

Approved March 9, 2017

MINUTES

MBCA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, February 9, 2017

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

Regular Meeting Call to Order: 5:10pm

Steve Bardwell

Ruth Rieman

David Fick

Claudia Sall (Prior notice)

Pat Flanagan (Prior notice)

Seth Shteir (Prior notice)

Meg Foley

Laraine Turk

Sarah Kennington

Marina West

Introduction of Guests, Board Directors, and Advisory Members

No guests were present.

Agenda Input and Approval

MW/SK add Legislative Issue AB 366 (Hauled water) and other issues

SB adds "RACK" Card for MBCA

RR comment letter communication

SK adds LEVDA letter to Board of Supervisors RE: Solar Moratorium

SK Democratic Club listing of organizations

Approval of Minutes from January 12, 2017

MS: RR/LT moved to approve the minutes as presented.

Treasurer's Report

SB will present the Treasurer's Report for January at the March meeting..

SB reported that Nora found resources for Quickbooks and PayPal that are less expensive than what we are currently paying.

MSC: SK/SB to purchase software suite necessary for Board business.

Capacity Building & Organizational Issues

1) Finance Committee report: annual budget, etc.

SB reported that the Committee has not been able to meet due to illness.

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2) Ruth Denison scholarship: publicity, application, award –SB, LT

LT reported that the scholarship application has been completed and has been distributed. The deadline for submissions will be March 31st to be able to announce the award prior to the school ceremony (YVHS) on May 17, 2017.

3) Grant status: final report status; Rose “Indigenous Place, Space, & Presence” – PF

SB reported that all expenditures have been itemized and he will be meeting with PF to review and prepare a final report.

4) Grants status: DWL / AWAC & Edison grants – MW & committee

MW reported on the work collaboration between CS, SB and MW noting that the AWAC Strategic Partners Grant which will be submitted by the February 15, 2017 due date. No other grant applications are due at this time.

5) Pilot Project – RR

RR stated that she has had conversation with Prof. Martinez-Morales and he forwarded some information she will be reviewing with an “eye” on a car charging station for the Morongo Basin.

Outreach & Communication

1) MBCA 2017 Annual Meeting & Program: review

LT distributed the program evaluation summary. SB commented on the event. PF had suggested holding the program in the afternoon following the Farmer’s Market. All were in favor of the venue (Center for Healthy Generations, YV). LT thought that the venue probably could not fit more than 80 people. SB noted that very few memberships were received during the event.

2) DWL Landscape Tour: planning; participation in JBWD Water Day, March 26th and other venues to promote & sell tickets - CS

LT added that it is probably time to E-blast a membership reminder with the Tour reminder in February. She further noted that the Tour is the same day as the YV Earth Day event and we still believe MBCA should have a booth there. MF said she will be at the Earth Day (April 22nd) for JTNPA and can keep an eye on table volunteers, if needed. SB reported that MBCA will be at the Minerva Hoyt event at JBWD on March 26th where we can register attendees. RR asked if Cactus Mart would register for us. MF suggested Don Blevins (antique store) in YV as a possible spot for ticket sales.

RR reviewed the list of sites that still need to be vetted. There are 26 sites. SK recommended speaking to Madena Asbell at MDLT as she may be aware of some sites. MF noted that the JTNP entrance off Quail Springs Road could be backed up at that time and that we should be aware of this when we vet the two sites in that area.

3) mbconservation.org: report - LT

LT gave a brief update on the status. Not a lot of activity lately.

4) MBCA add in Hi-Desert Publishing Co. *A State of the Basin* – SK

SK noted that the ad was placed in the publication.

5) Letter of support to Standing Rock – CS

SK reported that CS still intends to write a letter.

6) UCR Center for Environmental Research & Technology 's annual Solar Conference, Thurs. Feb. 23, \$70 per person – Ruth, Steve, Pat to attend (contact **Alfredo Martinez-Morales** : 951-781-5652; alfredo.martinezmorales@ucr.edu)

SB reported that the actual ticket price was \$85. All were in agreement with this modification. RR, SB and PF have been signed up.

7) RACK Card Display

SB suggests we utilize a “rack” card as a method of advertising. There was a discussion about what to advertise, where would they be placed. MF discussed some of her experience with this type of advertising. Based on the lack of support this idea was set aside for the time being. LT suggested an alternate idea: an “MBCA” Sticker as a method of advertising letters and that she’d send out draft suggestions.

