



MBCA **APPROVED** BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, Feb. 14, 2019 / 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Due to weather conditions, this meeting was held via conference call.

Regular Meeting Call to Order – at 5:05 PM

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Bardwell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Lipsitz
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Fick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruth Rieman
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pat Flanagan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seth Shteir
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meg Foley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laraine Turk
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Kennington	<input type="checkbox"/> Marina West

Introduction of Guests and Board Directors

Steve noted that Frazier will be calling in at some point about the Countywide Plan letter.

Agenda approval

*There were two additions suggested but both fell within existing agenda items. **Meg moved to approve the agenda, Ruth seconded, and all were in favor (9-0).***

Minutes from January 10, 2019 BOD meeting

Steve moved to approve the minutes, Pat seconded, and all were in favor (9-0).

Treasurer's Report – Marina not present

1) Bank authorization for Marina – Steve said he and Marina are close to the final transfer of duties. She provided a January 31 summary that noted \$22,076.17 in our CD, \$31,665.86 in checking, for a total balance of \$53,752.82.

We discussed which points of financial data should be reported in the minutes.

- 1. expenditure and income*
- 2. "what money that's in the checking account is obligated" (e.g. grants)*

Meg offered to assist with setting up procedures for drawing the preferred information from QuickBooks as she has recently had a training session. She will meet with Steve and Marina for this.

*Steve said our CD has to be flipped within 10 days. He reviewed the percentages and timeline terms offered. After discussion **Steve moved that we move our CD to a 2% interest rate for 9 months, Ruth seconded, and all were in favor (9-0).***

The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Capacity Building & Organizational Issues

1) Grant status: DWL - Edison & AWAC: Deadline for AWAC Feb 28!

Steve will now receive the AWAC notices that had formerly gone to Claudia. Steve will work on meeting this deadline with Marina. He noted that the Edison grant is due in June.

2) Purple Air monitors: AQMD support & installation/location additional units

Pat noted there are now stations in SW Landers (possibly the Karman residence; Ruth will check with them), BDVWA, 29 Palms City Hall, and Pat's house in Desert Heights. She reported that CMC is working to get one and there is one at the well that HDWD uses. Laraine suggested mentioning the monitors and the website in an Eblast to make people aware of it and she will find a place for it on the website.

3) Events Committee reports:

MBCA's 50th Anniversary Committee

a. Thank-you to Town of Yucca Valley – Laraine drafted a letter which Steve sent to thank Town employees for their assistance and we received a nice response from Town Manager Curtis Yakimow.

b. Evaluations – In addition to the event evaluations Laraine reported, Ruth created an evaluation from the Board perspective. Her points included:

- *It was an incredibly timely topic*
- *Excellent speakers and panel*
- *COFEM rounded out the panel really well.*
- *Great attendance including a number of new faces; some people known to be "hard to please" came to Ruth with compliments.*

*We discussed how to get more youth and elected and agency folks to attend. They came to the prior CCA meeting perhaps because of the special component for them right before the event. Maybe eVites helped but not enough. Need to identify them early and even consult with them to help us craft messages. Ruth added we need to make them understand they are important. The Riverside conference should result in some new good information along the lines of "do this" instead of "don't do this." UCR wants SB/Riverside counties to put solar on top of buildings. Ruth said there will be videos of the conference per Alfredo Martinez-Morales. Pat is going both days. **Laraine moved to cover Pat's hotel costs for this conference, Sarah seconded, and all were in favor. (9-0).***

c. Honorariums – Steve

Honorariums of \$100 were offered to the 4 panelists. Frazier donated his to MBCA; Jack donated his to Wildlands Conservancy; Marinna accepted hers; and Vanessa was undecided. We also offered gas money for COFEM at \$20 per car. Sarah will follow up.

d. Video upload to YouTube – Steve has 2 copies from Bob. It's almost 5 hours but will be broken into morning and afternoon sessions. Claudia asked for a copy.

Laraine suggested we offer it with time stamps for each speaker; Steve said he'll work on that.

