

**Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve  
Reserve Management Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, February 1, 2017 -- 1:00 P.M.  
Multi-Species Reserve Office (Alamos Schoolhouse)  
Lake Skinner Recreation Area, 37701 Warren Rd, Winchester 92596**

**Meeting Notes**

**RMC Members Present:**

Eddy Konno (California Department of Fish and Wildlife)  
Wendy Picht (Metropolitan Water District of Southern California)  
Keith Herron (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)  
Patty Fowler (Metropolitan)  
Diane Doesserich (Metropolitan)  
Bill Wagner (Metropolitan consultant)  
Robert Williams (Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District)  
Dustin McLain (Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District)  
Tom Ash (Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District)  
Scott Bangle (Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District)  
Charity Hagen (Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District)  
Yun Baird (Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District)  
Kyla Brown (Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District)  
Princess Hester (Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency)  
Megan Gomez (Riverside County Finance Department)  
John Holloway (KTU+A)  
Gail Barton (member of the public)

**1. Call to Order and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Keith Herron.

**2. Public Comments**

None

**3. Approval of Meeting Notes from November 2, 2016**

**MOTION to approve the minutes as written: Eddy Konno**

**SECOND: Brian Shomo**

**Motion Approved**

#### 4. **Reserve Manager Report**

Robert Williams reported that since the November meeting trespassing on Reserve lands continues to be an issue. He noted that the maintenance crew had been repaired the tractor and greenhouse, removed tamarisk, and conducted erosion repairs. Robert noted that there are new owners of the Las Mananitas parcel whom may not be aware of the MSR and the Reserve easement on their property. Brian reported that he had spoken with the realtor for the property about the easement but not the property owner directly. Robert will follow up with the property owner regarding the conservation easement.

#### 5. **Reserve office update – Parks will provide an update; the RMC will discuss and be requested to approve designs to meet Reserve needs and preliminary terms of MOU for reimbursement**

Keith introduced the item and Yun Baird, the Parks project manager for the building project, whom distributed copies of the proposed updated building and floor plans. Wendy stated that RMC concurrence on the proposed project was needed so that the plans could be reviewed and approved internally by Metropolitan. Yun described the revisions made to the plans since the last RMC meeting. Keith added that the budget for the building was \$750,000 and that bid selection for the project would be through the County's bidding process. The budget is not included as a component of the Reserve Management Contract. Metropolitan would review the design as part of the Reserve Management Agreement and would reimburse Parks up to \$350,000 for the building's construction. Keith requested a motion that the building design meets the Reserve needs contingent upon on agreement of a memorandum of understanding or other funding agreement to authorize reimbursement for the project.

**MOTION to approve the building design to meet the Reserve needs contingent upon on agreement of a memorandum of understanding or other funding agreement to authorize reimbursement for the project: Eddy Konno**

**SECOND: Wendy Picht**

**Motion Approved**

#### 6. **Trails alignments – Parks and MWD will provide an update; the RMC will discuss and be requested to provide concurrence for proposed trail alignments to serve as the basis of planning for development and use**

Keith introduced the item and John Holloway of KTU+A, Parks' trails consultant. Wendy stated that the purpose of the agenda item was to request RMC concurrence with the proposed trail alignments in order to move forward with development of the trails plan. John stated the alignment plan presented a viable network of trails to connect Diamond Valley Lake and Lake Skinner. Keith added that the proposed alignments and plan to be developed would cover various interest and user groups. In addition to concurring with the proposed alignments RMC concurrence was also being sought on the proposed trailheads, staging areas, and other elements of the alignment study as indicated on the map presented by KTU+A. Wendy noted that where feasible the proposed alignments were designed to follow existing roadways. Geary stated that the Service supports public

access in the Reserve but has concerns about potential impacts to species due to some of the alignments. He added that while the Service does not oppose the alignments outright he was not prepared to approve all of the alignments without reviewing the study GIS files, visiting the trails, having more information about the uses and/or activities planned for the trails, and assessing the alignments in the context of the Reserve's species and habitats. Wendy stated that because the Service's concurrence is needed, additional review time could be given to Geary. Geary added that he did not expect that the Service would request additional species surveys for the trail alternatives. In light of Geary's comments, the RMC tabled a decision on the trail alignments to a special meeting to be held 30 days after Geary receives the requested trails GIS data, to provide him time to review the data, and if necessary, for an additional RMC site visit.

**7. Reserve management contract – Parks and MWD will provide an update; the RMC will discuss and be requested to provide concurrence for proposed contract terms for administrative overhead and vehicle mileage**

Wendy introduced the item and stated that the purpose for the agenda item was to request RMC concurrence on the contract terms for vehicle usage and ownership, and overhead. Megan added that the proposed contract terms would transfer ownership of the Reserve vehicles, based on their current value and incorporating Metropolitan's \$50,000 vehicle credit, to Parks. Future Reserve vehicles will also be owned by Parks with Metropolitan paying the maintenance costs, which will be paid based on mileage at the IRS rate. Megan added that the administrative overhead would cover all administrative functions for tasks under the management contract. Parks had not previously been charging Metropolitan for these indirect or administrative overhead costs associated with the Reserve. The overhead charges would be phased in over three years beginning at 10% and ultimately reaching the proposed rate of 15%.

**MOTION to concur with the proposed Reserve management contract terms for administrative overhead and vehicle mileage: Eddy Konno**

**SECOND: Wendy Picht**

**Motion Approved**

**8. Interpretation – Parks will provide an update of the scope and progress of interpretive planning**

Keith introduced the item and Charity Hagen, the Parks Aide who started December 1, 2016 as the new Reserve interpretive program manager. Keith explained that a task order for the budget for Charity's position was in place through June 2017 for \$13,785. Charity stated that she is eager to work with the public, had scheduled a bird walk later in the month, and would be developing a school program. A task order for the program will be developed for the next fiscal year.

**9. Prescribed burns – The Reserve manager will discuss proposals for prescribed burns in the Reserve**

Robert introduced the item and stated that he proposed to burn approximately eight sites

during the year. The sites include the approximately 168-acre pig farm and areas in the Goldrich unit. Robert added that he would also like to schedule a burn on approximately 158 acres in the Domenigoni unit in the North Hills area adjacent the Hemet city limit and the San Diego Canal. Wendy stated that any burns proposed in this vicinity would need to be coordinated with Metropolitan's Water Quality Section.

#### **10. Roundtable**

Parks – Keith announced he would be retiring from Parks on April 13.

Metropolitan – Wendy stated that Cal State San Bernardino had requested an approval for a geology study by for an advanced major's course of 10-15 students. The study would involve rock collection and potentially access to remote areas of the Reserve via four-wheel drive vehicles. Wendy stated she would get more information about the proposed study for the RMC.

RCHCA – Brian stated that he would have an SKR genetic research proposal to present at the May meeting.

#### **11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.