8) “Comment Letter” Committee

It was reiterated that the Committee is PF, SS, SK and SB.

LT suggested a 3 part decision tree that would be referred to prior to signing on to or generating letters.

Conservation Issues

1) RETI 2.0 – Follow up to PF’s 1/10/17 comments to CEC for MBCA: *Planning documents do not and cannot correctly provide PM10 and PM2.5 base level emissions, or emissions during winds in excess of 15mph without local monitoring stations. We request that the FLUTG acknowledge the DRECP and PEIS lack of realistic air quality and groundwater studies under NEPA and CEQA when analyzing for additional transmission lines. Land use planning for that 4,000 MW of solar energy is not complete.*

No new information to report.

2) Cadiz update – SS

No new information to report.

3) Monuments' management & science plan updates & public comment periods - SS

No new information to report.

4) JTNP expansion / Eagle Mt. transfer – SS

Due by Feb.16, 2017: Written comments in support of returning these lands to the Park to JTNP Sup David Smith david_smith@nps.gov by February 16, 2017.

SS had reported by email that he was working on a comment letter. DF talked about The Sun article February 9, 2017 by Sammy Roth; the article indicates that the Eagle Crest project is on Gov. Brown's top 50 list of projects and he has asked Pres. Trump for financial support.

5) DHS Council meeting Jan. 17 re. Mission Creek Rd. developer request to extend permit for 2,200 units of housing – RR

RR said the Planning Commission recommended a "no" on the project and now it's being appealed to the City Council by the applicant. RR stated the appeal will be heard at the Tuesday Feb. 21, 2017 at Desert Hot Springs City Council meeting. MF said she intends to be at the meeting.

6) Altamira gated housing project: CEQA lawsuit by JT 105 Alliance - DF

DF stated that the petition has been filed with the court.

7) Solar project updates: Soda Mountain; Palen Solar; JT Airport; Ord Mt.

SK stated that the Board signed on to a letter regarding Ord Mtns. Solar with the North Slope folks. This was a letter that PF had some issues with but agreed to sign on. SB, SK and MW submitted personal letters of protest as well.

DF reported that JT Solar is working to get a water meter. CoSB has admitted they incorrectly issued a permit which led to the initiation of site activities but has stopped the project. Jess Melin, NextEra asked if they could "mow" the lot. CoSB confirmed that no mowing allowed until the litigation is resolved. Litigation is moving slowly.

RR reported on a letter from Chuck Bell regarding the request from Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association (LEVDA) to support their request for a solar moratorium. MF noted that there have been extreme ambiguities in the interpretation of the Ordinance with respect to project applications. More information will be distributed via Eblast as it is received by SK, RR or MW.

MSC: LT/RR to send a letter in support of the moratorium request.

8) CA. cities required to reduce greenhouse gasses 15% by 2020: report - SB

No new information to report.

Community Reports & Events

1) JBWD Water Day, March 26th

MBCA will have a booth at this event. – SK and LT said they'd work the booth.

2) Yucca Valley Earth Day – April 22nd

MBCA will have a booth. Note that the event is the same day as the Desert Wise Tour.

3) AB 366 Olberholte.

MW reported that the bill was introduced and would bring the bill to the next meeting for possible letter of support.

4) Meg Foley announced that Sup. Ramos will hold a “meet n’ greet” on February 23rd at 11 to 12:30pm at the Burke Center.

MF presented the information.

5) SK reported on a number of new federal bills: HR 857 (Cook) California Off-Road Recreation and Conservation Act

MF reported that she believes this is Fienstein’s bill which encompasses the remainder of her “2016 Desert Protection Act” that were set aside when the Antiquities Act was utilized for the monuments.

H.J.Res. 44: Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of the Interior relating to Bureau of Land Management regulations that establish the procedures used to prepare, revise, or amend land use plans pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Manage...

HR 865 Emergency Forest Restoration Act

SK further reported on other potential attacks on the new monuments.

6) Sage Estates, YV.

LT reported that the Native Plant Plan for the project will go to the YV Planning Commission next week.

7) Democratic Club

SK asked if we should request to be listed on an outreach list prepared by the Democratic Club. It was not considered a high priority.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:15pm

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, March 9th, 2017 5:00 PM / YV Community Center