

**Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting
INLAND EMPIRE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
June 10th, 2015 at 12 PM**

Directors Present: President Paul Williams; Vice-President Cheryl Avent; Secretary-Treasurer Tim Johnson; Director Terrie Andrews; Director Alison Mathisen; Director Brad Buller; Director Jim Earsom; Associate Director Molly Bogh; Associate Director Jim Harrington

Directors Absent: None

Staff Present: District Manager Mandy Parkes; Project Manager Katie Heer; Field Ecologist Aaron Echols; Administrative Assistant Jen Arellano

Members of the Public: NRCS Forester Peter Hoagland; NRCS Soil Conservationist Intern Ricardo Ortiz

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Paul Williams at 12:12 PM

II. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR

The motion to approve the consent calendar was provided by Director Earsom, with a second by Director Buller.

Director Terrie Andrews commented that she did not provide the second for the consideration of approval for 2015-16 Water Provider Partner Proposals. Director Andrews further noted that she was not in attendance at the meeting, as reflected in the voting roll-call box located beneath the item discussion. She requested that minutes be amended to reflect her absence.

Vice-President Cheryl Avent requested a copy of the support letter written on behalf of the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District's LAFCO application, as approved at the May 13th Board meeting. Staff provided a copy of the letter to Ms. Avent to allow for review of letter language, and President Paul Williams also provided an update on the intention and status of SBVWCD's application.

The motion for the approval of the consent calendar carried 5-2-0, with Directors Andrews and Johnson abstaining due to absence at the May 13th board meeting.

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|----------|---------|----------|-----|
| Andrews | Abstain | Avent | Aye |
| Buller | Aye | Earsom | Aye |
| Johnson | Abstain | Mathisen | Aye |
| Williams | Aye | | |

IV. REPORTS

1. BBK Billings Report

No further discussion on the BB&K Billings Report

2. **Staff Reports**
Director Jim Earsom requested additional information from District Manager Mandy Parkes regarding the San Bernardino County Flood Control District's (SBCFCD) plans to establish a centerline in San Timoteo Creek. Ms. Parkes responded that she'd met with County employee David Lovell who had provided her with a map of the project site and outlined their work plans under the authority of their Reach 3B Flood Control Project permitting. Ms. Parkes further noted that the IERCD is not otherwise involved in this project work.

During the review of Project Manager Katie Heer's report, Directors Earsom and Johnson requested information on location and status of the pending Richland Communities project. Ms. Heer elaborated on project location and Director Johnson commented on original intention of the land included in the mitigation concept.

Vice-Chair Cheryl Avent congratulated staff on the receipt of funding associated with the Drought Response Outreach Program for Schools (DROPS) grant.

Education staff including Education Coordinator Amy Bonczewski, Conservation Educator Shari Tindall, and Education Assistant Alma Eichman arrived at the meeting at 12:26 PM.

3. **NRCS Update**
Director Earsom mentioned that Forester Peter Hoagland was sitting in on behalf of District Conservationist Kim Lary. President Williams asked Mr. Hoagland about the quantity of money the NRCS must spend on the Healthy Forest project. Mr. Hoagland replied that of the 2.5 million they must spend, that approximately 1.4million has been committed to projects.
4. **SAWA Update**
No further discussion on the SAWA update.
5. **CARCD**
No further discussion on CARCD.
- V. **CLOSED SESSION/CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS**
Property: 39840 East Big Bear Blvd, Big Bear Lake, CA 92315
Agency negotiator: Mandy Parkes
Negotiating Party: MWB Lakeside, LLC
Under negotiation: Price and terms of payment.

There was no reportable action out of closed session.

- VI. **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**
 1. **Discussion and Possible Approval of IERCD 2015-16 Fiscal Year Budget**

Secretary-Treasurer and Budget Committee member Tim Johnson noted that the budget for 2015-16 was based on development of a three-year budget performance analysis, with the inclusion of anticipated property tax revenues at a level adjusted for actual received in previous years. Associate Director Molly Bogh clarified that the increase in overall revenue was from property taxes and not the grants recently received by the District, which was confirmed by Mr. Johnson. District Manager Mandy Parkes thanked all Committee members for their extensive involvement in development of the 2015-16 proposal.

Director Buller provided a motion to approve the IERCD 2015-16 Fiscal Year Budget. Director Johnson provided the second. The motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

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| Andrews | Aye | Avent | Aye |
| Buller | Aye | Earsom | Aye |
| Johnson | Aye | Mathisen | Aye |
| Williams | Aye | | |

Vice-Chair Avent stepped out of the room at 1:32 PM.

2. Discussion and Possible Approval of Amendment to NRCS Cooperative Agreement

Director Johnson provided the motion to approve the Amendment to the NRCS Cooperative Agreement. Director Andrews provided the second. The motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

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|----------|-----|----------|--------|
| Andrews | Aye | Avent | Absent |
| Buller | Aye | Earsom | Aye |
| Johnson | Aye | Mathisen | Aye |
| Williams | Aye | | |

3. Discussion and Possible Approval of the United States Forest Service Wood Innovations Project. Director Mathisen expressed interest in assisting in project outreach to growers in Oak Glen who would be interested in use of the vermicompost to be created as part of project implementation. Ms. Parkes responded that staff will coordinate with Director Mathisen as project implementation approaches to take advantage of her assistance.

