

**SAN LUIS REY WATERSHED COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES: 03/23/2009**

- **(Item 1) Call to Order:** 1:05

- **(Item 2) List of Attendees present on 03/23/2009:**

Cynthia Mallett	City of Oceanside
Ron Miller	Fallbrook Community Planning Group
David Allen	Fallbrook Land Conservancy
Sandi Jacobson	Golden State Flycatchers / Trout Unlimited
Rob Roy	La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians
Bob Hillestad	Local Resident
Sandra Stoneburner	Los Coyotes Band of Indians
Colleen Eckenroad	MCB Camp Pendleton
Ken Quigley	MCB Camp Pendleton
Joshlynn Tanner	Native American Environmental Protection Coalition (NAEPC)
Heidi Brow	Pala Band of Mission Indians
Ruth Harber	Riverwatch
Scott Norris	San Diego County, Department of Public Works
Jared Underwood	San Diego County, MSCP presenter
Henry Contreras	San Luis Rey Band of Luiseno Indians
Tom Bond	Sierra Club ~ San Gorgonio Chapter
Angela Morrow	Vista Irrigation District (VID)
Paul Dorey	Vista Irrigation District (VID)

- **(Item 3) Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Ruth Harber, seconded by Paul Dorey, and a vote to approve the January 26, 2009 Meeting Minutes (with a few minor changes) was carried unanimously by the SLR Watershed Council present.

A motion was made by Scott Norris, seconded by Rob Roy, and a vote to approve the February 23, 2009 Meeting Minutes (with a few minor changes) was carried unanimously by the SLR Watershed Council present.

- **(Item 4) PRESENTATION ~ Multiple Species Conservation Plan, North County Plan:**

Speaker: Jared Underwood, County of San Diego (858-694-3964)

<http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dplu/mscp/>

Public Comments due by April 6th, 2009

San Diego County has been identified as a Biodiversity Hot Spot, which puts the pressure on to increase population levels and habitat acreage for listed species. There are 3 main planning areas within the County's Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP): the South County MSCP was adopted in 1997/1998; the East County's MSCP is still in development; and the North County's MSCP is detailed in the following presentation. The goal of these plans is the conserve biodiversity and gain coverage for listed species so that development can continue and some take of these habitats can occur around the County. The MSCP takes into account current listed endangered species, as well as those that may become endangered in the next 50 years. There are 3 parts of each of these plans: to accommodate new growth; to assemble a preserve for the listed species; and to manage/monitor the preserve over time. Each plan combines the Habitat Conservation Plan (federal) and the Natural Communities Plan (state) into 1 document.

Benefits of the Plan:

- **Biodiversity of Native Life:** This process will give us a more connected preserve area, where it was piecemeal before; funding will be more coordinated now; now we have a Regional Adopted Management Program, where the habitat management was inconsistent before.
- **Cost & Time Savings for Developers:** the MSCP allows cost-sharing, consistent pre-established requirements, with no future changes when ESA lists are updated; also gives the County permit authority.
- **Preserve Design Process:** They have conducted specific studies (ie: Stephen's Kangaroo Rat, Arroyo Toad, Vernal Pool species, etc), computer modeling, independent science advisories with peer review, and coordinated with the General Plan Update.
- **North County Challenges:** Vernal Pools / Grasslands in Ramona; Highway 76 ~ construction/expansion.

GOAL = To preserve 107,000 acres in North County San Diego. (21,577 acres or 20% already exists as preserve land)(21% will be public acquisition; 40% will be private mitigation/donation; 19% will be ordinances/implementation). The County would like to promote development in already developed areas (instead of sensitive habitat areas).

Pre-Approved Mitigation Areas (PAMA):

- PAMA areas are soft-lined areas that have been approved; there is some development (up to 25%) allowed in the PAMA, but there are stricter rules and higher mitigation levels needed. This will encourage developers to develop outside (not inside) the PAMA lines.
- Areas where the County has no jurisdiction, have been excluded from the plan (ie: Tribal lands, Special Districts, USFS lands)
- 80% of the wild lands in North County are within the PAMA lands.

How will the County Implement the MSCP?

- Biological Mitigation Ordinance: SD County has set mitigation ratios, based on the type of habitats 'taken' by developers. There are incentives for developers to use mitigation land from with the PAMA, and exceptions for fire clearing around single family homes. This ordinance addresses sensitive biological resources from the Resource Protection Ordinance. The MSCP will only be triggered IF you need to pull a permit from the County, and will eliminate the need to go to USFWS or CDFG for these projects.

