MBCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES *Thursday, June 9, 2016*5:00 – 7:00 PM, Yucca Valley Community Center

Regular Meeting Call to	Order: 5:03pm
X Steve Bardwell	_X_ Ruth Rieman
7.6 5 1.1 51.1	V 01 11 0 11

X David Fick _X_ Claudia Sall (5:09pm)

X Pat Flanagan X Seth Shteir (6:00pm)

_____Meg Foley (prior notice) _____X_ Laraine Turk

X Sarah Kennington X Marina West

Introduction of Guests, Board Directors, and Advisory Members

Almut Fleck - BOA

Agenda Input and Approval

MSC: LT/RR unanimous

Approval of Minutes from May 12, 2016

MSC: PF/RR unanimous

Treasurer's Report - Steve

SB reported the total bank balance on May 31, 2016 of \$50,125.21. Further reported on membership and other revenue received in May. SB reviewed the May expenses.

Unanimous consensus to accept the Treasurers report.

Reorganization of Meeting Agenda

CS reported that she would like to see the agenda reorganize the Agenda with business issues first and conservation issues later with categories of new and old business. She feels we have been spending too much time on conservation issues and not enough on business. LT suggests that if we don't talk about the issues that keep us in existence then that is problematic as well. Perhaps we can categorize based on what takes "action" and what is more informational. SK noted that we could consolidate some discussion categories but in reality it hasn't caused us to run over on time. Another idea is to put discussion time limits on items at the time the agenda is developed.

MBCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES Thursday, June 9, 2016

5:00 - 7:00 PM, Yucca Valley Community Center

SK concludes that there will be a "business" section and a "conservation" section with the upfront business of Treasurer and Minutes and end section of announcements/events.

NEW Business/Issues/Possible Action

Capacity Building & Organizational Issues

1) Finance Committee report

MW reviewed the budget with the Board. Several questions and comments were received. One concern is with the Mojave Water Agency/Association (MWA)

2) MBCA support letters: authorizing sub-committee approval to expedite time sensitive and otherwise not controversial positions – SK, PF

SK and PF propose that a committee of three (3) members of the Board approve non-controversial support letters written in between meetings with deadlines. The sub-committee would be PF, SK and SB. CS commented that letters should align with the MBCA Mission.

JTNP will apply to be a "dark sky park" though the International Dark Sky Association. PF wrote a letter dated June 5. 2016.

Juniper Canyon Acquisition Project MBCA letter of support was written by PF and will be forwarded to the appropriate party.

All were in favor of the actions taken.

Outreach / Communication

1) Rose Foundation National Parks Centennial Celebration grant application submitted for tribal gathering; \$5,000 requested - PF

Grant application for a "tribal gathering at the Oasis of Mara related to JTNP Centennial Celebration" was submitted May 31, 2016.

Conservation Issues

1) Camp Rock Road solar project proposed, Lucerne Valley - SK

The Initial Study has been released for this project. The information was forwarded to SK by Betty Munson thru the Johnson Valley Improvement Association (JVIA) newsletter. The comment period may have closed by now or may be in June but the Planning Commission will accept comments into the record up until the close of the Public Hearing.

MBCA Final Minutes 06 09 2016 Page 2 of 6

MBCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES *Thursday, June 9, 2016*5:00 – 7:00 PM, Yucca Valley Community Center

RR noted that Mr. Malone from Lucerne Valley is willing to present his overview of the effects of the existing solar fields in LV. Idea is to hold the meeting at the boardroom of Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency in Landers and have it separate from a regular MBCA meeting date.

SK reviewed some of the comments submitted by Betty.

2) Cadiz: Cadiz Inc.'s attempt to add riders to 2017 House Interior Appropriations bill to circumvent need to conduct an EIS for use of BLM RR ROW – SS

SS drafted a letter from numerous parties, including MBCA, and the letter will be forwarded House Interior Appropriations Committee.

3) JTNP/Dark Sky Park: MBCA endorsement to International Dark Sky Assoc.— PF

PF drafted a letter and forwarded to the appropriate party.

OLD Business/Issues/Possible Action

Conservation Issues & Updates

1) JT Airport solar project

DF believes that the appeal will be heard on August 9, 2016. JT Community for Responsible Solar and the Coalition for Responsible Solar (group from San Francisco). The third appellant is still somewhat unknown. SF further reported that the land options may end in August.

2) Alta Mira Housing project

DF believes that the appeal will be heard no sooner than September 13, 2016.

3) Eagle Mt. Boundary Study: comment letter - SS

SS reported that the comment period is closed and that Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) will support the preferred alternative – Alternative C.

4) BLM requests 4-year extension to respond to WEMO - PF, SK

SK reported that a 4-year extension in the response period has been requested as a result of the inability of BLM to meet the current deadline to complete the study.

MBCA Final Minutes 06 09 2016 Page 3 of 6

MBCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES *Thursday, June 9, 2016*5:00 – 7:00 PM, Yucca Valley Community Center

PF reported that in the interim there will be "street legal roads" in only Community Service Areas which is going to be problematic in that off road vehicles would be funneled into non-CSA community areas. More updates to follow as this issue progresses.

5) OHV: COW met w/ Code Enforcement & MB OHV sheriff to review issues - PF, SK

PF reported on Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) abuse in Morongo Valley and she will be making comments on this issue at the June 13, 2016 Municipal Advisory Council meeting. A resident from Morongo Valley will also be present to describe her encounters with illegal OHV.

