

MINUTES

Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors Thursday, June 13, 2024, 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 Zoom

Roll Call/Establish a Quorum:

Directors Present: Teri Biancardi (President), Newt Parkes (Secretary/Treasurer),
Rose Corona (Director), Stuart Kuhn (Director)

Directors Absent: Pablo Bryant (Vice President)

Public Guests: Randy Feeney, Sebastian Valente, Jessica Christopher, Keir
Thomas (NRCS), via Zoom, one additional unidentified participant via Zoom.

Approval of Agenda

Director Parkes moved, and Director Kuhn seconded, that the Agenda be approved as presented. Director Corona requested that the Director's report on the WETA grant be moved to discussion items. President Biancardi denied the request on the ground that Director Corona had not submitted the request to the President on the Thursday prior to the board meeting.

Upon voice vote, the Agenda was approved as presented.

Biancardi: Yes

Corona: No

Kuhn: Yes

Parkes: Yes

Public comment

Jessica Christopher, a member of the public, addressed the board. Ms. Christopher represented that she was a resident of the Meadowview residential area in Temecula, where President Biancardi also resides.

Ms. Christopher presented a written statement and documents concerning President Biancardi. Ms. Christopher concluded by making a public records request for the following:

“... public records of every board meeting transcript from August 2023 to the current date and current or pending contracts, specifically with NRCS.”

Every director present at the meeting received a copy of Ms. Christopher's documents.

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Note: Director Kuhn stepped out of the meeting for the following discussions.

A. Subject: NRCS Cooperative Agreement - Keir Thomas

Background: TEAMRCD's existing projects can and have supported the work of the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). In circumstances where RCDs support NRCS, Cooperative Agreements can be beneficial to both parties.

Keir Thomas discussed the value of a Cooperative Agreement with TEAM RCD, expanding TEAM's access to federal resources, including funding and data services, and providing NRCS with additional real-time information regarding the needs of farmers in TEAM RCD's service area.

President Biancardi stated that “Mission is maxed out” and that this proposal provides additional boots on the ground.

Director Corona suggested that there be a more detailed scope of work in the Agreement before approval by the board. She also asked if this new agreement would be in conflict with our work on the WETA grant. President Biancardi and Mr. Thomas responded that it would complement that work and provide additional resources to TEAM to perform the work and to the farmers who would then be considered for federal funding. Further discussion focused on priorities identified by NRCS (irrigation), outreach through workgroups with farmers to conduct needs assessment, and the process for executing the Cooperative Agreement.

Director Parkes asked if the work we do under the Agreement would be under the terms of the Cooperative Agreement. Director Corona requested that the board be given more time to receive and review the Cooperative Agreement prior to a vote.

The board further discussed how the Agreement could be stated in general objectives that would be refined as community needs are assessed, with irrigation as a starting point.

Director Parkes expressed support to move forward but asked that the directors not be asked to approve it at the last minute. President Biancardi agreed to send out a draft to the directors for review, but not for discussion, when available.

No other action was taken following the board discussion.

B. Subject: Community Wildfire Resilience

Background: At the last TEAMRCD regular meeting we discussed possible pathways towards moving forward with the project of building wildfire resilience in our service area. This portion of the meeting is to continue developing ideas ahead of our July 11th meeting.

President Biancardi asked the Directors to review the Inland Empire RCD Regional Priority Plan, which identifies 65 projects for work in their area, as a guide to preparing TEAM RCD's own plan.

President Biancardi also reported that WETA grant funding of the Climate Corp fellow could not be used to re-direct some of Mia's time to wildfire resilience.

President Biancardi opened the floor for comments as to how continue moving the wildfire resilience efforts forward. Director Corona suggested asking SAWA to provide a wildfire assessment for projects under contract now.

C. Subject: Annual RCD meeting

Background: TEAMRCD is hosting the regional meeting for 2024. The date of September 25th has been tentatively chosen, with the Temecula campus of MSJC being a promising venue. The board to discuss possible fees associated with the location.

Mount Sac JC in Temecula charges \$150 per hour for space. With lunch President Biancardi estimates \$700 for the cost of a four-hour meeting. No vote was taken, but President Biancardi received verbal support from the board to proceed with planning.

D. Subject: February's Special Meeting

Background: At Director Rose Corona's direction, the legal firm Fennemore Craig sent the District a letter claiming February's Special Meeting was not in compliance with the Public Resources code. The District's counsel disputes this allegation and has provided a response.

The letter was provided in the Directors' package for review. Director Parkes noted that we now have two opposing legal opinions. Director Corona disputed that she directed Fennemore to generate a letter, stating that Aaron Gettis had requested Director Corona to provide the legal basis for her contention that the special meeting was not in compliance. Director Corona stated that the Fennemore letter was in response to that request.

