

MINUTES

**Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation
District Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Thursday, May 9, 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 via Zoom.

Roll Call/Establish a Quorum

Directors Present: Teri Biancardi (President); Pablo Bryant (Vice President); Newt Parkes (Secretary/Treasurer); Rose Corona (Director),
Directors Absent: Stuart Kuhn, entered meeting at 4:07
Public Guests: Sebastian Valente

Approval of Agenda

Director Parkes moved, and Director Bryant seconded, that the agenda be approved as presented. Upon voice vote, the agenda was approved unanimously by the four directors present.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR:

Director Bryant moved, and Director Parkes seconded to:

1. Approve Minutes of the Board of Directors Special Meeting of February 29, 2024.
2. Approve Minutes of the Board of Directors Regular Meeting of April 11, 2024.
3. Approve Minutes of the Board of Directors Special Meeting of April 24, 2024.
4. Approve for current bills and reimbursements:
 - a) Bills paid
 - b) Bills to be paid or reimbursement
 - c) Accounts Receivable

Director Corona stated her objections to the minutes of February 29, 2024, on the grounds that they did not sufficiently record the discussion during the meeting. Director Corona provided the office manager with a transcript of the February 29, 2024, recording of the special meeting, to be included in TEAM RCD records.

Director Corona stated her objections to the legal bills presented, noting that she has still not received the itemized invoice detail she previously requested from the Office of County Counsel.

Upon a voice vote, the motion was passed:

Biancardi: Yes
Bryant: Yes
Kuhn: Absent
Parkes: Yes
Corona: No

III. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Subject: Cultivating Inclusion business plan

Background: The National Association of Conservation District's grant to TEAMRCD on behalf of Cultivating Inclusion contains funding for a business plan.

Director Bryant moved, and Director Kuhn seconded, to approve the proposal of Integrative Development Initiative to prepare a business plan for Cultivating Inclusion at a cost not to exceed \$2,450.00, to be paid from NACD grant funds.

Upon a voice vote, the motion was passed:

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

B. Subject: Approve and/or Ratify and Confirm prior Special Meeting Action to select Mia Lorence as TEAMRCD's Climate Corps Fellow.

Background: A Special Meeting was held in February to give the Board the opportunity to select a Climate Corps Fellow in time for the quarterly onboarding process beginning in March. The meeting was called in accordance with the instructions issued by District Counsel, and was deemed to be in substantial compliance with the Public Resources Code and the Ralph M. Brown Act. However, at Director Corona's direction, the legal firm Fennemore Craig submitted a letter challenging the legality of that meeting. Out of an abundance of caution, and with no admission that the Special Meeting did not meet legal requirements, District Counsel is recommending that we ratify the decisions taken at that meeting to cure and correct the alleged violations.

Director Bryant moved, and Director Kuhn seconded that the Board ratify and confirm the selection of Mia Lorence as TEAM RCD's Climate Corps fellow and that the Board further authorize District Counsel to respond to Fennemore's letter, with a cost not to exceed of \$500.

President Biancardi called for additional discussion, questioning Director Corona as to her intentions in objecting to the February meeting and retaining counsel to write a letter of objection. President Biancardi stated that she wanted a written response to Fennemore's letter to be part of the public record.

Director Bryant restated and amended his motion that 1) the February 29, 2024, selection of Mia Lorence as Climate Corps fellow be ratified, 2) that County Counsel respond to the Fennemore letter at a cost not to exceed \$500, and 3) that the board draft a policy to clearly state what constitutes an "order".

Director Parkes seconded the amended motion.

Upon a voice vote, the motion passed:

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

Director Corona asked that her comments be included in the record that the selection of Ms. Lorence did not result from a competitive process including obtaining three bids.

President Biancardi stated that there were no other organizations doing the work of a Climate Corp fellow.

President Biancardi stated her opinion that Director Corona's objections were frivolous, and that President Biancardi would call for the board to censure Director Corona.

C. Subject: Strategic planning

Background: Division 9 of the Public Resources Code provides that Resource Conservation Districts shall prepare annual and long-range work plan.

President Biancardi reported on her conversations with **Western Regional Council of Governments Deputy Executive Director Chris Gray** and provided a brief overview of how the process would work. He would charge no fee.

Director Parkes asked if there would be any potential conflict in selecting Gray; President Biancardi stated that the Council of Governments mission aligns with TEAM RCD needs.

There was further discussion as to what the "engagement" of Gray would look like, including objectives, timelines, deliverables, etc.

President Biancardi proposed that Mr. Gray be invited to the July 11th board meeting to discuss the process. President Biancardi stated she would work with Mr. Gray on documenting the process.

