

**MBCA Board Meeting APPROVED Minutes**  
**Thursday December 10, 2020 / 5:00 – 7:00 pm - Via Zoom**  
**Black Bold Italics = Board vote**    *Blue Italics = action commitment*

**Regular Meeting Call to Order: 5:05 PM**

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

Social media consultants:    ☒ Aimee Buyea    ☒ Stacy Doolittle

**Introduction of Guests and Board Directors**

Guests: Cathy Zarakov, Sara Lee, Ted Stimpfel

**Agenda approval**

***Agenda approved by consensus.***

**Minutes from November 12, 2020 BOD meeting**

***Steve moved to approve the November minutes. Ruth seconded, and all were in favor. (10-0)***

**Treasurer's Report**

Marina sent documents prior to the meeting. She is unable to attend today, but since we all received them, Meg suggested we accept the Treasurer's Report as emailed to us and all agreed. (CD is at \$22,757.72 and checking is \$50,056.71.) Steve mentioned donations from Neil Nadler and Chuck Bell, and thanked Pat for supporting Lucerne Valley, the triggering connection for these donations.

**Capacity Building & Organizational Issues**

1) Nominations Committee - All

Steve expressed our enthusiastic thanks to Marina as she retires from the Board and as Treasurer (and Secretary earlier). We are grateful for her contributions to the success of MBCA. She will assist the next Treasurer as needed in the transition.

*Nomination of Cathy Zarakov to Board of Directors*

We are grateful to Cathy for past service as Volunteer Coordinator and she has agreed to become a Board member. ***Steve moved to approve Cathy Zarakov as a Board member. ; the vote in favor was unanimous. (10-0)*** Cathy said she is honored to be asked and looks forward to working with us. She has great respect for what MBCA has done.

***Steve moved to nominate Cathy as Treasurer and to authorize Cathy Zarakov to become a signator on all banking accounts and ancillary services at US Bank, including but not limited to checking, savings, and banking cards. Arch seconded and all were in favor. (10-0)***

2) 50th book: - Distribution list, mailing of book – LT

Sarah and Laraine will send 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary books to Demi Espinoza, Columba Quintero, Ted Stimpfel, and Neil Nadler, and other donors/new members as they come in.

### 3) mbconservation.org /

Social Media update– Stacy and Aimee

Aimee said she was inspired by Hanna Bacon's walking fundraiser for the Sunrise Movement and will be sharing that online tomorrow. She's also done some event cross-promotion. Contacts are increasing on Instagram including some good response from photos of Aimee's hikes. We continue to get a local and younger audience on Instagram.

Stacy reported that while we've done no boosting, our FB page was visited 75 times last month; we have 1300 page likes; and 430 people saw our posts last month. We've mostly been sharing others' posts. There were no clicks to our website from FB. Stacy wants to develop an expansion plan for 2021 with more alignment between FB and the website, promoting more actions. *Laraine will work with Stacy.*

Website appearance – LT, SK

Laraine reported that Nora is working on this and is looking into some problem areas with Nationbuilder.

Comment letter history – LT, ML, SK

Nothing new.

### 4) Events Committee reports:

DWL Committee –2020 virtual landscape film –SB

Steve received word from Heather Sommerfield, our Tour videos cinematographer/director, that she's planning to start stitching the videos together into a movie next week. We need to start getting another 6 sites for 2021. Steve said the Wolds are interested, Arch has a suggestion, and Stacy suggests Carl Schoeneman. Bob and Michael at the end of Gamma Gulch are another possibility. Sarah and Ruth will set up a committee meeting to collect and review nominations.

2021 Annual Meeting - LT, SB, RR

It will be a virtual meeting. Steve likes the idea of small-scale interactions with members via Zoom to have a 2-way conversation in small groups. Laraine suggests we do multiple single-topic or speaker events; we'll get more contacts than one multiple-topic virtual event. Ruth suggests a presentation by the recent JTHAR resident artist David Hamlow, whose project focused on recycled desert detritus and ideas about the materials we use and throw away. Ruth suggests Board members check out his video to see if we agree it's appropriate. <https://youtu.be/1Kuttzd6H5M>. Steve reported that Annemarie Eldering of JPL is willing to make a climate change presentation. Laraine suggested spreading out the 3 possible virtual events, maybe Annemarie at the Annual Meeting, then David and the small-scale discussions following.

## **Conservation Issues**

### 1) JT listing as candidacy as threatened– SB, PF, LT

Some of us participated in today's Fish & Game Commission hearing. David reported that he spoke about Yucca Valley's request for 100 "take" trees for their sewer installation under the temporary 2084 rule, saying the sewer authority was pushing them. The County and Palmdale want 450 each. It costs half as much to relocate rather than for mitigation, depending on tree size. An "emergency" take for 1000 was asked and the 3 commissioners present unanimously adopted the take proposal, even though they're not really emergencies. David believes several dozen trees have been destroyed in Yucca Valley since the original ruling. These regulations apply only during the year of candidacy. If threatened status is granted, there will be a new regulatory review. Local regulations or ordinances in

jurisdictions involved (YV, SB County, Palmdale) will have to be passed. Brendan Cummings of CBD shares local concerns but says there had to be compromise. The Commission didn't want to derail the projects which are supposedly shovel ready. The 2084 allowances are a shortcut but not a complete free ride because there are substantial mitigation costs. He thinks most projects will be sited away from JT woodlands due to cost.

