

APPROVED MARCH 8, 2018

MBCA BOARD **APPROVED** MEETING MINUTES

**Thursday, February 8, 2018**

5:00 – 7:00 PM, YVCC

**Regular Meeting Call to Order: 5:10 pm**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Bardwell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruth Rieman
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Fick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claudia Sall
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pat Flanagan	(@5:30pm)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meg Foley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seth Shteir
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Kennington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laraine Turk
<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Lipsitz (prior notice)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marina West

**Introduction of Guests and Board Directors**

*Mr. Ted Stimpfel from Newberry Spring Community Association. Mr. Bob Berkman from Newberry Springs.*

*Ms. Sheara Cohen from The Wilderness Society*

**Agenda Input**

*SK adds Newberry Springs guest subject on Solar/CoSB*

*LT adds Dennison Scholarship*

**Approval of Minutes from January 11, 2018**

*MS RR/SB to accept the minutes as presented.*

**Treasurer's Report**

*SB gave the report noting total balance \$52,223.88.*

*Treasurers report was accepted as presented.*

*PF requests reimbursement for travel to a Sierra Club meeting which she anticipates to be \$200.*

***MSC: LT/SB unanimous to approve 50% of expenses to Sierra Club meeting.***

## **Capacity Building & Organizational Issues**

### 1) Finance Committee report

*Item skipped due to time limits.*

### 2) Grants status + processes: a. Rose “*Indigenous Place...*”; b. DWL Edison grant; c. DWL grant application to AWAC due Feb. 15th.

*SB will take the lead on submitting the DWLs Strategic Partners Grant application to Mojave Water Agency.*

### 3) Events Committee reports.:

- Annual mtg/prog (2/10/18);

***MSC: LT/CS to reimburse MW for the coffee urn and supplies purchased for the Annual Meeting.***

*MF/SS reported on the food spread. LT has prepared the “program evaluation” and asked for feedback. The program agenda was reviewed.*

*MSC: SK/LT to provide a \$200 honorarium to Jill Giegerich for presenting on 2/10/2018.*

- DWL Landscape Tour (April 28-29, 2018);

*MW showed the mock-up of the cover photo which did not draw approval. RR reported on the sites confirmed with several still unconfirmed. RR suggests a committee meeting is in order. LT presented a format for a “quick view” table that might help visitors prioritize the sites they really want to visit. RR reported on the water use audit being prepared for the Leatart property being performed by Marinna Wagner.*

- MBCA’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary / 2019

*Not discussed due to time constraints*

### 4) Susan Luckie Reilly MBCA-related files - Meg, David, Laraine

*Not discussed due to time constraints*

- 5) Caltrans Adopted-highway report – David  
*Not discussed due to time constraints*

6) Denison Scholarship

*LT reported that the application is now available for download on our website and that a press release notice will go out shortly.*

**Outreach & Communication**

1) Communications:

- mbconservation.org
- YVHS Natl. Honors Soc. student, Mikaela Monical's service proj. Mikaela is currently doing her survey; LT and SK hope to meet with her soon to finalize her project.

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

*PF brought copies of the renewed "Mustard/Fountain Grass Awareness" Rack Card.*

**Conservation Issues**

1) DRECP / threats to ACEC's etc

*PF shared a presentation she has prepared for public meeting presentations specifically focused on sand transport and airborne dust. Further outlining the sand transport pathways from LV/JV area east towards Colorado River. Noting differences between stabilized sand sheet areas which are covered with vegetation vs. those areas that have been scraped and thus become sand sheets ready to move. PF made note that air monitoring stations are in Victorville and of no use to the Morongo Basin. As to vegetation on the JT Airport site, it is "big galleta" grasses which are an indicator of soil stability. In the LV area soil types are Cajon Sand and Kimberlina Loam which are easily transported. However, PF notes the CoSB doesn't document such in their studies.*

