to cover the entire costs. The individual would be required to pay a portion of the work needed. James Law added that there was no hazardous waste materials found on this property but mostly plastic drip tape and a lot of drip lines. Director Biancardi concluded her comments and the Board moved on to the next item.

Item 2: Update on Ethics and Harassment Training-AB 1234- President Corona just reminded the Board of having to fulfill their Ethics and Harassment Training requirements and that she would be following up to make sure that was completed and that those who had already taken the courses provide a copy for the District's records.

Item 3-Discussion and potential approval to work towards providing podcasts on the website for information and educational content for the community:

President Corona mentioned that this had been a discussion before and would like to try to get some costs as to the costs of starting a podcast on the website. She had mentioned that she had a discussion with Streamline and they would like to discuss further the possibilities to enable them to offer the same kind of situation through their services. The costs don't seem to be exorbitant but President Corona stated she'll check into some costs for equipment and then discuss with Streamline and also then get back to the Board. She also mentioned that there are many organizations, such as the California Department of Food and Agriculture that are continually looking to bring more information and exposure to exactly what services they provide for the community. The idea got a positive reaction from the Board and the President made the motion to move forward in getting approval for podcasts. Seconded by Newt Parkes. No further discussion. Unanimously approved- 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Item 1 -Update on Clinton Keith and Empire Creek Properties- President Corona reported that there was no update at this time and she is waiting for response from Heather Pert and Jeff Brandt regarding the Clinton Keith Property and from her e-mail regarding Empire Creek.

Item 2- Update on Homeless Monitoring- Director Parkes noted that there was not much new to report and that issues continue at the same three sites that have been issues in the past. We continue to advise the task forces of the issues and in particular Mike Wooten, the Temecula homeless coordinator. Director Parkes noted that he is not sure how much follow up there has been since there seems to be little

differences from month to month that are identified. President Corona asked if there was a law enforcement person that could be contacted to find that information out and Director Parkes noted that he wasn't aware of one. President Corona suggested that we inquire at the City to see if there is someone to contact in order to make more Departments aware besides just the Homeless Coordinator. We would still be doing the same reporting to both and perhaps that would help.

James Law from SAWA noted that then we could ask law enforcement to follow up and then report back to us. Director Bryant recommended the City app which allow people to "Report an Issue" which prompt citizens to geo reference and put pictures in and by texting it in it creates a public record. Director Parkes recommended that SAWA could fill that out when they are monitoring. James Law asked if it was a Temecula app and Director Bryant said yes, also saying that the app shows a map of the city and it will let you know if you are within or out of the city limits. It then creates a public record and you can search it and see if any action was taken.

Director Parkes moved on to speaking about the Lake Elsinore Task force saying they haven't had a meeting since a month and a half ago and that he would be attending the next meeting.

Item 3-SAWA Report - AD Neugabauer noted there was a small update indicating that we would hear more from Brian Brady and James on the Lake Elsinore ILF project (In Lieu Fee) but due to the interest of saving time for the speakers, there was nothing much more to report.

Item 4-Crop Swap and AIEP Programs- Director Feeney reported that he did not have any crop swaps going on at the moment but foresees more coming a little in the future although there have been a few AEIP projects. The Root Stock programs also didn't seem to have anything at the moment but Rancho was just about to start their large promotion and mailing for the programs so we would probably get more coming in soon. Director Feeney also reported that we are expecting a lot of applications and a lot of it is going to be for changing out root stock for avocados. It appears that at the moment the program is oversaturated with grapes due to the Crop Swap program. AD Neugubauer noted that now there is a glut of grapes in the valley.

Item 5-Report on Anza/Aguanga Area-Director Biancardi spoke briefly to say that there isn't much to report but she has a couple of contacts of real estate agents who are in Anza who usually have good eyes on the ground and if the project for the grant goes through , TEAM RCD can begin planning for future projects in the area. James Law commented that if one looked at Google Earth that you can see growth everywhere and if we were looking for other projects we could start scanning around in the area and then try to reach out to the land owners. He suggested that they (SAWA) can help identify those landowners that might need help in cleaning up their farms and ranches. President Corona indicated that it might be an idea to start sending out a postcard or something to the residents promoting the Cal-Recycle plan asking if the resident is interested and having a number to call.