PF also reported on a meeting with CoSB Chief of Code Enforcement and the new Morongo Basin OHV Detectives. The Chief of Code Enforcement meeting was positive and hopes that there will be more action on this issue. She learned that the Sheriff's staff is understaffed.

6) Desert Monuments' management preliminary plans meeting - MF, SK

SK reported on the meeting which was primarily introductory. CS indicated some key players were not present. CS further stated that the Buttes need to be merged with the Sand-to-Snow and then managed by BLM Palm Springs which is more engaged than BLM.

7) Soda Mtns - update

PF reported that in July the Board of Supervisors will have the public hearing on the CEQA and water supply permit. It was further reported that the Supervisors may not really like the project and would be receptive to letters of concern. PF will follow-up with a draft letter.

Capacity Building & Organizational Issues

1) DWL Landscape Tour Committee: report 2016 - CS, RR, LT

CS requested that her update be postponed until the next meeting. LT summarized the receipts and that essay awards have been distributed.

2) SPARC Forum: MBCA pilot project grant - RE, MW, CS

As a follow-up to last month's update regarding the purpose of this exercise which is to respond to a request from the CoSB consultants to submit projects to SPARC that could be funded thru California Energy Commission. RR distributed a Strawman of potential pilot projects and intends to contact Peter Brooks for some input.

MBCA Final Minutes 06 09 2016 Page 4 of 6

MBCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES *Thursday, June 9, 2016*5:00 – 7:00 PM, Yucca Valley Community Center

3) MBCA's celebratory luncheon for Emeritus Director Esther Herbert

LT distributed a summary of the "historical events" presentation given during the luncheon.

4) MBCA Advisors Board - SK

SK reported that Curt Duffy is moving to LA and has resigned from the Board of Advisors. SK will follow-up with a letter to all BOA's asking if they desire to continue or not. If not, she will follow-up with a Thank You letter. Following this action, a date for the BOA's meeting will be determined.

Outreach / Communication

1) mbconservation.org report - LT

LT distributed a summary on "How does MBCA use NationBuilder"? She further reviewed the activities that take place in maintaining the site on a daily/monthly basis (lots of routine activities). For instance, archiving the E-blasts on the website, local events calendar, E-blast distribution, etc.

Due to the volume of the "routine" activities workload, LT distributed a proposal for a "Web Team" which includes adding up to three (3) new people to the web team to assist in maintaining our content, maintain a social media presence and possibly another person to provide content overview and advice.

CS stated that she met a person who has good background in website design/ management and social media. This would be a paid resource and she is thinking of contracting her for the next DWL-S event.

RR reminded that the "content" is the hardest part of the press release so this person would only be useful in message distribution through social media channels.

SK suggests that this person provide a presentation to the MBCA on how she could serve us.

Consensus was to have the DWL-S Committee discuss the social media concept further.

LT completed her report by reviewing some of the comment letters/emails that have come back to MBCA thanking us for the E-blast information and that statistics show that those who open and even "click" within an E-blast is greater than average.

MBCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES *Thursday, June 9, 2016*5:00 – 7:00 PM, Yucca Valley Community Center

2) Ruth Dennison scholarship: announcement & publicity for fall - SK

SK noted that it was the Board's intent to advertise this scholarship this fall. LT has forwarded the application draft to MW and expect to see at next meeting for review and approval.

Community Reports & Events

1) Science Campus report – SS, SB

SB had no new information on the status.

- 2) Salton Sea Action Committee's Ex-Officio & Stakeholders Meeting Thurs., June 9th, 9:15AM, Medjool Room, Spotlight 29 Casino, Coachella, CA. RSVP to TreasurerSSAC@gmail.com.
- 3) 100th Birthday for Susan Luckie Reilly at 3pm, Wednesday June 22nd at the Oasis Visitors Center.

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, July 14th, 5:00 PM / YV Community Center



June 09, 2016

Assets –	Total	Checking CD	\$28,744.63 \$21,380.58 \$50,125.21
Deposits:	Total	memberships DWL 2016 tour tickets Interest checking	\$25.00 \$205.00 <u>\$1.38</u> \$231.38
Expenditures		Quickbooks Nationbuilder US Liability Insurance Pat Flanagan (ELA hotel, copies JT solar) Cindy Zacks (Julia Martinez) Claudia Sall (DWL expenses) Coleen Anderson (catering Esther Herbert) Unique Nursery (essay contest) Cactus Mart (essay contest) Steve Bardwell (reimburse express mail re: JT solar) David S Miller (DWL tour book design) PayPal fees	\$12.95 \$49.00 \$11.00 \$204.70 \$200.00 \$98.32 \$250.00 \$100.00 \$75.00 \$69.32 \$1128.75 \$1.03
	Total		\$2,200.07

MBCA Web Team Proposal

Draft for Discussion at June 9, 2016 Directors Meeting

Maintain current responsibilities:

- Nora continues as Technical Advisor.
- Cathy continues as Membership and Volunteer Coordinator and Eblast-sender.
- Steve continues to manage the Finances function in concert with his role as Treasurer.
- Laraine continues to create and manage web content, work on additions and improvements, and act as Team Chair.

