

**APPROVED MAY 12, 2016**

**MBCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, April 14, 2016**

5:00 – 7:00 PM, Yucca Valley Community Center

**Regular Meeting Call to Order: 5:08pm**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Bardwell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruth Rieman
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Fick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claudia Sall
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pat Flanagan	<input type="checkbox"/> Seth Shteir (prior notice)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meg Foley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laraine Turk
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Kennington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marina West

**Introduction of Guests, Board Directors, and Advisory Members**

*No visitors present.*

**Agenda Input and Approval**

*CS adds update on Water Summit, April 13, 2016 Barstow Community College*

**Approval of Minutes from March 10, 2015**

***MSC: RR/CS to approve minutes with minor changes.***

**Treasurer's Report – Steve**

*SB gave the report noting that we received a \$1,000 donation from Mr. Randy Polumbo. SB noted that DWL-S ticket sales to date are \$310. He reviewed some of the other revenues received including reimbursement from SummerTree Institute for 50% of the annual meeting expenses and 2016 donations for the DWL-S.*

*SB noted that the \$100 broker fee was returned by Williams Insurance because they had decided not to insure the MBCA with D&O Insurance. SB intends to follow-up with a letter explaining the mission, goals and objectives of the MBCA in an effort to reapply for reconsideration for the insurance. The General Liability policy was purchased for 2016.*

*Lastly, SB reported that the state tax filings have been made. The federal filings will be completed next.*

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**NEW Business/Issues/Possible Action**

Capacity Building & Organizational Issues

1) Finance Committee report - SB

*SB reported that MW and SB will be finalizing a draft 2016 budget. It is anticipated that the budget and policies will be presented for BOD review in May.*

Outreach / Communication

1) JTNP Park Tour 4/27 w/ David Smith: to discuss common interests & concerns - SK

*SK gave the report.*

2) Research project on community-based organizations conducted by Univ. of Oregon and North Carolina State University: MBCA participation – SK

*SK gave the report of MBCA's participation in the survey.*

3) Basin & Range Watch / Laura Cunningham: Renewable Energy Symposium – postponed until October - SK

*SK gave the report.*

4) Water Summit, April 13, 2016 Barstow Community College

*CS and MW gave an overview of the Summit.*

Conservation Issues

1) CA. ban on fur trapping: MBCA support for Center for Biological Diversity - SK

*SK received a request for MBCA to support a complete ban on fur trapping in CA. The request came from Miriam Seger. The support was granted.*

2) Bighorn sheep protections: fencing domestic animals – PF

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*PF reported on issues with sickness in JTNP and the need for outreach, communication, and education about domestic animals which can infect native bighorn with pneumonia.*

**3) Letter to MBCA reporting vegetation removal in JT: investigated – LT & SK**

*SK reported that a letter was received in our PO Box in essence reporting someone had “mass graded” a property. Upon inspection, nothing of concern was noted.*

**4) Wildlife corridors & development restrictions: Yucca Valley position statement – SK**

*SK reported that perhaps the Town of Yucca Valley is not aware of the Conservation Priorities Report and mapping tool to demonstrate the science behind the report and introduce it as a planning tool. PF agreed to attend the meeting with SK.*

**5) New desert monuments: management plans - SK**

*SK (and MF) attended the webinar brought to us by Conservation Lands Foundation. It was suggested that we could encourage CLF to report to MBCA BOD from time to time.*

**OLD Business/Issues/Possible Action**

**Conservation Issues & Updates**

**1) JT Airport solar project: NextEra proposal - DF**

*Planning Commission meeting has been scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup>. DF further reported that Cascade Solar-JT is going bankrupt thru its parent company SunEdison which has over leveraged itself globally.*

**2) Alta Mira Housing project: Planning Commission approval 4-1, 4/7/16 - PF**

*DF gave the report. MW to forward to DF her “CEQA complaint letter” filed with the State Clearinghouse following the Bowman Solar project Planning Commission approval.*

**3) Eagle Crest & Eagle Mt. Boundary Study: completed; next steps - SS**

*SS submitted an email update stating the Boundary Study is an “active” issue and a “pre-meeting” to discuss the study will be coordinated soon. LT suggested that perhaps MBCA could assist with the coordination of the “pre-meeting”.*

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*Regarding Eagle Crest, SS reported that the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) is due out after the DRECP comment period closes.*

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4) Soda Mountain: opposition continues – PF

*PF reported that the Soda Mtn. project was approved by the BLM. County of San Bernardino needs to weigh in on the project. PF is still considering the content of a comment letter to the County of San Bernardino.*

5) Dark skies: S.B. Co./ Sup. Ramos forms Committee: Tom O'Key to Chair - LT

*SK gave the report. LT will also be a member of the Committee.*

6) Marines cancel plan to airlift 1,400 tortoises from Johnson Valley due to CBD legal challenge / Endangered Species Act protections – SK

*SK gave the report.*

7) SPARC Forum - Phase 2, JT 3/16/16: Aspen report – CS, RR, DF, MF, SK, SB

*LT reported on SPARC 2 webinar at noon 4/28. RR commented that the Aspen Consultant is interested in a pilot project with CEC grant monies. RR would like to form a Committee to develop a pilot project for the MB.*

*A Committee was formed comprised of RR, MW, & CS with any directors welcome to attend. RR will reach out to the Aspen Group and a meeting will be scheduled following the DWL-S Tour.*

