

MBCA BOARD MEETING **APPROVED** MINUTES
Thursday, May 9, 2019 / 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Regular Meeting Call to Order at 5:05pm

<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 type="checkbox"/> Seth Shteir
<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 and Board Directors

Jack Fuller, Miriam Seger

Agenda approval

Ruth moved to approve, Laraine seconded, and all were in favor. Approved 9-0.

Minutes from April 9, 2019 BOD meeting

A correction is needed on the amount for Pat Flanagan's conference expenses.

Corrected: Laraine moved to approve \$279 for Pat's expenses, Ruth seconded, and all were in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Thanks to Marina for her email to Directors with detailed financial information. The Bank account is \$28,099.79, the CD is at \$22,117.94, for a total of \$50,217.73 on hand. All of last month's expenses have been paid. Laraine will send the recently-received KCDZ invoice to Marina. Tour income is still being assessed; expenses were \$3187.49. Receipts for the Tour and Annual Meeting, totaling \$5000, were sent to MWA. Marina has invoiced the 4 remaining partners: HDWD at \$1000, 29 Palms Water District at \$1000, JBWD at \$500, and BDVWA at \$500. Golden State already paid \$500, and SCE \$2000. Directors accepted the Treasurer's report.

Capacity Building & Organizational Issues

1) Grant status: DWL - Edison & AWAC – SB, MW

Steve will get in touch with Jennifer Cusack due to uncertainties about their grant. We'll also communicate with AWAC about ongoing support after submitting the final Tour Report. The Edison report is due June 30. If Edison doesn't continue, we'll pursue other granters.

2) Purple Air monitors: AQMD support & installation/location additional units – SB, PF
Public places are most helpful. Miriam offered her commercial building in Joshua Tree. Other places to suggest for monitors: Eva Soltes/Harrison House: JBWD; CMC (Pat will contact Meredith Plummer); Copper Mountain Mesa (Marina will contact); 29P Water District; Hi Desert Water District; in Morongo Valley, possibly Big Morongo Canyon Preserve or the CSD public building; Wonder Valley Community Center. Pat will be attending an AQMD meeting in the near future.

Sarah introduced Miriam, and by consensus we moved to the WEMO item on the agenda (under Conservation issues, #9).

3) Events Committee reports:

DWL Committee - Landscape Tour report

Laraine reported that the numbers will be down a bit but we had 3 fewer sites and there were a lot of other events locally and regionally. The Tour Committee will meet for final review, internal and external reports will be created, and recommendations for next year will be made.

Fall event

Marina has arranged for the new Director of MWA, Tom McCarthy, to speak on September 28, noon-2 at YVCC. Meg noted that is also Public Lands Day, which will possibly siphon off a lot of potential attendees. We discussed whether to choose a different weekend or change to a weekday evening. [Marina will send out a request for other ideas.](#)

4) 50th book –

Mike is working on this; his goal is to get manuscripts ready to give to Sarah and to Greg Gilbert for editorial review. The Committee will meet to assess where we are and what needs to be done. Mike noted that we will need to review and redo our contract with Melissa Sabol.

5) mbconservation.org / E-blasts SB & LT

Supporter Stacy Doolittle sent a suggestion for revising the Eblast format to Steve and Laraine. Steve will contact her and ask how she would revise our last Eblast to show us an example. Mike suggested having a note at the start of the Eblast to clarify that details are in each of the sections below the introductory list of topics.

6) Desert Symposium report – PF

Pat made a lot of good contacts for wider desert issues. One of the main speakers, Lori Hargrove of the San Diego Natural History Museum, spoke about the Grinnell project, a re-study from an early 20th century flora and fauna assessment across the state that was funded by the National Science Foundation and National Geographic. Some sites are within the Mojave National Preserve and Mojave Trails National Monument, but the funding has been depleted. Clearly there are climate change issues. Pat is hoping that desert nonprofits will raise funds to get more of the study done in desert areas. Pat's niece received the Bob Reynolds student research award.

Steve commented on the importance of the Grinnell study in light of the UN report on species extinction. [Pat will send Laraine a bioscience paper to post online.](#)

7) Board retreat 2019

Sunday, August 4 was confirmed as our Retreat day. Meg offered the BMCP's Education Center for the venue.

Conservation Issues

1) Paradise Valley EIR: Riverside Planning Commission 5-15-19 - SB, PF
Steve and Sarah reported. Issues of concern include some delay related to a traffic report; some water issues; and that there wasn't coordination with the County Multiple Species Conservation Habitat Plan. Any decision probably will not occur at this meeting but comments can be made. Steve and Sarah are planning to go.

2) Solar projects

- Daggett EIR comment letter- PF.

Steve sent the letter to Lovingood, Rowe, Lundquist, Matt Knox and Tom Nieves, project planner. Dawn Rowe acknowledged receipt of the letter. [The developer has asked to meet with Pat at the site, scheduled for May 20.](#) George Kenline, County Geologist, has been helpful as an intermediary. The meeting may include Chuck Bell, Fred Stern Realtor, and maybe Ken Lair and Robin Kobaly. The developer ClearWay, which used to be NRG, will bring a geomorphologist and construction people. [Steve will send the letter to Laraine to publish online.](#)

- Ord Mtn. Solar & Energy Project – PF –
Going through the process, comments closed.

