

Riverside County Habitat Conservation Authority

5.A

Regular Meeting ~ Minutes ~

Thursday, May 17, 2018

11:00 AM

County Administrative Center

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Steve Manos at 11:13 a.m., at the County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside.

Jurisdiction	Attendee	Status	Arrived
City of Corona	Dick Haley	Present	10:49 AM
City of Hemet	Karlee Meyer	Present	10:49 AM
City of Lake Elsinore	Steve Manos	Present	10:48 AM
City of Menifee	Matt Liesemeyer	Present	10:48 AM
City of Moreno Valley	David Marquez	Present	10:48 AM
City of Murrieta		Absent	
City of Perris		Absent	
City of Riverside		Absent	
City of Temecula	Maryann Edwards	Present	10:48 AM
City of Wildomar		Absent	
County of Riverside		Absent	
RCHCA Director	Rick Bishop	Present	10:56 AM

Note: Times above reflect when the member was logged in; they may have arrived at the meeting earlier.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Chair Steve Manos led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

5. MINUTES

A. Summary Minutes from the February 15, 2018, RCHCA Board Meeting are Available for Consideration.

Action: 1. *Approved the Summary Minutes from the February 15, 2018, RCHCA Board meeting.*

RESULT:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED
MOVER:	City of Temecula
SECONDER:	City of Hemet
AYES:	Hemet, Lake Elsinore, Moreno Valley, Temecula
ABSTAIN:	Corona, Menifee
ABSENT:	Murrieta, Perris, Riverside, Wildomar, County of Riverside

6. CONSENT AND POLICY CALENDAR

RESULT:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED
MOVER:	City of Temecula
SECONDER:	City of Hemet
AYES:	Corona, Hemet, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Temecula
ABSENT:	Murrieta, Perris, Riverside, Wildomar, County of Riverside

A. Status of Mitigation Fee Transfers from Member Agencies through March 31, 2018

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

B. Financial Report through March 31, 2018

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

C. Status Report on the Attendance Roster

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

D. Status Report Concerning Reserve Management Committees for the Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve and the Lake Mathews Reserve

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

E. Status Report Concerning Reserve Managers' Coordinating Committee

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

F. Approval of the Agreement between the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency and Eastern Municipal Water District Regarding Incidental Take Authorization for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat for the Fox Tank Project (CEQA Exempt)

Actions:

1. *Approved the Agreements between the RCHCA and Eastern Municipal Water District regarding Incidental Take Authorization for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat and authorize the General Manager to sign the Agreements after USFWS and CDFW have approved the Incidental Take Authorization called for under the Agreement.*
2. *Authorized the General Manager to execute and sign the Certificate of Inclusion and collect the mitigation fee as described in the Agreement and the Certificate of Inclusion.*
3. *Found the approval of the Agreement exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15301, 15061(b)(3), and 15308.*

G. Approval of the Agreement between the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency and Southern California Gas Regarding Incidental Take Authorization for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat for the Martin & Ramona Valve Operations & Maintenance Project (CEQA Exempt)

Actions:

1. *Approved the Agreements between the RCHCA and Southern California Gas regarding Incidental Take Authorization for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat and authorize the General Manager to sign the Agreements after*

- USFWS and CDFW have approved the Incidental Take Authorization called for under the Agreement.*
2. *Authorized the General Manager to execute and sign the Certificate of Inclusion and collect the mitigation fee as described in the Agreement and the Certificate of Inclusion.*
 3. *Found the approval of the Agreement exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15301, 15061(b)(3), and 15308.*

H. Approval of the Agreement Between the RCHCA and March Joint Powers Authority Regarding Incidental Take Authorization for The Stephen's Kangaroo Rat for the Meridian Business Park West Campus-Lower Plateau Project

- Actions:**
1. *Approved the Agreement between the RCHCA and March Joint Powers Authority regarding Incidental Take Authorization for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat and authorize the General Manager to sign the Agreement after USFWS and CDFW have approved the Incidental Take Authorization called for under the Agreement.*
 2. *Authorized the General Manager to execute and sign the Certificate of Inclusion and collect the mitigation fee as described in the Agreement and the Certificate of Inclusion.*

I. Approval of Professional Services Agreement Between the RCHCA and the Conservation Biology Institute for a Range-Wide Habitat Suitability Model for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat

- Actions:**
1. *Approved the Professional Services Agreement between the RCHCA and the Conservation Biology Institute for a Range-Wide Habitat Suitability Model for Stephens' Kangaroo Rat.*
 2. *Authorized the General Manager to execute and administer the terms of the Agreement.*
 3. *Authorized the General Manager to execute any future amendments to the Agreements, if necessary, so long as such amendments do not result in an overall monetary increase, and as long as such amendments are approved as to form by counsel.*

J. Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Independent Audit Report of Financial Statements

- Action:**
1. *Received and filed.*

7. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

A. Approval of the Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Operating Budget

Princess Hester, RCHCA Administrative Services Officer, reported that the Operating Budget consists of the General Fund, Contracts, and the Lake Mathews Reserve Endowment. RCHCA employees five full-time staff and anticipates creating one additional position to assist with consulting and contractual obligations.

