

Elsinore-Murrieta-Anza Resource Conservation District

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, May 8, 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 (joined the meeting at 3:10pm)
Dan Matrisciano, Associate Director

Members Absent/Excused

Bob Hewitt, NRCS

Staff or Guests Present:

Becky Mitchell
Mary Leaming
Ray Johnson, Attorney

Reportable Closed Session Discussions

No Closed Session was held.

Motion to Approve the Agenda as Presented:

M/S Wheeler/Fox to approve Agenda; carried 4-0.

1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

There being a quorum present, President Pam Nelson called the meeting to order at 2:12pm. Self introductions were made.

2.0 Approval of Minutes

Minutes of April 10, 2008 were approved with corrections as follows:

a) Item 7.3, insert "possible" so first sentence now reads Pam anticipates possible EMARCD expenses...

b) Item 7.6, add "and Judy Mitchell Executive Director are" after Scott Murray's name and title; change "purpose" to meeting; change "opportunities" to issues.

M/S Long/Fox to approve with corrections; approved 4-0.

3.0 Financial Report

After review and discussion on the form and content of the Financial Reports prepared by Nigro, Nigro & White, M/S Long/Nelson to approve. Vote was 2-2.

Ray Johnson, Attorney, presented information on a Voluntary Trust of ~~\$50,000~~ ^{\$541,000} which he is administering for a donor, whose name was confidential. Board members asked questions about the Trust regarding a description of lands to which the donation could be applied. While thought to be within Wildomar's newly incorporated City limits, Mr. Johnson did not immediately know but agreed to find out.

4.0 Public Comments

Mary Leaming, representing a native and organic plant nursery known as Willow Creek Springs, explained the work done by the owners and their desire to promote "green" gardening. Their outreach efforts include working with Scouts and schools. In addition, a line of herbal beauty and health products has been developed. Mary mentioned a video that in future could be used as part of a schools program.

The Board expressed interest in knowing more about the nursery and Pam expressed a willingness to act as the agency for any grants that Willow Creek Springs would get. Suggestions for additional outreach efforts included community gardens and food councils.

Mary offered an alternative meeting site for EMARCD Board meetings and said a tour might be arranged for later. A Mother's Day tea is scheduled at the nursery for May 14th and the Board was invited.

5.0 Presentations

Becky Mitchell of Code Enforcement presented a power point presentation developed for their outreach program to residents. She stated that weed abatement issues outside city limits is done through Code Enforcement. To report illegal dumping, call 888-782-6263. Becky said she will be putting the noise abatement plan together for Wine Country.

Becky's office for the 3rd District is in Murrieta. Her direct line is 951-600-6140. When calling to report a violation, she will need the property address where the violation is occurring. Becky is available for presentations to Homeowner Associations or other groups.

6.0 Correspondence

President Nelson reviewed correspondence and other announcements that had been received.

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

7.1 Submission of Bills for Payment

Dues Payments

There was discussion of agency dues to the regional, state and national organizations. Statements for agency dues to CARCD of \$300 and the Baja Regional RCD of \$150 were received. In addition, dues to the national RCD are assessed at 1% of an RCD's operating budget.

- 1) Regional Dues: M/S Nelson/Whittington to pay Baja Regional dues of \$150. Carried 5-0.
- 2) State Dues: Charolette offered to check with the state office about the possibility of getting a pro-rated amount for less than the \$300 payment of state dues requested. Dues payment deadline is November 10, 2008, allowing time for inquiry.
- 3) National dues: M/S Wheeler/Long to table payment for 2008 dues. Carried 5-0.

7.2 Other Bills for Payment

- 1) A statement for the semi-annual rental of the storage unit for \$308.58 was received. Approval for payment upon receipt had been approved at the April Board meeting.
- 2) Charolette Fox submitted a reimbursement request for gas mileage of \$133.90 for the April Baja Regional Meeting she and Bob Wheeler attended in Imperial County. Discussion concerned whether this could be an approved expense. M/S Whittington/Wheeler to reimburse. Carried 3-2
- 3) Vicki Long's donation of \$1,500 for retainer fee to Ray Johnson, Attorney, was resubmitted and accepted.
- 4) Pam indicated that a \$98 surplus remained after expenses were paid for this year's Anza Earth Day event. M/S Whittington/Nelson that the \$98 be earmarked for use for participation in next year's Anza Earth Day.

7.3 Mitigation

No issues brought forward

7.4 Handling of Correspondence, Emails, and Inter-Board Communications

Ray Johnson stated that he had set up Gmail accounts for the Board and explained how to use Gmail as a Board communication tool. Until a Record Retention Policy is developed, it was recommended that hardcopies of materials be sent to Charolette for scanning and then forwarded to Gmail. Ray Johnson volunteered a multi-page Cannon Copier/Scanner for EMARCD use. M/S Whittington/Wheeler to accept Gmail as part of EMARCD's record retention process. Generally approved.

7.5 Financial Record Keeping

It has been requested that materials of financial significance be sent or copied by the Secretary to the Board's accountant as a file for our records. Ray Johnson suggested that the monthly bank check register be downloaded for attachment to the minutes.

8.0 Reports

8.1 Agency Reports
None

8.2 Director's Reports
Pam asked if there were questions about her written report.

Vicki reviewed her written report.

Terry reported on the S.O.S. living sign rally and noted that more people turned out this year than last year. The opposition to the quarry seems to be greater now than in the past.

Bob reported on his work with the RCU and conversations held with Don Scott about water in Anza. Bob drafted a reply to the court re the notice he received from the Cahuilla.

8.3 Associate Director's Report
See Item 8.4.

8.4 Firesafe Council Report
Dan Matrisciano mentioned there is more attention paid generally now to firesafe plants and erosion issues. He reported that the Hollingsworth bill on increased fire clearance footage for homes failed in the legislature. A meeting place will be available in Wine Country for Firesafe Council meetings in that area.

8.5 Committee Reports
None presented.

9.0 Old Business
As yet no date has been set for a joint meeting of the Mission RCD and EMARCD.

10.0 New Business

10.1 The Board may have additional public outreach opportunities through and by the Firesafe Councils.

10.2 Budget information needs to go to Elizabeth Nigro for draft of a 2008-2009 Budget.

10.3 A tour of Wildomar will be arranged to look for suitable properties for mitigation or restoration. No date was set.

11.0 Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.

Charollette Fox
Charollette Fox, Secretary

July 10, 2008
Date Approved
as corrected