
Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency

City of Corona ◇ *City of Hemet* ◇ *City of Lake Elsinore* ◇ *City of Moreno Valley*
City of Murrieta ◇ *City of Perris* ◇ *City of Riverside* ◇ *City of Temecula* ◇ *County of Riverside*

MINUTES

Thursday, May 20, 2004 - 10:00 a.m.

Riverside County Administrative Center
4080 Lemon Street
Annex – Fifth Floor Conference Room “C”
Riverside, CA 92501

PRESENT: Ms. Robin Lowe, Chairperson, City of Hemet
Mr. Bill Batey, City of Moreno Valley
Supervisor Bob Buster, County of Riverside
Mr. Bob Schiffner, City of Lake Elsinore
Mr. Eugene Montanez, City of Corona
Mr. Steve Brown, City of Temecula
Mr. Kelly Seyarto, City of Murrieta

ABSENT: Mr. Mark Yarbrough, Vice-Chair, City of Perris
Mr. Dom Betro, City of Riverside

STAFF: Carolyn Syms Luna, RCHCA
Karin Watts-Bazan, County Counsel

1. ROLL CALL

Robin Lowe called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Roll call of the RCHCA Board of Directors showed seven member agencies present with the Cities of Perris and Riverside absent.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

David Phares commented on Agenda Item 5.1B which involves APN's 467-210-016, 467-210-017 and 467-210-025 located in the Lake Skinner Reserve area. There are 120 acres that, in the past, have been offered up for sale to the RCHCA. However, the parties have been unsuccessful in coming to an agreement regarding the sale of the above parcels.

Mr. Phares stated that, thanks to the help of Karin Watts-Bazan and Carolyn Syms Luna, they have been able to develop a resolution regarding the sale of the land.

3. MINUTE APPROVALS: The Minutes of February 19, 2004, were presented for approval.

MOTION for approval: Supervisor Buster
SECOND: Kelly Seyarto

Motion Approved
Ayes – 7
None Opposed
No Abstentions

4. **CONSENT CALENDAR:** Presented for Block Approval: Board members have the option of excluding discussion items from a master motion.

4.1 Status of Mitigation Fee Transfers from Member Agencies

Carolyn Syms Luna reviewed the above report.

4.2 RCHCA Financial Report through March 2004

Carolyn Syms Luna reviewed the above report.

4.3 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Notice Concerning Petition to De-list the Stephens' kangaroo rat

Karin Watts-Bazan reported that we have an obligation under our existing Implementing Agreement to continue to maintain the reserves in perpetuity.

Ms. Watts-Bazan reported that as far as SKR take is concerned, we will acquire SKR take authorization through the boundaries of our SKR permit. Everything outside the permit area (i.e., Banning, Beaumont, Anza) will get SKR take authorization through the MSHCP.

4.4 Status of Lockheed/Potrero Acquisition and Dismissal of Litigation

Karin Watts-Bazan reported that all parties named in this litigation have been dismissed with prejudice in both state and federal court.

4.5 El Cerrito Fire/Lake Mathews – Estelle Mountain SKR Core Reserve

Carolyn Syms Luna stated that Captain Pat Walker is with us today from the California Department of Forestry. She stated that Captain Walker is going to give a report on recent fires that came through our reserves, as well as other areas. Ms. Luna described the fire area and she stated that BLM properties, along with a portion of Steele Peak and Estelle Mountain were impacted by the fire.

Captain Walker stated that for the first 24 hours, he was the Operational Section Chief on this fire. Upon arrival, there were two very small fires – approximately five acres in all, east and west of Temescal Canyon Road, between the freeway and Temescal Canyon Road. Air tankers were assigned to help fight this fire, but were eventually pulled to fight a fire in the Temecula area. The tankers were returned to this fire approximately one and one-half hours later. During the absence of the air tankers, this fire spread considerably; however, at that time, no structures were threatened. After a period of time, it became evident that structures were indeed becoming threatened. At that time, bulldozers were also brought in to assist with fighting the fire. In addition to the air tankers and bulldozers, fire crews from all over the state were brought in to

battle this fire.

Captain Walker reported that this was a wind-driven fire that burned for a full week. With this type of situation, it is very difficult to control the fire, and the direction of the fire, until the winds die down and allow the fire crews to get a handle on it.

Chairperson Lowe recommended that the RCHCA enter into discussions with CDF regarding establishing some exemptions in order to obtain fire breaks in the areas close to human habitat.

Captain Walker agreed with Chairperson Lowe's recommendation above.

Karin Watts-Bazan reported that these lands are going to be part of the MSHCP research. One of the things the RCHCA has take authorization for is to conduct fire management type activities. All of the reserves within the MSHCP will have fire management plans.

Chairperson Lowe stated that she understands Ms. Watts-Bazan's comments; however, developing the various fire management plans is going to take a considerable amount of time. Therefore, in the meantime, should the RCHCA take immediate action regarding the development of the fire breaks on RCHCA lands?

Mr. Batey asked if the immediate development of fire breaks is to help prevent bulldozers from destroying crucial habitat during future fires.

Chairperson Lowe stated "yes", that is why she is making this recommendation.

Chairperson Lowe stated she would like to facilitate a meeting in order to discuss the possible establishment of fire breaks. She requested that Kelly Seyarto and Bill Batey be present at this meeting.

Ms.Luna will schedule the above meeting and will also include Steve Brown in this meeting.

Ms. Luna shared some pictures that were taken on Day 2 of the fire.

MOTION for approval of items 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5: Bill Batey

SECOND: Supervisor Buster

**Motion Approved
Ayes-7
None Opposed
No Abstentions**

5. CLOSED SESSION

With respect to every item of business to be discussed in closed session pursuant to Government Code §§ 54956.9:

**A. Conference with legal counsel – existing litigation:
Nothing to report**

B. Conference with Real Property Negotiator

1. **Property – Riverside County Assessor Parcel Numbers:
467-210-016, 467-210-017 and 467-210-025**

Negotiating Party – David L. Phares & Sharon Bolton

Under negotiation – Price and terms

The Board adjourned to private session in order to discuss the above matter.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m. The next meeting will be held on August 19, 2004.

KH