

Coachella Valley Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
June 10, 2021



The audio file for this committee can be found at: <http://www.cvag.org/audio.htm>

**1. CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Chair Linda Evans, City of La Quinta, at 10:32 a.m. via Zoom, pursuant to Gov. Newsom's executive order governing how public meetings are held during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**2. ROLL CALL** – Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

**Members Present**

Councilmember Rita Lamb  
Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair  
Councilmember Gary Gardner  
Councilmember Donna Griffith  
Mayor Elaine Holmes  
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair  
Mayor Kathleen Kelly  
Councilmember Dennis Woods  
Councilmember Richard W. Kite  
Councilmember Glenn Miller  
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick  
Mayor Pro Tem Jan Harnik  
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez  
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt  
Director Russ Martin  
Board Member Anthony Bianco  
President Nancy Wright

**Agency**

City of Cathedral City  
City of Coachella, *present for Items 3-6C*  
City of Desert Hot Springs  
City of Indian Wells  
City of Indio  
City of La Quinta  
City of Palm Desert  
City of Palm Springs  
City of Rancho Mirage  
Riverside County – District 1  
Riverside County – District 2  
Riverside County – District 3  
Riverside County – District 4, *arrived during Item 4*  
Riverside County – District 5, *arrived during Item 6A*  
Riverside County – District 5, *left after Item 5*  
Coachella Valley Water District  
Mission Springs Water District

**Members Not Present**

Director Alex Cardenas

**Agency**

Imperial Irrigation District

**Others Present**

Tom Kirk  
Katie Barrows  
Kathleen Brundige  
Peter Satin  
Erica Felci  
Joanna Stueckle  
Oscar Vizcarra  
Claude Kilgore  
Jim Karpiak  
Tory Brewster  
Randy Bynder  
Jane Garrison  
Cameron Barrows

CVAG

CVAG

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CVAG

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CVAG

CivicSpark Fellow

Bighorn Institute

Oswit Land Trust

UCR

Lynn Sweet  
Stanley Henry  
Mike McDonagh  
Joan Taylor  
Bill Havert  
One individual joined by phone

UCR  
Stanley E. Henry Consulting  
McDonagh Project Management  
Sierra Club  
Retired CVMC Executive Director

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Randy Bynder, board member for the Bighorn Institute, spoke in favor of the incorporation of the bighorn sheep fence into the Management & Monitoring budget on Item 6A. He thanked Director of Environmental Resources Katie Barrows for her service, particularly the hard work coordinating the bighorn sheep fence.

Jane Garrison from Oswit Land Trust spoke in favor of Item 6C. Oswit Land Trust also provided a letter of support on Item 6C, which was forwarded to the members of the Commission.

### **4. COMMISSION CHAIR / DIRECTOR COMMENTS –**

Executive Director Tom Kirk announced the retirement of Ms. Barrows. He presented photos and discussed some of her major accomplishments while working for the CVCC. Several CVCC members – including Chair Evans, Councilmember Kite, Councilmember Fitzpatrick and Mayor Hernandez – praised Ms. Barrow's achievements and thanking her for her service to the CVMSHCP, CVCC, and community.

### **5. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. Approve May 13, 2021 CVCC Meeting Minutes**

**B. Approve CVCC's existing Investment Policy as CVCC Policy #21-02**

**C. Adopt the clarifying memo, *Joint Project Review Requirements of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and the Implementing Agreement as Applied to Programmatic or Phased Projects*, and direct the Executive Director to distribute this guidance to local permittees**

**D. Authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute a services agreement with eBizUniverse, Inc. to complete website redesign for CVCC and the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), at a cost to CVCC of \$4,825 and a cost to CVAG of \$6,425, for a total project cost not to exceed \$11,250**

**IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR KELLY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER FITZPATRICK TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 16 AYES AND 1 MEMBER ABSENT.**

|                                     |            |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Councilmember Rita Lamb</b>      | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mayor Steven Hernandez</b>       | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Councilmember Gary Gardner</b>   | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Councilmember Donna Griffith</b> | <b>Aye</b> |

|                                    |        |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Mayor Elaine Holmes                | Aye    |
| Mayor Linda Evans                  | Aye    |
| Mayor Kathleen Kelly               | Aye    |
| Councilmember Dennis Woods         | Aye    |
| Councilmember Richard W. Kite      | Aye    |
| Councilmember Glenn Miller         | Aye    |
| Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick | Aye    |
| Mayor Pro Tem Jan Harnik           | Aye    |
| Supervisor V. Manuel Perez         | Aye    |
| Director Russ Martin               | Aye    |
| Board Member Anthony Bianco        | Aye    |
| Director Alex Cardenas             | Absent |
| President Nancy Wright             | Aye    |

## 6. DISCUSSION / ACTION

### A. Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Agency-Wide, Programs, and Individual Funds Budget

Claude Kilgore provided the staff report, highlighting the various parts of the budget, including revenues and expenditures.

**IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER GARDNER AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER GRIFFITH TO ADOPT THE CVCC BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021/2022.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 16 AYES AND 1 MEMBER ABSENT.**

|                                    |        |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Councilmember Rita Lamb            | Aye    |
| Mayor Steven Hernandez             | Aye    |
| Councilmember Gary Gardner         | Aye    |
| Councilmember Donna Griffith       | Aye    |
| Mayor Elaine Holmes                | Aye    |
| Mayor Linda Evans                  | Aye    |
| Mayor Kathleen Kelly               | Aye    |
| Councilmember Dennis Woods         | Aye    |
| Councilmember Richard W. Kite      | Aye    |
| Councilmember Glenn Miller         | Aye    |
| Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick | Aye    |
| Mayor Pro Tem Jan Harnik           | Aye    |
| Supervisor V. Manuel Perez         | Aye    |
| Supervisor Jeff Hewitt             | Aye    |
| Board Member Anthony Bianco        | Aye    |
| Director Alex Cardenas             | Absent |
| President Nancy Wright             | Aye    |

### B. Donation of approximately 248 acres in connection with the Mountain View Power Partners Wind Repower Project

Peter Satin provided a staff report describing the location and details of the donation agreement. Brief member discussion ensued.

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR HOLMES AND SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR HEWITT TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 21-005, AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE DONATION OF A PORTION OF ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER 522-070-027, TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 248 ACRES, IN THE WHITEWATER FLOODPLAIN CONSERVATION AREA FROM GABRYCH FAMILY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP; AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY AGREEMENTS AND TAKE SUCH OTHER ACTIONS AS NECESSARY FOR THE ACQUISITION.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 16 AYES AND 1 MEMBER ABSENT.

|                                    |        |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Councilmember Rita Lamb            | Aye    |
| Mayor Steven Hernandez             | Aye    |
| Councilmember Gary Gardner         | Aye    |
| Councilmember Donna Griffith       | Aye    |
| Mayor Elaine Holmes                | Aye    |
| Mayor Linda Evans                  | Aye    |
| Mayor Kathleen Kelly               | Aye    |
| Councilmember Dennis Woods         | Aye    |
| Councilmember Richard W. Kite      | Aye    |
| Councilmember Glenn Miller         | Aye    |
| Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick | Aye    |
| Mayor Pro Tem Jan Harnik           | Aye    |
| Supervisor V. Manuel Perez         | Aye    |
| Supervisor Jeff Hewitt             | Aye    |
| Board Member Anthony Bianco        | Aye    |
| Director Alex Cardenas             | Absent |
| President Nancy Wright             | Aye    |

**C. Acquisition of approximately 42.3+/- acres from the City of Palm Springs in accordance with the Surplus Land Act**

Jim Karpia of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy provided an overview of the purchase, including the property location and conservation value of the parcel recommended for acquisition. Brief member discussion ensued.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER WOODS AND SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR PEREZ TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 21-006 AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF ONE PARCEL TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 42.3+/- ACRES IN THE SANTA ROSA AND SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION AREA AT A NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$460,000, PLUS CLOSING AND TRANSACTION-RELATED COSTS OF \$7,500; AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY CONTRACTS AND TAKE SUCH OTHER ACTIONS AS NECESSARY FOR THE ACQUISITION.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 16 AYES AND 1 MEMBER ABSENT.

