

**MINUTES
BOARD MEETING
WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (WCA)
July 18 2019**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Chico at approximately 1:37 p.m. The meeting was held at: The Garvey Center in Rosemead.

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. Roberto Uranga (Rivers & Mountains Conservancy)
Mr. Jorge Morales (Rivers & Mountains Conservancy)
Mr. Vincent Chang (for Supervisor Solis)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ms. Karly Katona (for Supervisor Ridley-Thomas)
Mr. Julian Juarez (for Mr. Pestrella)

STAFF PRESENT

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer
Debbie Enos, Deputy Executive Officer
Dena Williams, Board Secretary
Nicole Law, Fiscal Manager
Alex Linz, Project Manager
David Edsall, Jr., Deputy Attorney General

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes were from June 20, 2019 meeting.

Board members voted. There were 6 Ayes, 0 Nays and 0 Abstentions. Minutes were approved.

6. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Board Member Arrighi motioned to nominate Sandra Maravilla as Vice Chair. Board Member Morales seconded the motion. Board members voted. There were 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

7. CHAIR'S REPORT

No report was given.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS

8. LIAISON & ACTIVITIES REPORT

Mr. Stanley stated that he would be brief because Doug Houston would be giving a presentation on most of the legislative bills.

Mr. Stanley mentioned that AB556, authored by Carrillo, has been placed in the suspense file for now.

Mr. Stanley stated that AB926, authored by Patrick O'Donnell, which is the Oil Revenue Bill, was cleared at the hearing in Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee and will be moving forward.

Mr. Stanley stated that AB968, authored by Cristina Garcia, failed the deadline and is now a 2-year bill.

Mr. Stanley stated that AB1269, authored by Blanca Rubio, which affects the City of El Monte, the hearing was postponed in the Senate and Finance Committee.

Mr. Stanley stated that AB1694 is also Assemblymember O'Donnell's bill. This bill was cleared by the Natural Resources and Water Committee and is headed to the appropriations as well.

Mr. Stanley stated that the state budget was passed on June 27th and does include some funding areas that the WCA can take advantage of for the Compton Creek in the amount of \$3million is available and for the Lower LA River in the amount of \$3 million is also available which will go through the Natural Resources Water Committee and will be most likely moved over to the RMC to manage.

Mr. Stanley stated that for the San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative their last meeting was held on May 23rd and their next meeting is scheduled for July 25th. Mr. Stanley mentioned that the collaborative continues to work on challenges faced by the forest regarding community access, visitor management and protection of natural resources.

Mr. Stanley stated that the Duck Farm Project is under construction and the photo on page eleven shows the restroom facility materials being delivered and the installation of the septic system tank in progress in the background as well as the utility poles will be removed in the upcoming days.

Mr. Stanley stated that WCA received information from the Los Angeles County Flood Control Department for the San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network project and there is a meeting scheduled to complete the scope of work and tasks details needed to issue work orders and begin work on and in support of the plan.

Mr. Stanley stated that WCA continues to work with the Trust for Public Land for the San Gabriel

Mountains and Foothills Acquisition Master plan project and a request to RMC has been submitted to extend the grant performance period so that consultants may be engaged to supplement the TPL document with additional analysis.

Mr. Stanley concluded with the Roberts Canyon Acquisition which is adjacent to WCA's River Wilderness Park within the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains and staff has been in contact with the HOA of the Mountain Cove Community residential development to figure out the costs and risks associated with this acquisition.

9. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTATION

Mr. Doug Houston from Houston Magnani & Associates gave a Powerpoint presentation that outlined all of the State and Assembly bills that have been introduced in the current session by Senate and are potentially of interest to the WCA.

10. EXPENDITURE REPORT

Nicole Law stated that the FY 2018/2019 budget with balances as of June 30, 2019 was attached as Exhibit A for view and the Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for the quarter ending June 30, 2019 have not been finalized and will be included in the next board meeting.

Ms. Law gave a brief synopsis of the revenues received and expenditures made. There were no questions from the board.

