

Coachella Valley Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 11, 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 10:32 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
Councilmember Gary Gardner
Councilmember Donna Griffith
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair
Mayor Kathleen Kelly
Councilmember Dennis Woods
Councilmember Richard W. Kite
Councilmember Glenn Miller
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick
Mayor Pro Tem Jan Harnik
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt
Director Alex Cardenas
President Nancy Wright

Agency

City of Cathedral City
City of Desert Hot Springs
City of Indian Wells
City of La Quinta
City of Palm Desert
City of Palm Springs
City of Rancho Mirage
Riverside County – District 1
Riverside County – District 2
Riverside County – District 3
Riverside County – District 4
Riverside County – District 5
Imperial Irrigation District
Mission Springs Water District

Members Not Present

Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair
Mayor Elaine Holmes
Board Member Anthony Bianco

Agency

City of Coachella
City of Indio
Coachella Valley Water District

Others Present

Katie Barrows
Kathleen Brundige
Peter Satin
Trisha Stull
Erica Felci
Joanna Stueckle
Oscar Vizcarra
Claude Kilgore
Tory Brewster
Jim Karpiak
Ward Simmons
Ryan Domino
Pat Cooper
Luke Rainey

CVAG
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CVAG
CVAG
CivicSpark Fellow
CVMC
BB&K
LSL
Riverside County District 4
Desert Hot Springs

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

4. COMMISSION CHAIR / DIRECTOR COMMENTS –

Katie Barrows shared legislative updates that relate to CVCC’s conservation efforts. Ms. Barrows also introduced Ward Simmons, CVCC’s new legal counsel from Best Best & Krieger (BBK).

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve January 14, 2020 CVCC Meeting Minutes

B. Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with, and grant a Right of Entry to, Brookfield Renewable Energy for the purposes of realigning an existing Bureau of Land Management road and easement and restoring the former road to surrounding natural conditions

C. Authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract with the San Diego Natural History Museum for surveys of the western yellow bat and management of cowbirds through December 31, 2022 for an amount not to exceed \$137,878

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER KITE AND SECONDED BY MAYOR KELLY TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 14 AYES AND 3 ABSENT.

Councilmember Rita Lamb	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez	Absent
Councilmember Gary Gardner	Aye
Councilmember Donna Griffith	Aye
Mayor Elaine Holmes	Absent
Mayor Linda Evans	Aye
Mayor Kathleen Kelly	Aye
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	Aye
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	Absent
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
President Nancy Wright	Aye

6. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Final comprehensive Audited Financial Report and Statement on Auditing Standards (SAS) 114 Letter for Fiscal Year 2019/20

Claude Kilgore provided a brief overview of the annual audit and thanked the CVCC Finance Committee for its review. Ryan Domino of Lance, Soll & Lunghard LLP (LSL) described the audit process and the results. LSL gave an unmodified opinion and found no weaknesses or deficiencies.

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR KELLY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER KITE TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE REPORTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019/20.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 14 AYES AND 3 ABSENT.

Councilmember Rita Lamb	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez	Absent
Councilmember Gary Gardner	Aye
Councilmember Donna Griffith	Aye
Mayor Elaine Holmes	Absent
Mayor Linda Evans	Aye
Mayor Kathleen Kelly	Aye
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	Aye
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	Absent
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
President Nancy Wright	Aye

B. Acquisition of five parcels in the Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon and Highway 111/I-10 Conservation Areas

Jim Karpiak of Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy (CVMC) provided an overview of the purchase, including the property locations and conservation value of the five parcels recommended for acquisition. Member discussion ensued.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER GARDNER AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER MILLER TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 21-002 FOR ACQUISITION OF FIVE PARCELS CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 158+/- ACRES IN THE UPPER MISSION CREEK/BIG MORONGO CANYON AND HIGHWAY 111/I-10 CONSERVAATION AREAS AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$1,035,000, PLUS CLOSING AND TRANSACTION RELATED COSTS NOT TO EXCEED \$16,000, AND AUTHORIZEE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY CONTRACTS AND TAKE SUCH OTHER ACTIONS AS NECESSARY FOR THE ACQUISITION.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 14 AYES AND 3 ABSENT.

Councilmember Rita Lamb	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez	Absent
Councilmember Gary Gardner	Aye
Councilmember Donna Griffith	Aye

Mayor Elaine Holmes	Absent
Mayor Linda Evans	Aye
Mayor Kathleen Kelly	Aye
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	Aye
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	Absent
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
President Nancy Wright	Aye

C. Improving Accessibility to CVCC Resources in a Digital Age

CVCC staff provided an update on the efforts to make resources available online. Peter Satin highlighted a fee submission portal that is currently in development, including its features and benefits. Kathleen Brundige showcased a Land Management Database that's under development. Tory Brewster, CivicSpark fellow, described the current pilot of the volunteer program. Member discussion ensued and staff responded to questions.

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

A. Attendance Record

B. CVCC's Investment Report as of December 31, 2020

In response to a Commissioner's question, Katie Barrows also gave a brief update on the status of the bighorn sheep fence project.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming meetings via Zoom:

- Coachella Valley Conservation Commission: April 8, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

10. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Trisha Stull