Proposed changes:

- 1) Add a new person who volunteers to learn and complete these ongoing website functions (would take between 5-10 hours a month after training):
 - i) Add each new Eblast to the "MBCA News Archive."
 - ii) Update Home page as needed when:
 - (a) There is a new Eblast to be linked as the "Latest Eblast";
 - (b) There are new events to be added to the Local Events calendar;
 - (c) The month changes and a new message should be added; and
 - (d) When the next Board meeting date needs to be changed.
 - iii) Check for inadvertent "Prospect" additions that need to be deleted by performing the "delete contacts added" process.
- 2) Add a Social Media Specialist who would make weekly or biweekly posts on Facebook and perhaps on other social media they must be willing to monitor comments and work with a Board member or officer on appropriate content.
- 3) Add an additional person who is reasonably internet-savvy (could be an Advisor or just an active Member) to be part of the team as a "member representative," for feedback from a website user. Maybe they could learn some administrative functions, but they would be more of a sounding board/advisor.



morongo basin conservation association

P.O. Box 24, Joshua Tree, California 92252 http://www.mbconservation.org

May 31, 2016

Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment 1970 Broadway Suite 600

Oakland, CA 94612-2218 Submitted by email to http://www.calwildlands@rosefdn.org

Subject: The California Wildlands Grassroots Fund National Parks Centennial Celebration Grant

Applicant: Morongo Basin Conservation Association a 501 (c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation

Tax Identification No. 952625065

Primary contact: Bat Flanagan, Board Member MBCA, patflanagan 29@gmail.com

Primary contact: Pat Flanagan, Board Member MBCA, <u>patflanagan29@gmail.com</u>, P.O. Box 24, Joshua Tree, CA 92252, 760-362-4156, no Fax

Project Name

Indigenous Space, Place, and Presence: Tribal Relationships to Joshua Tree National Park and the Oasis of Mara

Project Summary

The Oasis of Mara, today the location of the Joshua Tree National Park Oasis Visitor Center and the 29 Palms Inn, is considered a sacred site, part of the creation space known to Serrano, Chemehuevi, and other Native Americans, and a village site for thousands of years. The Oasis served as a place of sustenance for indigenous travelers from the Southwest and Great Basin to the Pacific Coast. Just over 100 years ago the remaining Native Americans were forced to leave the Oasis. It is fitting, during the National Parks Centennial Celebration that their descendants return to celebrate their resilience and speak to all, indigenous and non-indigenous peoples alike, of the continuing importance of this place and its sacredness for all living humans, plants, and animals.

Amount requested is \$5,000.00

The Morongo Basin Conservation Association is a 501 (c)(3), community-based, California Nonprofit Corporation, incorporated in 1969. MBCA advocates for a healthy desert environment that nurtures our rural character, cultural wealth and economic well-being.

The amount received from the National Parks Centennial Celebration Program will be used to offset costs including the speakers' honorarium and travel expense, the commemorative program, and Youth and the Arts activities.

Date of the Event

November 12 - 13, 2016

Location

<u>Gathering of Tribes</u> events are to be held in the Oasis of Mara at the 29 Palms Inn and the Joshua Tree National Park Oasis Visitor Center. See appended map.

<u>A Conference</u> will be held at the Twentynine Palms Community Center.

Event Description

This event will gather members of 15 federally recognized tribes and native communities to celebrate their intimate connection with the Oasis of Mara, gateway to 1,200 square miles of Park lands and their ancestral heritage. At the west end of the Oasis is the Indian Cemetery, a place for remembrance and singing of the Salt Songs. The life-saving waters of the Oasis pond and the garden, cultivated for thousands of years by the Serrano and later the Chemehuevi, border the central area where singing, storytelling and dancing will bring tribal histories into the present. The conference will have invited speakers who will highlight issues of importance to the tribes, the National Park, county and local governments, and visitors. A Saturday night banquet will allow the attendees time for relaxation and socializing.

Goals and Benefits of the Event

Background

All too often Native American communities are conceptualized as static representations of the past. Euro-American points of view tend to stereotype Native Americans as remnants of a forgotten time, clinging to archaic traditions, and somehow disjointed from the modern world. We frame our understanding of Native American cultures as something that happened long ago, with the significance of place and their relationship with them rooted in the past. Nothing could be further from the truth. The relationships Native American communities have with significant places have changed over time, responding and evolving as meaning is renegotiated in an ever changing world. While Native American communities do work tirelessly to pass on their cultural traditions to younger generations, they, like the rest of us, are in a constant state of cultural change, continually negotiating and renegotiating their cultural identities and relationships with each other and the natural and spiritual worlds. The Oasis of Mara does have tremendous historical significance and deep meaning in the cultural traditions of Serrano and Chemehuevi people. However, the ultimate goal of this event is not to look for meaning from hundreds of years ago, but to find meaning today. Undoubtedly, for Serrano and Chemehuevi

people present day meaning is partially drawn from the historical significance of the Oasis, but more important to this event is the significance of the Oasis today.

- # 1: This event will facilitate the renegotiation of the cultural meaning and significance of the Oasis of Mara in terms of the relationships that exist between indigenous peoples and the natural and spiritual worlds today, relationships that continue from the past to this day.
- # 2: This Centennial celebration will generate new and lasting relationships between the tribes, the National Park, county and city governments, community members, and the Old School House Historical Museums, and The 29 Palms Marine Base for greater cooperation and partnerships.
- # 3: This celebratory event will bring together the tribes, the community, park staff and government representatives in a weekend of learning, conversation, songs, storytelling, food, and fun.