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Councilmember Rita Lamb      | Aye |
| Mayor Steven Hernandez       | Aye |
| Councilmember Gary Gardner   | Aye |
| Councilmember Donna Griffith | Aye |

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| <b>Mayor Elaine Holmes</b>                | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Mayor Linda Evans</b>                  | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Mayor Kathleen Kelly</b>               | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Councilmember Dennis Woods</b>         | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Councilmember Richard W. Kite</b>      | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Councilmember Glenn Miller</b>         | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick</b> | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Mayor Pro Tem Jan Harnik</b>           | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Supervisor V. Manuel Perez</b>         | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Supervisor Jeff Hewitt</b>             | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Board Member Anthony Bianco</b>        | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Director Alex Cardenas</b>             | <b>Absent</b> |
| <b>President Nancy Wright</b>             | <b>Aye</b>    |

**D. Contract with the University of California Riverside, Center for Conservation Biology to Implement Biological Monitoring**

Kathleen Brundige gave a staff report and provided an overview of the contract tasks for the upcoming year including implementing the aeolian sand protocol, monitoring and habitat modeling for species such as the Coachella Valley milk-vetch, little San Bernardino Mountains linanthus, and cylindrical cholla habitat for LeConte's thrasher.

**IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR KELLY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER KITE TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA RIVERSIDE'S CENTER FOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGY TO IMPLEMENT BIOLOGICAL MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD FROM JULY 1, 2021 TO JUNE 30, 2022 AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$248,054.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 15 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT.**

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| <b>Councilmember Rita Lamb</b>            | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Mayor Steven Hernandez</b>             | <b>Absent</b> |
| <b>Councilmember Gary Gardner</b>         | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Councilmember Donna Griffith</b>       | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Mayor Elaine Holmes</b>                | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Mayor Linda Evans</b>                  | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Mayor Kathleen Kelly</b>               | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Councilmember Dennis Woods</b>         | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Councilmember Richard W. Kite</b>      | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Councilmember Glenn Miller</b>         | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick</b> | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Mayor Pro Tem Jan Harnik</b>           | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Supervisor V. Manuel Perez</b>         | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Supervisor Jeff Hewitt</b>             | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Board Member Anthony Bianco</b>        | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Director Alex Cardenas</b>             | <b>Absent</b> |
| <b>President Nancy Wright</b>             | <b>Aye</b>    |

#### **E. Report on CivicSpark Fellowship Program Activities**

Tory Brewster gave a staff report and update on the CivicSpark Fellowship project for CVCC. She reported on training tools, results and materials she has developed for land management students/volunteers and will be completing the project in July. Member discussion included expressing appreciation for Ms. Brewster's work.

There was no action taken as this was an informational item.

#### **7. INFORMATION** - The following items were provided in the agenda for information only:

- A. Attendance Record**
- B. Contracts Under \$25,000**
- C. Member Survey on CVAG Meetings in Post-COVID environment**
- D. Selection of Independent Auditor for CVAG, CVCC and DCE**
- E. Meeting calendar for Fiscal Year 2021/2022**
- F. State and Federal Funding Sources for Habitat Conservation**
- G. CV Link Endowment for Management of Mitigation Sites for Casey's June Beetle**

#### **8. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

#### **9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Prior to the end of the meeting, Councilmember Gardner expressed concern about increased illegal dumping around the City of Desert Hot Springs. He requested a future meeting/update on implementing resources and outreach opportunities as it pertains to conservation land.

Upcoming meetings:

- The next meeting of the CVCC will be held Thursday, September 9, 2021, at 10:30 a.m. either via Zoom webinar or in-person.
- The next meeting of the General Assembly will be held on Monday, June 28, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom webinar.

#### **10. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kathleen Brundige*