GUEST SPEAKERS-BOB CULLEN AND JULIANNA ADAMS-RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL

Mr. Cullen, who is the assistant Chief Engineer thanked the Board for the invitation to speak about the partnership with TEAM RCD. He also introduced Julianna Adams who is one of the Engineer Project Managers and the primary liaison for the Army Corp of Engineers, in regard to Flood Control and recreational amenities around the County. Ms. Adams would be speaking to the Board today about getting us up to speed on the trail systems that adjoins Flood Control facilities and the powerful partnership between Flood Control and TEAM RCD. Mr. Cullen commented that their mission statement has somewhat changed from "We build concrete stuff" to now the approach is much more about the communities and that Flood is trying to improve quality of life while also providing the necessary facilities to keep the citizens safe and provide the necessary services to the County in terms of Flood Control.

After reviewing the overall size of the Riverside Flood Control District, Mr. Cullen explained the relationship between what the responsibilities of the Flood Control District and the operation of their facilities are and where TEAM RCD could fill those gaps with the private property owners using their Long Term Streambed Agreement. So for example, people will call the Flood Control district when their property is flooded. Mr. Cullen stated that it is good to remind the public as to what is their responsibility when they own property and how those responsibilities impact their neighbors and since we are able to do many things with our Long Term Streambed Agreement, it allows us to work better with the private citizens and get things done for private property owners.

Mr. Cullen continued to talk about the change in how flood channels have become more than a concrete flume but more of a trade-off that makes room for streams but also allows for a more attractive channel for the residents that surround it yet still serves its purpose. He used the channel by Pechanga Casino as an example. Mr. Cullen also discussed the trade-offs and impacts economically of Concrete channels versus a more open channel that has bike and walking trails, how it affects the development of a housing tract and how the flows during rain season affect those channels. He also discussed the kinds of channels that are designed to be joint use for the community when floodwaters recede and how entire neighborhoods agree to having a different open area to use but also know the flood waters will be addressed during the rainy season.

After giving a little more history on the creation of the Flood Control District which was started after the flood of 1938, Mr. Cullen moved on to discuss the current contract with TEAM RCD and how well that is working. There are great advantages to the work TEAM RCD does at a much more affordable rate which allows invasive removal all year round if necessary and allows Flood Control to focus on what they do best. Mr. Cullen mentioned that TEAM RCD has been very efficient with their work and their budget and has been able to get more done than they have been able to do in the past. President Corona asked if there were more projects than the 11 they were working on that they could collaborate on.

Mr. Cullen spoke of a current project east of the Temecula Valley Hospital that would be a good partnership and described the history and what needed to be achieved there. There was also some question regarding the area behind the Temecula Creek Inn and the work that has been ongoing there but the challenges with homelessness there. Director Biancardi brought up the MS4 and NPDES (national pollutant Discharge and elimination system) and asked if cleaning up channels and doing more quality improvement projects on private lands was a nexus. Mr. Cullen noted that although things such as human waste, or car batteries and/or other pollutants for example that pass downstream into the MS4 definitely have an impact. In those cases, source control is definitely helpful and it could be a basis of expending funds through the RCD on private property. However, he did state that he “wanted to make it crystal clear that we’re (Flood Control) not simply making a gift of public funds to private individuals that happen to own streams. We’ve got to be careful about it and determine if it will pay off and it’s worthy.”

President Corona asked about the area under the freeway behind the Temecula Creek golf course and what was happening with that. James Law from SAWA noted that there is still restoration and invasive removal going on in that area and we are continuing to work through it. Although there is an area that is under the jurisdiction of the RCA. Mr. Cullen also noted that there may be some opportunities going up Murrieta Creek but not at the moment.

After further discussion, Julianna Adams began speaking about a quick update on the Murrieta Creek Trail system. She noted that the Murrieta Creek trail system is a part of a bigger trail known as the Butterfield Overland Trail that connects St. Louis and Memphis to San Francisco. Ms. Adams said that the trail system has been under construction for a very long time by the Army Corp of Engineers and that they were just about to finish their final punch list to be complete and done. Major construction is complete and there are a couple of small repairs needed to be completed but other than that, once it those fixes are completely the project will go back over to Flood Control. She continued to speak about when the project is turned over to the District then they will also receive the responsibilities for the trail features which will in turn then be turned over to the city for their operations and maintenance. This project has been more than 20 years in the making since it was first initiated in year 2000. When the official turn over to Flood happens, Ms. Adams and Mr. Cullen will let us know.

President Corona asked if there were any other questions and offered that if there were other projects in the works, please allow TEAM RCD to have the opportunity to take them on.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None reported.

ADJOURNMENT

Since there were no other questions, President Corona Thanked Mr. Cullen and Ms. Adams and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Newt Parkes moved to adjourn. Seconded by Rose Corona. Unanimously approved 5-0

Meeting adjourned 5:05 p.m.

Secretary/Treasurer-Date