President Biancardi then moved to invite Mr. Gray to the July 11, 2024, regular board meeting to discuss his proposal for assisting TEAM RCD with preparation of short and long-term strategic plans and, further, that the board would review and possibly approve an MOU with Mr. Gray at that meeting.

Director Parkes seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion passed:

Biancardi: Yes
Bryant: Yes
Kuhn: Yes
Parkes: Yes
Corona: Yes

D. Subject: Administrative assistance

Background: The District needs to update the District handbook. The board may consider a proposal at this time from the office manager to do this work.

No proposal was submitted.

E. Subject: Warner Springs Estate Conservation Purchase Letter of Support

Background: TEAMRCD has been asked to provide a letter of support for The California Land Conservancy's application to the County of San Diego and California Fish and

Wildlife to fund the conservation purchase of the 149.7 acre Warner Springs Estate in San Diego County. This parcel is continuous with the Cleveland National Forest range which extends into TEAM's service area, in which efforts are underway to restore connectivity for a critical wildlife corridor severed by the I15. Acquisition of this land for conservation would add viability to this corridor.

The board discussed the proposed letter of support. President Biancardi reported that the letter had been reviewed by the Land Conservancy and that there were some requested changes. Board members expressed concern that the the San Diego RCD had not been consulted regarding TEAM RCD supporting a project in their jurisdiction. President Biancardi stated that she would reach out to San Diego RCD.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Subject: Community Wildfire Resilience

Background: The April 24 TEAMRCD Special Meeting continued the discussions begun in March with fire personnel around building community wildfire resilience in the District service area. It's become clear there are many local needs and potential directions TEAMRCD could go in working on this resource concern. This portion of the meeting is to discuss some possibilities and to try to identify pathways forward.

Director Kuhn and Parkes both stated that they were pleased with the meeting and that coordinating agencies around the wildfire issue was work TEAM RCD should be doing. Director Corona discussed the need for a coordinated plan for evacuation of horses and livestock.

Director Bryant stated that he would like the meetings to continue and that it was important to continue to build relationships and identify resources.

President Biancardi then discussed the creation of the Regional Priority Plan and how TEAM RCD should continue to add ideas and proposals to "the bucket". President Biancardi proposed diverting Climate Corp Fellow Mia Lorence one day a week towards building relationships with agencies throughout the TEAM RCD service area, talking to them and determining their needs, and being a delivery system to the RPP, as well as looking at the creation of a CWPP.

Director Parkes asked who would pay for Mia's time and President Biancardi responded that it was already covered by WETA. Director Parkes noted that WETA pays for Ms. Lorence to do work on the WETA grant, to which President Biancardi stated that she had already asked the state if Mia could be diverted. Director Parkes asked if that meant that they would pay for Mia's work on non-grant issues. Director Corona asked if their consent was in writing.

Director Parkes reiterated that it was important to be clear that they would pay for non-grant work. Manager Shirer pointed out that it would be necessary to submit an amended scope of work and have it approved prior to diverting Mia to wildfire resilience work.

President Biancardi then turned to Director Kuhn to discuss how wildfire resilience could be built into the WETA grant.

President Biancardi stated she would go back to the state to determine if Mia's work on wildfire issues could be funded by the grant.

V. DIRECTORS' REPORTS

- Each director delivered a short statement as to what brought them to TEAM RCD and what each would like to accomplish.
- President Biancardi: Greer Ranch—Lennar has deeded the property to the HOA; trying to get CDFW out to assess. Cultivating Inclusion—wrapping up with business plan; Flood control projects for 2024-2025 under discussion; SAM account active; NRCS Cooperative Agreement in the works; WETA is experiencing more signups, Mia is reaching out at farmers markets
- Pablo Bryant: Lake and Streambed Agreement/Clinton Keith draft is submitted, on track for renewal.
- Newt Parkes: not much to report on Homeless Monitoring but Lake Elsinore continues to be an active area. Santa Gertrudis has little homeless activity now, but is closely monitored, as is Temecula AD 159.
- Rose Corona: Delivered additional transcripts to manager for District records,

VI. MANAGEMENT REPORT: Rae Shirer

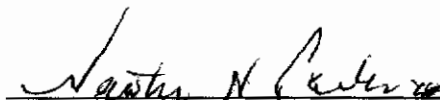
- WETA Financial Report – working with Mission to get all detail for 3/31/24 invoice to submit by 5/31/24.
- Records management progress – continues, slowly.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

VIII: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, Director Corona moved, and Director Parkes seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Upon unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

Dated: 7/11/2024



Newt Parkes, Secretary/Treasurer