

MBCA APPROVED BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

5:00 – 7:00 PM

Regular Meeting Call to Order:

Steve Bardwell Ruth Rieman
 David Fick Claudia Sall
 Pat Flanagan Seth Shteir
 Meg Foley Laraine Turk
 Sarah Kennington Marina West – prior notice
 Mike Lipsitz

Meeting called to order: 5:05 PM

Introduction of Guests and Board Directors

Laraine agreed to serve as recording secretary in Marina's absence.

Minutes from June 14, 2018 BOD meeting

Ruth moved to approve the minutes, Sarah seconded, and all present were in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Steve reported that the CD and checking account total balance is currently \$53,283.50, but he still needs to complete some reconciliation. Steve has invoiced AWAC for the balance of last year's grant of \$3000; \$1200 is coming, and we will receive another \$3000 from them for next year. Treasurer's report was accepted by consensus.

Capacity Building & Organizational Issues

1) Finance Committee report:

- Funding travel: new policy

Sarah presented the draft and noted that Meg was especially helpful in generating it, using federal IRS guidelines for travel expenditures ([Pub. 1542](#)). The idea of creating a policy for travel funding to non-Board members was initiated during discussions about helping to fund Native American travel costs for conservation-related events.

The draft proposes a per diem payment up to \$300 for travel related to MBCA's mission of farther than 50 miles, following nomination by a Board member and approval by the Board. An application to be filled out by the sponsoring Board member is part of the draft policy.

*Discussion followed about details of the Policy. **Ruth moved to approve the Travel Assistance Policy as submitted and Steve seconded.***

The following procedural details were discussed and agreed upon by consensus before approval:

1. *Five weeks' advance request remains in place but Steve as Treasurer knows that won't always be possible and will try to meet shorter requests.*
2. *Individual names are required on each application.*
3. *A Board member must nominate the individual and the request must be unanimously approved by the newly-formed Travel Assistance Committee of Pat, Steve, and Meg.*

4. *A per diem amount of \$64 is recommended; this is expected to be used for meals, gas, and incidentals and does not require receipts. Hotel maximum charge per night (based on Meg's research for Palm Springs area) is \$133, therefore a maximum travel grant for an overnight would be \$64 + \$133 = \$188. To follow IRS code, receipts should be provided for motel costs.*
5. *A one-year review of this policy by the Board is required (July 2019).*

All present voted in favor of the policy. *Meg will send a digital copy of the policy to the Board and Laraine will post [the Policy](#) on the Documents page of the website.*

- *Fiscal sponsorship policy / position statement*

We agreed at the prior meeting that we will not create a position statement.

2) Grant status:

- *“Indigenous Place” – Rose Foundation.*

Pat has the final draft that is ready for the printer. About 1500 copies of the booklet will be printed and will be shared at no cost. There will be a PDF version that we can place on our website.

- *DWL - Edison & AWAC.*

As noted above, Steve has invoiced AWAC for 2018-19 funding and has filed a grant request with Edison for 2018-19. He included the Annual Meeting as part of our Desert Wise Series and added funding for honoraria, for a total of \$2000 requested. Claudia mentioned that we need to purchase additional metal Tour signs for next year.

- *New grants proposals being considered: AQ (Purple Air units) + signage (Co. shooting ord.)*

Pat suggests we put this aside for now, as we can't meet the August deadline. Re: signs, Ruth and Sarah asked neighbors about the County signs and heard that they aren't necessarily eager to have them. Sarah said she would mention in the next Eblast Wonder Valley's sign campaign.

3) Events Committee reports:

- *MBCA's 50th Anniversary / 2019 Committee - RR, SK, LT, MF, ML + community members.*

Laraine will send the committee a list of people from the Nationbuilder database that have been reasonably active in the last few years to consider as additional committee members.
A Committee meeting was set for July 26.

Ruth shared an idea about having some kind of field trip/ bus tour related to energy, such as a trip to the Devers substation and peaker plant, or wind or solar sites. Others were interested, and suggested that any site visited should be a “project done right.” COD has solar on top of parking shades. Seth noted there's a lithium battery site in Ontario. The Riverside School of Engineering is an off-the-grid site. There are several possibilities on the Marine Base.

