

APPROVED DECEMBER 11, 2018

MBCA FINAL Board Minutes Thursday, Nov. 08, 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pat Flanagan (via phone)	<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 type="checkbox"/> Marina West (prior notice)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Lipsitz (left at 6)	

Meeting Called to Order at 5:04

Laraine agreed to take minutes in Marina's absence.

Introduction of Guests and Board Directors

No guests.

Agenda input – 3 additions:

Under Capacity Building:

7) Denison Scholarship – Meg and Laraine.

Under Conservation issues:

6) JBWD reports glamping land use requests – ML.

7) Paradise Valley - CS

Minutes from Nov. 11, 2018 BOD meeting

Steve moved to approve the November 11 minutes as last submitted, Ruth seconded, all present approved.

Treasurer's Report

Steve reported that \$53847.91 is the current total available. Steve had a QuickBooks tutorial (\$50) from Marcia Geiger who also helped with reconciling accounts. The Treasurer's report was accepted by consensus.

Capacity Building & Organizational Issues

1) Finance Committee report

No committee report. Steve will present the 2019 Budget at the December meeting; it will incorporate expected costs for the 50th Anniversary Book.

2) Grant status:

- Rose Foundation grants in 2019 - AQ (Purple Air units) + signage (Co. shooting ord.) + 50th.

Sarah will ask the Finance committee to work on this. Pat suggests maybe getting help from AQMD, or maybe they would support the proposed Purple Air project without having to write a grant. The units are around \$200. How many should we try to get and where to put them?

- DWL - Edison & AWAC.

Steve reported we received the Edison grant money and have a purchase order for the AWAC contribution. He expects the other usual funders (water districts) to contribute the same as the past year.

3) Events Committee reports:

- MBCA's 50th Anniversary kick-off program w/Annual Mtg. 1/26/19 – 50th Committee.

Ruth reported that the Book committee (Ruth, Mike, Laraine, Marina) has been working on content and design, but decided that in order to be sure we have the quality we want, we won't rush it so will extend the publication beyond the January 26 Annual Meeting. Ruth also had some comments on the Annual Meeting program; she suggests adding Marinna Wagner to the "next generation" panel. Marinna won an award for her Master's degree thesis on native plants.

The sequence of speakers should be David Freeman representing past activism/leadership, Angelina Galiteva on current RE/Grid issues, and the "next generation" panel representing the future. Ruth will go forward to present the agenda to the speakers and will send us a draft of the proposed program content. We discussed a number of strategies: Interaction among generations? Angelina as moderator? Cindy Zacks as moderator? There was further discussion about content, sequence, role of speakers, etc. Ruth will reach out to David, Angelina, Cindy and Marinna to get their input on program design.

Julia Sizek, Ph.D. candidate researching desert environmental issues from an anthropology perspective, is writing a piece on Susan Luckie Reilly as a centerpiece of the book.

We need to start getting the word out about the annual meeting etc. with email and social media – Laraine will ask if Seth can assist. We should especially emphasize David and Angelina as nationally/internationally-known speakers.

- DWL Landscape Tour – 2019 dates / April 27 & 28 – DWL Committee.

The Committee is still gathering information on possible additional sites. Claudia has a 29 Palms possibility.

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

- Dr. James Buckner Luckie Study Center, JTNP opening

Laraine passed around the program/handout from the event and will keep it for “the files.”

Ruth researched the original source of donation that started the long-growing CD savings account and found it was \$8525.05 from Beulah Smith. We will note her along with Ruth Denison as significant donors in the Book.

5) mbconservation.org / E-blasts – SK & LT

Laraine is working with Nora on some cleanup and simplifying content organization, and will be asking Cathy to research some email problems.

6) Nominations Committee – SK

Seth thinks being president could be a conflict of interest with his new job (working in the Park under a Great Basin Institute contract), since he is viewed as Park staff. Sarah has new family obligations and doesn't feel able to continue as President. After considerable additional discussion, Laraine offered to be secretary if Marina would become treasurer so Steve could be President. Maybe Seth could help with the Eblasts under Steve's signature (and maybe social media?). Seth could be a “Communications Director?”

7) Denison Scholarship

Laraine asked for assistance with the process starting early in the new year. Meg agreed to help.

Conservation Issues

1) Countywide Plan & Community Action Plans

- RECE 4.10: BOS action.

The action was tabled since Ramos was not present and it's mostly his district. Claudia has concerns about some of the variations in the “exhibits” about RECE that were presented in the Supervisors' agenda, especially about grandfathering projects. She emailed Karen Watkins who said there have been no applications since January so they are not denying any applications. But some will likely come in as they lengthen the process, so more than just RECE is on the line.