Steve reported expenditures of \$2408.07 on the event, \$1100 for programs and decals. Not included is the advertising with KCDZ. Steve will work with Marina to put together a final report for next time. The KCDZ ad was great; there was no coverage from the Hi Desert Star. We competed for attendance with the "Shutdown the Shutdown" and other events. Ruth had tried to contact Janet Wilson at the Desert Sun with no luck and reached Sammy Roth but he received the info too late and had already talked to Freeman when he was at LADWP.

For the record: \$40 was added to the amount allocated for Claudia's gift to fully cover the final cost.

DWL Committee - Landscape Tour / April 27 & 28, 2019

a. Advertising: Welcome Center ad - We propose placing an ad for the Tour in a publication for the new Cal Welcome Center Art Festival in May. Deadline is tomorrow, so Steve asked Melissa to put together an ad. Publication cost is \$165 for ¼ page. There was no objection to going ahead with this.

*b. 'Feathers' to emphasize DWL signs
The committee, which will meet next Wednesday, will review the idea of adding hanging decorations to the signs for added visibility. We're trying to get the program done ASAP. We have 21 committed sites. Sky's the Limit will be on for the first time.*

4) 50th book

A meeting will be planned to go over the content. Each committee member is providing several items. The central article by Julia Sizek about the early years of MBCA is nearing a final version. Laraine will send Julia's article to Mike.

- Meeting set: Laraine will send out agenda and reminder*

*5) mbconservation.org / E-blasts / memberships – SB & LT
Steve will create an Eblast soon.*

*6) UCR solar conference Feb 27, 28 / Solar Valley initiative - SB, RR
(See Ruth's comments under the Anniversary Committee notes above.)*

Discussion moved to RECE 4.10 because of the conflict with this conference - still no confirmation of RECE 4.10 on the 28th.

Pat has posters from Brian Hammer to get people to comment for RECE on the 28th. Pat is working with a media contact person who works with multiple agencies to get the word out. Ruth said that David Freeman told LADWP "no more natural gas" and LA Mayor Garcetti announced last night "we're not going to go with natural gas anymore." Pat said there's a new CCA in Los Angeles for us to keep our eye on.

7) Venue for MBCA meetings

Steve suggested we consider video conferencing these meetings, thinking about Pat's driving at night issues. Meg says the conference call website we're using tonight can offer video.

Conservation Issues

1) Paradise Valley EIR: PF

Pat couldn't attend the recent meeting. They did not make a decision on it yet; it's postponed until more information can be provided. Sarah said the carpenters' union came out against it because it flies in the face of the multispecies habitat conservation plan, which helps developers because it points to places that can be developed. Pat suggested we have a "field trip."

2) Solar projects– updates

- Daggett EIR release – PF – Pat reported they might get their EIR in Mid-March; the 1300-acre project was dropped but 2 more smaller ones have been accepted by the County, both close to Route 66 and I-40.
- Ord Mtn. Solar & Energy Project – PF
- Calcite. Pat's working on Calcite comments with great maps from Brian; it's due Feb. 22. The main point is that projects need to be considered one by one and at the same time the cumulative effect. The Solar ordinance requires they be looked at together. Regarding "aesthetic" issues, Pat reported that LUS has been assessing this under wrong policy number. They're not using the list of scenic highways that exists. Sarah noted that Steve Mills and Dawn Rowe will be at the upcoming HVCC meeting to discuss 4.10. Rowe's chief of staff connected a reporter to Pat. Pat sent David's summary on the JT Airport to this guy. He seems to be doing his homework. NextEra is seeking meetings. Could be related.

3) [Countywide Plan & Community Action Plans](#) and [Regional Conservation Investment Strategies/RCISs](#)

Frazier Haney joined our discussion by phone. Seth reported that the Plan draft is delayed again and it will be March or April before it comes out, but that gives us time for meetings and advocacy. Jerry Blum, Countywide Plan Coordinator, offered a meeting. Frazier is hoping to be part of the group representing public lands. RCIS is a stronger framework than what County needs to do at a minimum so the County being strapped for funds, BOS might drop it instead. We need to keep the pressure on. They've ignored linkages so their attitude is clear. Ruth believes that face-to-face meetings are critical. In addition to Ruth, Frazier, and Pat, others who should be invited include Chuck Bell and Neal Nadler, perhaps others. Reserve a place for the business signatories – Seth will work on that. Thanks to Frazier for his help. The State has several ways to do conservation planning – this is middle to high tier planning that meets state minimums for Counties. Need to get them to buy into this; they wouldn't buy into higher level but maybe this. Funding may be a problem. Steve will respond to Blum to set up meeting.