Final Product:

- Regional Preserve Network to promote sustainable growth
- Fall 2009 ~ draft North County MSCP & environmental analysis will be out
- Spring 2010 ~ the North County MSCP will be finalized.

- **(Item 5) SLRWC Incorporation & Nonprofit Formation Status ~ UPDATE:**

Cynthia Mallett has finished filling out the IRS Form, with a couple of exceptions (she still needs to get an Employee Identification Number—EIN—for the Watershed Council). Vista Irrigation District has pledged to give a \$500 check to the SLRWC, once we have a bank account open. Cynthia Mallett has made some calls regarding the Agent of Service, and is still waiting to hear back from a few potential Agents who could put their name on the form for free. The Workgroup met to go over this paperwork, and had a few questions on whether we were a private or a public foundation (it was determined that we were a public foundation), and if we are supported by our membership or our grants (for now, our membership supports us; in the future we may be supported by grants, but we currently have no grant funding).

- **(Item 6) Department of Conservation –Watershed Coordinator Grant:**

<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/wp/Documents/Final%20Released%20Version%20%20Draft%20Guidelines%202-4-09%20Statewide%20WC%20Grants.pdf>

The Department of Conservation has released draft guidelines for their Watershed Coordinator Grant Program, although the actual Request For Proposals will not come out until April 15th (typically, proposals are due 60 days after the RFP's come out). This would be a perfect grant opportunity to seek funding for a Watershed Coordinator. The draft guidelines do specify that they want a Nonprofit Organization, however, since we are part way through the process of applying for our 501(c)(3) status, we may still be eligible. This grant would provide \$210K over 2 years, with a 25% match (in kind or cash). It will be important for us to develop a 5-Year Strategic Plan (could just revise our Issues of Importance) for this & other grant.

Since Carlsbad Hydrologic Unit (CHU) and San Luis Rey are combined into 1 watershed, we will most likely have to work together to submit 1 grant application for both groups. If we partner with CHU, we stand in a much better position to get this funding. Scott Norris attended the last Carlsbad Watershed Network (CWN) meeting, and reports that they would be open to partnering with us to apply for the DOC grant (getting a % of the coordinator's time). The CWN also applied for partially funding a watershed coordinator position for themselves; they will let us know if they receive that funding or not.

- **(Item 7) News and Reports From Attendee's:**

Ruth Harber ~ Riverwatch:

- Riverwatch won an appeal against Olivenhain Municipal Water District (OMWD); the court rescinded the agreement (for use of their water) between OMWD and Gregory Canyon Landfill. OMWD and Gregory Canyon Landfill are now petitioning the California Supreme Court on this.
- There is a lawsuit against the County because Gregory Canyon Landfill deposited a bunch of equipment & miscellaneous debris on their property, without the proper permits. Where they deposited the items is a sensitive area, with some endangered species/habitat.

David Allen ~ Fallbrook Land Conservancy:

- The Santa Margarita Ecological Preserve is having an open house this Saturday, with tours of the preserve and classes.

- Tracer Engineering has been conducting air quality monitoring for dust control at the Rosemary's Mountain Quarry. They are doing regular monitoring of the dust, and looking at the Quarry's dust control measures.

Tom Bond ~ Sierra Club:

- Sunrise Powerlink: there are 2 groups that have filed to appeal the decision to allow powerlink to go in. The Center for Bio Diversity and UCAN are not supportive of the powerlink project.
- South Route of Hwy 76: Fallbrook Planning Group has recommended to Caltrans to do the southern route (instead of along the existing northern Hwy 76 route). This portion of Hwy 76 covers from Mission to I-15 (the Melrose to Mission road portion of Hwy 76 has already gone through public comment).

- **(Item 8) Additional Items:**

- Supervisor Bill Horn has 2 million dollars in discretionary funds....Cynthia Mallett will look into this some more
- County has a new flood control plan (we may want to get a speaker on this topic in the next few months: Sara Gojhi or Rand Allen).

- **(Item 9) Upcoming Meeting Dates:**

2009 Meetings:

April 27th, 2009

No Meeting in May, due to Memorial Day

June 22nd, 2009