

**APPROVED** July 12, 2018

**MBCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

***Thursday, June 14, 2018***

**5:00 – 7:00 PM**

**Regular Meeting Call to Order:**

<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 type="checkbox"/> Pat Flanagan (prior notice)	<input type="checkbox"/> Seth Shteir (prior notice)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meg Foley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laraine Turk
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Kennington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marina West
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Lipsitz	

**Meeting called to Order at 5:10pm**

**Introduction of Guests and Board Directors**

*There were no guests in attendance.*

**Agenda amendments**

LT adds to Outreach & Comm: 29 Palms Split Rock landscaping project

DF adds Eagle Crest HR 5817 (Cook) – construction time extensions

CS adds MBCA Annual Retreat scheduling

SK adds Rack Card Development – General Advertising

**Minutes:**

*SK/SB moves to approve minutes of May 10, 2018 with minor changes as suggested.*

**Treasurer's Report**

*SB gave the Treasurer's Report noting all DWL-S Sponsors have paid their invoices. He will be following up with MWA on \$1,100 to take us to the balance of the \$3,000 grant.*

*Bank CD totals \$21,952.68 with checking \$31,188.19 for a total of \$53,151.66.*

*SB signed the acceptance letter for the Mojave Water Agency (MWA) Strategic Partners grant of \$5,000 awarded for the Fiscal Year 2019/2020.*

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*RR moves to accept the Treasurer's report into the record.*

## **Capacity Building & Organizational Issues**

### **1) Finance Committee report**

- **Funding Native American travel: new policy**  
*Draft policy still needs to be written and submitted to the Board for consideration at a later date. MF suggests this policy not be limited to Native American groups alone but that it be flexible enough to serve relevant MBCA sponsorship needs. [MF volunteered to start a draft.](#)*
- **Fiscal sponsorship**  
*SB summarized the request by Citizen's [Community](#) Off Road Watch (COW) for MBCA to submit a grant application on their behalf acting as a "fiscal sponsor". This led to a discussion on whether or not MBCA should participate at all in "fiscal sponsorships" due to the liability it poses for MBCA. MF noted that it puts all the responsibility/liability on MBCA not the sponsored entity. RR reminded the Board that COW was a sub-committee of MBCA years ago and that relationship ended because COW was "going out on their own". Further discussion ensued amongst the Board.*

*MSC: SB/CS to decline accepting fiscal sponsorship.*

### **2) Grant status:**

- **"Indigenous Place" – Rose**

*SB reported that the draft publication has been circulated for review.*

- **DWL- Edison & AWAC**

*MWA awarded \$5,000 for FY2019/2020. SCE annual report wrap-up will be completed by CS. She believes that the next grant session is in July but the prior year report must be submitted first. CS will then provide PF the SCE passwords to complete the next grant application.*

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

*SB will obtain more information about the signage and installation of the signs on non-county maintained roads and CSA road district roads.*

*Regarding Purple Air units, MBCA might consider a Rose Foundation Grant before the August deadline.*

### 3) Events Committee reports:

- DWL Landscape Tour / April 28-29, 2018

*LT passed out a summary report noting that she and SB will be finalizing a financial report that will be for internal use only. LT thanked the volunteers who participated as Judges for the essay contest. A total of 11 essays were submitted. LT also noted that perhaps we should have other categories for creative submissions such as poetry, photography, etc.*

*RR suggested that we publish a book of all the essays submitted through the years, with historical information on MBCA, photographs, sponsors, and other content to be distributed as part of the annual meeting. Perhaps this could be in place of the Fall DWL-s event. MF believes that they could be sold.*

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

*SK noted the Committee members are RR, SK, LT, MF, ML. It was suggested that more volunteers would be welcome (past board members, members, etc.).*

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

*LT reported that she discussed obtaining help from Ms. Julia Sizek who is temporarily living in Joshua Tree. She is currently working on her dissertation in anthropology.*