Anticipated Activities

In addition to the already discussed conference and banquet there will be opportunities for singing of Salt Songs, Bird Songs, and other traditional songs of the region on the central lawn (see appended photograph), at the Indian Cemetery, and opening and closing of events. Matthew Leivas, Sr. Chemehuevi elder, will share his special knowledge of the garden and its history. Attendees will be able to view Native American material items found at the Oasis and in the surroundings area and archived at the Park Visitor Center. In addition, the 29 Palms Historical Society Historical has census reports, which include many of today's families, from the early 1900s and other materials to share. During the day there will be art activities for youth and with the rising of the near full moon the local video astronomers will bring out their telescopes and the storytellers, their stories. The events will be captured by video and still camera. A commemorative volume with speaker abstracts and people/event photographs will be published and distributed following the event. A YouTube/DVD of the event will become available.

Partnerships and Collaborators

The following list includes those with a commitment to realizing the goals of this event and with the capacity to provide support for its success. The list will increase as planning progresses.

Hosts of the event:

Joshua Tree National Park, 29 Palms Inn, City of Twentynine Palms Funders and advisors:

University of California Riverside including the Native American Students Program and the Rupert Costo Foundation, Native American Land Conservancy

29 Palms Band of Mission Indians, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Tortoise Rock Casino, Native American Land Conservancy, Cahuilla band of Mission Indians, and Chemehuevi Indian Tribe (partial list)

Organizational supporters:

Morongo Basin Conservation Association, 29 Palms Historical Society and Old School House Museum, 29 Palms Art gallery, Southern California Desert Video Astronomers, Copper Mountain College, 29 Palms Chamber of Commerce, 29 Palms Marine Base, local media, and publications such as News from Native California, Indian Country Today, and Native News.

Businesses:

Local lodging and supermarkets

Planning Committee members

- Dr. Jason Theuer, Cultural Resources Chief, JTNP
- Paul Smith, Owner, 29 Palms Inn
- Dr. Cliff Trafzer, Distinguished Professor and Costo Chair, Univ. of Calif., Riverside
- Anthony Madrigal Jr., 29 Palms Band of Mission Indians
- Luke Madrigal, Jr., Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians
- Matthew Leivas Sr., Chemehuevi Tribe, San Bernardino County
- Ernest Siva, Morongo Band of Mission Indian
- Pat Flanagan, MBCA

Expense Categories as of Application Date

item liberation literation	Numbers	Cost	In-Kind
Travel and lodging for tribal guests	50 guests @ \$100 each	\$5,000	My by Lud
Speaker Honorariums	10 @\$100 each	\$1,000	is Unit
Food Banquet	50 guests	\$2,100	of the
Saturday Morning	50 guests	\$ 748	ha dallan
Sunday Morning	50 guests	\$ 748	-94 Ab
Saturday Lunch	50 guests	\$1,500	will man
Sunday Lunch	50 guests	\$1,500	
Commemorative Programs* printing	3 3900 marth 5 m / 900 5	\$1,200)pulateura i
Video of Event*	(S) III KOSI BESI III IIVI	unknown	Carlo Balo
Youth and Art activities	15 youth	\$ 450	STILLS 21
29 Palms Inn site rental	art. 29 Patins Inc., Citi of To	Titerrollad e	\$4,100
29 Palms Community Center rental etc.	6	32102170	\$ 327

^{*}Student productions: University of Riverside Native American Students Program and/or Copper Mountain College Photography Department students

Fund Raising Plan as of Application Date

Funder	Amount	Received
Rose Foundation Centennial Grant	\$5,000	
Rupert Costo Foundation	\$2,000	\$2,000
Tribal Contributions	Unknown	
29 Palms Inn (Celebrations site)		\$4,100
Twentynine Palms Community Center (Conference site)		\$ 327
Contributions from local merchants including food & lodging	Unknown	

We anticipate that by subsidizing travel, lodging, and food that the attendance could exceed 100 tribal members. As we do our outreach to the tribes we will get a better estimate on this and also for how much tribal governments are able to contribute toward the event. Non-tribal attendees will be asked for a donation toward the event expenses.

Outcomes:

The goals and outcomes are listed above on pages 2-3. The events will be open to local residents but not advertised widely because of space limitations. Coverage by local media and articles submitted to publications such as News from Native California, Indian Country Today, and Native News will bring wider awareness of the event and its significance.

Other local events that include the Centennial Celebration

Both the City of Twentynine Palms Pioneer Days (October 21-23) and the Joshua Tree National Park Council for the Arts International Exhibit (September 17-18) are yearly events taking special notice this year of the Park Centennial.

Joshua Tree National Park is applying to the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) to become a Certified IDA International Dark Sky Park. The application is anticipated to be approved during this centennial year. Dark and starry skies are not only an important wilderness resource they are a positive draw for tourists and a quality-of-life value for desert residents. This international designation will be celebrated during the Saturday night program.

Thank you for bringing this opportunity to apply for the one-time grass-roots Centennial Funding to our attention. The event described, as part of our local Centennial Celebrations, was in discussion among park staff, the 29 Palms Inn, the City of Twentynine Palms, Dr. Clifford Trafzer and our board member Pat Flanagan when your announcement pushed us into higher gear. Please contact Pat if you need additional information on the categories in the application.

