



COACHELLA VALLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

February 14, 2019

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order by Chair Evans at 11:03 am.
2. **ROLL CALL** - Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Members Present

Mayor Pro Tem John Aguilar
Councilmember Anayeli Zavala
Councilmember Richard Balocco
Councilmember Oscar Ortiz
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair
Mayor Susan Marie Weber
Councilmember Lisa Middleton
Mayor Richard W. Kite
Councilmember Jan Harnik
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt
Board Member Nancy Wright
Director Alex Cardenas

Agency

City of Cathedral City
City of Desert Hot Springs (*arrived at 11:09 am*)
City of Indian Wells
City of Indio
City of La Quinta
City of Palm Desert
City of Palm Springs
City of Rancho Mirage
Riverside County – District 3, Alternate
Riverside County – District 4
Riverside County – District 5
Mission Springs Water District
Imperial Irrigation District

Members Not Present

Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair
Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Supervisor Karen Spiegel
Board Member Anthony Bianco

City of Coachella
Riverside County – District 1
Riverside County – District 2
Coachella Valley Water District

Others Present

Emanuel Martinez
Pat Cooper
Paul Vallandigham
Barry Busch
Jim Karpiak
Ryan Domino
Thomas Kohn
Tom Kirk
Katie Barrows
Jim Sullivan
Gary Leong
Kathleen Brundige
Libby Carlson

Imperial Irrigation District
Office of Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Office of Supervisor Jeff Hewitt
Office of Supervisor Jeff Hewitt
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy
LSL CPAs
Appointee to Trails Mgmt. Subcommittee
CVCC
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CVCC

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Supervisor Perez.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** - None.

5. **COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS** - Board Member Nancy Wright and Chair Evans thanked staff for the CVMSHCP tour.

6. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. **Approve the January 10, 2019 CVCC Meeting Minutes**

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR KITE AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER ORTIZ TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 10, 2019 CVCC MEETING MINUTES.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 9 AYES, 4 ABSTENTIONS, and 4 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Mayor Pro Tem John Aguilar	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair	Absent
Councilmember Anayeli Zavala	Aye
Councilmember Richard Balocco	Aye
Councilmember Oscar Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair	Aye
Mayor Susan Marie Weber	Aye
Councilmember Lisa Middleton	Abstain
Mayor Richard W. Kite	Aye
Supervisor Keven Jefferies	Absent
Supervisor Karen Spiegel	Absent
Councilmember Jan Harnik	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Abstain
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt	Abstain
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Absent
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
Board Member Nancy Wright	Abstain

7. **DISCUSSION / ACTION** - Item 7E was addressed before Item 7A.

E. **Audited Financial Report, Single Audit Report on Federal Awards, and Statement on Auditing Standards Letter (SAS) 115 for Fiscal Year 2017/18** - Gary Leong stated that the CVCC Finance Committee reviewed the reports with auditors from LSL.

IT WAS MOVED BY SUPERVISOR PEREZ AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM AGUILAR TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE REPORTS FOR FY17/18.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 13 AYES AND 4 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Mayor Pro Tem John Aguilar	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair	Absent
Councilmember Anayeli Zavala	Aye
Councilmember Richard Balocco	Aye
Councilmember Oscar Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair	Aye
Mayor Susan Marie Weber	Aye
Councilmember Lisa Middleton	Aye
Mayor Richard W. Kite	Aye
Supervisor Keven Jefferies	Absent
Supervisor Karen Spiegel	Absent
Councilmember Jan Harnik	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye

Supervisor Jeff Hewitt	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Absent
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
Board Member Nancy Wright	Aye

A. Acceptance of California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Local Assistance Grant Funds for Sand Dune Restoration in the Coachella Valley Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) - Katie Barrows gave an overview of the pilot project. Supervisor Perez asked about similar projects piloted elsewhere. Chair Evans noted the importance of testing whether recycled sand can be safely reused without impacting sensitive habitat areas.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER HARNIK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER MIDDLETON TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 19-005, ACCEPTING A LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANT FROM THE CDFW FOR RESTORING ECOSYSTEM PROCESSES: SAND DUNE RESTORATION IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY NCCP IN THE AMOUNT OF \$55,320.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 13 AYES AND 4 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Mayor Pro Tem John Aguilar	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair	Absent
Councilmember Anayeli Zavala	Aye
Councilmember Richard Balocco	Aye
Councilmember Oscar Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair	Aye
Mayor Susan Marie Weber	Aye
Councilmember Lisa Middleton	Aye
Mayor Richard W. Kite	Aye
Supervisor Keven Jefferies	Absent
Supervisor Karen Spiegel	Absent
Councilmember Jan Harnik	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Absent
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
Board Member Nancy Wright	Aye

