

**Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve
Reserve Management Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 5, 2018 – 1:00 pm**
Multi-Species Reserve Office (Alamos Schoolhouse)
Lake Skinner Recreation Area, 37701 Warren Rd, Winchester 92596

Meeting Notes

RMC Members Present

Kyla Brown (Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District/Parks)
Eddy Konno (California Department of Fish and Wildlife)
Alex Marks (Metropolitan Water District of Southern California)
Brian Shomo (Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency/RCHCA)

Other Attendees

Gail Barton (member of the public), Tania Asef (MWD), Bill Wagner (consultant/MWD), Robert Williams (Reserve Manager, Parks), Dustin McLain (Parks), Melanie Niemen (Eastern Municipal Water District),

1. **Call to order and introductions** – The meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm.
2. **Public comments** – Gail Barton, in reference to the Reserve Manager's annual report, commented on the intent and purpose of creating the reserve.
3. **Approval of meeting notes** – September meeting notes were presented and discussed.

MOTION to approve the meeting notes as presented for September.

Motion – Eddy Konno; Second – Brian Shomo; Motion approved

4. **Reserve manager report** – Robert provided the September through December 2018 quarterly report and annual report for fiscal year 2017/2018 on progress of management tasks pertaining to natural resource management, technological updates, trespass, outreach, and training. Highlights from the written reports were as follows.

Quarterly Report:

- Concluded weed abatement at the 8-acre Bassia site. A total of 4.4 acres of non-native grasses were removed during the quarter to enhance habitat for Quino checkerspot butterfly and Munz onion.
- Reserve Ranger conducted numerous patrols during dove, quail, and deer hunting seasons with no issues to report.
- Field staff completed the native plant nursery. The nursery will be able to hold up to 500 1-gallon potted plants to be used for restoration in the creeks that flow into Lake Skinner.
- RCHCA hosted a 2-day Endangered Species event at the Alamos Schoolhouse. MSR staff assisted with programs and site preparation.

- 995 visitors came to the Alamos Schoolhouse Nature Center this quarter and 120 visitors attended one of five Nature Walks/Bird Walks this quarter.

Annual Report:

- 1,440 patrol hours was conducted in 2017-2018.
- To prevent unlawful entry, staff installed 175 boundary and no trespassing signs. Skinner Trailhead was upgraded and posted with trail use rules and regulations.
- Nine MSR Research Proposals were submitted and approved by the Reserve Manager; three are anticipated to be completed in 2019.
- A 3-Year Habitat Restoration Plan for Stephens Kangaroo Rat was developed, which established four units along Rawson Road targeted at increasing habitat. The plan also identified 64 acres located on RCHCA land within the Reserve that could be abated of non-native grasses and managed annually.
- Exceeded the Reserve objective to mow 220 acres of non-native grassland by mowing nearly 375 acres.
- The Nature Center was open to the public 149 days and 2,665 visitors attended nature walks, daily programs, and events.

5. Reserve Management RFP Scope of Work – The RMC will discuss reserve management scope for future RFP process – Alex presented the item and that MWD is drafting the RFP utilizing the existing management scope of work and recent Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve RFP as examples. One of the tasks required of the selected manager would include updating the management plan for the reserve. Alex added that the interpretive program could be included in the RFP as an optional management task.

6. Trail Update - MWD will update the RMC on trails planning efforts – Alex presented the item and that MWD is moving forward with the trails planning effort. He noted that MWD has decided to pursue a trail along the San Diego Canal to provide the north-south connection between Diamond Valley Lake and Lake Skinner rather than the two connecting trails approved by the RMC at the March 2017 meeting, including the Goldrich Trail Extension. Alex indicated that the canal trail was included in the Eastside Reservoir (DVL) Project EIR and SWRMSHCP. The effort would also include two interpretive trail options at Lake Skinner, the alignment approved by the RMC in March 2017 and an alignment previously supported by the RMC and included in Addendum #7 to the Eastside Reservoir EIR in 2002. He provided an exhibit depicting the proposed trail alignments. Alex indicated that although the current trails planning effort would not include all of the trails approved by the RMC in March 2017, those could be proposed for development in the future. He stated that MWD's planning effort would include an environmental constraints analysis to inform the trail alignments and development of the plan.

MOTION to approve moving forward with the trails plan with the alignments presented.

Motion – Kyla Brown;

Second - Eddy Konno;

Motion approved

7. Roundtable – RMC members will provide updates on Reserve-related activities of their agencies - (a) Eddy stated that with his retirement from CDFW this would be his final meeting. He noted that Gold Spotted Oak Borer has been identified in Oak Glen and in the San Jacinto

Wildlife Area. (b) Brian reported that RCHCA had been incorporated into the Western Riverside Council of Governments and that in coordination with USFWS would be conducting an SKR status review, which will be published by USFWS. Brian asked about the status of the Reserve office building project and whether the RMC should consider a maintenance shop instead. Robert suggesting erecting a chain-link fence around the old reserve building for safety purposes. The members recommended including a discussion of Reserve Management Needs at the next meeting. (c) Alex reported that he received an email from Michael Horton at the Western Center Academy that the recent insect collection study conducted by the students in Reserve was mentioned in the Emergent Investigators Journal and that the improvements on Angler Avenue were completed. Bill reported that he planned to install the railroad ties along the Lake Skinner Trail in the winter to support opening of the trail for year-round use in 2019.

8. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 PM.

The next meeting will be March 13, 2019.