Sincerely,

parch J. Kennington

Sarah Kennington, Board President, MBCA

The Oasis of Mara - The City of Twentynine Palms 1. National Park Drive leading to the **Oasis Visitor Center** and the 29 Palms Inn 2. Old Schoolhouse Museum 3. Joshua Tree NP-**Oasis Visitor Center** 4. 29 Palms Inn 5. The Oasis of Mara 6. 29 Palms Creative Center 29 Palms Band of Mission Indians 7. Indian Cemetery Reservation Tortoise Rock Casino 3/4 mile north, facing the Oasis of Mare. The post of 1,965/07 at 1967/07

Figure 1 Location Map - Oasis of Mara, Oasis Visitor Center, 29 Palms Inn



Figure 2 29 Palms Inn lawn – Gathering site – Oasis palms and pond are in background



morongo basin conservation association

P.O. Box 24, Joshua Tree, California 92252 http://www.mbconservation.org/

June 5, 2016

Board of Directors International Dark Sky Association 3223 North First Avenue Tucson, AZ 85719-2103

IDA Board of Directors,

The Board of the MBCA and its members are proud to support Joshua Tree National Park's application to become a Dark Sky Park. Park visitors will exceed two million in 2016 and we know from visitor surveys that over 65% travel away from the bright lights of their home cities to experience the phenomena of darkness. The Park staff are diligent in their efforts to insure that IDA standards are met and that visitors have opportunities to stare in awe at the Milky Way arching across the heavens and track the rising of the planets and constellations. For every camper the entry fee includes the hours to sit under the star studded heavens while bathed in the utter stillness of the desert night.

Those of us who live here do not take the dark sky as a given; we know we must work to keep our communities' lights dim and pointing down. Partnering with the Park and our local Sky's The Limit Observatory and Southern California Video Astronomers we get out into the county and communities to help craft dark sky friendly lighting ordinances and practices. The Park's designation as a Dark Sky Park will bring pride to our gateway communities, and importantly, encourage residents and businesses to be aware of their lighting choices and make changes as needed.

We add our voice to those requesting that the Board of Directors at IDA accept Joshua Tree National Park's request and approve their application for status as a Dark Sky Park.

Sincerely,

Sarah Kennington, President MBCA

parch J. Kennington

The Morongo Basin Conservation Association is a 501 (c)(3), community-based, California Nonprofit Corporation, incorporated in 1969. MBCA advocates for a healthy desert environment that nurtures our rural character, cultural wealth and economic well-being.



a object in example of the contract of the con

"O. No. 15. John Stag Salitation of Market of Stage (see 1)

BIDS Even

Board of Directors.

White a dopted Director security of Azia Second of Azia Second of Azia Second of Seco

and bearing to be the colorest

The aband of the fiveLA and as murror some proof in sopport order. The Moreover, and a problem of the appropriate side of the contract will be sed two miles of a first bornes, as the contract of the contrac

Theore of or wheeligh fore on quitary, the or selected prenty well object only a to been and an experimental of the continuous of the cont

We add the votes to hippe explanibly that the deard of the expense is it is prespectively and was a well-man black to the standard of the black to the standard of the standar

sien sand

Acres March

ADAY Sending in Brender 1980A

and Macaden a chiefe see white a cocidinate of the taking common action is the common section. The parties of Expensive monetal management of the section of the common section of the common of the common section of the common sections of the common sections.



morongo basin conservation association

P.O. Box 24, Joshua Tree, California 92252 http://www.mbconservation.org

June 10, 2016

California Natural Resources Agency Attn: EEM Program Coordinator 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Juniper Canyon Acquisition Project

Dear EEM Program Coordinator,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the Mojave Desert Land Trust's (MDLT) application to California Natural Resources Agency's Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) Program for funding the Juniper Canyon Acquisition Project.

The Juniper Canyon project, which borders Joshua Tree National Park in San Bernardino County, will protect in perpetuity 630 acres of an outstanding biological resource and help protect the training mission of the 29-Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center ("MCAGCC"). This land contains habitat and high habitat connectivity value for the federal and state-threatened desert tortoise and other special status animals, and it contains a number of plant species protected by pertinent county and/or state ordinances. It also has been identified by MCAGCC as a high conservation priority to secure the main helicopter flight path from Camp Pendleton into MCAGCC. Highlighted within the draft Morongo Basin Conservation Priorities Report from 2012, the Juniper Canyon property is of high priority for conservation for multiple purposes. Its protection will secure an existing wildlife corridor between Joshua Tree National Park and MCAGCC. Please see appended Conservation Values Map for southern half of property. The northern half is identical.

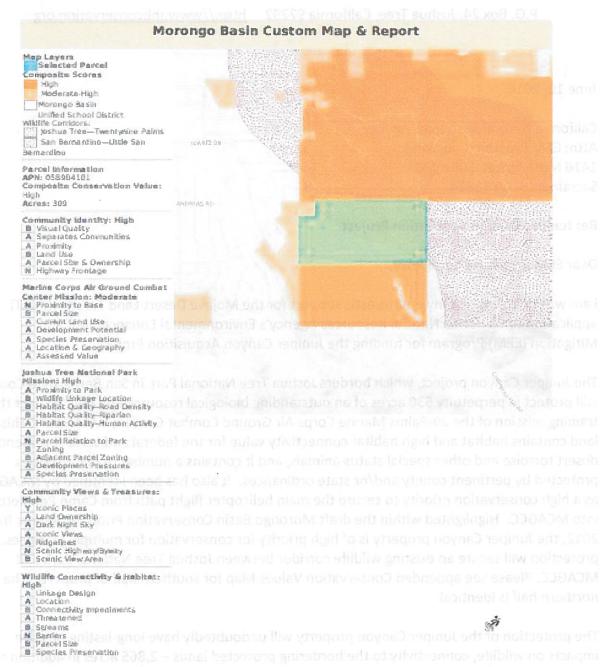
The protection of the Juniper Canyon property will undoubtedly have long-lasting positive impacts on wildlife, connectivity to the bordering protected lands – 2,865 acres in addition to Joshua Tree National Park, including lands owned by both the Bureau of Land Management and newly protected MDLT lands – and on park-goers and nearby communities. With continued pressure of development coming from areas nearby to the Juniper Canyon property, the

opportunity to purchase and protect this land and its significant resources is one that should be capitalized on. I strongly support MDLT's application for these funds.

