

Coachella Valley Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2021



The audio file for this committee can be found at: <http://www.cvag.org/audio.htm>

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Chair Linda Evans, City of La Quinta, at 10:31 a.m. via Zoom, pursuant to Gov. Newsom’s executive order governing how public meetings are held during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2. ROLL CALL** – Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

Councilmember Rita Lamb
Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair
Councilmember Gary Gardner
Councilmember Donna Griffith
Mayor Elaine Holmes
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair
Mayor Kathleen Kelly
Councilmember Dennis Woods
Councilmember Glenn Miller
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick
Mayor Pro Tem Jan Harnik
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt
Board Member Anthony Bianco
Director Alex Cardenas
President Nancy Wright

Agency

City of Cathedral City
City of Coachella, *Arrived during Item 6A*
City of Desert Hot Springs
City of Indian Wells
City of Indio
City of La Quinta
City of Palm Desert
City of Palm Springs
Riverside County – District 1
Riverside County – District 2
Riverside County – District 3
Riverside County – District 4
Riverside County – District 5
Coachella Valley Water District
Imperial Irrigation District
Mission Springs Water District

Members Not Present

Councilmember Richard W. Kite

Agency

City of Rancho Mirage

Others Present

Tom Kirk
Katie Barrows
Kathleen Brundige
Trisha Stull
Erica Felci
Joanna Stueckle
Oscar Vizcarra
Peter Satin
Claude Kilgore
Tory Brewster
Jim Karpiak
Russ Martin
Pat Cooper
Sheri Mayta

CVAG
CVAG
CVAG
CVAG
CVAG
CVAG
CVAG
CVAG
CVAG
CivicSpark Fellow
CVMC
Riverside County District 5
Riverside County District 4
GPA Consulting

Stanley Henry
Jim Henson
Emmanuel Martinez

Stanley E. Henry Consulting
Desert Hot Springs Police Department
Imperial Irrigation District

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

4. COMMISSION CHAIR / DIRECTOR COMMENTS –

Riverside County Supervisor V. Manuel Perez shared that Riverside County would be sharing COVID updates to cities at a meeting being held on January 15. It was announced that there was a COVID vaccination event to be held Sunday, but that it was already fully booked.

Tom Kirk noted that the CVCC has changed the meeting time to 10:30 a.m.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve November 12, 2020 CVCC Meeting Minutes

B. Approve Resolution 21-001 to accept a Local Assistance Grant from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in the amount of \$90,672 for “*Determining the distribution, status and linkages of Agassiz’s desert tortoise populations in the uplands surrounding the Coachella Valley*”

C. Approve a change in CVCC’s financial institution, from Union Bank of California to Wells Fargo Bank and add the CVCC auditor as a signatory to the account

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER GARDNER AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER FITZPATRICK TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 15 AYES AND 2 ABSENT.

Councilmember Rita Lamb	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair	Absent
Councilmember Gary Gardner	Aye
Councilmember Donna Griffith	Aye
Mayor Elaine Holmes	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair	Aye
Mayor Kathleen Kelly	Aye
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	Absent
Councilmember Glenn Miller	Aye
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Jan Harnik	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Aye
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
President Nancy Wright	Aye

6. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Agreement with the City of Desert Hot Springs for Cooperative Land Management and Law Enforcement Activities

Katie Barrows discussed the need for a law enforcement partner to help manage conservation lands in and around the City of Desert Hot Springs. Ms. Barrows also provided an outline on what an agreement with the City would entail. Member discussion ensued and staff answered questions.

IT WAS MOVED BY DIRECTOR CARDENAS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER GARDNER TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND/OR CHAIR TO SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE CITY OF DESERT HOT SPRINGS FOR COOPRATIVE LAND MANAGEMENT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES ON CONSERVATION LAND FOR A THREE-YEAR PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023, FOR A TOTAL NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$115,000, INCLUDING THE ONE-TIME PURCHASE OF A VEHICLE, AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND/OR LEGAL COUNSEL TO MAKE MINOR MODIFICATIONS PRIOR TO EXECUTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 16 AYES AND 1 ABSENT.

Councilmember Rita Lamb	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair	Aye
Councilmember Gary Gardner	Aye
Councilmember Donna Griffith	Aye
Mayor Elaine Holmes	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair	Aye
Mayor Kathleen Kelly	Aye
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	Absent
Councilmember Glenn Miller	Aye
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Jan Harnik	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Aye
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
President Nancy Wright	Aye

B. Development of a Draft Restoration Plan for Enhancement of Wetlands Habitat at North Shore Ranch

Kathleen Brundige described the North Shore Ranch property and the goals and objectives for the property. She shared the contract that presented by GPA Consulting to create a draft restoration plan for part of the property. Member discussion ensued.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER GARDNER AND SECONDED BY MAYOR HOLMES TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO APPROVE A CONTRACT WITH GPA CONSULTING TO DEVELOP A DRAFT RESTORATION PLAN FOR ENHANCEMENT OF WETLANDS HABITAT, AT A COST NOT-TO-EXCEED \$64,951 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2022, AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND/OR LEGAL COUNSEL TO MAKE CLARIFYING CHANGES PRIOR TO EXECUTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 16 AYES AND 1 ABSENT.

Councilmember Rita Lamb	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair	Aye
Councilmember Gary Gardner	Aye
Councilmember Donna Griffith	Aye
Mayor Elaine Holmes	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair	Aye
Mayor Kathleen Kelly	Aye
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	Absent
Councilmember Glenn Miller	Aye
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Jan Harnik	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Aye
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
President Nancy Wright	Aye

C. Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Report on Local Development Mitigation Fee

Peter Satin shared the 2019/2020 annual Local Development Mitigation Fee (LDMF) report.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER MILLER AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER FITZPATRICK TO ACCEPT THE LOCAL MITIGATION FEE ANNUAL AND FIVE-YEAR REPORT FOR FY19/20 IN FULFILLMENT OF THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF THE MITIGATION FEE ACT.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 16 AYES AND 1 ABSENT.

Councilmember Rita Lamb	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair	Aye
Councilmember Gary Gardner	Aye
Councilmember Donna Griffith	Aye
Mayor Elaine Holmes	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair	Aye
Mayor Kathleen Kelly	Aye
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	Absent
Councilmember Glenn Miller	Aye
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Jan Harnik	Aye

Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Aye
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
President Nancy Wright	Aye

7. INFORMATION - The following items were provided in the agenda for information only:

A. Attendance Record

B. Contracts Under \$25,000

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming meetings via Zoom:

- Coachella Valley Conservation Commission: February 11, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

10. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Trisha Stull