- Calcite – PF – same as Ord Mountain.
Going through the process, comments closed.

3) Countywide Plan & Community Action Plans

- MBCA requested to sign-on to Steve Mills' letter

*In his letter on behalf of the coalition, Steve Mills emphasizes the need to incorporate community plans into the Countywide Plan; the County has resisted but we insist. **Marina moved to sign on to the letter; Steve seconded, and everyone was in favor. Approved 9-0.** The letter includes individual names of a number of MBCA Directors as well. [Laraine will publish it online.](#)*

There's a new zoning type but the County hasn't communicated to residents. Jack asked about the status of the JT Community Plan. Pat thinks it's probably sitting in limbo and we have to keep forcing them to modify it appropriately. The EIR for the Countywide Plan is supposed to be out in next few months.

- Draft EIR re. response to response from Jerry Blum SS, SB
Steve reported that Seth continues to work on the latest response in this ongoing communication, asking about the types of data sets used for the Draft EIR for the Countywide Plan. [Steve said he and Seth will work together for the next response.](#)

4) Cadiz water harvesting proposal – SB307 Richard Roth Riverside – SB
Chris Clarke has communicated about chartering a van to a San Diego legislator's office next Monday, May 15.

5) Dark Sky ordinance - SS, LT

Laraine reported that Seth continues to work with the County. Nothing new yet to report.

6) Scenic 247 - SK

Sara Fairchild is working with Brian Hammer for the mapping component.

7) Eagle Mountain pumped storage – DF

David reported this is still in litigation. He had emailed us a summary of comments made at the recent Desert Hot Springs City Council meeting that resulted in the Council declining to schedule consideration of support for this project on a future agenda. The company has been soliciting support from Coachella Valley governments.

8) Alta Mira update – DF

Janet Johnston has sent out a summary of the “win” plus a photo of the \$183 fund remainder donated to MBCA. [Laraine will put this as a news story on the website.](#)

9) WEMO – SB

We projected maps from the BLM website and Pat pointed out some good changes within the preferred Alternative 5.

Miriam noted there’s a comparison chart of the alternatives so you can see their differences. For example, in Alternative 2 residential areas are to be protected but that isn’t stated in Alternative 5. [Pat will review the chart of alternatives to see if there are other things to emphasize.](#) Pat said this is a lot better than the first one due to our and others’ extensive comments. Many of the problem routes we pointed out are gone.

Pat suggests Alternative 5 seems to do the best job on the broad conceptual ideas such as private property rights and air quality. There’s no longer a “come on down here, riders,” implied invitation.

Note that only those who have commented prior can comment this time, and comments go to the EPA, not BLM. Routes cannot be protested; only the Plan amendments in chapters 2 and 4 can be protested.

Meg noted MBCA signed a letter asking that WEMO not be implemented until National Monument management plans are developed. She asked if we wanted to still advocate that position since NM management plans are not developed. We should comment on the good changes that have been made. There’s also been improvement in clarifying jurisdictions.

Steve said he would try to talk with Sheriff Newport about WEMO at the MAC meeting next Monday about County responsibility. Sarah noted that at HVCC meetings, Sheriff’s staff encourage calls about OHV violations. “If they get a lot of calls they’ll definitely send out a car.” Meg noted they got more green sticker money especially for extra coverage on holidays. Pat encourages communities to put up signs (\$183) and the

County will place the sign, although local residents should advise on the location for sign. The signs have made a big difference in Yucca Valley.

Outreach & Communications

1) CMC new president and SLR net zero and Solar Valley - RR
Ruth, Steve, and Laraine met earlier today with CMC representatives Sandy Smith (Foundation Director) and Meredith Plummer (Chief Business Officer), who have received a proposal from Schneider Electric of Costa Mesa to use SLR money towards a variety of renewable/sustainable projects. After we told them about the research center at UCR and our connections with it, they were agreeable to having Ruth contact UCR Professor Martinez-Morales to see if he could speak at a CMC all staff meeting in August. Sandy and Meredith were very receptive. We are all encouraged about the new President, Darren Otten, who at the candidates' forum mentioned he had tried a sustainability project in a former position, and also was interested in sustainable technology job training. We hope to meet with him and believe he's familiar with the Net Zero concept.

2) Ruth Denison scholarship – SB, LT
Steve and Sarah will be presenting the award to Isabel Ortega on May 29 at YVHS.

3) MAC - SB, PF
Pat and Steve are on the new Morongo Basin Municipal Advisory Council/MAC that will meet for the first time under new Supervisor Dawn Rowe next Monday, May 15.

4) Chambers of Commerce - SB, PF
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5) CDPA 25-year celebration 10-08-19 – MF
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6) NEPA workshop 5-18-19 – SS
Has been advertised through Eblast and on website.

Adjourned at 7:10 PM

<p>Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, June 13, 2019 5:00 – 7:00 PM YV Community Center / YV Community Center / Mesquite Room</p>
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