### 5) Caltrans Adopted-highway report – DF

*DF reported that he is able to maintain the highway by himself.*

### 6) Annual Retreat

*SK selects 8/26 for the 2018 retreat and 8/25 for the 2019 retreat. The 2018 retreat will be held at Claudia Sall's home. SK will verify that PF and SS can attend. If not then we will look at alternative dates.*

## **Conservation Issues**

### **1) WEMO Draft Land Use Plan Amendment to CDCAP**

- Comment period deadline: **June 14, 2018**

*SB is working with PF on the MBCA WEMO comment letter. CS suggested we obtain “sign-on’s” from other local groups when it comes to these type of letters (a “basin” coalition separate from the sign-on’s we do with the folks from Lucerne Valley as the issues can be different). SK noted a parallel set of comments related to the Sand-to-Snow Monument management plan that does relate to WEMO.*

### **2) RECE - Planning Commission hearing on 4.10 + subsections: **May 24, 2018****

*SK reported on the meeting noting that it was a very long day which in the end was successful. The Planning Commission is sending their recommendation for maintaining the 4.10 language to the Board of Supervisors. As a member, SB will request that the Morongo Basin Municipal Advisory Council send a resolution of support. Expect agenda item in a September 2018 Board of Supervisors meeting. Existing projects are assumed to proceed forward.*

### **3) Solar Projects: Palen; Ord Mountain**

*DF reported that JT Solar is still alive but they missed their Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) deadline. The legal action has resulted in a “stay” (set aside) to date and now has been extended for another year at the request of NextERA.*

*SB stated that Tom O’Key asked if there was a way to track the actual output of the existing solar farms in the area. It was suggested he speak with Angelina and that the data ought to be available from the CA Energy Commission (CEC) or CA Independent System Operator (CAISO).*

*SB reported that the Palen Project applicant is working to revise their EIR from a “power tower” to a conventional PV project.*

*SB suggested the Ord Mtn. EIR should be released for comment soon just based on the Scoping Meeting schedule.*

### **4) Air Quality Monitoring Stations – 2018 goal: deploy 10 “Purple Air” units in MB for baseline data**

*SK reported that PF has installed one on her home. Purchasing and deploying more might be the subject of a grant to The Rose Foundation.*

#### 5) DRECP: Ruiz event in PS - MBCA presence - PF

*SK reported that a host of Congress members opposed this as well as Native American groups.*

#### 6) Housing development project updates

- Alta Mira
- Paradise Valley – comment period extended

*DF reported that Alta Mira is still on a “stay” at the request of the developer.*

#### 7) Eagle Crest HR 5817 (Cook)

*DF reported that the FERC permit is near expiration and this federal legislation seeks to extend the construction deadline for the project. LT looked up the bill which extends the timeline to initiate the project construction for up to three consecutive 2-year periods.*

### **Outreach & Communication**

#### 1) MBCA participation with JTNP Association Grubstakes Day parade

*SK thanked Mike Lipsitz for making the sign for the group in the Parade.*

#### 2) Denison scholarship awarded to Morgan Novak in YVHH ceremony

*SK and SB attended the awards ceremony.*

#### 3) 29 Palms Split Rock Project (a desert-wise garden in 29 Palms Health Care Center) – Joe Ruddon

*LT was contacted by Joe Ruddon of the Health Care District about their “Split Rock” Project. LT reported that Joe is wanting a “community orientated” project, a “healing garden” (walking space) which is also educational. He is hoping to obtain funds from City of 29 Palms Project Phoenix. This is an older medical complex that is being renovated. Joe also indicated that he is pressing the 29 Palms City to accept long-term maintenance of the garden. RR suggested*

reaching out to [Marinna](#) Wagner to take a look at the space and that great care should be taken to insure “low water usage” for the space.

#### 4) Rack Card Advertising

*LT began the discussion noting the first rack card should feature the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. MF noted she is not that thrilled about the rack card concept. Other formats/layout could be considered. More thought will be put into the overall MBCA communications and outreach plan.*

**Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm**

<p><b>Next Regular Meeting:</b> Thursday, July 12, 2018 5:00 PM YV Community Center / Mesquite Room</p>
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