

**Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve
Reserve Management Committee
Wednesday, May 3, 2017 – 1:00 p.m.
Santa Rosa Plateau Visitor Center
394000 Clinton Keith Road, Murrieta, CA**

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)
Brian Shomo (Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency)
Geary Hund (United States Fish and Wildlife Service)

Other Attendees:

Alex Marks (Metropolitan)
Bill Wagner (Metropolitan consultant)
Charity Hagen (Reserve Interpreter, Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District)
Robert Williams (Reserve Manager, Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District)
Michael Horton (Western Center Academy)
Matthew Munoz (Western Center Academy)
Arnauld Martinez (Western Center Academy)
Gail Barton (member of the public)

1. Call to order and introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Kyla Brown

2. Public comments

None

3. Approval of meeting notes – The RMC was requested to provide approval of the 2/1/17 and 3/10/17 meeting notes

Approval of the notes was postponed to the August 2017 meeting to give RMC members additional review time.

4. Western Center Academy Insect Study Presentation – WCA presented the results of their study, “Diversity of Native Flying Insects in the Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve” (approved by RMC in 2016)

Michael Horton, the Assistant Principal of the Western Center Academy, introduced students Matthew Munoz and Arnauld Martinez to give a presentation on the two-part insect study that was conducted in the Reserve in 2016/2017. The study used malaise traps in the East Wildlife Corridor to capture the insects. In one component of the study, the captured insects were

identified and entered into a DNA barcode reference library of the world's species being assembled at the University of Guelph. The WCA project contributed nine new species to the library. The second component of the study investigated the diversity and DNA of the species that were collected in the traps and confirmed that insect diversity is statistically greater in less-disturbed natural environments such as the Reserve. Arnauld and Matthew stated the study results prove the important role insects play in the environment. The students distributed a species list and images of the insects captured during the study. They expressed an interest in continuing the study and displaying a sample of the collected insects at the Alamos Schoolhouse along with science fair display boards. RMC members expressed appreciation and support for the high quality of this student research.

5. Reserve manager report – The Reserve manager updated the RMC on Reserve management activities

Robert presented the management report and addressed the following topics – (a) Best management practices (BMPs) are being developed for conducting prescribed burns for vegetation management. A five-year vegetation management plan for prescribed burns is in work with CalFire. (b) Robert reported fewer trespass-related issues during the last quarter. (c) The Reserve office air conditioner has not been working properly and Robert stated that he would investigate the cause and need for repairs. (d) Robert followed up on a previous request to purchase a new mower attachment using unspent contingency funds in the current budget. After discussion of the comparative costs and uses of a rotary mower versus a flail mower, Robert recommended an approximately \$3,800 rotary mower,

MOTION to approve the purchase of a new rotary mower with FY 16/17 contingency funds: Eddy Konno

SECOND: Geary Hund

Motion Approved

6. Annual Work Plan and Budget – Parks presented the FY 17/18 Annual Work Plan and budget for discussion and approval

Robert presented the annual work plan and budget, including scopes and anticipated costs of projects and activities to be undertaken in the Reserve during FY 17/18. A primary focus will be vegetation management; other components of the work plan include SKR management, habitat restoration, research, trail upgrades, and the interpretive program. Draft task orders for work plan items were submitted to MWD for review and processing. The RMC discussed creation of a task order for general Reserve management for miscellaneous costs. Wendy stated that the format of the task orders would be reviewed to address such costs.

The RMC discussed the proposed Reserve Management Activity Data Sheets (MADS) and data collection using GIS. Robert stated he would look into using the Collector Application, which is in use by RCHCA and other SKR Plan core reserve land managers. The RMC previously approved use of the app in the Reserve in 2015. As part of the Reserve Manager's administrative duties, RMC members directed Robert to provide quarterly work plan updates and a detailed annual summary of actions taken to implement the annual work plan.

Kyla requested RMC approval of the FY 17/18 budget of \$400,000 and affirmed that the task

orders would implement the annual work plan and be consistent with the budget. Discussion continued, including the potential parameters of issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Reserve management if Parks is unsuccessful in implementing an effective Reserve management program. Brian further noted that the duration of the current contract has not allowed a comparison of costs and services that other entities might be able to provide for Reserve management.

MOTION to approve the FY 17/18 annual work plan and budget with the understanding that the task orders and complete scope and cost information would come with the next meeting's approval: Wendy Picht

SECOND: Brian Shomo

Motion Approved

7. Trails Planning Update – Parks and MWD provided an update

Wendy reported that a Memorandum of Intent (MOI) among Metropolitan, the County, and other parties is awaiting final signatures and will address the development of Reserve trails. Submittal of KTU+A's final report to Parks also is pending. Following execution of the MOI, a kick-off site visit will be scheduled to include Parks, MWD, Reserve staff, and any members of the RMC. The meeting will provide an overview of the trail alignments that were approved for further study by the RMC at its March RMC meeting, and to discuss the goal and objectives of the trails plan. Wendy mentioned a request by a senior group for a Reserve hike in July or August that might be a good opportunity for the RMC to get feedback on the proposed Skinner interpretive loop trail. She suggested that Charity could lead the hike and the RMC was agreeable.

8. Research Proposals

Robert discussed the Cal State San Bernardino geology study and rock collection proposal that was initially reviewed at the February 2017 RMC meeting. The RMC's suggestions discussed at that meeting have been incorporated into the proposal and Robert will approve the study after further discussion with the submitter

9. Roundtable – RMC members provided updates on Reserve-related activities of their agencies

CDFW – Eddy asked about tri-color blackbird survey results. Robert said he would try to get a report of surveys conducted by the County's MSHCP monitoring team.

Metropolitan – (a) Wendy stated there may be a Metropolitan special event campout in August or September on the mesa above the DVL East Marina. The event would be coordinated with Metropolitan's Environmental Planning Section and the RMC would be provided details once more information is known. (b) Metropolitan is investigating measures to retrofit Angler Avenue in support of nighttime use of the marina; any proposed changes to the road would be presented to the RMC for review and approval. (c) Metropolitan security is investigating new ways to patrol existing Reserve trails, particularly in the DVL area, including by quad or horseback. (d) Bill reported that he will schedule annual maintenance on the Lake Skinner Equestrian Trail with CalFire and will coordinate with Robert.

RCHCA – (a) Brian stated that weed abatement was upcoming for RCHCA parcels and that he will coordinate with Tom Ash. (b) A cactus planting community outreach volunteer event was scheduled at Lake Matthews on May 6 to support cactus wren habitat south of Cajalco Road. (c) Brian noted that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service had given Gail Barton an award recognizing her work for SKR; RMC members congratulated Gail and agreed that she was instrumental in RCHCA’s successful implementation of the SKR Plan.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

RMC 5/03/17