Director Johnson provided the motion for approval of the United States Forest Service Wood Innovations Project with Director Buller providing the second. The motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

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| Andrews | Aye | Avent | Absent |
| Buller | Aye | Earsom | Aye |
| Johnson | Aye | Mathisen | Aye |
| Williams | Aye | | |

Vice-Chair Avent returned to the meeting at 1:40 PM.

4. Discussion and Possible Approval of Acceptance of Rancho Miramonte Mitigation Concept
District Manager Mandy Parkes commented that the IERCD is currently working with the developer of the Rancho Miramonte project to convey fee title to the IERCD of a 12-acre parcel adjacent to two pending conservation easements also in negotiations to ultimately be managed by the District. Ms. Parkes further commented that the property had been extensively surveyed by biological staff for evaluation of function and enhancement/restoration potential, and that the result was a determination of significant possibility of uplift. Secretary-Treasurer Tim Johnson requested clarification on the process by which this property was required to be donated to the IERCD, and Ms. Parkes responded that it was the result of negotiations between the developer and a separate, independent conservation entity. Ultimately, the board determined that

acceptance of the 12-A parcel was in the best interests of the District and its residents for the potential elevation of function of the site.

Director Earsom provided the motion for approval of Acceptance of Rancho Miramonte Mitigation Concept. Director Andrews provided the second. The motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

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| Andrews | Aye | Avent | Aye |
| Buller | Aye | Earsom | Aye |
| Johnson | Aye | Mathisen | Aye |
| Williams | Aye | | |

5. Discussion and Possible Approval of the 2015 Special Districts Risk Management Authority (SDRMA) Election

Director Avent provided the motion for approval of SDRMA 2015 Election Candidates Robert Swan, Ed Gray and Sandy Seifert-Raffleson and Associated Resolution. Director Johnson provided the second. The motion carried unanimously, 5-2-0 with Directors Andrews and Buller abstaining.

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|----------|---------|----------|-----|
| Andrews | Abstain | Avent | Aye |
| Buller | Abstain | Earsom | Aye |
| Johnson | Aye | Mathisen | Aye |
| Williams | Aye | | |

At 1:49 PM Director Buller left the meeting.

At 1:51 PM Director Johnson left the meeting.

VII. GENERAL DISCUSSION FOR THE GOOD OF THE DISTRICT

1. Environmental Education Center Updates

District Manager Mandy Parkes commented that there would be an Education Committee meeting to follow the regular IERCD board meeting to discuss further, but that she also wanted to include an item in the general Board Meeting to discuss environmental education center partnering opportunities with the City of Yucaipa. Ms. Parkes further noted that the Education Committee and full Board may wish to further consider opportunities for an education center in Yucaipa, to determine if it's absolutely off the table or if there is potential for further exploration. Associate Director Molly Bogh questioned the motivation behind the City's interest in partnering on an education center, which was addressed by Director Alison Mathisen who pointed out that it would be generally beneficial to Yucaipa residents and open spaces. Vice-Chair Avent commented that the item would be further examined in the Education Committee set to follow the Board meeting.

2. Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with Big Bear Valley Education Trust

Ms. Parkes provided a summary of the motivation behind entering into an MOU with both the Big Bear Valley Education Trust and the San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust, including the specificity of previous iterations and lack of associated, dedicated funding of the agreement being problematic for the District. In the revised version, the IERCD is only being asked to participate in planning for and stewardship of ongoing conservation of the habitats within properties targeted by the MOU. Ms. Parkes further commented that it was considered by the Mitigation Committee prior to the regular Board Meeting, and the Committee had been in favor of the MOU with its revised language.

Vice-Chair Avent commented that she was in favor of the revised MOU language, which relegated the IERCD to more of a support role versus to the extremely active yet unfunded list of requirements in the prior version. Associate Director Bogh asked which of the three agencies would be taking the lead, to which Ms. Parkes responded that the Big Bear Valley Education Trust would absolutely be leading the effort over both the District and the San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust. Based on the discussion of the Board, this item will be brought back to the full IERCD Board during the next regular board meeting.

3. Special Projects Fund Guidelines

4. ILF Program

Ms. Parkes provided a brief update on the In-Lieu Fee program progress.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. ASBCSD Meeting at the Castaway in San Bernardino on Monday, June 15th at 6 PM, hosted by IERCD
The meeting will be attended by President Paul Williams, Secretary-Treasurer Tim Johnson, Director Terrie Andrews, and Associate Director Jim Harrington.

IX. CORRESPONDANCE

1. RAMS Audit Letter

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. IERCD Associate Director Program Guidelines
2. IERCD Officer Election
3. IERCD Committee Review
4. Seed Donation Protocols

XI. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned by President Williams at 2:14 PM.

APPROVED THIS 8TH DAY OF JULY, 2015:



Paul Williams, Board President



Cheryl Avent, Vice President