MINUTES
BOARD MEETING
WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (WCA)
May 25, 2017

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Madam Chair Chin at 1:35 p.m. The meeting was held at: The Garvey Center.

2. FLAG SALUTE

3. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Keith Lilley (for Mr. Pestrella)
Ms. Janet Chin, Chair (for Supervisor Solis)
Mr. Roberto Uranga (Rivers & Mountains Conservancy)
Ms. Lacey Johnson (for Supervisor Ridley-Thomas)
Mr. Dan Arrighi, Vice Chair (Rivers & Mountains Conservancy)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Frank Colonna (Rivers & Mountains Conservancy)
Ms. Debra Mendelsohn (for Supervisor Barger)
Ms. Herlinda Chico (for Supervisor Hahn)

STAFF PRESENT

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer
Debbie Enos, Deputy Executive Officer
Dena Williams, Board Secretary
Salian Garcia, Fiscal Manager
Johnathan Perisho, Project Manager
Roxana Marashi, Project Manager
Joe Gonzalez, Project Manager
Andrew Vogel for David Edsall, Deputy Attorney General

4. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE TO NEW GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

Keith Lilley was sworn in as a new governing board member.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

There were one set of minutes from March 16, 2017.

Board member Uranga motioned to approve the minutes. Board member Johnson seconded the motion. Vice Chair Arrighi abstained. Minutes were approved.

7. CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no report given.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS

8. LIAISON & ACTIVITIES REPORT

The Executive Officer stated that there was a board retreat and the Consultants will provide a presentation later in the agenda.

Mr. Stanley stated the AB18 is in the Senate and has not been assigned to a committee as of yet and SB5 and AB18 have very specific allocations for the 10 Statewide Conservancies and other river and park funding that will have an impact on the work of the two local State Conservancies. (RMC and SMMC)

Mr. Stanley stated that AB1558 is the River Ranger Program bill and requires RMC and SMMC to develop a river ranger program to provide a network of river rangers who assist the public at sites along the Los Angeles river and its tributaries.

Mr. Stanley stated that SB693 would authorize the establishment of the Lower San Gabriel River Recreation and Park District and would authorize specified city councils and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to appoint the initial board of directors of the district.

Mr. Stanley stated that AB466 would require the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to appoint a local working group to develop a revitalization plan for the Los Angeles River tributaries and watershed and would authorize the group to include specified representatives.

Mr. Stanley mentioned that President Trump signed an executive order on April 26, 2017 directing the Secretary of the Interior to review all National Monuments which includes San Gabriel Mountains National Monument to make sure the monument meets all the criteria, as established in the Executive Order, to keep its designation as a National Monument.

Mr. Stanley stated that the San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network is a collaborative effort between the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, its member cities and numerous community-based organizations including WCA and Bike SGV.

Mr. Stanley stated that the Army Corps released a comment letter on May 8th, 2017 for the San Gabriel River Discovery Center Authority while the project is still under review for plan check approval.

Mr. Stanley stated that the Duck Farm Project resubmitted plans to LA County Building and Safety. He also stated that WCA met with LA County Sherriff Park Division personnel to tour the property as a potential site to relocate the existing Sherriff substation located in the Whittier Narrows Recreation

Area at the Nature Center facility. He mentioned that WCA is developing a Labor Compliance Program and staff is exploring options and will report on status at the June Board meeting as discussions and negotiations are still in process.

Mr. Stanley mentioned that WCA held a Mural Painting Earth Day event with the community at the Duck Farm with over a hundred attendees, music, food, hats, duckling plush give-aways, a tour of the property and very positive energy from supportive neighbors and community.

Mr. Stanley stated that for the GREEN project staff is developing the scope of work for web development and is considering work with Sabio, a local web development training group that focuses on complex, real-world applications.

Mr. Stanley stated WCA continues to coordinate parking enforcement with residents, rangers and local law enforcement up at the Mt. Baldy Wilderness Preserve. Mr. Stanley also stated that The Conservation Fund and WCA will host a Dedication Ceremony with a commemorative funder acknowledgement sign unveiling by Supervisor Kathryn Barger, a site tour and a keepsake photo-op with community members, conversationalists and local children at the Mt. Baldy Preserve on Friday, September 22nd at 10 a.m. There will be a press release issued outlining details and directions to the site.