Sincerely,

parch J. Kernington

President, MBCA



The Morongo Basin Conservation Values mapping program is a product of the Morongo Basin Conservation Priorities Report: A strategy for preserving conservation values. 2012

Notes for Presentation at Esther Herbert's, June 1, 2016

These notes are based on scanning MBCA Meeting Minutes from the 1970's into the early 2000s. Almost all minutes were hand-written until 2005, so I know I may have missed some important things by skimming the handwriting.

1990s

Esther's first meeting (based on sign-in) was more than 25 years ago, on January 26, 1991, the combined annual and monthly meeting.

At this time the officers were:
Andy Anderson, President
Hermione Baker, 1st VP
Arlene Lucas, Financial Secretary
June Hill, Treasurer

Topics included a letter from BLM in response to Hermione Baker's letter that the 1991 Barstow-to-Vegas Motorcycle Race application had been denied.

Another issue was about a solicitation from Sierra Club to join. Dues would be \$15. Summary notes on this topic: "Many clubs also want us to join. Susan reminded us that we don't always agree with many of these clubs, so we should remain neutral and not join any of them. There was no objection to this stand."

Susan Reilly encouraged members to attend the 29 Palms Water District Workshop.

Ray Kirkham reported that he attended the Supervisors' meeting and handed each of them the booklet "Waste Management, Inc. – A Corporate Profile," and made a public comment.

Susan announced she was approved to continue on the Air Pollution Control District Advisory Council.

At Esther's second meeting, on March 19, 1991, topics included:

The Desert Protection Act, Californians Against Waste, support for the Native Forest Protection Act, possible new air pollution regulations, encouragement of solar energy, and continued objection to "Off Road Races." Also:

"Susan reported that the Rand Corporation has a "think tank" in Santa Monica, Ca, and that could bring about a Better Energy Policy.' She suggested that the A.W. (?) Hood Estate in the Dale Basin – east on Hwy 62 – would be an ideal place for a <u>desert</u> solar think tank."

Al Monet was welcomed as a new Board member, and Esther was appointed to be Recording Secretary at the next meeting, April 16. Thanks were expressed to June Hill, who resigned from the position.

<u>Esther's third meeting and first as Recording Secretary</u> was April 16, 1991, and the topics were: Desert Protection Act support, upcoming County Pollution Control District public meeting, new laws for gas station vapor recovery, opposition to the proposed Rail Cycle plant at Amboy.

A few other notes of interest over the ensuing years, while Esther continued as Recording Secretary:

- <u>Chris Carraher's</u> first meeting October 12, 1994. Topics included the Broadwell (?) lawsuit. and continued opposition to the BOLO Rail Cycle project.
- On November 9, 1994, the Board voted to change the number of Directors from 18 to 12. (!!)
- On December 14, 1994, the change from JT National Monument to JT National Park was celebrated.
- In September 1995, <u>DJ Masker's</u> name appeared on the sign-in sheet for the first time, and she became Treasurer succeeding Ida Colaw in December 1995.
- At the January 1997 meeting, <u>Cindy Zacks</u> appeared and presented a wish list for her ecology class. The Board voted to give her \$400. At this meeting Chris Carraher brought up the Eagle Mountain landfill and proposed a resolution against it.
- In May 1997 the Board agreed to oppose the Fort Irwin Expansion.
- The first typed minutes were in January 1998, although that didn't become regular until years later.
- A very small meeting was held on March 1998 just Esther, DJ, and Chris!
- <u>Janice Tucker</u> first attended as a guest in June 1998 and became a regular (not sure if Board member).
- In March 1999 there was a large group 15 including Owen Gillick and Rick Beatty from Z107.7, for a presentation on Cadiz and the Metropolitan Water District.
- On April 14, 1999, Chris Carraher agreed to be Treasurer for one year only!
- First meeting with <u>David Fick's</u> sign-on was June 1999, although his name had been referenced in minutes several times related to DERT. He made a report on Eagle Mountain at this meeting.

2000s

<u>Val Prehoda</u> (now Simon) attended the January 2000 meeting, along with <u>Lesley Thornburgh</u>, who became active and apparently became Treasurer shortly thereafter.

The September 2000 was focused on OHV issues; attendees included:

Christine Carraher
Jerry Smith
Bev Eccleston
Frances Sabol
Helen Goemans

Arden Wiltshire, SBSO Russell Scofield, BLM Mike Ahrens, BLM Tim Read, BLM Janice Tucker Lesley Thornburg Lynne Shmakoff Susan Reilly Andy Anderson

In March 2002, MBCA's "bottom line" on the developing Dark Sky proposal in 29 Palms was provided:

- 1. All lighting must be shielded or directed so as to prevent light trespass or sky illumination.
- 2. Mercury vapor lights current lights must be shielded. No more new lights to be installed in the future.
- 3. All new construction/permitting shall be fully informed of and held to the new standards
- 4. Clear provisions must be made for enforcement.
- 5. We encourage the City to examine block grants or other creative financing to assist anyone with financial hardships.
- 6. There needs to be a deadline (6 months to a year) with allowance for consideration in case of hardship.

