

APPROVED September 8, 2016

MBCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

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

Regular Meeting Call to Order: 5:05pm

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Bardwell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruth Rieman
<input type="checkbox"/> David Fick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claudia Sall
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pat Flanagan	<input type="checkbox"/> Seth Shteir <i>(w/notice)</i>
<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

Almut Fleck- BOA

Agenda Input and Approval

SB Capacity Building – Grant Application
CS Capacity Building - CDC information
RR Capacity Building – Sept Workshop DWL-S, Pilot Project
PF Outreach – Cong. Cook

LT/CS Approve agenda as amended.

Approval of Minutes from May 12, 2016 **corr.** **June 9, 2016**

MSC: LT/CS approved with minor amendments

Treasurer's Report – Steve

SB reported total assets \$49,552.06. SB distributed the Balance Sheet as of July 14, 2016.

Treasurer's reported accepted by consensus.

SB noted that he IRS Form 990 has still not been filed due to IRS website portal issues. He will try again prior to finding another way to file it.

Capacity Building & Organizational Issues

1) Finance Committee report: Policies finalized – SB, MW

On July 7, 2016, via email SB distributed the Finance Committee's final draft policies for Board consideration: Conflict of Interest; Gift Acceptance; Emeritus Status; Financial Reserves; Scholarships; and Records Retention.

SB reported that he has received several comments on various policies and those are being incorporated. Specifically, records retention comments which were unanimously approved with the recommended change. Regarding the Emergency Financial Reserve Policy, LT had comments that all agreed to incorporate into the budget process. Therefore the Emergency Financial Reserve Policy was unanimously approved.

Policy for Emeritus Status, Scholarship Policy, Gift Acceptance Policy, and Conflict of Interest Policy were all approved without further comment.

CS asked if there is a policy about setting the budget. It was determined that MBCA does not have a policy regarding establishment of a fiscal year and annual budget.

LT noted that these materials will be posted on the website on the Intranet for Directors. PF desires this information to be available to all public not just a Director's access page. LT agreed to do further evaluation of this request.

2) Amazon Smile - <http://smile.amazon.com>

SK reported that she was contacted by a member asking if we are registered on Amazon Smile. SB agreed to look into becoming a qualified recipient.

3) DWL Landscape Tour Committee report – CS, RR, LT

CS reported that planning is underway for the Fall Lecture. The date is scheduled for September 24, 2016. The theme continues with "Water/Energy Nexus".

CS has reserved YVCC Yucca Room as venue: facility application needs to be filed. CS also suggested Martha Davis of Inland Empire Utilities Agency as a possible speaker as IEUA has recently attained "Climate Registered Status" as awarded by The Climate Registry (non-profit).

RR has confirmed Peter Brooks – N-Line Energy and MW has a commitment from Mr. Darrell Reynolds, PE and Chief Engineer of Mojave Water Agency (MWA) to discuss the MWA proposed In-Conduit Hydro Project. The program will also include local residents who can share their recent and unique modifications to their properties that have reduced their water and energy consumption. The Committee has invited Glillyan Thornburn and intends to invite Eva Soltes as well as one or two other local residents.

RR commented she believes the BOD needs to be aware of what the Committee is proposing.

RR commented on the DWL-S Landscape Tour will continue as a two day event and planning has begun for next year. LT reported 336 paid tour tickets. LT reported on the tour photos forwarded by Photographer Caroline Greyshock.

CS noted that after the 2017 Tour she will step down as DWL-S Committee/Tour Chair and will seek grants for the 2018 sessions but would resign from the fund raising task at that point.

4) MBCA Directors retreat - SK

Date set for Sunday August 14th at 11am to be held at the Bardwell/Kennington residence.

5) Application for Grants – SB

SB is concerned that grant applications that are last minute and “thrown” together. He is wondering if we can have a better grasp of grants and grant deadlines so the whole board has opportunity to assist and weigh-in on the language of the grant. Involving the Finance Committee in vetting applications for instance. MF added that there should be consensus on amounts and types of grants and perhaps a particular grant could be utilized for additional needs which makes collaboration even more important. LT suggests that the Agenda include a standing item such as “status of grants”.

PF suggests that a “template” of information be prepared for use in applications so that information written in the grant applications is accurate.

6) CA Desert Coalition – consideration of CDC Committee under MBCA

CS presented the question, “should CDC leave SummerTree Institute and become a committee of the MBCA?” To that end, CS distributed a list of questions posed to the MBCA Board of Directors regarding such a change. No further action.

7) CA Energy Commission Pilot Projects – SPARC – RR

RR distributed a list of potential “RE Pilot Projects” that could be viable for CA Energy Commission or CoSB funding. The list was forwarded to the CoSB Planner Lynda Mawbry who responded positively to the effort and indicated that the County “SPARC” Planning process is moving forward. There will be a Planning Commission Workshop in August 2016.

