

Coachella Valley Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 18, 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
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
Director Russ Martin

Agency

City of Cathedral City
City of Coachella
City of Desert Hot Springs
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 5

Members Not Present

Board Member Anthony Bianco
Director Alex Cardenas
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez

Agency

Coachella Valley Water District
Imperial Irrigation District
Riverside County – District 4

Others Present

Tom Kirk
Kathleen Brundige
Peter Satin
Elizabeth Paige
Erica Felci
Joanna Stueckle
Peter Satin
Emmanuel Martinez
Jim Karpiak
Jane Garrison
Pat Cooper
Joan Taylor
Brad Anderson

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Oswit Land Trust

Riverside County – District 4

Sierra Club

Resident

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Brad Anderson, local resident, addressed Item 5B and ensuring meetings meet the requirements under the state's Brown Act.

Jane Garrison, Oswit Land Trust, expressed support for Item 6B and praised the cooperation and partnerships to conserve open habitat.

4. COMMISSION CHAIR / DIRECTOR COMMENTS –

Executive Director Tom Kirk deferred to Desert Hot Springs Councilmember Gary Garner, who highlighted the upcoming grand opening celebration of Long Canyon trail improvements.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve June 10, 2021 CVCC Meeting Minutes

B. Affirm that findings still exist, pursuant to Assembly Bill 361, and authorize continuation of remote teleconference/virtual meetings of the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission and its committees

C. Authorize the Executive Director to execute a no-cost amendment with eBizUniverse, Inc., extending work through March 31, 2022

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

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 14 AYES AND 3 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Councilmember Rita Lamb	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Absent
Councilmember Gary Gardner	Aye
Director Alex Cardenas	Absent
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	Absent
Director Russ Martin	Aye

6. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Biological Monitoring Services for the La Quinta Peninsular Bighorn Sheep Fence Project

Kathleen Brundige presented the staff report, including background on the fence project, the requirements for biological monitoring and the process to request proposals. Member discussion ensued. Members noted that there were upcoming events occurring in La Quinta, and requested that staff coordinate the construction schedule accordingly.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER KITE AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER MILLER TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A ONE-YEAR CONTRACT WITH WOOD ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$149,820 FOR BIOLOGICAL MONITORING SERVICES, AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND/OR LEGAL COUNSEL TO MAKE CLARIFYING CHANGES BEFORE EXECUTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 14 AYES AND 3 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Councilmember Rita Lamb	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Absent
Councilmember Gary Gardner	Aye
Director Alex Cardenas	Absent
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	Absent
Director Russ Martin	Aye

B. Acquisition of approximately 3,217.99 acres in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area as part of the Palm Hills conservation effort

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.

Member discussion ensued. It was noted that this was CVCC's largest ever purchase and will protect land that is prime for development. Members also expressed interest in future management coordination with Oswit Land Trust's volunteers. Peter Satin also described how the costs will be covered by funding coming from Caltrans.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER WOODS AND SECONDED BY MAYOR KELLY TO 1. APPROVE RESOLUTION 21-011 AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF NINE PARCELS TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 3,217.99+- ACRES IN THE SANTA ROSA AND SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION AREA AT A COST NOT

TO EXCEED \$5,465,000, PLUS CLOSING AND TRANSACTION RELATED COSTS
NOT TO EXCEED \$17,500; AND 2. AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO
EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY CONTRACTS AND TAKE SUCH OTHER ACTIONS AS
NECESSARY FOR THE ACQUISITION.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 14 AYES AND 3 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Councilmember Rita Lamb	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Absent
Councilmember Gary Gardner	Aye
Director Alex Cardenas	Absent
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	Absent
Director Russ Martin	Aye

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

- A. Attendance Record**
- B. Grand Opening of Long Canyon Trail Improvement Project**
- C. CVCC's Investment Report as of September 30, 2021**

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, January 13, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom webinar.

10. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Evans at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erica Felci