Pat suggested that the key concern is the need for a moratorium on accepting projects. The Zemanek & Mills lawsuit has asked for this. LUS manipulation seems likely. Claudia noted that the language offers applicants the chance to change or modify zoning (?). Shouldn't some of these changes related to RECE go to the Planning Commission first? Pat said they would have to be substantial changes. Claudia reiterated her concern that LUS puts all the background

documents into the agenda every time but they seem to change them – maybe there should be a Grand Jury investigation! They seem to be deliberately dragging out the process, which favors developers. Claudia also asked Karen about 4.10; there's a suggestion to the Supervisors to make changes that seems to imply moderation of language in what the PC put forward, "moderating the policy for RE in RL." SB County management and politics remains problematic and with Ramos leaving and Terri Rahhal seeming to run everything, the fight for the PC language recommendation for RECE 4.10 is critical.

- Draft EIR in November? For Countywide plan. Deadline?

2) Solar projects: Palen; Daggett; JT Airport - updates

Ord EIR deadline for comment Nov. 13/14. Pat is working on it with some help from Seth. It's a very poorly written EIR. LVEDA will probably sign on to our letter, which is the hardest one she's ever worked on.

Daggett EIR mid-December. Pat will be going to Newberry Springs to present to their Economic Development organization about Daggett. Community residents are getting engaged, here and in other County issues.

Palen has been approved.

JT Solar on "stay" status until July 2019, per David.

3) Eagle Crest / HR 5817 (Cook); PPA – DF Interior Board of Land Appeals – petition to stay & announcement to appeal late Oct. (30 days to appeal BLM).

David hasn't heard anything. He had the opportunity to ask Ruiz about Eagle Crest at the Feinstein Whitewater event and Ruiz has been lead to believe it's not a problem, supposedly from a conservation group (clearly not NPCA). We need to get him back on track – David has a staff member contact and will pursue it. Chris Clarke thinks there might be a lawsuit against the Right-of-Access Agreement.

4) The Wilderness Society comment letter / MBCA endorsed re. revisions to State Mining & Reclamation Act.

Pat has been on conference calls about this. A County employee has been wanting to lighten up regulations. The California Environmental Law Project on behalf of The Wilderness Society and others working on a management plan for Mojave Trails. Steve may have the letter and will get it to Laraine for the website.

5) YV rodeo grounds: contact with YV Town Manager – RR.

Ruth spoke to Curtis Yakimow and he said he will call Ruth if there are changes. The Rodeo committee needs to submit their request by December. The Town would only be a small donor.

6) JBWD reports glamping land use requests – ML.

JBWD Manager Curt Sauer brought up 4 projects that have come to him;

1. *Colorful community of green zone multi-story residences;*
2. *48 glamping Airstream trailers on 15 acres off Sunburst just west of the MBTA;*
3. *Out Sunfair is another proposed glamping proposal for 10 Connex boxes on a 2.15-acre parcel;*
4. *East of Joshua Tree Lake RV park is a 40-acre property for 40 glamping yurts.*

From KCDZ news report.

There have been similar concerning exploratory projects in a short time period, but no official requests for will-serve letters yet.

Pat has the application for #1 and it is NOT a good project!! Sarah will call Mark Lundquist to get more info. We hope they won't be approved but we need to keep an eye on them.

7) Paradise Valley - CS

Claudia and Seth were on a conference call about the Paradise Valley development south of the Park. Seth sent Chris Clarke's summary to the Board. Briefly, this group is trying to get a lot of organizations to write comments before November 28. This would be the first challenge to RivCo's Habitat Conservation Plan.

Outreach & Communication

1) Fire tax / FP 5 zone extension: approved by ~~voters~~ BOS.

2) Yucca Valley's State of the Town 2018: report

Laraine reported that Town Council members simply presented scripted videos; there was no new information nor any chance to ask questions. Cook's speech was more like a campaign speech.

3) Split Rock Landscape / Health Care District: MBCA participation – LT & ML –

On hold but we expect Joe Ruddon will get eventually get in touch when some action is needed.

4) Directors efforts to build "intentional" community partnerships: reports

Laraine suggested this project be on hold because of so many more pressing projects.

Director Comments:

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David learned from Steve Brown that Pat was interviewed while getting her hair cut at Joshua Tree's Beauty Bubble for Steve Brown's "Mojave Watch" website!

Meg asked Pat if we should do anything about the now Congressionally unfunded Land and Water Conservation Fund. There should a MBCA letter and individual letters and maybe a letter to Cook, as he may have supported it before.

Adjournment 6:57 PM.

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, Dec. 13, 2018 5:00 – 7:00 PM

YV Community Center / Mesquite Room