*Concerning Ord Mtns. solar project there are numerous mapped soil types that are prone to movement. These types were mapped and demonstrate that all soils in the area are prone to movement. Everything else on the map is exposed bedrock.*

*PF has discovered a product called "Purple Air: Air Quality Monitoring Stations that can be purchased by individuals and placed on their homes. Data can be sent to the internet for database development. She suggests that if 10 were deployed in the MB that would give good baseline data.*

*Moving on to the DRECP comment period published in the Federal Register on February 2, 2018. This notice reopens comment on some of the Development Focus Areas in CoSB.*

*PF segued to the CoSB Renewable Energy and Conservation Element (RECE) Goal 4 and Objective 4.10 which were approved by the BOS in August 2017 from an April 2017 draft. However, the BOS sent back Objectives 4.10.1 to 4.10.3 to the Planning Commission because they were written into RECE after Planning Commission asked for such amendments but never actually approved the text. This was a hook CoSB BOS used to push this objective out of RECE. As of today, the CoSB LUS staff has not taken that back to the Planning Commission.*

*PF summarized that in the meantime a total of 5,666 acres in LV on private and state lands is proposed for solar. In the Newberry Springs area it is 5,533 acres.*

*PF showed an overlay of the DFA in LV/Barstow wherein there is a large overlay titled "Area of Critical Environmental Concern" (ACEC). Her presentation then focused on property ownership within the Lucerne Valley Development Focus Area.*

*PF continued onto the subject of RE projects in the Newberry Springs area pointing out the sand source areas and linear dunes in existence.*

*Next steps, PF encourages public to get to a supervisors meeting to ask about the RECE Objectives 4.10.1 to 4.10.3 and why they have not been taken back to the Planning Commission yet. PF believes it is LUS that is "foot dragging" not the BOS.*

*PF answered questions from the Board regarding the presentation and status of RECE now.*

*Representative from The Wilderness Society suggested getting the elected officials to comment on the reopening of the DRECP. She stated that Cong. Cook did not want DRECP reopened and that he doesn't want additional solar either. A statement from the CoSB to the BLM is critical and leverage for that*

*must come from the public comment. The need at this point is to oppose the DRECP review and get the RECE finalized with Objective 4.10.*

*There will be public meetings concerning the DRECP review and those will be published in the Federal Register on Feb. 9, 2018 and she expects the meetings to be scheduled for late Feb. and early March, 2018.*

*DRECP comment period ends March 19, 2018. The issue is “what is the scope of what should be amended?” Most oppose any amendments at this point. The Wilderness Society will also be asking for an extension of the comment period but there is little hope for such.*

2) RECE: status w/LUS & BOS re. delayed finding re. 4.10; Newberry Springs Community Council considers CEQA challenge – Claudia, Pat

*See summary above of PF’s presentation which includes RECE status.*

3) Solar Projects: a) Palen Solar Project: MBCA comments for Draft Supplemental EIR/Land Use Plan Amendment; b) Ord Mountain Solar Ordinance

4) Newberry Springs Visitors to discuss threats to RE development

*Mr. Stimpfel stated the primary concern in Newberry Springs is water. They have one RE project on 22 acres. Due to this site, the moratorium was implemented. Since then, there is a proposal for the “Silver Valley/Mojave Valley” (otherwise known as the “Dagget Triangle”) and the community is a bit overwhelmed with the issues. Their intent by coming here was to learn from us on how to approach the issues, gain experience, and build relationships with neighboring communities. Newberry Springs is a severely disadvantaged community. They know that RE ought to be rooftop in the load centers.*

### **Community Reports**

- 1) Memorial for Donna Charpied, Thurs., April 19, 2018, Eagle Mountain, LaRonna Jojoba Farm
- 2) Sand-to-Snow Monument Anniversary at Cactus Mart Friday February 9, 2018

<b>Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, March 8, 2018 5:00 PM</b>
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YV Community Center / Mesquite Room