

**Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve
Reserve Management Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 1, 2017 – 1:00p.m.
Santa Rosa Plateau Nature Center
39400 Clinton Keith Road, Murrieta, CA 92562**

Meeting Notes

RMC members present

Eddy Konno (California Department of Fish and Wildlife)
Wendy Picht (Metropolitan Water District of Southern California)
Kyla Brown (Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District)

Other attendees

Robert Williams (Reserve Manager, Parks), Bill Wagner (consultant, MWD), Gail Barton (member of the public), Alex Marks (MWD), Dustin McClain (Parks)

1. **Call to order and introductions** – The meeting was called to order at 1:06pm.
2. **Public comments** – No comments.
3. **Meeting notes** – August meeting notes were presented and discussed. Kyla requested that "necessary" be deleted in Agenda Item 5 regarding Robert's experience and permits.

MOTION to approve the meeting notes as modified for August.

Motion – Eddy Konno; Second – Wendy Picht; Motion approved

4. **Reserve Manager Report** – Robert presented the 2016/2017 fiscal year and the initial 2017/2018 quarterly report on progress of management tasks pertaining to natural resource management, ranger patrol, maintenance of property and facilities, and interpretive program development. Highlights from both written reports were as follows.

Annual Report

- Annual expenditures for the fiscal year were \$293,984 and approximately 68% of the overall budget was exhausted.
- Transitioned to a Task Order system for FY17/18 with the RMC-approved budget of \$399,894.
- Reviewed grassland management activities and noted that 453 acres had been mowed and 106 acres treated with herbicide.
- Reserve staff identified Stinknet in multiple locations on the MSR and approximately 16 acres were treated with a combination of herbicide and hand-pulling.

Quarterly Report

- A Habitat Restoration Plan was created for SKR management on RCHCA parcels located in the Reserve along Rawson Road. Approximately 64 acres of land will be managed and restored over the next 3 years. A request for reimbursement of \$20,000 has been submitted to the RCHCA for the work completed in this plan.
- Crown Valley and Oxley management units were mowed for SKR. Roadside abatement was also conducted in the Reserve.
- A total of 175 "No Trespassing" and boundary signs have been installed throughout the Reserve.

- The large Kubota tractor has a bad clutch and will cost \$6,000 to repair. The Open-Space team loaned the Reserve two tractors to complete mowing operations.
- Over 325 visitors enjoyed arts and crafts, live animals, and educational material at the Schoolhouse during the quarter.

5. Reserve management RFP and criteria to evaluate management services – The RMC will continue discussion of an RFP for Reserve management; the RMC will also discuss evaluation criteria for management services - This item was a continuation of the August meeting's discussion regarding evaluation of Reserve management services. Wendy recommended that the RMC develop criteria and a monitoring schedule to evaluate Reserve management services. If the evaluations were to indicate that identified goals for management of the Reserve were not being met, a discussion of other management options, including solicitation of a new contractor, could occur. Wendy distributed examples of performance evaluations that could be used to develop criteria for the Reserve and noted that MWD would support such a process. Following discussion about evaluation criteria and methods, the RMC agreed to share ideas and to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

6. Reserve habitat credit bank – MWD will update the RMC on the status of the habitat credit bank and the RMC will review credit prices – Wendy stated that land had been purchase by the Reserve to sell in the future as habitat credits. She noted that the most recent credit granted was in 2014. The money received from the sale of the credits is deposited to the Reserve endowment fund. Wendy stated that Bill Wagner has updated the maps and fee schedule for the remaining Reserve land available for credit. Bill then distributed copies of the 2007 fee schedule for credit sales in the Reserve based upon habitat type and species. He stated that the there is still acreage remaining to be sold in the Goldrich and MSR banks and that 149 acres and 180 acre have already been sold in the banks, respectively. All of the SKR related credits from the Goldrich Bank have been sold. Wendy stated that MWD would be seeking input from the RMC on the fee schedule. In the interim, Bill will continue updating the credit ledger and will prepare a cost estimate to perform updated surveys of the remaining parcels. Further discussion of the fee schedule, options for management of the ledger, and surveys would occur at the next RMC meeting.

7. Trail Update –MWD will update the RMC on Plantago management activities for the Skinner Trail – Wendy introduced the item and stated that Bill was present to provide a report on progress accomplished since the spring to address the Quino Checkerspot butterfly host plant concerns. Bill distributed an email report detailing the progress, including maps of the trail and photographs of the Plantago seed collection and restoration site creation. He stated that the existing railroad ties were under consideration to define the trail border. The goal remains for the trail to be open for year-round use in 2019 with success establishment of the Plantago site.

MOTION to approve the use of railroad ties to line the Skinner Trail, pending Geary's concurrence via email.

Motion – Eddy Konno; Second – Wendy Picht; Motion approved

Wendy will coordinate with Geary to obtain his concurrence.

8. Roundtable – (a) Wendy provided the 2016/2017 fiscal year Reserve Endowment Account Summary to the RMC. MWD has a new drone program that would be filming the Goldrich Trail later in November, followed potentially by the wildlife corridors. MWD will coordinate with the Reserve Manager regarding the filming. (b) Robert reported that he would be coordinating with Carole Bell at the Santa Rosa Plateau to collect Engelmann Oak seed. (c) No other reports.

9. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 pm