B. Contract with Southern California Mountains Foundation for Invasive Species Removal in the Willow Hole Conservation Area - Kathleen Brundige summarized the project to assess the impact of tamarisk removal on water table levels, noting that 1 tamarisk draws 200 gallons of groundwater per day. Tom Kirk thanked project partner Mission Springs Water District for its support. In response to Councilmember Harnik, Kathleen Brundige recommended mesquite as an alternative to tamarisk.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER HARNIK AND SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER WRIGHT TO APPROVE A CONTRACT WITH SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MOUNTAINS FOUNDATION FOR A NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$34,000 TO REMOVE TAMARISK FROM SENSITIVE MESQUITE HABITAT IN THE WILLOW HOLE CONSERVATION AREA.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 13 AYES AND 4 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Mayor Pro Tem John Aguilar	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair	Absent
Councilmember Anayeli Zavala	Aye
Councilmember Richard Balocco	Aye
Councilmember Oscar Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair	Aye
Mayor Susan Marie Weber	Aye
Councilmember Lisa Middleton	Aye
Mayor Richard W. Kite	Aye
Supervisor Keven Jefferies	Absent
Supervisor Karen Spiegel	Absent
Councilmember Jan Harnik	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Absent
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
Board Member Nancy Wright	Aye

C. Acquisition of Ten Parcels Totaling Approximately 92.95 Acres In and Adjacent to the Thousand Palms Conservation Area - Jim Karpiak reported that 1 parcel was removed from the original proposal, for an adjusted total of approximately 88.21 acres with a purchase price not to exceed \$516,725 plus closing costs not to exceed \$13,000.

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR PRO TEM AGUILAR AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BALOCCO TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 19-004 AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF 9 PARCELS TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 88.21 ACRES IN AND ADJACENT TO THE THOUSAND PALMS CONSERVATION AREA AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$516,725 PLUS CLOSING COSTS NOT TO EXCEED \$13,000.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 13 AYES AND 4 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Mayor Pro Tem John Aguilar	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair	Absent
Councilmember Anayeli Zavala	Aye
Councilmember Richard Balocco	Aye
Councilmember Oscar Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair	Aye
Mayor Susan Marie Weber	Aye
Councilmember Lisa Middleton	Aye
Mayor Richard W. Kite	Aye
Supervisor Keven Jefferies	Absent
Supervisor Karen Spiegel	Absent
Councilmember Jan Harnik	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Absent
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
Board Member Nancy Wright	Aye

D. Appoint a Public Member-at-Large to the Trails Management Subcommittee
 Kathleen Brundige introduced Tom Kohn. Councilmember Middleton recognized Mr. Kohn's volunteerism. Chair Evans requested a Subcommittee update at a future meeting.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER MIDDLETON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER HARNIK TO APPOINT TOM KOHN AS PUBLIC MEMBER-AT-LARGE TO FILL A VACANT POSITION ON THE TRAILS MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 13 AYES AND 4 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Mayor Pro Tem John Aguilar	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair	Absent
Councilmember Anayeli Zavala	Aye
Councilmember Richard Balocco	Aye
Councilmember Oscar Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair	Aye
Mayor Susan Marie Weber	Aye
Councilmember Lisa Middleton	Aye
Mayor Richard W. Kite	Aye
Supervisor Keven Jefferies	Absent
Supervisor Karen Spiegel	Absent
Councilmember Jan Harnik	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Absent
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
Board Member Nancy Wright	Aye

8. INFORMATION - The following items were provided for member information only:

- A. CVCC Attendance Record**
- B. CVCC Quarterly Unaudited Financial Statements as of December 31, 2018**
- C. CVCC Investment Report as of December 31, 2018**
- D. Contracts Under \$25,000**

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS - The next CVCC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 11 at 11 am in Room 119, 73710 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert.

10. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Libby Carlson