

MINUTES

Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, May 12, 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: None

Associate Directors Absent: Rick Neugebauer-Associate Director

Office Manager: Darlene Gilbert-Present

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

District Counsel: Melissa Cushman-Absent

Guest Speakers: Karen Buhr-Executive Director CARCD, Brian Brady and James Law - SAWA

Public Guests: Sebastian Valente, Bob Cullen-Riverside County Flood Control, Darci Kuezi-Riverside County Flood Control

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 Parkes seconded. With no further discussion, President Corona calls for a vote. Unanimous vote-5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS-NONE

II. ACTION ITEMS

Item 1: Update and discussion and potential approval of letter of support on AB1902-Legislation on potential updates to Division 9-Director Corona introduces Karen Buhr, the Executive Director for CARCD who will be filling in to speak to this issue for Mandy Parkes who was spoke at the last meeting. Ms. Buhr proceeded to inform the Board as to the progress CARCD had made over the last few weeks, the intention of the bill as well as discussing some of the pushback CARCD had received on this legislation.

Ms. Buhr proceeded to explain how AB 1902 came out of almost 2 years worth of work which found that Division 9 was far out of date in its representation of the actual work that most RCD's do which would create a lot of explanation on the part of RCD'S as to what they do in order to access funds from the State. Ms. Buhr explained the process of going through the legislation line by line in order to show the things that the RCD's could partner or do in certain areas that the State was missing in it's outreach to organizations or non-profits to fulfill work or grants. She further discussed how the purpose was to clean up the code and have it match what RCD's are doing on the broader scale of things which hopefully would result in a better understanding by legislators exactly the role of the RCD's in the current climate along with a better understanding for those who work with LAFCO's to provide those LAFCO's with a clearer understanding of exactly what RCD's do.

The second piece was to help the Department of Conservation have more flexibility in authorizing grant monies to RCD's. The current legislation would remove the 25% match requirement that is currently in the statute. The CARCD is also cleaning up some of the language and adding \$10 million into the capacity building fund which could result in anywhere from \$50,000-\$100,00.00 per RCD for capacity building.

Ms. Buhr went on to discuss that some of the pushback has been from certain RCD's regarding the language for application for grants for DOC and certain requirements and the concern that there is potential for what many RCD's perceive as LAFCO overreach but the CARCD is helping to work through clarifying some of that language to bring more clarity to the concerns presented. But overall, the feeling is that this legislation makes it a really big benefit to RCD's. It helps get written into bills and have a lot of opportunities that are missing right now. She then opened it up to questions. President Corona made note that Mandy Parkes had given a good run up to all the issues including the note of town halls and listening sessions and reiterated to Ms. Buhr that she wanted to make sure that with this legislation, the hope is to eliminate the 25% matching capacity for grants. Ms. Buhr confirmed that that was the goal so it made it easier for smaller RCD's to obtain grants in an easier fashion.

Director Parkes asked if there's was going to be more listening sessions and it was established that there might be as the legislation nears its final phase. Director Biancardi asked if the CARCD was looking for a support letter and Ms. Buhr responded that the CARCD has a letter they have drafted for an example for RCD's to use. President Corona noted that this was the reason for the action item. The President also noted to the Board that there is a difference between the Board writing a letter of support that would benefit the District itself and writing letters of support for organizations or issues that have two sides or differences of opinions that don't affect the District directly. She reiterated that the Board as a rule, is non-partisan and does not write letters either for or against issues that are handled by the County or other sister agencies where the individual or organization has an avenue to address their concerns to obtain results. However, this particular letter of support would definitely benefit the District itself. With that President Corona made a motion to create a support letter in support of the CARCD and their efforts to support AB1902. Seconded by Newt Parkes. No further discussion. Passed unanimously 5-0

Item 2: Update on current and future projects with Cal-Recycle Grants-

Director Biancardi proceeded to catch the Board up on the progress of the Cal-Recycle grants. She proceeded to inform the Board that the project for a citizen was all primed and ready to go, but the citizen at the last minute pulled out so the grant could not go forward. However, she encouraged the Board not to be disheartened that this did not eliminate our opportunities to go forward and was asking for the Board to consider moving forward. She mentioned some programs online that had some good examples of how other RCD's had started doing outreach. Ms. Biancardi asked for input. Director Parkes said he had read through the documentation and the correspondence she had had back and forth with the Cal-Recycle administrator and it was his understanding that there wasn't sufficient funding which landed TEAM RCD in a secondary position but TEAM might still qualify for an additional \$199,000. Director Biancardi noted that we would have received funding for the program but what we had done was asking for two separate grants. One that would have been specific to the property of the citizen requesting it and two, monies for projects for other sites within the community that might also be affected.

Director Biancardi also suggested that she felt it might be more comfortable for the Board to find some properties and work on a property by property basis and work with Cal-Recycle on those. The Board in general agreed that these were good projects and asked where to go from there. President Corona asked if Director Biancardi wanted to make a motion. She responded by saying that she would do that for the next meeting and by the meeting after that come up with a flyer and something like a proposal for our website and then some marketing thoughts around that with Anza/Aguanga area specifically because it was a DAC community. (Disadvantaged community). Having a full agreement of the Board to move forward with Director Biancardi's plan, they would look forward to hearing more at the next meeting and the Board moved on to new business.

NEW BUSINESS

Item 1: Update and discussion and potential approval for additional Invasive removal work at Greer Ranch Conservation Easement - President Corona asked for approval for additional monies for Inland Empire Resource Conservation District to complete their invasive removal of stinkweed and tamarisk at Greer Ranch. President Corona made the motion, Director Bryant seconded the motion. Without further discussion the monies were approved 5-0.