The General Fund is anticipated to bring in revenues of \$900k, and anticipated expenditures are \$510,352, which leaves a balanced budget with excess revenues of \$400k.

The Lake Mathews Reserve Endowment is anticipated to fund draws at \$570k, and the expenditures would match that amount.

Overall, the budget consists of an approximate 14% increase in revenue. Any additional savings realized will reduce the draw down amount from the lake Mathews Reserve Endowment.

Action: 1. *Approved the Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Operating Budget.*

RESULT:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED
MOVER:	City of Hemet
SECONDER:	City of Temecula
AYES:	Corona, Hemet, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Temecula
ABSENT:	Murrieta, Perris, Riverside, Wildomar, County of Riverside

B. Status Update on the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Recovery Efforts

Princess Hester, RCHCA Administrative Services Officer, reported that staff continues to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) to demonstrate Stephens' Kangaroo Rat (SKR) recovery. In March 2018, Vice-Chair Manos and Board member Maryann Edwards accommodated staff in an advocacy visit to Sacramento to meet with Legislators and USFWS.

Staff urged USFWS to finalized the 1997 draft Recovery Plan to ensure no additional requirements are added to the Plan. As it turns out, the Plan does not need to be finalized.

In partnership with USFWS, many steps have been completed toward the recovery of SKR. Remaining tasks include a Range-Wide Monitoring Protocol in coordination with San Diego County, as SKR's geographical range extends into northern San Diego. Additional tasks include a genetics study, a 5-factor analysis, and a proposed rule for down listing, to be completed by USFWS. An overall management strategy to continue managing SKR and its habitat will be developed.

The next step would then be to petition USFWS to support the coordinating efforts in order to work on the delisting of SKR in San Diego County.

Staff is working on a proposal to request USFWS fund the efforts to support the Range-Wide Monitoring Protocol.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

C. Report on Educational Outreach Programs

Princess Hester, RCHCA Administrative Services Officer, reported that events are held at the reserves to celebrate Endangered Species Day, and celebrate endangered species. This year, over 700 students from schools throughout Western Riverside County participated in an art contest.

The theme was "Where our World and the Natural World Meet." Awards are presented to the winners of various categories. Included in the Board members stipend folders were various drawings by some of the participating students.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

D. Report on the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Reserve Management and Monitoring Efforts

Brian Shomo, RCHCA Natural Resources Manager, introduced a new employee, Scott Curry, Open Space Habitat Technician, who will assist with crew management and other tasks.

RCHCA applied for and received funding through the State Responsibility Area Grant for fire fuel / habitat management in the amount of \$142,000. An additional 2,200 man hours were awarded, approximately \$45,000, for continued fuel management.

Two and a half miles of fuel breaks were installed; 80 acres of dead citrus trees were removed; and all tamarisk and tobacco trees were removed.

A Cal Fire prescribed fire is planned for May 24, 2018, at the Lake Mathews Reserve. The Bureau of Land Management recently hosted a Federal Fire Investigators Class. Student investigators focused on learning fire behavior, origin, methods of ignition, and cause of spread.

Staff has created a GPS tool to track and record patrol efforts in real time, which allows tracking of locations staff have traveled.

In addition to monitoring the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat, there are 65 species that RCHCA is contracted to monitor, one of which are bats. Staff obtained an acoustic recorder which can determine the type of bat(s) in the area. It turns out there are more species of bats at the Lake Mathews Reserve than initially known.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

E. Potential Full Consolidation of RCHCA Staff and Operations with WRCOG

Rick Bishop, RCHCA General Manager, reported that WRCOG has been acting as the administrator of RCHCA for the last few years. Significant savings have been achieved, and the Agency has been able to embark upon delisting the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat and provide public access to some of the RCHCA lands.

One kink in the process is that RCHCA staff still remain County employees. RCHCA staff operate under different personnel policies and procedures, as well as a different holiday calendar. Mr. Bishop has met with County staff, who have no objection to the full consolidation of RCHCA into WRCOG. WRCOG's Executive Committee recently received this item at its meeting earlier this month, and also have no objections.

With a full consolidation, RCHCA will continue to operate under its own Joint Powers Agreement, and this Board will continue to meet as it currently does.

RCHCA staff have expressed no objections to becoming WRCOG employees. RCHCA will continue to retain County Counsel for its legal oversight.

Actions:

1. *Directed staff to work with Riverside County and WRCOG to fully consolidate RCHCA staff and operations into WRCOG.*
2. *Authorized the Chairman to execute and administer the Amendment to the Management Services Agreement between the RCHCA and WRCOG, and to execute any additional documents related to the consolidation.*

3. *Approved the 12th Amendment to the Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement and authorize staff to circulate and obtain signatures from the member agencies.*

RESULT:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED
MOVER:	City of Temecula
SECONDER:	City of Hemet
AYES:	Corona, Hemet, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Temecula
ABSENT:	Murrieta, Perris, Riverside, Wildomar, County of Riverside

8. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Princess Hester, RCHCA Administrative Services Officer, introduced Jonathan Dallas who has been interning over the past year

9. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no requested items for future agendas.

10. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no general announcements.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next RCHCA Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 20, 2018, at 11:00 a.m., at the County of Riverside Administrative Center, 1st Floor Board Chambers.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.
