

APPROVED February 9, 2017

MBCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2017

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

Regular Meeting Call to Order: 5:05 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seth Shteir
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meg Foley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laraine Turk
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Kennington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marina West

Introduction of Guests, Board Directors, and Advisory Members

No guests present

Agenda Input and Approval

*RR mentioned an email from Jack Thomson for Communication
SB UCR Solar Conference consider approving attendance by interested BOD
PF added RETI 2.0 letter*

Approval of Minutes from December 7, 2016

Approved without changes

Treasurer's Report

SB presented the Treasurer's report stating the balance is \$52,501.56 (combined total) and further reported on memberships and donations received. He also noted that we have joined all the local Chamber of Commerce.

Treasurer's Report accepted as presented.

Capacity Building & Organizational Issues

- 1) Finance Committee report: annual budget; Chamber memberships; etc. – SB, MW

SB reported that the budget is being drafted.

- 2) MBCA 2017 Annual Meeting & Program– DWL committee

MW gave an overview of the plans for the event and passed out draft materials requesting

input from the BOD. SB suggested that we give a donation to the Center for Healthy Generations.

MSC: RR/CS to donate \$100 to the Center for Healthy Generations for use of the facility for the Annual Meeting.

- 3) Ruth Denison scholarship: publicity, application, award –SB, LT, MW

LT gave the report and reviewed the application with the group. Several comments were discussed and incorporated into the document. LT will post to website and distribute to the campuses.

- 4) Grant status: Rose “Indigenous Place, Space, & Presence” – PF, SB

PF gave the report and provided a summary of the event attendees. She will be sending “Thank You” cards and completing a financial and event summary to be submitted to The Rose Foundation. She further reported that the event was so successful, with attendees from as far away as Kaibab, Utah and the Salt River, Arizona, that the group has determined it will meet again in Parker, Arizona (Crit Tribe) and rotate annually to all the traditional Salt Song locations. More than 100 native and non-native tribes attended the event held at the Oasis of Mara, Twentynine Palms, CA. She also stated that the event came in under budget but there are additional tasks to be completed such as the final report to The Rose Foundation.

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

No new information to report.

- 6) Pilot Project – RR

No new information to report.

Outreach & Communication

- 1) mbconservation.org report – LT

LT stated that the team is nearly complete with the updates and will be working with the “beta testers” within the near future. She is very excited about the options and benefits of the web publishing software. As always, she noted that Nora L. has been very involved and of great assistance in the website redesign.

- 2) JT Chamber proposed “pre-event” for DWL Tour – tentative date: April 8 – reminder: to finalize plans after MBCA Annual Meeting

No new information to report. SS reported that Rebecca Unger has resigned from the JT CoC and he as Treasurer stated that he will inquire further about their ideas to participate in the event.

- 3) Hi-Desert Publishing Co.'s new publication: *Celebrating Progress: A State of the Basin*, Jan. 26, 27, 28 – SK

CS will research further what this publication is, how often it will be distributed, circulation, etc.

MSC: LT/CS to place an ad highlighting the MBCA and/or DWL-S in this publication.

- 4) Letter of support to Standing Rock – CS

CS reported that the letter was not yet drafted.

- 5) Backcountry Picture's film renamed *Exquisite Wasteland*, continues efforts to fundraise; successful event at Smithsonian NMNH – SK

SK gave the update on this film focused on desert environments noting that they are requesting donations. BOD declines.

- 6) DPC (Desert Protective Council) to dissolve 3/31/2017, mission & assets (including *El Paisano*) to transfer to Basin & Range Watch, Terry Weiner retires 12/31/16

SK gave the report.

- 7) UCR Solar Conference

SB reported that the event is February 23, 2017 at UC Riverside and gave a brief overview of the speakers on the agenda.

MSC: CS/SS to send three directors to the conference at \$70 each.

