

**Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve
Reserve Management Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 5, 2018 – 1:00 pm
Multi-Species Reserve Office (Alamos Schoolhouse)
Lake Skinner Recreation Area, 37701 Warren Rd, Winchester 92596**

Meeting Notes

RMC Members Present

Kyla Brown (Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District/Parks)
Geary Hund (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
Eddy Konno (California Department of Fish and Wildlife)
Alex Marks (Metropolitan Water District of Southern California)
Brian Shomo (Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency/RCHCA)

Other Attendees

Gail Barton (member of the public), Daniel Cardoza (MWD), Bill Wagner (consultant, MWD), Robert Williams (Reserve Manager, Parks)

1. **Call to order and introductions** – The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm.
2. **Public comments** – No public comments were made.
3. **Approval of meeting notes** – May 2018 meeting notes were presented and discussed.

MOTION to approve the meeting notes as presented for May.

Motion – Eddy Konno; Second – Geary Hund; Motion approved

4. **Reserve manager report** – Robert provided the May 2018 through August 2018 quarterly report on 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.

- The Patterson Fire in May burned approximately 1,035 acres of Reserve land and resulted in 3.75 miles of dozer lines that need to be repaired. CalFire was scheduled to repair the dozer lines but were called off to tend to other wildfires. The Reserve will coordinate with CalFire to re-contour and vegetate the dozer lines.
- Reserve staff treated 6.64 acres of Bassia, 2.67 acres of Stinknet, and 0.5 acres of Sahara Mustard.
- A total 42 Gnatcatchers, including five fledglings, four Bell's Sage Sparrows, four White-tailed Kites, and three Bald Eagles were observed during bird surveys.
- A total of 547 visitors came to the Schoolhouse including campers from Lake Skinner. 173 visitors attended one of 9 Nature/evening walks this quarter.

5. **Reserve management RFP scope of work** – **The RMC will discuss reserve management scope for future RFP process** - Alex reported that Metropolitan's process to review respondent

proposals and select a consultant typically takes between four to six months after issuance of an RFP. He added that RMC member agencies cannot be involved in development of the RFP or the review of solicitations if submitting a proposal. The RMC agreed that the consultant should be responsible for meeting measurable goals that are beneficial for both reserve management and long-term tracking. The members agreed to review the RFP scope of work provided by Brian and to provide comments in advance of the December meeting.

6. Trail update – MWD will update the RMC on the Goldrich Trail and Lake Skinner Equestrian Trail – Alex noted that due to the Patterson Fire previously discussed maintenance work on the Goldrich Trail was delayed and that the trail remains closed. He reported that a site visit with Robert Williams, Brian Shomo, Tania Asef, and Bill Wagner took place on August 28 to assess the trail after the Patterson Fire and a subsequent fire on August 27 in the same vicinity of the Reserve but south of Rawson Road. Alex stated that due to CalFire firefighting activity during the fires less maintenance work at the trailhead on Rawson Road would be required than was presented at the RMC's May 2018 meeting. The RMC expressed interest that dozer lines created by CalFire in the trail's vicinity during the Patterson Fire be incorporated into the context of the overall Reserve trails plan, to the extent practical. Alex also noted that a short bridge over an ephemeral drainage was damaged during the Patterson Fire and that Metropolitan would not replace the bridge in favor of the trail incorporating a natural crossing of the drainage. He stated that Metropolitan planned to conduct repair and maintenance of the trail at the conclusion of the 2018 fire season. Following discussion of the Goldrich Trail, Bill discussed maintenance activities that occurred on the Lake Skinner Equestrian Trail in June. Bill stated that maintenance of approximately 5.5 miles of the trail was completed in two days.

7. Reserve habitat credit bank – MWD will provide the mitigation credits fee schedule for discussion - Alex introduced the item, a continuation of the RMC's May 2018 meeting discussion, and Bill to provide the update. Bill distributed copies of the revised recommended fee schedule to the RMC and provided an overview of mitigation banks across the region. He noted that the most comparable bank to the Reserve is the Silverado Ranch Conservation Mitigation Bank in Riverside County, which provides credits for Quino checkerspot butterfly, SKR, and coastal California gnatcatcher.

MOTION to approve the proposed mitigation bank fee schedule.

Motion – Brian Shomo; Second – Eddy Konno; Motion approved

8. Roundtable – RMC members will provide updates on Reserve-related activities of their agencies - (a) Eddy announced his plan to retire in winter 2019; (b) Brian announced the upcoming ESA day event, mentioned RCHCA's receipt of a Natural Resources Conservation Service grant for *Arundo donax* removal in southwestern willow flycatcher habitat, and that SKR would resume; (c) Geary announced his plan to retire in Winter/Spring 2019; and (d) Alex provided an update on the Angler Avenue remediation project.

9. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 2:36 pm.