

ITEM 5A

Coachella Valley Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 14, 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 10:30 a.m. via Zoom, pursuant to the guidelines of Assembly Bill 361.
- 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
Director Alex Cardenas
Councilmember Donna Griffith
Mayor Elaine Holmes
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair
President Nancy Wright
Mayor Kathleen Kelly
Councilmember Dennis Woods
Councilmember Richard Kite
Councilmember Glenn Miller
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick
Mayor Pro Tem Jan Harnik
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Director Russ Martin

Agency

City of Cathedral City
City of Coachella, *arrived during Item 4*
City of Desert Hot Springs
Imperial Irrigation District
City of Indian Wells
City of Indio
City of La Quinta
Mission Springs Water District
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
Riverside County – District 5

Members Not Present

Board Member Anthony Bianco

Agency

Coachella Valley Water District

Others Present

Tom Kirk
Jodi Ross-Borrego
Kathleen Brundige
Peter Satin
Trisha Stull
Elizabeth Paige
Erica Felci
Joanna Stueckle
Oscar Vizcarra
Claude Kilgore
Jim Karpia
Randy Bynder
Cameron Barrows
Lynn Sweet
Stanley Henry

CVAG

CVAG

Pat Cooper
Nina Waszak
One individual joined by phone

Riverside County District 4

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Randy Bynder, board member for the Bighorn Institute, said he was present to listen to Items 6A and 7E. He congratulated the hire of Jodi Ross-Borrego as Director of Environmental Resources and said the CVCC members would receive information on the Bighorn Institute's annual dinner and gala.

4. COMMISSION CHAIR / DIRECTOR COMMENTS –

Executive Director Tom Kirk introduced Jodi Ross-Borrego as CVAG's new Director of Environmental Resources.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approve June 10, 2021 CVCC Meeting Minutes**
- B. Establish that findings exist, pursuant to Assembly Bill 361, and authorize remote teleconference/virtual meetings of the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission and its committees; and authorize the Chair and/or Executive Director to advocate for Brown Act changes to allow regional agencies to continue utilizing virtual meetings.**
- C. Approve Resolution 21-007, reflecting the adopted CVCC Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Budget**
- D. Authorize the updating of the signature cards and signatories for CVCC investments and banking**
- E. Authorize the Chair and/or Executive Director to execute a letter of engagement with Best, Best & Krieger to provide legal services related to implementation of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan at a cost not to exceed \$30,000 for October 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022**
- F. Adopt Resolution 21-008 and authorize the Executive Director to take the necessary steps to accept a Local Assistance Grant from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in the amount of \$91,040 for "*Using NDVI Data in Models to Determine Habitat Use of Peninsular Bighorn Sheep in Response to Human Presence on Recreational Trails*"**
- G. Adopt Resolution 21-009 and authorize the Executive Director to take the necessary steps to accept a Local Assistance Grant from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in the amount of \$71,566 for "*Creating climate resiliency in the Coachella Valley Natural Communities Conservation Plan: Assessing climate change vulnerability for Covered Species*"**
- H. Authorize the Executive Director to execute a no-cost amendment for HDR Engineering's GIS Project contract, extending work through June 30, 2022 and making minor adjustments to the scope of services**

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR KELLY AND SECONDED BY DIRECTOR CARDENAS TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 16 AYES AND 1 MEMBER ABSENT.

Councilmember Rita Lamb	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Absent
Councilmember Gary Gardner	Aye
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
Councilmember Donna Griffith	Aye
Mayor Elaine Holmes	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans	Aye
President Nancy Wright	Aye
Mayor Kathleen Kelly	Aye
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Councilmember Richard 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

6. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Presentation on Biological Monitoring Program

Mr. Kirk introduced Dr. Cam Barrows and acknowledged his retirement. Dr. Barrows and his successor on the biological monitoring program, Dr. Sweet, provided an overview of the history of the CVMSHCP, updates on current species' status and outlined new projects.

