

**MINUTES  
BOARD MEETING  
WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (WCA)  
November 21, 2019**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Chico at approximately 1:34 p.m. The meeting was held at: The Garvey Community 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. Vincent Chang (for Supervisor Solis)  
Mr. Julian Juarez (for Mr. Pestrella)

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ms. Karly Katona (for Supervisor Ridley-Thomas)  
Mr. Roberto Uranga (Rivers & Mountains Conservancy)

**STAFF PRESENT**

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

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

A Doctor Andrew Raubitschek gave a description of the Duarte Wilderness Preserve that sits just beyond his place of residence and is asking for help from WCA to maintain the preserve because he feels it is a fire hazard and no one is taking responsibility in maintaining it. Chair Chico asked Mr. Stanley if he would be in contact with Dr. Raubitschek, Mr. Stanley replied yes he would.

**5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Minutes were from September 12, 2019 meeting.

**Board members voted. There were 4 Ayes, 0 Nays and 0 Abstentions. Minutes were approved.**

## 6. CHAIR'S REPORT

No report was given.

## EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS

### 7. LIAISON & ACTIVITIES REPORT

Mr. Stanley stated that he would briefly discuss the Legislative items starting with AB209, this bill was signed by the Governor and would increase the ability of underserved and at-risk populations to participate in outdoor environmental educational experiences at state parks and other public lands where outdoor environmental education programs take place along with AB556, but this bill was vetoed and would possibly come back in the 2nd half of the two year session.

Mr. Stanley also stated AB968, the Naturalist Pathway Pilot Program did not make the filing deadline and is now a 2-year bill.

Mr. Stanley mentioned that AB1269 is specifically for the City of El Monte and this bill is also a 2-year bill and will be put on the Finance Committee hearing in January.

Mr. Stanley stated that AB 1298 introduced by Senator Mullin, in combination with AB 352(Garcia) and SB45(Allen) all three are water bonds but that AB1298 is a little more expansive in scope than AB352 at this juncture and both contain provisions specific to the funding of the LA River.

Mr. Stanley stated that AB1694 (O'Donnell) failed the deadline and is now a 2-year bill but Assemblymember O'Donnell will introduce a new bill in January.

Mr. Stanley stated that SB367 is a State Coastal Conservancy bill for educational projects and programs and this is a bill that the JPA would like to apply for programming and construction and improvement of structure and facilities used for projects and programs.

Mr. Stanley stated SB404 was also a bill specifically for the city of Chino Hills to expand the State Park but it failed the deadline and would have a new bill number once brought back to the appropriations committee.

Mr. Stanley stated that the San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative held its last meeting in September and they are exploring how best to pursue projects and initiatives with the Angeles National Forest. Mr. Stanley mentioned that staff will continue to monitor those activities.

Mr. Stanley mentioned that for the Duck Farm project there were pictures on page 12 for viewing which was probably the best way to see the progress of the construction on the property.

Mr. Stanley stated that for the Duck Farm House project there are currently three proposals for funding that are pending with RMC, State Parks and Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County and the Work Plan is currently being reviewed by the Regional Board.

Mr. Stanley stated that for the San Gabriel Mountains & Foothills Open Space Acquisition Master Plan WCA will finish the remaining content for the Master Plan due to the consultant's inability to fulfill the contract scope.

Mr. Stanley stated that there will be a staff report given for the Vasquez Acquisition in more detail later in the meeting.

Mr. Stanley stated that the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Master Plan received a 4-month extension from RMC to complete the Gate Greening Plan and website update by end of April 2020.

Mr. Stanley stated that for the Los Angeles River Environmental Flows Study Supplemental Analysis the RMC and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to finalize their agency agreement for the project by the end of 2019 which will allow WCA to enter into a contract with the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project to expand the study to include water quality indicators and potential for the Rio Hondo and Compton Creek to serve as mitigation areas.

Mr. Stanley stated that for the San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Project the forest service anticipates the release of the EIS/EIR for the project by January 2020.

Mr. Stanley concluded with South Gate Habitat Restoration Project/Parque Dos Rios and stated that construction has begun on this project with site clearing and grubbing complete, main line irrigation and laterals complete. This project is on track to complete major construction by end of December with the Conservation Corps of Long Beach working through first quarter 2020.

## **8. EXPENDITURE REPORT**

Nicole Law stated that the FY 2019/2020 budget with balances as of October 31, 2019 was attached as Exhibit A and the Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for the quarter ending June 30, 2019 were attached as Exhibit B.

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

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **9. FUND BALANCE REPORT**

### **10. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT (WCA18520) WITH MCMOR WATER SERVICES COMPANY TO EXTEND CONTRACT THROUGH FY19/20.**

### **11. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ENTERING INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH RICHARDS WATSON GERSHON (RWG) LAW FOR GENERAL LEGAL SERVICES.**

**Board Member Arrighi motioned to approve items 9 through 11. Board Member Chang seconded the motion. Board Voted. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.**

## **REGULAR CALENDAR**

### **12 CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO 1. ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY PROP 68 PROGRAM RMC19006); AND, 2. AUTHORIZE THE**

**ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS 'VASQUEZ OVERLOOK' WITHIN THE AZUSA FOOTHILLS (ASSESSOR PARCEL NO. 8684-0001). PROPERTY OWNER: VASQUEZ RANCH, LLC. NEGOTIATOR: MARK STANLEY, EO.**

Jane Tsong stated that the acquisition of the 39-acre Vasquez Overlook parcel will protect one of the last remaining undeveloped private holdings along the foothill interface between the San Gabriel Valley and the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument from development, in order to support watershed restoration, community-driven stewardship, and compatible public uses in the foothills above Azusa.

