

**MINUTES  
BOARD MEETING  
WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (WCA)  
May 21, 2020**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Chico at approximately 1:32 p.m. The meeting was held via Zoom.US meeting.

**2. FLAG SALUTE**

**3. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. Dan Arrighi (Rivers & Mountains Conservancy)  
Ms. Sandra Maravilla (for Supervisor Barger)  
Ms. Herlinda Chico (for Supervisor Hahn)  
Mr. Vincent Chang (for Supervisor Solis)  
Mr. Roberto Uranga (Rivers & Mountains Conservancy)  
Mr. Mark Pestrella

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ms. Karly Katona (for Supervisor Ridley-Thomas)

**STAFF PRESENT**

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer  
Dena Williams, Board Secretary  
Debbie Enos, Deputy Executive Officer  
Nicole Law, Fiscal Manager  
Jane Tsong, Project Manager  
Joseph Gonzalez, Project Manager  
Jeremy Munns, Project Manager  
Johnathan Perisho, Project Manager  
David Edsall, Jr., Deputy Attorney General

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was one public comment made. Christy Catalano stated that the residents and community of Mt. Baldy are urging the WCA Board to please find an alternate location of the cell phone towers that's being proposed and to consider a more prudent avoidance.

**5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Minutes were from April 16, 2020 meeting.

**There were no comments or corrections, 0 Nays and 0 Abstentions. Minutes were approved.**

**6. CHAIR'S REPORT**

No report was given.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS**

**7. WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

There were no comments made on this item.

**8. LIAISON & ACTIVITIES REPORT**

Mark Stanley stated that WCA is still closed, however, County has re-opened the trails as of May 15th which is causing some concerns at Mt. Baldy Preserve and River Wilderness Park, which remain closed which is mainly due to coverage of the properties. Mr. Stanley also stated that WCA will closely monitor the concerns and will decide later whether to open back up the preserve and the park and will update the board when the properties will be opened.

Mr. Stanley stated the San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative Steering Committee met on March 26<sup>th</sup> and Daniel Rossman was elected to Chair and Liz Reilly was elected Vice Chair and their next meeting is going to be on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

Debbie Enos stated that due to the significant number of rain days in March there have been vendor impacts from the Covid-19 shutdowns in California and other states and the Duck Farm project has experienced significant delays in order fulfillment for most of the fabricated site facilities.

Ms. Enos also stated that due to this impact, the General Contractor has been de-mobilized since the end of February 2020 but is optimistic that they will be able to mobilize again in June 2020.

Mr. Stanley stated that the next Emerald Necklace Implementation Strategic Coordination meeting was scheduled for June 2, 2020 and will continue to meet in an effort to identify funding, prepare grant applications and seek to partner to develop projects identified in the Emerald Necklace Plan.

Jane Tsong stated the consultant, Psomas, submitted draft maps of protected lands in the San Gabriel Mountains foothills, soils and lists of species of conservation concern potentially occurring in the project area and an RFP for a consultant to research and produce a report on Human Factors is in progress.

Ms. Tsong also stated the Cooper Ecological Monitoring team has completed the first of four planned botanical surveys of the Vasquez Overlook in April 2020 and the team has conducted survey activity in a manner consistent with the current social distancing requirements. Ms. Tsong concluded that there are three remaining field visits that will take place before the team submits a final report.

Mr. Jeremy Munns stated that the consultant Lyric Design & Planning has completed its work developing Greenscape maps and City Profile pages and WCA staff are continuing to develop the Gateway Greening website with a grant from RMC and is expected to be finished with this project sometime in June 2020.

Mr. Johnathan Perisho stated that staff continues to work with City of Azusa, Caltrans and Design team

to complete the design for the overlook and park entry improvement elements of River Wilderness Park and currently, Caltrans is reviewing documents in consideration of including the bikeway under pass below the Highway 39 bridge in environmental compliance documents as they work on bridge improvements.

