

**Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve  
Reserve Management Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, August 2, 2017 – 1:00p.m.  
Multi-Species Reserve Office (Alamos Schoolhouse)  
Lake Skinner Recreation Area, 37701 Warren Road, Winchester 92596**

**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)  
Geary Hund (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)  
Brian Shomo (Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency)

**Other attendees**

Robert Williams (Reserve Manager, Parks), Scott Bangle (Parks), Bill Wagner (consultant, MWD), Gail Barton (member of the public), Tessa Shates, (UCR), and Kerry Mauck (UCR)

**1. Call to order and introductions** – The meeting was called to order at 1:15pm.

**MOTION to add “Discussion of RFP for Reserve management” as agenda item no. 5  
Motion – Brian Shomo Second – Eddy Konno Motion approved**

**2. Public comments** – No comments.

**3. Meeting notes** – February, March, and May meeting notes were presented and discussed. Geary requested edits to the March meeting notes (items 3b and 4); Brian requested an edit to the May meeting notes (item 6).

**MOTION to approve the meeting notes as presented for February and as modified for  
March and May.  
Motion – Eddy Konno Second – Brian Shomo Motion approved**

**4. Research proposal** – Dr. Kerry Mauck and Tessa Shates (graduate student) from UCR presented a research proposal to study crop-associated viruses, or physiological response to vectors by plants. Study locations at the Reserve were determined by Dr. Mauck and Robert to be suitable for this study. Several species would be targeted with year-round sampling; similar sampling already occurring at the Motte-Rimrock Reserve. The study has a funding source for one year, with an extension likely for additional years. Discussion included agreement that Robert will coordinate with the researchers to ensure avoidance of nesting birds and any other sensitive resources in study areas. Findings will be reported to the RMC through publications or other forms of presentation.

**MOTION to approve UCR research proposal “Do crop-associated viruses threaten  
California native plants?”  
Motion – Brian Shomo Second – Geary Hund Motion approved**

**5. Discussion of RFP for Reserve management** – The RMC discussed various aspects of Parks’ contract to provide Reserve management services and RCHCA’s request that the RMC pursue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit comparisons and allow an evaluation of other Reserve management options.

Among RCHCA's concerns were – (a) the long term of the contract (over 20 years) without a competitive bidding process; (b) lack of management on RCHCA lands over the past several years; (c) current Reserve Manager experience is less than the previous Reserve Manager, including necessary permits; and (d) the potential availability of more cost-effective alternatives. Kyla affirmed Robert's qualifications and assured the RMC that capable and qualified personnel would be assigned to work under the contract. Wendy noted the cost and time commitment for the RFP process, for MWD in particular as the RMC's contracting representative, and suggested that a solicitation of Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) could provide useful comparisons; however, Brian reiterated his concern that SOQs would allow only limited cost and understanding-of-project comparisons. Geary agreed that periodic evaluations of services are needed and that competitive comparisons should be examined. Eddy stated that a time period (for example, five years) for reviewing services would be appropriate. Following lengthy discussion, Wendy agreed to seek internal input and direction on the RFP process for further discussion at the next RMC meeting.

**6. Reserve Manager report** – Robert presented progress of management tasks pertaining to natural resource management, ranger patrol, maintenance of property and facilities, and interpretive program development. Highlights from the written report were as follows.

- Most field activities were for weed management, including mowing 250 acres of non-native grasses and along 6 miles of roads. No prescribed burning or sheep grazing occurred during spring/summer or are planned for 2017.
- SKR management sites have been identified on RCHCA lands; management will begin after surveys are completed. Robert has reviewed the Las Mananitas conservation easement and will contact the new property owner to discuss requirements. The Collector app has been downloaded to all devices and the app will be used for SKR and other surveys.
- Ranger patrol included coordination for Balloon & Wine Festival (no incidents in the Reserve) and limited incidents of trespass (5). Four fence breaks were observed in the Rawson Road/Crown Valley Road area; breaks will be plotted on GIS for reporting and repairs.
- One of the 2-person maintenance crew resigned; the remaining crewperson has been working 40 hours per week pending a new hire or new assignment.
- New equipment purchases included a new rotary mower (prior RMC approval) and weed whacker; the Kubota tractor will be taken in for service and repairs. The Schoolhouse air conditioner has been repaired, with investigation into usage spikes still under investigation.
- Charity will be out of the office until fall; Parks will provide volunteer assistance at the Schoolhouse until her return and in the future when she is unavailable. During the quarter, 521 visitors came to the Schoolhouse and 21 visitors attended Nature/Bird Walks.

**7. Task orders** – Robert presented updated task orders for work under the Annual Work Plan, including revised scopes and estimated costs. Geary reiterated that development of the trails program should be collaborative but should not rely on time-consuming involvement by Reserve staff.

**MOTION to approve the task orders and move forward with work as presented.**

**Motion – Geary Hund Second – Brian Shomo Motion approved**

**8. Round table** – (a) Wendy reported that MWD has approved funding and personnel to begin maintenance on the Goldrich Trail, including repairs to the bridge and parking area and a barbed-wire enclosure around the exposed mine shaft. Any work involving the use of heavy equipment would be scheduled to avoid impacts to nesting birds. (b) No other reports.

**9. Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned (time not recorded).