Conservation Issues

- 1) Cadiz update – SS

SS gave the report. He toured the Mojave Trails area with Monument Manager Kyle Sullivan of the BLM which is in the vicinity of Cadiz. He discussed a Management Plan and a Science Plan that will be drafted. Regarding the Science Plan he further reported on a "data call" that will be made soon with respect to managing the Mojave Trails National Monument. The "data call" is an open request to submit relevant scientific data (hydrology, botany, etc.) to be utilized in developing the management plan and science plan. He expects a 90-day comment period but there will be future opportunities for public input throughout this planning effort. There was further discussion about having a subsidence study done by the USGS. CS mentioned a discussion she had with a USGS staff scientist who is working on subsidence in the Mojave Water Agency service area. SS further reported that Cadiz is trying to find additional customers for their water in the Orange County area, specifically Orange County Water District, who apparently declined due to the starting price of \$1,500 per Acre-Ft.

MF noted that Jihadda Govan was appointed as BLM Monument Manager for the Sand-to-Snow Monument.

2) National Park maintenance backlog – SS

SS submitted a letter.

3) Apple Valley -- Nov. 15: SB Co. Board of Supervisors & the Town Council approved a MOU between the two agencies for the implementation of a conservation plan in the works since 2007. The Multi-Species Habitat/Natural Communities Conservation Plan won't be implemented until 2019 at the earliest, but Assistant Town Manager Lori Lamson called approval of the agreement "a major step forward" insofar as it identifies the roles both the town and the county will play as the plan moves forward. First of its kind in high desert. MDLT's Frazier Haney participated in planning process
(<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20161206/apple-valleys-conservation-plan-moves-forward>)

SK gave the report regarding Town of Apple Valley's efforts to approve a Habitat Conservation Plan.

4) Community Plan Workshops #2: Pioneertown & Morongo Valley – SK

SK gave the report and reviewed the report from the Johnson Valley Improvement Association. DF reminded the group about the Joshua Tree maps being problematic and that the maps were to be recirculated back to through the community.

5) Altamira gated housing project: CEQA lawsuit by JT 105 Alliance – DF

Regarding Altamira there have been meetings with the court and nothing more to report at this time.

6) Solar project updates: Soda Mountain; Palen Solar; JT Airport

DF gave an update on the JT Solar and confirmed that NextERA project proponent and the project has not been sold as previously understood might be happening. NextERA has requested a permanent meter rather than temporary construction meter from JBWD but nothing to go through before the litigation is resolved.

7) CCA update: SDG&E first utility in state to lobby against CCA – SK

CS noted that CA Energy Commission saw this as interfering with process.

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

No new information to report.

Community Reports & Events

- 1) Eagle Mt. final EA; public meeting Jan. 18th, UCR, Palm Desert, 6-9 PM

SS gave the report and encouraged all to attend this meeting to discuss 22,000+ acres to be returned to the Joshua Tree National Park. An E-blast on the event was distributed.

- 2) Screening of new award-winning documentary, *SEED: The Untold Story* at the Apple Valley Digiplex, January 18, 7:30pm. SEED is an eye-opening documentary about the dramatic loss of seed diversity and the movement to restore the future of our food. As many irreplaceable seeds near extinction, SEED reveals the harrowing and heartening story of passionate seed keepers as they wage a David and Goliath battle against chemical seed companies, defending a 12,000 year food legacy.

SK gave the report and questioned where this might fit with MBCA's DWL-S. CS stated that she sent the invite to Chuck Bell and Ken Lair to see what they thought of it.

- 3) DWL Landscape Tour – April 22 & 23, 2017

RR reported that 24 have been invited and have received 10 responses to date with only 5 confirmed. Next, the Committee will reach out to the remaining homeowners to determine their interest.

- 4) Black Rock Lecture Series

MF reported on the upcoming Black Rock Lecture Series and passed out the post cards. The first lecture is scheduled for January 20th.

- 5) Desert Hot Springs City Council Housing Development at Mission Springs Road

SS and RR reported on a proposed extension on a development permit for a 2,000 home "Mission Creek Trails" coming before the City Council on January 17, 2017. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for January RR will follow-up with more information.

- 6) Landers Landfill Expansion.

SB gave a report that this is not an expansion of the landfill and more or less a permitting issue to utilize other parts of the facility.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:55pm

Food For Thought

5 main points used by activists to defeat Koch attack on solar in Florida:

Lesson 1: Conservatives can be big clean energy boosters — if you sell it right

Lesson 2: Sometimes it's not helpful to mention climate change

Lesson 3: It's good to have a common enemy

Lesson 4: Be nimble enough to change course when needed

Lesson 5: Grassroots organizing can beat big money

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