Capacity Building & Organizational Issues

1) YV Earth Day event: Sat., April 16, 9AM-2PM – CS & SK

*LT reported that staffing for the booth is complete.*

2) DWL Landscape Tour Committee: report – CS, RR

*LT distributed the roster of ticket sales. CS reported that the Z107.7 FM staff will be giving away tickets at the Earth Day event. It was noted that the radio ad was very well received. LT has also prepared some handouts for the tour booklet.*

3) Website *mbconservation.org*: report - LT

*LT gave the report indicating total ticket sales to date.*

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4) MBCA Membership: renewal report – LT

*LT reported that the current member roster is approximately 116.*

5) MBCA Emeritus Award: date set, 5/24 to meet Esther Herbert & DJ - RR

*SK noted a date has been confirmed for the luncheon.*

6) MBCA Advisors Board: plans to refresh & restart – SK

*Report postponed due to timing.*

Outreach / Communication

1) Events Calendar (mbconservation.org) highlighted in recent E-Blast

*No additional information.*

Community Reports & Events

1) Science Campus report – SS, SB

*Report postponed due to timing.*

2) Regional Haze Rule:

*SS further reported via email that the updated "Regional Haze Rule" has not yet been posted for public comment. SS also gave a presentation on the Cadiz Project to the Transition JT group. SS noted that representatives from Cadiz were present.*

**Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, May 12, 5:00 PM / YV Community Center**

# MBCA

morongo basin conservation association

April 14, 2016

Assets –	Checking	\$31,398.11
	CD	<u>\$21,286.11</u>
	Total	\$52,684.62
Deposits:	memberships	\$285.00
	Donations (Polumbo\$985!,Roth\$25,Brinkerhoff\$75 Turk \$15)	\$1,115.00
	DWL 2016 tour tickets	\$310.00
	Summertree reimb for 50% of annual meeti expenses	\$988.65
	Reimbursement from Williams Ins D&O broker fee	\$100.00
	DWL grants:	
	MWA ( for 2015! – needs to be accounted for)	\$5,788.00
	29 Palms Water District for 2016 DWL	\$1,000.00
	HDWD for 2016 DWL	\$1,000.00
	Interest checking	+/- \$0.90
	Total	<u>\$10,587.55</u>
Expenditures	Quickbooks	\$12.95
–	Nationbuilder	\$49.00
	Williams Insurance (broker fees for d&O and Liability)	\$200.00
	US Liabilty Insurance	\$500.00
	Terri Quinn catering for docent gathering <i>DWL-S</i>	\$350.00
	US Postal service mailbox fee	<u>\$107.00</u>
	Total	\$1218.95

POST OFFICE BOX 24, JOSHUA TREE, CALIFORNIA 92252 email: [INFO@MBCONSERVATION.ORG](mailto:INFO@MBCONSERVATION.ORG)  
[WWW.MBCONSERVATION.ORG](http://WWW.MBCONSERVATION.ORG)

MBCA is a 501(c)3 non-profit, community based, all volunteer organization

**Morongo Basin Municipal Advisory Council  
Joshua Tree Community Center  
6171 Sunburst Avenue, Joshua Tree California**

**Regular Open Session Meeting  
6:30pm, Monday, March 14, 2016**

**Resolution No. MB-MAC014**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MORONGO BASIN MUNICIPAL  
ADVISORY COUNCIL REGARDING THE PROPOSED  
COMMERCIAL SOLAR ENERGY GENERATION FACILITY FOR  
THE JOSHUA TREE AIRPORT**

**Whereas**, the Morongo Basin Municipal Advisory Council ("MAC"), is mindful of its role to listen to the views of the residents of the Morongo Basin on matters of importance to them and as otherwise permitted by law, and

**Whereas**, pursuant to Section 84.29.040 (f) of the ordinance of San Bernardino County relating to the establishment of commercial solar energy generation facilities (the "Solar Ordinance"), the MAC is to be notified of any pending application thereunder with respect to the Morongo Basin, and

**Whereas**, the MAC has heard views of interested parties concerning a proposed industrial solar facility at the site of the decommissioned Roy Williams airport in Joshua Tree (the "JT Airport Solar Project"), including presentations of the sponsor, as well as residents and businesses of the Joshua Tree and surrounding areas and other interested parties, and

**Whereas**, the members of the MAC are aware that a review of the JT Airport Solar Project is, or will shortly be, before the San Bernardino County Planning Commission which has the authority to determine whether such project meets appropriate legal standards, including the provisions of the Solar Ordinance, for new commercial solar energy generating facilities in the unincorporated areas of the County, and



**Whereas**, residents of Joshua Tree and the Morongo Basin have provided their views to the MAC regarding the JT Airport Solar Project, and

**Whereas**, based on the presentations to the MAC, the MAC represents that the prevailing sentiment of the Joshua Tree and Morongo Basin community is that the JT Airport Solar Project will clearly create unreasonable visual blight for visitors and residents, would be detrimental to the aesthetics and economy of the area, including, without limitation, the over 2 million annual visitors to the Joshua Tree National Park, the thousand of patrons attending Joshua Tree Music Festivals, and neighboring permanent outdoor art installations, and, in the view of many residents, the findings in the Initial Study of the project by the County Land Use Services are not consistent with the Solar Ordinance;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the Morongo Basin Municipal Advisory Council recommends that the San Bernardino County Planning Commission take into consideration the views of Joshua Tree area and Morongo Basin residents and businesses to the effect that the application to construct a commercial solar energy generation facility at the site of the defunct Joshua Tree Airport be denied.

Approved and Adopted by the Morongo Basin Municipal Advisory Council at its regular meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2016 at which a quorum was present

By the following vote :

For : 9

Against : 0

Abstentions :



Mark Lundquist, Chair