Item 2: Potential Discussion and approval of the annual audit for Nigro and Nigro for fiscal year 2021-2022- Director Parkes summarized the proposal for the audit from Nigro and Nigro. In essence it is a standard proposal that TEAM RCD has received over the years to do the audit. Director Parkes proceeded to say that that the audit would be \$2500.00 with \$500.00 additional for the report to the State, so the bill would be \$3,000 to do the audit. Director Parkes then made a motion to accept the proposal of Nigro and Nigro. Director Biancardi seconded the motion. No further discussion, the motion passed unanimously 5-0

Item 3: Discussion and potential approval of Sponsorship monies to apply cleanup sites in the Santa Margarita Watershed in conjunction with Riverside County Flood Control. - President Corona introduced Darcy Kuenzi from Riverside County Flood Control who is the Government Affairs Officer and works in the Watershed Protection Division of the Flood Control District. She also manages the county wide public education program and the public education budget. Ms. Kuenzi said the District had available sponsorship funds to promote the mission of watershed protection which helps to eliminate pollution prevention in the watershed. President Corona noted the flyer that was provided to the Board as an example of the flyer that might be produced to advertise the program to the public. Overall, Ms Kuezi was wanting to know if TEAM RCD would be able to host a clean up event with the sponsorship monies available. This would involve outreach for volunteers and to the community.

President Corona informed the Board that this particular sponsorship monies needed to be addressed before the end of the fiscal year June 30. Corona asked James Law of SAWA to inform the Board about the two sites that had been located and which he had reviewed in advance and to give definite dates for clean-up after nesting season to complete the work necessary to receive the sponsorship monies. Mr. Law indicated that September 16th through 20th or September 19 through the 22nd. Ms. Kuenzi indicated that a flyer would be created and if the Board approved the project, she would just need an invoice indicating the project costs going forward. As well, President Corona indicated that it was important to involve SAWA as a safety net not only to oversee the project but to see that there was clean-up accomplished even if no volunteers showed up to assist in that clean up. With that, President Corona made a motion to go forward with the program sponsorship and create the outline and the invoice in order to meet the deadline for the project funds. Director Parkes seconded the motion. No further discussion, motion passed unanimously- 5-0

OLD BUSINESS

Item 1: Update on Homeless Monitoring- Director Parkes proceeded to inform the Board on the monthly Homeless Monitoring. He mentioned that there are three sites that continue to be of issue which are the Temecula Creek AD159 location, Tocalota Creek III and Santa Gertrudis channel. He said they are beginning to see some cleanup happening which is a good thing. He spoke to the Homeless Task Force in Lake Elsinore which will be losing Nicole Daley who has been spearheading the project for a long time and done an excellent job and at this time Director Parkes says they have not been notified of a replacement. Director Parkes note that the Task Force is continuing their street outreach activities as well as obtaining new ideas for The Anchor which houses many of the homeless and gives them a new lease on life.

Item 2: SAWA Update- No report due to the absence of AD Neugebauer.

Item 3: Crop/Swap and AIEP Program Report- Director Feeney noted everything back on track and nothing to report.

Item 4: Report on Anza/Aguanga Area- Director Biancardi said there was little to report except to say that some of the meetings that were taking place last year had broken down and that she had requested a meeting with Michelle Gutierrez who is a water quality expert at the Ramona tribes to get a sense of what their needs are.

GUEST SPEAKERS: JAMES LAW AND BRIAN BRADY FOR SAWA- PRESENTATION OF PROPOSAL FOR FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS

James Law of SAWA proceeding to discuss the future projects and costs for Flood Control and TEAM RCD moving forward into the new fiscal year. Mr. Law provided each board member with a spreadsheet to see the actual costs per project that TEAM RCD will be performing in the upcoming and final year of the Flood Control Contract. At this time, TEAM RCD and SAWA are projecting an increased budget which includes additional projects that requested proposals for by Flood Control in the past few months that are the VV channel in Temecula and a fairly large project which is the Murrieta Creek project.

Mr. Law proceeded to start with Homeless Monitoring which is a bi-monthly cost and which is a high priority since it inhibits the ability for transient encampments to entrench themselves in large numbers before a task force in the city affected addresses it. He indicated that SAWA monitors in a rotating pattern to make sure every site is reported upon regularly.

Mr. Law then proceeded to discuss each individual project and the work that had been done and what work would be done going forward. In these discussions were also included how SAWA had managed their projects in an economically efficient manner using the Green Climber (a machine that mulches biomass and reduces human labor necessity in difficult areas for cleanup). Bob Cullen from Riverside County Flood Control pointed out concerns as to particular no-go zones that may have potentially some sort of issues that need addressing by TEAM RCD which may

include marking areas for educational purposes. Mr. Cullen also addressed the monies allotted under the contract and how going forward TEAM RCD and Flood Control would have to address the additional projects they had proposed TEAM work on. President Corona asked Mr. Cullen how he felt that TEAM had done over the last four years in addressing the projects and getting those channels addressed. He responded that he felt that TEAM RCD and SAWA had usually come in under budget from our initial estimate which allowed TEAM to address more of the project with the additional monies saved in order to get them under control more quickly, therefore reducing costs long term. Mr. Cullen said that Flood was satisfied with how this partnership with TEAM has worked out well. Mr Cullen asked that TEAM and SAWA coordinate a meeting with Flood Control and separate the new projects from the original projects and President Corona said she would have the bookkeeper bring all the costs (or estimated ones) up to date and provide it to Mr. Cullen for his review.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None reported.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items, President Corona mad a motion to adjourn.
Director Bryant seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting ended at 5:05 p.m.

Secretary/Treasurer-Date

