

**APPROVED July 30, 2017  
(at BOD Retreat)**

**MINUTES  
MBCA BOARD MEETING  
Thursday June 8, 2017  
5:00 – 7:00 PM, Yucca Valley Community Center**

**Regular Meeting Call to Order: 5:00 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Laraine Turk (prior notice)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meg Foley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marina West
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Kennington	

**Introduction of Guests and Board Directors:**

*No guests present*

**Agenda Input and Approval**

*Add RE Element letter  
SK Indivisible MB (Healthy California)  
SK Turtle Island Request from Stacy Doolittle  
SK Retreat Schedule  
SK Monument Campaign  
SK Eagle Crest  
SK Scenic Route 247*

**Approval of Minutes from May 11, 2017**

*MSC: RR/MF to accept the minutes as presented.*

**Treasurer's Report**

*SB gave the Treasurer's Report noting the bank balance in CD and Checking account totals: \$50,720.99. SB further noted that reimbursement will be submitted to MWA for the DWLS Grant (\$3,000). The CD that matured was rolled over for 21-months at 0.75% interest with US Bank. IRS filings 990-N and 199 have been completed. Regarding the DWLS Tour, a total of \$2,031 in registration fees were*

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received. Total membership fees amounts to approximately \$1,700. "Undesignated donations" this year total \$1,110.

Treasurer's Report unanimously accepted.

### **Capacity Building & Organizational Issues**

1) Finance Committee report: annual budget, D&O insurance, etc. - SB

*SB reported that he has compiled information to be submitted to a new insurance company for an insurance quote: General Liability and Officers/Directors. MF noted that the Desert Protective Society recently obtained a quote for D/O and perhaps we should solicit a quote from them as well. SK mentioned a third firm that is insuring the Boys and Girls Club. SB noted that he obtained a copy of the current liability policy.*

2) Grant status: Rose "Indigenous Place, Space, & Presence" – PF

*PF gave the report noting that a publication is being drafted and routed for approval by the attendees. This hardbound publication will include the recent National Park "Blessing" event. The publication date has not yet been announced. Regarding The Rose Foundation grant PF has filed a the necessary "post-event" follow-up report.*

3) Grants status: Desert-Wise Living Series / Alliance for Water Awareness and Conservation & So. Cal Edison grants – CS/MW

*SB reported on the DWL AWAC grant reimbursement coming from Mojave Water Agency. MW will prepare and submit the invoice to MWA. CS is working on the SCE grant event follow-up report. Once the SCE report is filed then SCE will accept an application for 2018 grants. MW reported that MWA hasn't announced the awards for FY2017/18 AWAC but that MWA indicated the awards may be less than last year.*

4) DWL Landscape Tour: Committee Report – RR, MW, CS

*CS reported that the Committee has not met for its wrap-up meeting.*

## 5) Denison scholarship awarded at YVHS ceremony – SK, SB

*SK reported that the YVHS ceremony was really impressive and many students are heading out to universities around the country. YVHS did send a Thank You note to MBCA for attending the event.*

## 6) 2017 Retreat

*The retreat will be scheduled for either July 30 or August 6, 2017 and SK will send email to confirm date. Discussion included the possibility of having a retreat which combines the July Board Meeting and the August Board meeting.*

***NOTE: 6/16/2017 SK confirmed retreat will be July 30, 2017 and that the July and August MBCA Regular Board of Directors' Meetings will be cancelled.***

## **Outreach & Communication**

### 1) MDLT / property for sale in 29 Palms adjacent to JTNP

*PF gave the report suggesting that we state in the upcoming E-blast that donations can be forwarded directly to MDLT for the project. SK will reach out to MDLT for additional details to formulate the E-blast.*

### 2) Indivisible MB – Healthy California Act SB562

*PF attended an Indivisible MB meeting recently ([indivisibleMB.org](http://indivisibleMB.org)) who is coordinating with a group from the low desert. She brought flyers regarding the SB 562 Healthy California Act for distribution by directors.*