CONSENT CALENDAR

11. FUND BALANCE REPORT

12. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF MULCH FROM CAL BLEND SOILS, INC. FOR THE DUCK FARM PHASE 1A-STEP 2 PROJECT.

13. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO AMEND CONTRACT WCA18517 TO NORCAL ENGINEERING FOR SOIL INSPECTION AND TESTING FOR WCA CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

Board Member Arrighi motioned to approve items 11 through 13. Board Member Uranga seconded the motion. Board Voted. 6 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.

REGULAR CALENDAR

14. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO A FUNDING SOURCE STABILIZATION REVENUE AGREEMENT WITH THE RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY.

Mr. Stanley stated that this item creates a stable financial environment for the WCA, it will be held in a separate fund with the County Auditor-Controller for the sole purpose of a perpetual revolving, non-wasting cash fund to support the Authority while awaiting reimbursements from various grantors.

Mr. Stanley further stated the Authority does not have the power to acquire/raise revenues or incur debt through taxation, assessment, and/or levy of any kind, further restricting its access to limited available funding sources on hand that taxes the Authority's cash position when having to operate in a reimbursement only environment that certain granting entities require.

Mr. Stanley mentioned staff will work with its JPA partners, RMC & LACFCD will research other self-sustaining avenues to reduce the strain on its' available operational funds in continuing to forward projects for the public benefit while reducing administrative pressures.

Mr. Stanley stated this agreement will be for FY2019-20 and may be extended for future fiscal years based on justification of need and will make available up to \$1,500,000 to meet expenditure obligations reimbursable by bond and grant while awaiting reimbursement from various grantors to forward implementation and construction projects.

Madam Chair Chico asked if this agreement would take care of all the means of the WCA. Mr. Stanley answered and stated that it takes care of the current obligations but there are on-going obligations and on-going project developments and will continue to work with the JPA partner in the Supervisorial Districts in helping with the revenue of the WCA and would like to continue those conversations.

There were no further questions from the Board.

Board Member Arrighi motioned to approve this item. Board Members Chang/Uranga seconded the motion. Board Voted. 6 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.

15. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO AMEND FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020 COLA FOR PERSONNEL.

Mr. Stanley stated that the budget was just approved at the last board meeting with a Cost of Living personnel increase at 2%. Mr. Stanley stated that due to the Consumer Price Index having an increase to 3.24% for the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange Counties, WCA's staff recommendation is to increase this budget line by 1.25% for a total COLA personnel increase of 3.25%, in line with inflationary pressure on employee buying power.

Board Member Morales asked why the increase was not asked for when the budge was passed. Mr. Stanley answered that we didn't have the information at the last meeting.

Board Member Arrighi motioned to approve this item. Board Member Uranga seconded the motion. Board Voted. 6 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.

16. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE BILLABLE RATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020.

Nicole Law gave a brief synopsis of the updated Billable Rates so that the rates would be in accordance with the FY2019-20 budget.

Board Member Arrighi motioned to approve this item. Board Member Chang seconded the motion. Board Voted. 6 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.

17. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIR AND/OR DESIGNEE TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL WRITING AND SERVICES FOR THE GATEWAY CITIES AND RIVERS GREENING VISION PLAN

PROJECT.

Alex Linz stated staff is nearing the soft-launch of the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Master Plan website and there is a need to expand capacity through the utilization of planning consultant(s).

Mr. Linz also stated that the consultant will develop complete pages for each city or community with each profile page analyzing and developing written, graphic and interactive map content.

Mr. Linz mentioned due to the immediate need for project personnel, it is recommended that the Governing Board authorize the Chair or designee to negotiate and enter into a professional services contract to complete work to the website.

Board Member Uranga motioned to approve this item. Board Member Arrighi seconded the motion. Board Voted. 6 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.

- 18. **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.**

There was no closed session.

- 19. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at 1:30 pm. Mark asked the Board Members if they objected to moving the September meeting to the 12th. The Board Members asked to do a quorum call to see if we would have a quorum for the new date.

- 15. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Madam Chair Chico at approximately 2:28 pm.

X

Herlinda Chico
Chair

X

Dena Williams
Board Secretary