October 2002 was the first time Pat Flanagan's name appeared on the sign-in sheet.

Lesley and Chris appeared to be working on setting up the website in June 2004.

The February 2005 meeting was the first time I saw <u>Ruth Rieman's</u> name, and David Fick's name started to appear regularly.

The first printed agenda appeared in March 2005.

Quite a few new names started appearing at meetings in 2005:

June 2005 – Bill Souder, Al Marquez July 2005 - Deb Bollinger, Ron Cone, Mark Wheeler August 2005 – Al and Ann Murdy September 2005 – Laraine Turk, Mark Junge October 2005 – Jack Fuller, Rich Gerston

2006 was the first year of all agendas and minutes being printed!

I didn't have a chance to look through 2006 minutes, but I did scan minutes from my first couple of years on the Board, which started in February 2007. It seems that Esther resigned from the Board and handed over the Secretary job to Mark Wheeler in February 2009. So she was Secretary (and also Treasurer in the mid-2000s) from 1991 through 2009, a total of 18 years!

I did not find when DJ left the Board. David tells me that she also was very active for a number of years with DERT.

May 31, 2016 Laraine Turk

How MBCA Uses Nationbuilder

Important Note! We are indebted to Nora as our behind-the-scenes technical expert and troubleshooter for Nationbuilder. She communicates with Nationbuilder staff when needed, and manages certain external connections such as with Google. She has trained Cathy, Steve, and Laraine from the start and is our lifeline when we run into trouble! Also thanks to Stacy Doolittle who set up the templates for many of our basic webpages.

Overview

Here are the headings of the Nationbuilder Control Panel and explanations of how we use them:



Dashboard

The Dashboard is the record of all transactions in Nationbuilder including incoming emails, membership payments, actions taken on individual records, etc. etc.

Laraine and Cathy both keep an eye on daily Dashboard activity.

- Cathy handles inquiries on Membership or Volunteering;
- Laraine deletes unwanted emails that are pulled in because of being cc'd on incoming emails:
- Laraine answers or forwards incoming emails to appropriate Officer or Director if needed.

People

This is the database of all supporters, even those who subsequently unsubscribed (although individuals *can* be permanently removed). Information on each person includes membership status, contact information, donations, volunteering, attendance at events, plus a record of any emails we've had with them. Tags are applied to people for particular statuses, e.g. various types of membership, attendance at our major events, or status as a Director or Advisor. Spreadsheets can be downloaded from this database by a large number of different categories to gather and display specific data or trends.

Cathy manages Membership and Volunteer processes in the People function.

- Completes data entry for new and renewing members;
- Acknowledges membership and sends receipts;
- Changes membership status or detail as needed;
- Responds to online volunteer inquiries;
- Keeps track of volunteers.

Laraine manages data in the People function.

- Consults with Cathy on Membership irregularities;
- Manages tags and organizing of data for potential downloading into lists for (e.g.) donations, membership status, event attendance, or other purposes.

Website

This function provides the tools to create and edit our website pages. There are also tools for social network sharing here.

Laraine creates and edits web pages.

- Adds new content and images as needed on web pages, such as comment letters, explanation of issues, links to external sites;
- Updates Home page when needed:
 - 1) Each new Eblast needs to be linked as the "Latest Eblast" on the Home Page;
 - 2) New events should be regularly added to the "local events" calendar;
 - 3) A new message should be presented when the month changes; and
 - 4) The next Board meeting date needs to be changed.

Communication

The tools to communicate via email are here. We can create emails or Eblasts, determine recipients, and schedule or send them. The system provides detail on the response, including how many were sent, how many were opened, and how many links were clicked. We have set up different "broadcasters" for different purposes, i.e. MBCA News for Eblasts, Events (mainly for the Tour), Membership, and officers have their own emails if they want to use them.

Sarah, Laraine, and Cathy manage Eblasts together.

- Sarah creates the Eblast; Laraine works with Sarah for a final edit;
- Cathy formats it for Nationbuilder and sends the Eblast.
- Laraine manages special group emails such as communication with Advisors
- or people who made DWL reservations, for example.
- Laraine manages the Online Candidate Forum in election years.
- Laraine can pull data summaries on Eblast responses over time.

Finances

The functions here are related to incoming Donations from members or others. Details recorded include date and type of donation and format (cash, PayPal, check, credit card). The Treasurer uses QuickBooks for the full financial processes of MBCA but manages all donations on this part of Nationbuilder.

Steve manages the data on incoming membership payments and donations.

Updated June 9, 2016

Submitted June 2016

Ruth's critique of the Environmental Leadership Academy classes conducted by the CAL State San Marcos in 2015

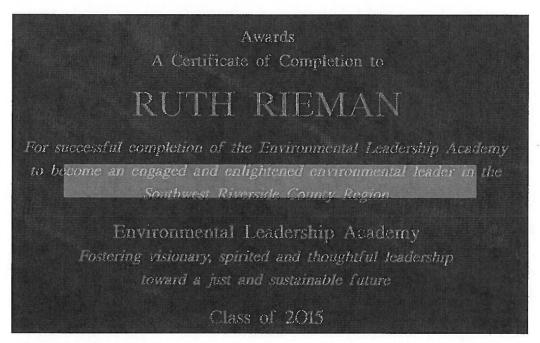
Description of the course on the application:

Environmental Leadership Institute

Dedicated to providing environmental leadership in resolving issues related to land, water, waste, energy and air in the Southern California region.

