

MBCA BOARD MEETING **APPROVED** MINUTES
Thursday, January 09, 2020 / 5:00 – 7:00 PM
Mesquite Room Town of Yucca Valley Community Center

Regular Meeting Call to Order:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Bardwell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Janet Johnston	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruth Rieman (advance notice)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Fick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Kennington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laraine Turk
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pat Flanagan (phone)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Lipsitz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marina West
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meg Foley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arch McCulloch	

Called to order at 5:05 PM

Introduction of Guests and Board Directors

Congratulations to new Directors Arch and Janet.

Agenda approval

Laraine moved to approve the agenda as submitted, Meg seconded, all were in favor. (10-0).

Minutes from December 12, 2019 BOD meeting

Sarah moved to approved the December minutes, Marina seconded, all were in favor. (10-0)

Treasurer's Report

Marina sent reports to all Directors prior to the meeting. She noted there have been several memberships and donations in the last 2 months. Recent payments included 2 chamber of commerce memberships (Yucca Valley and Twentynine Palms); Green Info for the interactive map maintenance; Pat Flanagan for some business supplies and expenses; Melissa Sabol for design; book printing; and the donation/grant to CDC. Our CD has been reinvested for 9 months. Marina continues to work toward a better financial categorization system.

Melissa Sabol intends to make a donation to MBCA related to her payment for designing the book. Marina will investigate the appropriate financial transactions to handle that.

The Treasurer's report was accepted by consensus.

Capacity Building & Organizational Issues

Steve would like us to have business cards for Directors. *Marina will find the earlier template that Claudia initiated and send around for us to review.* Maybe in the future Melissa can design something fancier.

1) mbconservation.org / E-blasts / Social Media – MDLT will share our posts. All

Laraine reported on a successful meeting with Nora and Aimee. The first Instagram post will be for our Annual Meeting. We are paying Aimee for 2-3 hrs./week @\$15; Marina is using an average of \$40/week for a year for the budget. Hopefully we'll be getting more donations with our expanding presence and appreciation of the book. MDLT will boost our annual meeting through their network. We hope to have many organizations present at the annual meeting, not only conservation groups but local chambers and business groups.

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

Marina noted that we may need to write an AWAC grant renewal in February, and need to deal with the question of whether we'll continue with the Tour in 2021, as we had some discussion about taking a break.

3) Air Quality Monitoring: Letter to CARB /location Purple Air units - SB, PF

Pat got a letter back from CARB with the same lack of good answers as from AQMD but they suggested we talk with [Catherine Dunwoody](#), who is responsible for CARB monitoring. Pat will try to get in touch with her. They say they're measuring the whole air basin but all the units are on the west side. If we don't get good answers, should we go to Cal EPA? We seem to be carrying the issue and there are also environmental justice issues. The County has refused to deal with EJ issues in EIRs despite the state's criticism of the county's oversight of EJ in the County Plan. Pat will be writing this up in an upcoming *Desert Report*.

Pat noted that there are 6 monitors downwind of the Daggett Project and they almost never agree with the official monitors in Barstow. MDAQMD says they know what's going on and Purple Air can't be used. Pat is hopeful we'll be moving them toward change. Pat has an upcoming meeting on January 14 and hopes to get some answers. *Pat will send the answers from her meeting to Steve*. She'll be reporting on this for her article and eventual presentations.

Arch suggested if we put enough monitors out there, especially in the same places there are official monitors, we could make a case for comparative data in support of Purple Air. Pat said currently there are AQMD monitors (1 each) in Morongo Valley, Joshua Tree, Wonder Valley (frequently not working), and 29 Palms. Arch thinks the cost and maintenance for Purple Air monitors are very reasonable. *Arch will work with Pat and consider developing an MBCA program for either buying monitors or helping people buy them*.

4) Events Committee reports:

Annual meeting

Sustainable tourism, invitees, catering, advertising

Steve recapped the committee meeting held just prior to this. We have confirmation from about 10 organizations, waiting on an answer from another 10 and will invite another 10 to attend and have a table. We are expecting attendance of around 100. Keynoters are confirmed: David Smith and Chris Clarke on Sustainable Tourism. Also inviting Chambers of Commerce, Water companies, welcome center, some business owners. Confirmed for Yucca Valley Community Center, 10-1, Saturday, January 25. Some of the organizations will be invited to comment. We'll do the Book release at end of program. *Mike will work on an insert into the book to promote membership, directing them to website*.

DWL Committee – Spring 2020 landscape tour planning, support to CNPS for printing

The group met last Monday. Cathy is contacting potential site owners for 13 sites. Two sites are anchors, MDLT and Big Morongo Canyon. There will be a specific emphasis at each site, e.g. small acreage, natives, composting, etc., with an expert on hand with a resource table, booth, or demonstration (not lectures). We'll have more detail related to the emphasis areas in the Tour book. Marina suggests giving out a cheap flash drive with data and links to keep down paper use. Dates are April 25-26. *Marina offered to print the CNPS Mojave Chapter native plants flyer for Arch. Laraine will check with Madena on the possibility of a one-page guide about planting natives*.

5) 50th book: - Add membership application insert to book- ML

Mike will work on this, as noted above.

Pat is arranging a remuneration to Brian Hammer via a gift certificate to the 29 Palms Inn. MBCA will pick up the \$70 cleaning fee and provide \$50 for a gift certificate. **Steve moved that MBCA provide a total of \$120 to the Inn (via Paul Smith) for cleaning fee and a \$50 gift certificate. Arch seconded, all were in favor. (10-0)** *Pat will talk with Brian about coming to our next Board meeting*.