Jane also stated that back in July, the WCA submitted a Prop 68 grant application to RMC for consideration to fund the acquisition through the competitive grant round and staff finds the property meets the purpose of the WCA which "is to provide for a comprehensive program to expand and improve the open space and recreational opportunities for the conservation, restoration and environmental enhancement of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers Watershed area consistent with the goals of the flood protection, water supply, groundwater recharge and water conservation."

Jane concluded that this project will be funded by an RMC Prop 68 grant award to the WCA at the RMC Governing Board meeting on November 18, 2019 which will help with annual operations and maintenance costs to hold the land as open space and any additional funding shall be secured for any potential future public access and land management considerations that will come from the land management plan and stewardship program.

Mr. Stanley added that at the RMC meeting on Monday there were funds from Prop 1 as well as from Prop 68 and that this resolution would need to be amended to include Prop 1 funds.

**Board Member Arrighi motioned to approve item 12. Board Member Chang seconded the motion. Board Voted. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions. Board Member Arrighi motioned to approve the amended resolution for item 12. Board Member Chang seconded the motion. Board Voted. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.**

**13. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CONSERVATION CORPS FOR THE US FOREST SERVICE MASTER PARTICIPATING AGREEMENT #15-PA-11050100-020-15.**

Alex Linz stated that this was a resolution to award a contract to the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps for the US Forest Service Master Participating Agreement Modification 2 with an amount not to exceed \$112,000.

Alex also stated that this contract would provide services to be completed within the San Gabriel Canyon Improvement Project Area and would include the Mt. Baldy Habitat Preserve and that the draft Scope of Work, Timeline and Budget were attached as Exhibit C.

There were no questions from the board.

**Board Member Chang motioned to approve this item. Vice Chair Maravilla seconded the motion.**

**Board Voted. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.**

**14. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES MASTER AGREEMENT CONTRACT (WCA12501) WITH BLUEGREEN CONSULTING FOR THE EAST FORK SUSTAINABLE RIVER ACCESS PROJECT .**

Jeremy Munns stated that this resolution would authorize a design services contract amendment to the Master Agreement for Professional Services with BlueGreen Consulting to expand the footprint of the East Fork Sustainable River Access project for an additional \$93,265 along with WCA held contingency of \$10,000 for a total new authorized value not to exceed \$265,535.

Jeremy also stated that The River Access Project would be the first implementation of a project from the Plan and one of the first major improvements in the SGMNM since its dedication in 2014 and the goal of the project is to serve as a model for sustainable recreational, balancing recreational uses with resource protection.

There were no questions from the board.

**Board Member Arrighi motioned to approve this item. Board Member Chang seconded the motion. Board Voted. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.**

**15. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A GRANT AWARD FROM THE RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY PROP 1 PROGRAM FOR THE LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER RANGER PROGRAM PILOT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. (RMC19005).**

Debbie Enos stated that the River Ranger Program was established back in 2018 which included recommendations for a governance structure, identification of funding sources to sustain a river ranger network and a pilot program implementation strategy.

Ms. Enos also stated WCA worked with our MRCA partners, engaged agency stakeholders while community-based organizations conducted targeted public outreach throughout the study area to inform the final plan which was submitted to the State Legislature for consideration to fund the three-tiered pilot River Ranger program in March 2019.

Ms. Enos mentioned that the funding for this project will ensure the successful launch of the pilot through the development and execution of participating Agency agreements, development of programs and educational materials, provide on-going public engagement and the preparation of a post-program evaluation tool to summarize lessons learned.

Ms. Enos concluded that state funding has been identified to implement an initial two-year seasonal River Ranger pilot program rollout starting this summer 2020 along one or more reaches of the Lower LA River and that the capital budget will be updated to reflect the \$250,000 grant from the RMC.

There were no questions from the Board.

**Board Member Chang motioned to approve this item. Vice Chair Maravilla seconded the motion. Board Voted. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.**

16. **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.**
  
17. **CLOSED SESSION: PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9, THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY MAY HOLD A CLOSED SESSION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEM: DRAFT APPRAISAL REPORT AND THE DRAFT PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT FOR ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY IN THE FOOTHILLS ABOVE AZUSA (ASSESSOR PARCEL NOS. 8684-024-001 AND 8684-024-035). PROPERTY OWNER: VASQUEZ FAMILY, WCA NEGOTIATORS: MARK STANLEY, DEBBIE ENOS. UNDER CONSIDERATION: PRICE AND TERMS.**

Closed Session began at 1:54pm and ended at approximately 2:36 pm.

Staff provided updates and the Board provided direction.

**18. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 1:30 pm at The Garvey Center in Rosemead.

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Madam Chair Chico at approximately 2:54 pm.

**X**

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Herlinda Chico  
Chair

**X**

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Dena Williams  
Board Secretary