Outreach / Communication

1) mbconservation.org report – LT

LT reported that the IT Committee will be meeting in July to discuss the next steps for website development. She further reported that Cathy Zarakov has agreed to take on additional website tasks to assist the team. She further reported that website traffic statistics are forthcoming. Lastly, LT is developing a new “e-blast” mailing list that would send info immediately upon posting of a calendar event or the upload of a document. This would be especially helpful for information that is time sensitive. This would provide them a very short memo with the link to the subject. This would not replace the more lengthy “e-blasts” that the President distributes monthly or as needed.

PF wondered if we could also provide a “calendar appointment” link for meeting dates to be loaded to your personal calendar upon prompt.

2) Ruth Denison scholarship: announcement & publicity for fall – SK

All agreed that the Board is ready to advertise for the scholarship and to that end a Committee was formed for vetting applications. The Committee is SB, LT, MW.

3) Mr. Malone’s slide solar show presented to HVCC at JVCC June 20th

Discussion about the “report card” portion of the presentation wherein the actual facility was not constructed as the approved plans show. MW suggests that MBCA should write a letter to the Planning Commission and Land Use Services inquiring about the annual review of Conditional Use Permits issued for the solar facilities in JT, 29 Palms and Lucerne Valley.

There is also a need for additional air quality monitoring stations in the Morongo Basin as the projects are referencing stations that are too far from the projects.

4) Cong. Cook update – PF

Pf reported on a study that reported how many bills Congress has drafted in this session which “under-cut” protections for our parks and public lands. PF believes that an Op-Ed might be warranted to point out our concern for such actions given that the JTNP is a corner-stone to our community and our local economy. LT will distribute the article PF is referring to.

Conservation Issues

1) JT Airport solar project – DF, MW

PF reported that the group appealing the decision is developing their presentation. The appeal will be heard by the Board of Supervisors on August 9, 2016. PF will confirm date and verify if meeting will be televised from JT Burke Center.

2) BLM workshop re. Sand to Snow Monuments’ management planning – SK

SK reported on upcoming planning meetings with Yucca Valley planned for July 19, 2016. At this time no Agency has been assigned the management responsibility (e.g. Forest Service or BLM and which office of BLM). RR asked how instrumental the MDLT or TWC are with this planning effort. MF noted that about 40 “hunters” showed up at a planning meeting and are lobbying for legalized hunting in the Sand-to-Snow Monument. MF suggested that our stakeholders be made aware of the workshops and encouraged to attend in support of conservation.

3) MBCA/JTNPA call to action: Soda Mountain Solar Energy; BOS meeting Aug. 23rd.

Discussion regarding “sign-on” letter drafted by SS. PF noted that the issues before the Board of Supervisors is to 1) adopt the CEQA, and 2) the well drilling permit. PF’s argument stems from the fact that there is no Power Purchase Agreement once Los Angeles Department of

Public Works (LADWP) pulled their interest from the project. PF further reports that the CEQA falls apart if the power is shipped outside San Bernardino meaning the power doesn't stay local as the CEQA states it does.

Letter written by PF on behalf of MBCA submitted to record. Morongo Basin Municipal Advisory Council unanimously voted to request the Board of Supervisors oppose the Soda Mountains Solar project. Hearing to be held on August 23, 2016 and will be televised from JT Burke Center.

Community Reports & Events

1) Dollar General store in JT receives court's approval – DF

SK and LT reported that Dollar General won the appeal. JT Group is evaluating further appeal options.

2) General: LT reported on CA League of Conservation Voters "CA Environmental Scorecard 2015" and reported that for Sen. Jean Fuller and Assy. Chad Mayes the scores were 0% and 9% respectively.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:05pm

<p>Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 8th, 5:00 PM / YV Community Center August meeting cancelled in-lieu of BOD Retreat</p>



**NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
LANDS**

Collaboration Workshops

Sand to Snow National Monument

The public is invited to participate in workshops to share information about Sand to Snow National Monument.

The U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management are hosting four collaborative workshops during the month of July.

Information about the presidential proclamation, current land use plans, and upcoming efforts will be provided.

Your interests and concerns are important. These workshops are an opportunity to express what you value in Sand to Snow National Monument before the planning process begins.

Workshops will be open house format, with the same kind of information provided at each location.

Please join us!

For more information contact:

Rebecca Carr Wong
Interim Monument Manager

602 Tippecanoe Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92408
Phone: (909)382-2697



View from Mission Creek cienega

All workshops will be from 5:00-7:30 PM

Yucaipa Community Center Wednesday, July 13

34900 Oak Glen Rd, Yucaipa

Big Bear Discovery Center Thursday, July 14

40971 North Shore Drive/ Hwy 38, in Fawnskin

Yucca Valley Community Center Tuesday, July 19

57090 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley

Miracle Springs Resort & Spa Thursday, July 21

10625 Palm Drive, Desert Hot Springs