#### 2) Utility scale solar – Stagecoach

MBCA sent its own letter and signed onto a group letter about this 3000-acre solar development in Lucerne Valley. We'll respond to the EIR next year. Supervisors Rowe and Lovingood (his term is ending now) wrote (surprisingly) a letter of opposition to the Project. Sarah noted that the project covers both sides of parts of the proposed Scenic Highway.

#### 3) Air Quality Monitoring: Location of Purple Air units – SK, AM

Sarah continues to try connecting with JBWD, especially with Stacy now on the Board and will keep Stacy in the loop. Arch will help Laraine install her monitor.

#### 4) Dark Sky ordinance – update –SB

Dawn Rowe told Pat, Janet and Steve at their meeting that the new ordinance would be presented early next year; she seems committed to it. Steve will get in touch with LUS to make sure they have the most recent draft; he feels optimistic about its adoption in 2021.

#### 5) Invasive plant – stinknet - AM

Arch sent us a [summary document](#). It's a southern Africa native in the daisy family that likes our climate. There are some possible allergic reactions. It has been found in various locations in the Morongo Basin via iNaturalist. Control is mainly by pulling it, but that's not enough once it has been established. The Orange County California Native Plant Society group has created a booklet on plants that are emergent threats with pictures and a number to call. Word is getting out. *Laraine will work with Arch to develop a story for the website and social media.*

#### 6) San Bernardino County RCIS - PF, SB

Pat and Steve attended the Environmental Element Group which is restarting a Resource Conservation Investment Strategy for SB County. A Natural Communities Conservation Plan would be helpful for development designations and would be better than the voluntary RCIS which has no ordinances associated with it. At this event, the moderator was not supportive of the NCCP. Pat reported that SB County and BLM had in the past tried to get an NCCP together related to OHV use but it was never completed. She's not optimistic, but at least the RCIS would provide some data. Good data is needed to support an eventual argument for a NCCP. The current process is statewide and just beginning.

#### 7) SB County Development Code revision – adopt Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance. SB

The Development Code will need to be revised to be in compliance with the state's model water efficient landscape ordinance. Steve talked with Deb Bollinger and learned that they amend this ordinance every 5 years. It has many benefits but especially will reduce lawns.

### **Outreach & Communications**

1) Countywide Plan/Community Action Guides-Meeting w/Dawn Rowe Re-Cap - SB, JJ, PF Janet noted that Supervisor Rowe's Aide, Claire Cozad, was positive and helpful. Sup. Rowe was mostly receptive about Community Plans rather than CAGs but there doesn't seem to be much political chance.

Janet got a call about STRs in MV. Private roads are requiring upkeep by residents so residents are supporting STRs. The STR ordinance didn't have CEQA review and should have; it wasn't then and isn't now consistent with the General Plan. Janet noted the housing element is regulated by the state separately, is stricter, and is coming up for review in 2021. The local problem of finding reasonable rentals is related to the loss of community plans and poor STR regulations. Pat and Janet will be writing up a summary of the problems and will submit it through the MAC, depending on MAC appointments (probably not until February). Sara Lee may have some suggestions from a political viewpoint. She would like to get more information from Janet and advises we should find ways to convince the Supervisors why they should care about this. It might make sense to new Supervisors Joe Baca and maybe Paul Cook. *Janet & Pat will work on developing a 3-page synopsis.*

2) milesforclimate.org; Hannah Bacon

David received a call from Hannah last week via our website as she looked for local conservation organizations and he forwarded her information to Steve. She was featured in the [local newspapers](#) last week. Steve had an inspiring talk with her and helped her connect with others. She started walking in San Clemente to head across the country and is raising funds for the [Sunrise Movement](#). It is a grassroots organization, not a 501c3, but they're connected with incoming President Biden. **Steve moved that MBCA donate \$100 to the Sunrise Movement. Pat seconded and all were in favor. (10-0)**

3) Welcome new superintendent Mojave Trails National Monument – Noelle Glines-Bovio  
Pat reported that Noelle replaces Kyle Sullivan. We'll send her a welcome note from MBCA.

4) UCR climate change activist – LT

Laraine described the UCR Climate Change Stewards program that she is just finishing. Its goal is to educate and inspire people to locally spearhead efforts to help their communities become more resilient to climate change, engaging a wide variety of people and especially those most vulnerable. She will bring more information to future meetings.

Laraine addressed the topic of Board Terms per our Annual Board Action calendar. Ruth, Meg and Mike are in the last year of their 3-year term so we need their agreement to start a new term. Ruth said yes. Laraine will check with Mike. Meg was hesitant but we encouraged her to continue, as we especially value (among many other things) the wisdom her ED experience has provided for us related to non-profit regulations. She added that even if she's not on the Board she would help in another capacity.

**Meeting adjourned at 7 PM.**

**Letters signed onto:**

MBCA letter re: [Stagecoach Solar](#), sign-on to Stagecoach [coalition letter](#)

<b>Next Regular Meeting:</b> Thursday, January 14, 2021 5:00 – 7:00 PM ZOOM <b>stay tuned!</b>
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