Ms. Enos stated that the Parque Dos Rios construction has been essentially de-mobilized since February 2020 due to a permit being needed to relocate a backflow device and make minor modifications to the northern bump-out rest area. Ms. Enos also stated that CCLB is optimistic that they will be able to mobilize again in June 2020 which at that time they will be able to provide an updated project completion schedule.

Ms. Enos stated that both WCA and RMC staff have begun one on one meetings with project stakeholders to begin going forward with the implementation of a LA River REACH zone pilot program this year. Ms. Enos also stated that to date, the team has met virtually with both the CCLB and LACC regarding the River Stewards program to provide routing maintenance activities along the REACH zone expected to be between Hollydale Park and Parque Dos Rios in South Gate at the confluence and along the Rio Hondo up to Treasure Island Park in Downey. Ms. Enos concluded with the first virtual meeting with LA County Flood Control District was held this month and a follow-up meeting will take place in early June.

## **9. EXPENDITURE REPORT**

Nicole Law explained that Exhibit A reflects the balances of the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 as of April 30, 2020. Ms. Law explained that the Authority is awaiting reimbursement from several other grants and professional service contracts and the Authority also anticipates more reimbursements from RMC for indirect/administrative expenses before the end of the fiscal year.

Ms. Law stated that the Authority anticipates expenses incurred through the end of the fiscal year to be within budgeted projections.

## **REGULAR CALENDAR**

### **10. FUND BALANCE REPORT**

Ms. Law gave a brief synopsis of the fund balance report and there were no questions from the board.

### **11. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DRAFT FISCAL YEAR 2020/2021 ANNUAL BUDGET.**

Nicole Law stated that the recommendation would be that the Governing Board to approve the preliminary budget for FY 20/21.

Ms. Law gave a brief synopsis of the four expenditure components which were Administrative, Personnel, Operations, Capital Outlay-Grants and Special Projects and stated that the total projected Administrative expenses would be \$193,797, total Personnel expenses would be \$681,713, total Operational revenues would be \$695,544 with the planned operational expenditures resulting in a surplus of \$322,084 and finally, the Authority anticipates that it will utilize approximately \$5.2 million of its grants and special project funding in FY20/21, plus available funding on hand being carried from the previous fiscal year.

Mr. Stanley stated that there has been a study being conducted into salary comparison analysis and the results of the study will be brought to the board in June with the approval of the final budget. He also stated that the grant funding is beginning to decline due to the current situation of the economy and will more than likely not change course.

**Board Member Uranga motioned to approve item 11. Board Member Arrighi seconded the motion. Board Voted. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.**

**12. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER OR DESIGNEE TO AWARD CONCEPT PLAN AND DESIGN CONTRACT FOR THE DUCK FARM EQUESTRIAN CENTER.**

Mr. Perisho stated that WCA staff will issue a public Request for Proposal and will award a contract with a qualified consulting firm to develop a concept plan and construction documents for improvements to the Duck Farm Equestrian Center.

Mr. Perisho also stated this project will serve to improve the equestrian center and strengthen it as a community asset with improved connections to the equestrian district's neighborhood trails, and potentially to re-establish equestrian access to the San Gabriel river and Emerald Necklace trails and amenities.

Mr. Perisho concluded with an expedited timeline is necessary to deliver project materials for a shovel-ready project, which is anticipated to be timely in supporting workforce development following the current COVID-19 crisis and that this project will be funded by the RMC from a Proposition 84 grant for the Green Regional Environmental Enhancement Network Project in an amount not to exceed \$175,000.

**Board Member Chang motioned to approve items 12. Board Member Uranga seconded the motion. Board Voted. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.**

**13. CLOSED SESSION: PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9, THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY MAY HOLD A CLOSED SESSION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEM: SAVE OUR ACCESS – SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS V. WCA, ET AL., LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CASE NO. 18STCP02904.**

This item was tabled.

**14. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 1:30 pm via Zoom.US meeting.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Madam Chair Chico at approximately 2:23 pm.

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Herlinda Chico  
Chair

X

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Dena Williams  
Board Secretary