Director Corona then stated additional argument regarding what constitutes an order to hold a special meeting and that the February meeting was not properly ordered. She further stated that the "cure and correct" to ratify the February meeting indicated that an error was in fact made.

She continued her statement and submitted it and a transcript of the February meeting to the manager for TEAM records.

E. Subject: Strategic planning

Background: The Board is asked to consider postponing the strategic planning effort to September.

President Biancardi stated she would like to go dark in August and asked for thoughts to postpone strategic planning to the September meeting.

Note: Director Kuhn returned to the meeting.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR:

President Biancardi requested that the Integrative Development contract be pulled from the consent calendar.

Director Parkes moved, and Director Kuhn seconded, to:

1. Approve Minutes of the Board of Directors Regular Meeting of May 9, 2024.
2. Approve for current bills and reimbursements:
 - a) Bills paid
 - b) Bills to be paid or reimbursement
 - c) Accounts Receivable
3. Authorize Teri Biancardi to approve the engagement of the firm of Nigro and Nigro, in the amount of \$3000 to prepare the financial statements and auditor's reports as well as the State Controller's Report.

Approved:

Biancardi: Yes
Corona: No
Kuhn: Yes
Parkes: Yes

President Biancardi then reported that Integrated Development needed to update its state compliance before it could receive payment for work on a business plan. The board then discussed who should contract and how to proceed.

Following this discussion, the matter was tabled to the July meeting.

IV. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Subject: Election of Officers for the position of President, Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer.

Background: The District selects its officers annually in June.

Director Parkes nominated Rose Corona for President. Stuart Kuhn nominated Teri Biancardi. Candidates were considered in alphabetical order.

Biancardi:

Biancardi – Yay

Corona - Nay

Kuhn – Yay

Parkes – Nay

Corona:

Biancardi – Nay

Corona – Yay

Kuhn – Nay

Parkes – Yay

As there was a tie vote, the election for President is deferred to the July meeting.

President Biancardi nominated Pablo Bryant as Vice President. There were no other nominations.

Approved:

Biancardi – Yay

Corona – Nay

Kuhn – Yay

Parkes – Yay

Director Corona nominated Newt Parkes as Secretary/Treasurer. Director Parkes was elected by unanimous vote.

B. Subject: TEAMRCD/Riverside Flood Control and Water Conservation District (RCFCWCD) contract renewal.

Background: TEAMRCD is in the process of assembling the 2024-2025 project site list for invasive removals in RCFCWCD's facilities within TEAM's service area. It is anticipated the work details will be finalized before our next regular board meeting.

James Law joined the meeting via Zoom. He reported that an additional 4 sites are proposed to RCFC in fiscal year 2024-2025. The total budget has been increased by \$81,000 to incorporate these new projects.

President Biancardi requested authorization to sign the RCFC agreement once the 4 projects are reviewed by RCFC.

Following discussion and a review of the SAWA budget spreadsheet, Director Corona moved, and Director Parkes seconded, that President Biancardi be authorized to move the contract forward with existing projects only, and to return to board for approval of the additional four at a later board meeting. Upon voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

C. Subject: Riverside Local Agency Formation Commission run-off election

Background: The vote for the Eastern Region Regular Special District resulted in a tie.

Director Corona moved, and Director Parkes seconded, that TEAM RCD cast its vote for Castillo Estrada. Upon voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved. President Biancardi was authorized to submit the vote to LAFCO.

V. DIRECTORS' REPORTS

- Greer Ranch, WETA: Teri Biancardi – President Biancardi is working on a site visit with Murrieta Fire Department to Greer Ranch. WETA documentation is in the packet. Director Parkes asked if the invoice had been sent (it was).
- Lake and Streambed Agreement/Clinton Keith - Pablo Bryant – President Biancardi relayed the report that the new LSA will include authorize for additional services to be performed by TEAM RCD. The contract is expected to be ready for the July meeting.
- Homeless report: Newt Parkes – observable homeless activity in Lake Elsinore, Santa Gertrudis and Temecula Channel 159. Reports have been made to the city of Lake Elsinore and City of Temecula.

VI. MANAGEMENT REPORT: Rae Shirer

- Records management progress – Manager Shirer reported that the County of Riverside has updated their general document retention policy. She is working those updates into our own plan and continues to sort, scan, and catalog the physical files.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

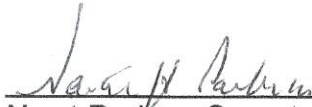
VIII: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

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Next Regular Meeting: July 11, 2024, at 4:00 PM

Dated: 7/11/24



Newt Parkes, Secretary