Mr. Stanley stated that the design for River Wilderness Park Entry improvements project is commencing toward 90% construction drawings for shovel-ready implementation. Mr. Stanley also stated that staff continues to seek grant opportunities to fund the RWP Entry project and that staff has secured approximately $2.3 million of the nearly $10 million necessary to complete both Phases 1 and 2 at this time.

Mr. Stanley stated WCA staff has requested Construction Proposals from local Conservation Corps for the Parque dos Rios project and is awaiting responses to evaluate against available remaining budget to construct.

Mr. Stanley stated WCA is coordinating with City Staff of San Dimas to secure agreements for public access to the site through the Michael D. Antonovich Trail for the Walnut Creek Habitat & Open Space project. Mr. Stanley also mentioned staff continues to engage with the Tzu Chi Foundation to finalize terms for trail right-of-way necessary for the project.

9. EXPENDITURE REPORT

Ms. Garcia stated that the FY16/17 Budget with balances is attached as Exhibit A, the Statements of Receipts and Disbursements from the Los Angeles County Auditor-Controller is attached as Exhibit B and key elements of the Expenditure Report are summarized below in the staff report. Salian gave a brief synopsis of the Revenues received and Expenditures and no questions were asked from the Board.

10. RANGER ACTIVITIES REPORT

Ranger Francine Godoy introduced herself and gave a thorough presentation of the duties and responsibilities the rangers perform for the agency.

11. WCA BOARD RETREAT REPORT

Ara Najarian from Latino Consultants, LLC gave an overview of what took place at the Board Retreat back in April and discussed what important steps need to take place in order to move forward with the strategic plan.

CONSENT CALENDAR

12. FUND BALANCE REPORT

13. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO RATIFY A CONTRACT AMENDMENT TO LATINO CONSULTANTS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR FY16-17 WCA BOARD RETREAT.

Board Member Uranga motioned to approve these items. Vice Chair Arrighi seconded the motion. Board voted. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.

REGULAR CALENDAR

14. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017/2018.

Ms. Garcia stated that the staff recommends the Governing Board approve the preliminary budget for Fiscal Year 2017/2018 which is required in order to be in accordance with the provisions of the Joint Powers Agreement.

Ms. Garcia mentioned that the annual JPA contribution revenue related to administrative expenses has been unchanged since 2003 equals $35,500. Salian also mentioned planned labor overhead recovery generated revenue is projected to be approximately $165,786 based on a program portfolio for FY 17/18 and projected staffing levels. Salian stated that total projected administrative revenue is anticipated to be $201,286 which will be generated from eligible grants and contracts through WCA's Billable Rates. Salian mentioned that personnel expenses for FY 17/18 are budgeted at $617,377 which include salaries, benefits, employer taxes, payroll fees, COLA and a new proposed merit pool for FY 17/18. There were no questions from the board.

Board member Uranga motioned to approve this resolution. Vice Chair Arrighi seconded the motion. Board voted. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.

15. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A CONTRACT AMENDMENT FOR WITHERS AND SANDGREN ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE RIVER WILDERNESS PARK ENTRY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.

Mr. Perisho stated that a contract amendment is needed in an amount not to exceed by $5,390 for the final geotechnical report that requires thicker foundations for structures and paths which requires more time than initially allocated for the Architects contracted under Withers and Sandgren. Chair Chin asked what does it mean when a foundation is considered unsuitable for filling. Johnathan answered that there are some soft spots in the soil and therefore there is a possibility of movement. Board member Uranga asked if it was due to

climate change and Johnathan answered not in particular.

Board member Uranga motioned to approve this resolution. Board member Johnson seconded the motion. Board voted. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.

16. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 26, 2017 at 10:00 am.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Madam Chair Chin at approximately 3:05 pm.

X _____

M. Janet Chin
Chair

X _____

Dena Williams
Board Secretary