The **Environmental Leadership Institute (ELI)** at Cal State San Marcos at Temecula is dedicated to the purpose of providing a service to the <u>Southern California and Inland Empire regions</u>, one that demonstrates environmental leadership and serves as a resource for environmental planning, analysis, assessments, policy and education for emerging practitioners and leaders.

Description of the course on the completion certificate was a bit of a surprise:



What are the take-a-ways??

The greatest portion of this academy's sessions were an opportunity to learn about environmental planning, analysis, assessments, and policies from presenters employed in the fields of environmental protection and remediation in the developed communities of west Riverside County.

The <u>learning</u> opportunities about what various nonprofits are doing is significant including the laws and rules that enable them. All of the speakers were employees and it would be difficult to know of their own leadership within their communities on their own time.

Teri Raml, BLM District Manager talked about RE in the desert and was not informed or at least wasn't prepared to respond to questions.

Karen Douglas, CEC commissioner gave an imbalanced/inaccurate review of the DRECP and was unprepared (failed) to answer questions from the class.

On the last day I looked forward to Matt telling the class why nuclear energy was appropriate for the future. He had mentioned this on 3 occasions and promised to get to it. This could have been a real take-a-way for me. When I asked him as leaving if I could discover what he was referencing online he said no, we'd have to email.

Also, I had anticipated hearing from all the classmates about their thoughts and take-a-ways at the end of the final class. Some had remained silent throughout and just maybe seeing the class through other lenses would have left me more positive.

Voices of the corporate sponsors was defensive throughout the sessions.

The program curriculum designer and faculty lead, Matt Rahm, Director Environmental Leadership Institute, CSUSM was knowledgeable but never discussed leadership nor did the class participate in such a discussion. Leading me to substitute "Learning" for "Leadership" in the class title: Environmental Learning Academy. I am however, provoked to answer the question about what an environmental leader is and have presented some thoughts below at the end of this report.

The class was not without a couple of emotional highs for me.

Angela Dock from London came on one of Cameron Barrows amateur field surveys with the Oxford Dictionary definition of a desert: A dry, barren area of land, especially one covered with sand, that is characteristically desolate, waterless, and without vegetation. Uninhabited and Desolate. She was prepared to write about this wasteland but the place changed her mind.

Hence this poem: Ode to the Mojave/Colorado Deserts by Angela Dock

The desert is a fecund place

bursting with life and gentle song

exploding colours and unexpected magic

where perfume wraps around baked earth

It's an hypnotic space where people dream and souls uplift,

and tiny creatures drift and shift and monumental trees exist;

where mighty Joshuas and massive oaks stand side by side and ghost flowers whisper,

lizards dart and Ocotillos shout resplendent and persist;

where Mojave asters yield their lavender mist

where zebra tails and elusive lions leave their trails.

The desert is not, most definitely not

a desolate place.

Angela's experience so perfectly describes what I'd been repeating to myself over and over for some time. "You can't love what you don't know." The next morning when I described to Steve what I had felt during the reading of the Poem by Cam, I teared up. Not really normal for me.

Second, I remain very high on SEC's Kevin Richardson's use of humor and satire to deliver his message about a stakeholder process on a Utility Scale RE project. His message content making fun of himself as one of the stakeholders, leads me to think there's a beginning crack in the SCE corporate armor.

UCI's Cameron Barrows map with the red dots showing the desert's species diversity is a graphic so easy to recall when I want to talk about the subject to others.

The visits to Devers and the Peaker plant add to my understanding of renewable energy distribution. The classes reinforced the long road ahead and that many voices and much effort are required.

Who should MBCA send to future ELA sessions?

It's hard to say. I believe Cathy Z gained from the sessions because she was introduced to much new narrowly focused information that she'd not heard before. However, sending her alone would not have been a good idea. The classes generated questions that she could ask Claudia and me that gave us the opportunity to put things in context for her regarding the issues in our communities, without which she would have come away in some instances with the wrong picture.

Sending folks that have been on the leading edge of work here in the MB doesn't seem worth their time, if the agenda remains the same in the coming years. The majority of the ELA focus is too narrow and works best to possibly give industry employees who attend a grounding in what is being done to repair and protect sections within the developed communities of Riverside County.

Some thoughts about enviro leadership

Environmental leaders form teams.

Environmental leaders ask the right questions and gather many voices to answer them

Environmental leaders walk the talk and accept responsibility for their own foot print.

Environmental leaders gain passion for special places and life through personal experience. (They can't love what they don't know)

Environmental leaders think globally and act locally to begin setting trends that spread.

Environmental leaders know the road is tough because they are on the leading edge of change.

Elements	Great	OK	Could be better
Quality of presenters		X a few were exceptional most just doing a job	
Content appropriate for MBCA attendees			X The 40 hours gave a taste of 20 topics. No real concern for the San Bernardino desert protection. Most were about repair and protect sections within the developed communities of Riverside County.
Physical site locations		X Santa Margarita Reserve was not prepared to be occupied in the heat.	
Overall sense of the sessions organization			X felt like things were just coming together at the last minute.
Classroom			X class discussion and interaction not really

/

interaction facilitated much.