

APPROVED April 12, 2018

MBCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 8, 2018

5:00 – 7:00 PM

YVCC Mesquite Room

Regular Meeting Call to Order:

☒ Steve Bardwell

☒ David Fick

☒ Pat Flanagan

☐ Meg Foley *(prior notice)*

☒ Sarah Kennington

☒ Mike Lipsitz

☒ Ruth Rieman

☒ Claudia Sall *(@5:20pm
– 6:40pm)*

☒ Seth Shteir

☐ Laraine Turk *(prior notice)*

☒ Marina West

Meeting called to order at 5:05pm

Introduction of Guests and Board Directors

Paul Smith, 29 Palms resident

Agenda Input

PF adds “support for tribal members” to the Finance portion of the meeting

SK adds update on “conference on public lands”

SK adds Soda Mtn. Solar

Approval of Minutes from February 8, 2018

SK/RR approve the minutes as presented

Treasurer’s Report

SB gave the report noting a bank balance of \$51,810.42.

SK reported that a decision was made to fund \$100 on ProVideo to record the DRECP “Follow-up” Scoping Meeting held March 1, 2018 in JT.

Finance report accepted as presented.

Capacity Building & Organizational Issues

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1) Finance Committee report

SB reported that the General Liability Insurance policy is up for renewal and he is working with the new insurance company, Maury Donnelly & Parr, Inc.

An application for the Mojave Water Agency Strategic Partners grant for the Desert-Wise Living Series programs was filed and accepted. He further reported that the MV Chamber of Commerce is not active so our attempts to become members is moot.

PF asked about other grant application deadlines.

PF further requested that MBCA donate to tribal members who travel to speak at public hearings such as the DRECP meetings recently held. She is thinking of \$500 per year. MW recommends that a proposal earmarked from the Denison Fund be utilized for this with a 5-year term. PF and SB will prepare the proposal for presentation at the next Board meeting.

2) Grant status:

- *“Indigenous Place” – Rose*
- *DWL- Edison & AWAC*

MWA AWAC grant application was submitted and accepted.

PF reported the Indigenous Place report is in still in process.

3) Events Committee reports:

- *DWL Landscape Tour (April 28-29, 2018);*
- *MBCA’s 50th Anniversary / 2019*

Tour: MW gave the update stating that the program is being drafted. Rack Card is in final draft and ready to go to print. CZ is still working on volunteers with approximately 2/3rds booked at this time.

50th: SK began the discussion and vision for the 50th anniversary of MBCA. PF suggests that a “climate change” subject would be good. SK added that a “what will the basin look like in 50-years?” sounds like a great idea. Cameron Burrows was suggested as a speaker. Alfredo Martinez-Morales with UC Riverside along with his students could be a good mix. Jim Andres, Granite Mtns. Research Center and Angelina Galiteva were also mentioned. January 19, 2019 is the tentative date although it was noted that a holiday occurs on Monday January 21, 2019.

4) MBCA member & support data management: policy for use - SK

SK introduced the topic of releasing our membership list contact information. Discussion continued about getting permission and maintenance of such. MW believed that the email lists, facebook, eblasts, etc. seemed to be the right approach. Board agreed to make no changes at this time.

5) Susan Luckie Reilly MBCA-related files - MF, DF, LT

Committee is seeking advice from an expert records manager about how to accomplish this task.

6) Caltrans Adopted-highway report – DF

DF gave the report noting that mustard is think just outside the MBCA Adopt-a-Highway corridor.

Conservation Issues

1) DRECP Scoping meeting, 3/1/18: report and next steps – PF, DF, SK

- March 22, 2018 deadline for comment

PF reported that the DRECP is open and this is the time to make amendments and to raise awareness for large scale RE in Lucerne Valley.

PF further noted that the first applications on Development Focus Areas is in Lucerne Valley with the Calcite Substation. She further reported that the BOS has asked LUS to proceed since August 2017 but its not happening. She further reported that LUS seems to want to give the Planning Commission “options” but questioned why they would do that when they were explicitly told to take the section “as written” to the PC.

SS questioned why we would actually “want” amendments as maybe the result of the DRECP. Isn’t “no” amendment what we want? PF disagrees that while open there should be changes in LV.

CS stated that we will lose conservation lands under this administration. SS thinks the argument, “this isn’t a legitimate review” is the best argument.

Pending is a MBMAC Resolution that PF says she will now pull because it was urging the Board of Supervisors to weigh in on the DRECP but since the County already sent a letter then the Resolution is moot unless re-written for another purpose.

PF had a copy of the comment letter sent by BOS to the DRECP addressed to Jerome Perez, CA State Director, BLM.

SK said that in talking to Katrina Symons at BLM, it is “open”.

SK summarized that messaging to our membership is important and yet not well defined at this time. SB suggests points and issues that can be expressed by individuals which are substantive (a “cheat sheet”). RR suggests the simple expression, “death by dust” and that the BLM should not allow projects within community plan areas. Further that there should be no increase in land allocations for RE, OHV or mining. A request for an extension in the Scoping Period by 45-days to May 7, 2018 (which is what the BOS requested).

2) RECE: status w/LUS & BOS, delayed finding re. 4.10

- next BOS meeting March 13, 2018
- MBCA petition delivery

PF noted it has been 7 months since the Board of Supervisors asked Land Use Services to return the “RECE Section 4.10”. SK will deliver the petitions, requesting RECE 4.10 be returned to the Planning Commission, to Mark Lundquist, 3rd District Field Rep. at the March 13, 2018 MB MAC meeting.

3) Solar Projects:

- Palen Solar Project
- Ord Mountain
- Newberry Springs

No new information provided.

4) Air Quality Monitoring Stations – SK, PF

- President’s goal for 2018: deploy 10 “Purple Air” units in MB for baseline data

PF says that MBCA should reach out to the contact to get this moving.

5) Housing development project updates

- Alta Mira
- Paradise Valley

DF gave an update on Alta Mira noting that \$4.5M has been spent to date and they are talking to MDLT about a portion of the property and develop some part of the property.

SS reported that the comment period for Paradise Valley has been extended.

6) UCR Solar conference report – SB, RR

SB gave a report on the conference noting this year's topic was focused on integrated approaches like micro-grids with battery storage being the next step. RR added that CCA's are limited by the expertise of the buyer, how power is bought and how power is regulated. Today 27% of CA power comes from solar.

7) OHV –new CA Parks OHV law SB 742 – SK, PF

SK noted there is a new link comparing the new law to the old law.

Outreach & Communication

1) Minerva Hoyt Award winner announcement - SK

SK announced that Pat Flanagan has been selected for the 2018 award. PF thanked the Board. She is working with the group on a date and is suggesting May 19th so her daughter could come. The location will most likely be the 29 Palms Inn.

2) Communications:

- mbconservation.org
- YVHS Natl. Honors Soc. student, Mikaela Monical's service project

No new information to report.

3) Promotion: lobby card; 3-fold brochure; stickers

No new information to report.

Community Reports

1) Memorial for Donna Charpied, Thurs., April 19, 2018, Eagle Mountain, LaRonna Jojoba Farm

Meeting Adjourned at 7:15 pm

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, April 12, 2018 5:00 PM

YV Community Center / Mesquite Room