- RECE 4.10: BOS special hearing / vote 2-28-19 – MBCA circulated petition; comment letter for MBCA sign-on
- Draft EIR

Pat said that Robin Kobaly has put together images and science bringing together all the studies of carbon sequestration in the desert to be presented to the BOS and other decision-makers. We need people to understand the value of the desert in carbon sequestration – the 3 desert National Parks are in the top 10 areas of sequestration value in a 2014 NPS survey. There's great value in undisturbed land. This wasn't even considering BLM and National Conservation Lands. We should do a PR campaign to point this out. Sarah noted that pairing this concept with getting solar on buildings along highways is a great double message.

4) Cadiz water harvesting proposal – updates SB

There was a conference call originated by Chris Clarke of NPCA last week; Sierra Club, MDLT, Sierra Club Desert Committee, Pat, and others were participants. They are trying to make presentations to water districts in the Metropolitan Water District to get a majority of those districts to say they don't want to take Cadiz water, which could reduce Cadiz sales enough to delay or stop the project. Chris is putting together information packets to make presentations. Western Municipal WD in Riverside is coming up. Steve will try to do this next Tuesday. There are 27 member agencies within MWD. Also, new legislation is being created to replace AB 1000. We need to force Cadiz to do an EIR that Fish & Wildlife will accept.

5) Dark Sky update - SS, LT

Seth had a couple of calls with SB County Chief of Code Enforcement Andy Wingert, who has assigned another person from Code enforcement to help with dark sky issues. Bad news is that we can't override of the building code (provisions at state level are not very protective of dark skies; override is only for health or safety, not dark skies). Development Code being investigated as to whether the Tucson Code model could be implemented. JT resident Valeree Woodard provided information on some local egregious issues in JT area and Joanna of Andy's office is following up.

6) Alta Mira update – DF

David said the fourth legal stay has expired and the group is in settlement discussions with the project proponent. Investors are in agreement with the settlement, but there is still legal back-and-forth. The County is the 5th party and they aren't being helpful. Hopefully there will be settlement soon. David noted that the first meeting about the project was February 19 TEN YEARS AGO! The County is concerned about expiring the permits.

The only news David has on the Dollar General project is that the will-serve letter was approved by JBWD a few months ago. The project's permit to begin construction expires this August.

Outreach & Communications

1) Split Rock Landscape / Health Care District: MBCA participation – LT & ML
Nothing new.

2) Chambers of Commerce – SB

The JT Chamber seems to be in hiatus. We have memberships with 29 and YV. Steve is going to attend some of YV Chamber's events. Maybe Pat can try to do so in 29.

3) Ruth Denison scholarship - SB, LT

Laraine reported she's putting together the press release to send to school-related people and news outlets. We received a question to the website asking if the scholarship could be used by CMC students. Laraine responded that it's only for high school seniors at this time. Perhaps we could consider another college scholarship in the future. Laraine will also send the PR to science teachers if she can find specific names. Cindy Zacks may be able to help. Sarah offered to help.

4) JBWD water education day Sunday March **31**, 2019 1pm-4pm – **respond to Kathleen Radnich**

Sarah will call Kathleen tomorrow to confirm.

5) Town of Yucca Valley's 2018-2020 Strategic Plan re. rodeo grounds – RR

Ruth didn't get a call back from the Town Manager but saw in the newspaper that Town Planning Commission and Council only gave the Rodeo Committee a small amount of funding and it won't be on the property that we're concerned about.

Ruth will call Stephanie to confirm our Earth Day tables.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:15 pm.

<p>Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, March 14, 2019 5:00 – 7:00 PM YV Community Center / Mesquite Room</p>