Conservation Issues

1) Solar projects

Daggett – Newberry Springs appeal. Transcript of Dawn Rowe’s comments. Pat reported that the Supervisors’ decision is being appealed, and an attorney has been hired. He is a former Assemblymember and has worked with homeless and understands environmental justice. *Pat will provide Laraine with all the letters we’ve sent regarding Daggett for website posting.* A Newberry Springs resident is backing this. Steve read Dawn Rowe’s comments in favor of Daggett, especially saying these projects were grandfathered in (they weren’t) and “Don’t change the goalposts on the developer negative impacts on residents but not fair to development community.” This ignores RECE 4.10; her tone is unfortunate and disappointing. We briefly discussed her selection to the BOS and the related Brown Act violation.

Pat noted that the Gemini Project in Riverside County is also of concern.

2) Countywide Plan & Community Action Plans - SB

There’s been no new information. It’s more than a year after they said they’d have the final draft. *Pat will send Laraine documents for website posting related to the environmental justice issue (Becerra decision, etc.).*

3) Cadiz water harvesting proposal – SB

No new information.

4) Dark Sky ordinance –ordinance update SB

Steve wrote a letter to Supervisor Rowe urging the County staff to get going on the ordinance. *Laraine will work with Steve on a News Update about this.*

5) Scenic 247 - SK

Sarah reported that the visual assessment of the entire road was completed. They know it can’t all be designated and will have to be reduced. Brian helped with designating BLM lands and some of their designations are open for development. Sarah contacted Frazier Haney for help and he suggested an approach emphasizing that ACEC and NCL lands are *consistent with* the State Highway Scenic designation proposal and supported by the 2019 Dingle Act. They will be meeting with Katrina Simonds of BLM for which DRECP lands can be designated. Committee needs to work on the BLM approval, then it goes to Land Use Services. Since this is not a budgeted use of LUS time, they will ask the Supervisor’s office for extra support.

6) Eagle Mountain pumped storage –DF

Nothing new, ongoing litigation.

7) Attend: Mojave Desert Native Plant Materials Development and Restoration Workshop

No charge. Las Vegas, February 11-13.

Pat is attending, sponsored by the Resource Conservation District. Arch and CNPS will look into it.

Outreach & Communications

1) CMC SLR – RR, SB, LT

No additional meetings have been set yet. Laraine shared her perspective that CMC President Dr. Otten was cool to the idea because of his first-year learning curve etc. *Steve will contact Alfredo and Laraine will let Darren know we’re still planning to pursue this.*

Sarah and Janet are interested in pursuing what people can do/are doing personally. We could ask our Eblast list to be part of putting out ideas about what individuals can do. Climate change won’t wait; there’s a “need for speed.” We should learn what other communities are doing. Marin County’s ending gas hook-ups was mentioned, and Janet mentioned Tucson rebuilding their aquifer.

2) Letter of recommendation for Angelina Galiteva

She requested we support her reappointment to Cal-ISO. *The letter writing committee will draft our part to add to her template. Steve will send email to Board.*

3) MAC - SB, PF

(Who?) will see that Ida is added to the memorial adjournment list for next Monday's meeting.

4) Chambers of Commerce –SB, PF

We have invited them to the Annual Meeting.

5) Short Term Rental ordinance-local housing shortage-JJ

Janet believes the ordinance should have had an EIR and has social justice implications. *She will pursue an argument incorporating the Becerra EJ decision.* The County is adding another Code Enforcement person focused on STR enforcement.

6) Potential synergy with Transition JT - SB

Steve attended their last meeting and asking them to attend ours. Marina asked Steve to see if they have a permaculture expert for the Tour. Perhaps we could add either Harrison House or the Lester site as a replacement for the Wold's permaculture site since they can't do it this year.

7) MBCA as a vehicle for financial help for JTNP – SB,PF

Steve will drop this from our agenda. We continue to have concerns. *Laraine will research our past discussions and policy on this and send to Directors.*

8) JBWD water education day 3-29-20 - SK

Sarah and Laraine will handle this, maybe also Janet. Sarah will let Kathleen know.

9) Follow up on MBUSD on solar install is it saving \$? JJ

Janet suggests we get feedback from MUSD, and the resulting data could be part of a program for our fall event. David thinks they said they could save \$1 million. Steve noted that the new building code as of January 1 seems to favor the use of gas. If you're close enough to a grid tie-in you are mandated to tie in. Also they're limiting the amount of solar you can put on your house in a complicated formula. Janet added the idea to have people share their solar stories.

10) Recycling what really happens to our recyclable? JJ

Sarah has a Public Works recycling contact Erica Ellis, 909.386.8968, Solid Waste Management. *Sarah will see if they're coming to Earth Day.* We discussed the worsening problems with recycling. David noted historically there was talked about reducing the size of trash dumps by compression and there's a better possibility for that now.

11) Climate change carbon footprint calculator

The student Alexi mentioned this at our last meeting. We should put the information into a News Update and/or Eblast (Laraine & Steve).

Letters signed onto:

Letter to Dawn Rowe urging action on Dark Sky Ordinance

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, February 13, 2020 5:00 – 7:00 PM
YV Community Center / YV Community Center / Mesquite Room