- *Laraine suggested for our fall event a “Conservation Partners Resource Fair,” an idea we’ve discussed before. No program. Could include tables/handouts for MBCA, MDLT, JTNP, JTNPA, Transition JT, NPCA, BMCP, Base/Cardno, County Dark Sky project, Astronomy groups, SCE, Water Districts, ...? Similar to Earth Day but without vendors. Maybe include Native plants for giveaway or sale.*
- *DWL Landscape Tour – 2019 dates confirmed – April 27-28*

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

- *Laraine reported that local graduate student Julia Sizek, who is also working with the Park and the 29 Palms Historical Society on Susan Luckie Reilly materials, has organized one of the four boxes and is working on the 3 others. Much of the content is resource materials, but she is also trying to note MBCA-related documents.*

6) MBCA Annual Directors Retreat: 8/26/2018 confirmed; 11AM-3PM at Claudia’s

- *Pat may not be able to attend but told us to go ahead as she won’t know until close to the date. Please call or email Claudia with what food you’ll be contributing.*

Conservation Issues

1) WEMO Draft Land Use Plan Amendment to CDCAP – comments drafted by PF submitted in June. *Nothing new.*

2) RECE - 4.10 + subsections to go to Supervisors

- *Pat will be meeting with Chris, Lorrie Steely, and Paul Smith on strategy to lobby Supervisors to support the original protective language. There is no indication when RECE 4.10 will next be on the Supervisors’ agenda. Steve has talked with Mark Lundquist about a MAC resolution, but the next meeting is not until September 10. However, all the concerned communities were included in a letter recently sent to the Supervisors by the Lucerne MAC.*
- *Terri Rahhal appointed head LUS.*
- *Sarah said the Highway 247 Committee is still working with CalTrans, the County, and others, and LUS staff Karen Watkins suggested a meeting with LUS, which Terri wants to attend. Sarah Fairchild is working pro bono on landscape architecture of the project. There seems to be some increasing awareness and action.*

3) Solar Projects:

- *Palen; approved by BLM.*
- *Ord Mt.; EIR not complete. Draft report is next step.*
- *Daggett: 9 working days to respond to largest proposed solar project in region / 28.2 square miles – PF. Information has been found with some concerns, e.g. excessive dirt moving for the project.*

4) Eagle Crest HR 5817 (Cook) - DF

- *There are still no co-signers to Paul Cook's bill. David suggested we send a letter of opposition to Arizona Congressman Grijalva, the ranking member of the natural resources committee. Seth and David will work on such a letter.*

5) Proposed revisions to State Mining & Reclamation Act/LUS Agency Notice to Comment – PF.

- *Miners don't want to refill their diggings as currently required. [George Kenline](#) is the force behind this effort, which is probably related to the Castle Mountain or similar mine. The Sierra Club commented, and there is a legal letter by CBD and a pro bono legal firm that we signed onto. Pat will send the final letter to Laraine for posting online.*

Outreach & Communication

1) Split Rock Landscape: Joe Ruddon, Health Care District requested MBCA participation in a community project

- *Laraine and Mike reported about their recent visit to the site and discussion with Joe Ruddon. Laraine shared some photos of the site, where there are already a number of native plants. The remodel is scheduled for fall. A preliminary meeting about the landscaping will occur in August.*

Sarah told us that the HVCC rodeo facility at Homestead Valley Park is now to be moved to a site on the mesa off Aberdeen; there are concerns about excessive grading. Should we make some comments? We determined that this is Town of Yucca Valley-owned land across from the geoglyph. There has been a history of development possibilities proposed by YV including motocross, equestrian center, other buildings.

2) mbconservation.org: issues update for E-Blast & website – SK

Sarah reiterated her recent email appeal that resulted from a Web Team meeting, requesting information from Board members to update on the website issues that have been “on hold” for a while:

- JT Airport solar - the hold up / delay / prognosis for future
- Alta Mira Housing - the Court “stay” David: meeting 7/15 with project proponents.
- WEMO - projected date for BLM response
- Dark Night Skies - local committee work towards County lighting ordinance
- RECE 4.10 - likely date for it on Sups Agenda with recommendations for public action
- solar applications recv'd since Aug. (along 247 & in Hesperia) / grandfathered in?
- County wide + Community Plans - again, do we have a sense of what/when?
- Community Choice Aggregation - if not us, other communities on board with CCA?
- Scenic 247 Committee - making headway

Claudia and Laraine spoke about the Grid Alternatives program presented at Basinwide Foundation earlier this week. For qualifying individual homeowners in eligible communities, it provides totally free solar installation. Unfortunately, currently only a portion of Twentynine Palms is eligible, but the presenter indicated she is hopeful that more of the Morongo Basin will become eligible in the near future.

Save the Date!

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Board RETREAT confirmed: Sunday, **August 26**, 2018 11:00 AM at Claudia's. Please call or email Claudia with what food you'll be contributing.

Adjourned 7:07 pm.

<p>Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018 5:00 PM YV Community Center / Mesquite Room</p>