### 3) Turtle Island Request for assistance from Stacy Doolittle

*SK reviewed the request from Stacy Doolittle regarding the Turtle Island area of downtown Joshua Tree. The landscaped strip is in disrepair and Stacy is asking MBCA to consider “adopting” this project. The Board discussed the request in detail. It was noted that the property is owned by the businesses that “front” it (Laundromat, café, thrift stores, etc.). This issue raises a number of questions with the Board such as “who’s responsibility is it”, “liability”, “private property owners rights”, etc. The request does not seem to be in-line with the mission of the MBCA. SK agreed to inform Stacy of the Board’s decision and to suggest the Joshua Tree Clean Team or MDLT be approached regarding this project.*

#### 4) Hwy 247 Scenic Highway

*SK reported on the status noting that a meeting was held recently with a number of key players. They learned that a report needs to be prepared by a licensed Landscape Architect which includes a "mile by mile" assessment along the route which would include existing visual distractions as well as undisturbed areas and other features. SK believes Land Use Services recognizes the potential status change.*

#### **Conservation Issues**

1) Ord Mountains Solar Application: notice of preparation and scoping meeting for draft EIR, June 14<sup>th</sup> / comments due June 30<sup>th</sup>

*PF gave the report noting a Public Scoping Meeting for the EIR at the Lucerne Valley Community Center June 13<sup>th</sup>. PF will attend and MW and RR might attend. PF intends to review the documentation available and insure that a comment letter is submitted.*

2) Cadiz Water Project: NPCA initiated comment letter to an Zinke, Dept. Interior, NPCA initiated w/ business & orgs incl. MBCA sign on

*MW reported that she contacted Dave Lamfrom and he indicated the letter had not been sent and he would be sure to forward it to me once it was completed.*

3) SB 249 (Allen) OHMVR Modernization & Reform: passed Ca. Senate (moved from suspension) to go on to the Assembly for reauthorization; MBCA, COW, ARR sent 5/31/17 comments to Senator Jean Fuller (who voted to oppose) - PF

*PF noted that one item they want added is larger, more visible license plates on OHV's. She believes additional letters need to be drafted to encourage a change in the plate style. If the bill doesn't pass then the existing law would "sunset". PF believes this would be problematic. No one knows why Sen. Jean Fuller voted "no" on the bill.*

4) Nuclear waste dump proposed by San Onofre citizens' organization: one location suggested is Fishel in Mojave Trails Natl. Monument (per Chris Clarke's KCET Earth Focus, dated 5/31/17)

*PF and SK summarized the issue.*

### 5) Monument Update:

SK noted the deadline for comments is July 10, 2017. RR noted that she forwarded a personal letter to Gov. Brown. Her letter also went to Mr. Burns, Asst. CalEPA whose family donated the Burn's Pinon Ridge Reserve property (Yucca Valley) to UC Irvine. CS and PF noted that CA Assembly Joint Resolution No. 15 passed today which is a statement to preserve the Monuments. Today is also the 111<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Antiquities Act. Several rallies are being scheduled to promote the issue. PF will draft MBCA's comment letter. CS reported on her virtual attendance of the "live" Congressional testimony and questioning hearings and noted, in particular, a narrow issue that is being evaluated: What is the economic benefit of a monument as designated?

### 6) Renewable Energy Element:

MW asked PF to announce that the report is out and the public should be aware of it. RR, MF and MW are reviewing the document and preparing a comment letter. No deadline for comments has been announced.

### **Community Reports & Events**

1) from Sammy Roth's The Current - **Cap and trade is back in business:** California's signature climate program appears to have regained its footing. Cap and trade faced an uncertain future as the courts debated whether or not it's an illegal tax, which made companies hesitant to buy pollution permits at quarterly auctions. But after an appeals court ruled that cap and trade is not a tax, companies [spent more than \\$1 billion at the latest state-run auction](#), as Dale Kasler reports for the Sacramento Bee. (The court decision is still under appeal.)

***Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm***

<p><b>Next Regular Meeting:</b> September 14, 2017 5:00 PM / YV Community Center (July and August Meetings Cancelled for July 30, 2017 Board Retreat)</p>
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