Member discussion ensued. Dr. Barrows addressed members' questions. There was no action taken as this was an informational update.

B. Acquisition of approximately 1.215 acres in the Thousand Palms Conservation Area

Jim Karpiak 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.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER FITZPATRICK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER GARDNER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 21-010 AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF A PARTIAL PARCEL TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 1.215+- ACRES IN THE THOUSAND PALMS CONSERVATION AREA AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000 PLUS CLOSING AND TRANSACTION RELATED COSTS NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000; 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
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Absent
Councilmember Gary Gardner	Aye
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
Councilmember Donna Griffith	Aye
Mayor Elaine Holmes	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans	Aye
President Nancy Wright	Aye
Mayor Kathleen Kelly	Aye
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Councilmember Richard 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

C. Contract Extension and Additional Funds for In-Lieu Fee Program Restoration Development Plan

Kathleen Brundige shared background on the in-lieu fee program and the progress on the project.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER ORTIZ AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER KITE TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AMENDMENT #5 TO THE IN-LIEU FEE PROGRAM CONTRACT WITH ICF JONES & STOKES, PROVIDING FOR AN ADDITIONAL COST OF \$81,438.33 AND EXTENDING THE CONTRACT THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2022.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 16 AYES AND 1 MEMBER ABSENT.

Councilmember Rita Lamb	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Absent
Councilmember Gary Gardner	Aye
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
Councilmember Donna Griffith	Aye
Mayor Elaine Holmes	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans	Aye
President Nancy Wright	Aye
Mayor Kathleen Kelly	Aye
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Councilmember Richard 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

D. Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperative Land Management and Law Enforcement Activities

Ms. Brundige presented the staff report, including an update on the existing memorandum of understanding with the City of Desert Hot Springs for law enforcement on CVCC-managed lands. Member discussion ensued.

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR KELLY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER GARDNER TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND/OR CHAIR TO SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FOR COOPERATIVE LAND MANAGEMENT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES ON CVCC LANDS, FOR A TWO-YEAR PERIOD ENDING OCTOBER 14, 2023, FOR A NOT-TO-EXCEED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$30,000; AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND/OR LEGAL COUNSEL TO MAKE MINOR MODIFICATIONS PRIOR TO EXECUTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 16 AYES AND 1 MEMBER ABSENT.

Councilmember Rita Lamb	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Absent
Councilmember Gary Gardner	Aye
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
Councilmember Donna Griffith	Aye
Mayor Elaine Holmes	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans	Aye
President Nancy Wright	Aye
Mayor Kathleen Kelly	Aye
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Councilmember Richard 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

E. Election of CVCC Officers

Tom Kirk opened the floor for nominations for the 2021/2022 Chair and Vice Chair. Only one set of nominations was made, and brief discussion occurred among members.

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR KELLY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER FITZPATRICK TO ELECT MAYOR LINDA EVANS AS CHAIR AND MAYOR STEVEN HERNANDEZ AS VICE CHAIR OF THE COACHELLA VALLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021/2022.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 16 AYES AND 1 MEMBER ABSENT.

Councilmember Rita Lamb	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Absent
Councilmember Gary Gardner	Aye
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
Councilmember Donna Griffith	Aye
Mayor Elaine Holmes	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans	Aye
President Nancy Wright	Aye
Mayor Kathleen Kelly	Aye
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Councilmember Richard 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

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

- A. Attendance Record**
- B. CVCC's Quarterly Unaudited Financial Statement as of June 30, 2021**
- C. CVCC's Investment Report as of June 30, 2021**
- D. Contracts Under \$25,000**
- E. Progress on the La Quinta Peninsular Bighorn Sheep Fence**

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming meetings:

The next meeting of the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission will be held on Thursday, November 18, 2021, at 10:30 a.m. either via Zoom webinar.

10. ADJOURN

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

Respectfully submitted,

Trisha Stull