

REVISED

ITEM 6A

Coachella Valley Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2022



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 10:30 a.m. via Zoom, pursuant to the guidelines of Assembly Bill 361.
- 2. ROLL CALL** – Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

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

Agency

City of Cathedral City
City of Coachella (*Arrived at Item 4*)
Coachella Valley Water District
City of Desert Hot Springs
City of Indio
City of La Quinta
Mission Springs Water District
City of Palm Desert (*Arrived at Item 3*)
City of Palm Springs (*Arrived at Item 4*)
City of Rancho Mirage
Riverside County – District 1
Riverside County – District 2
Riverside County – District 3
Riverside County – District 4 (*Arrived at Item 4*)
Riverside County – District 5

Members Not Present

Mayor Pro Tem Donna Griffith
Director Alex Cardenas

City of Indian Wells
Imperial Irrigation District

Others Present

Tom Kirk	CVAG
Claude Kilgore	CVAG
Kathleen Brundige	CVAG
Peter Satin	CVAG
Elizabeth Paige	CVAG
Erica Felci	CVAG
Joanna Stueckle	CVAG
Jennifer Nelson	CVAG
Peter Satin	CVAG
Emmanuel Martinez	CVAG
Kevin Broadie	CVAG
Tony Quiroz	CVAG
Allen McMillen	CVAG
Kristie Warack	CVAG
Jim Karpiak	CVMC
Pat Cooper	County of Riverside

Paul Vollandghan
Erin Schaeffer
Erin Rode
Randy Bynder
Danielle Cane
Aimee ByardJoan Taylor
Eddy Konno
Brad Anderson
Randy Spevak

County of Riverside
CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Desert Sun
Bighorn Institute
Bighorn Institute
Bighorn Institute
Sierra Club
Sky Valley

3. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS (IF ANY)

Chair Evans requested to move up Item 7B to accommodate schedules of Commissioners who had to leave the meeting early.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Randy Bynder commented on the progress of the La Quinta Bighorn Sheep project (Item 8D) and asked to be invited to the future kick off meeting mentioned in the staff report.

Joan Taylor voiced her concerns on the lack of sheep population surveys and monitoring by the responsible agencies.

Danielle Cane voiced her support for the La Quinta Bighorn sheep project as many sheep have been injured or killed due to lack of fencing.

Brad Anderson expressed opposition on Item 6B, AB 361, and supported the efforts being made to protect the bighorn sheep population.

5. COMMISSION CHAIR / DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Executive Director Kirk commented on the progress of the construction of the Peninsular bighorn sheep project and provided an update on the closing of the Palm Hills acquisition. In response to Mayor Hernandez's question, Mr. Kirk indicated the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is not part of current restoration plan but would request an update from BLM at a future meeting.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve April 14, 2022 CVCC Meeting Minutes

B. Reaffirm that findings still exist, pursuant to Assembly Bill 361, and authorize continuation of remote teleconference/virtual meetings of the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission and its committees

C. Approve CVCC's existing Investment Policy as CVCC Policy 22-01

- D. Appoint the CVCC Vice Chair as the primary delegate to the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority's Board of Directors, with the CVCC Auditor serving as the alternate, for the current and future years

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

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 15 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT.

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

7. DISCUSSION / ACTION

- B. Acquisition of one parcel in the Whitewater Floodplain Conservation Area – Jim Karpiak

Jim Karpiak of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy provided the staff report detailing the purchase of one parcel and responded to Commissioners' questions.

IT WAS MOVED BY SUPERVISOR PEREZ AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER HOLMES TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2022-04 FOR ACQUISITION OF ONE PARCEL CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 22.68+/- ACRES IN THE WHITEWATER FLOODPLAIN CONSERVATION AREA AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$130,000, PLUS CLOSING AND TRANSACTION RELATED COSTS NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000 AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY CONTRACTS AND TAKE SUCH OTHER ACTIONS AS NECESSARY FOR THE ACQUISITION

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 15 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Mayor Pro Tem Rita Lamb	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Gary Gardner	Aye

Director Alex Cardenas	Absent
Mayor Pro Tem Donna Griffith	Absent
Councilmember Elaine Holmes	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans	Aye
Vice President Nancy Wright	Aye
Councilmember Kathleen Kelly	Aye
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Councilmember Richard Kite	Aye
Councilmember Glen Miller	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Kathleen Fitzpatrick	Aye
Mayor Jan Harnik	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt	Aye

A. CVCC's Audit for Fiscal Year 2020/21 and Related Reports –
Claude Kilgore

Claude Kilgore gave a brief update, and introduced Shannon Ayala from Davis Farr, who presented the recent audit findings. Member discussion followed.

IT WAS MOVED BY SUPERVISOR PEREZ AND SECONDED BY MAYOR HARNIK TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021, REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROLS OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING, AND THE AUDITOR'S COMMUNICATION WITH THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 15 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT.

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

C. Update on the Peninsular Bighorn Sheep in the CVMSHCP Plan Area –
Erin Schaeffer, Wildlife Biologist for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Erin Schaeffer provided a presentation on the bighorn sheep monitoring program and recovery plan. Member discussion ensued with Ms. Schaeffer responding to Commissioners' questions. She confirmed she would share a copy of the presentation with the Commissioners.

No action was taken as this was an informational item.

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

A. Attendance Record

B. Contracts under \$25,000

C. CVAG/CVCC Meeting Calendar for Fiscal Year 2022/23

D. Progress on the La Quinta Peninsular Bighorn Sheep Fence

E. Update on Agreement with Desert Hot Springs Police Department for Enforcement on CVCC Lands

F. CVCC Investment Report as of March 31, 2022

G. CVCC Unaudited Financial Statement as of March 31, 2022

KD Brundige gave a brief update on Item 8D at the request of Chair Evans.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Brad Anderson requested the Commission reconsider the decision to continue to meet virtually and expressed his thoughts on the Peninsular bighorn sheep fence project.

Eddy Konno, resident of Sky Valley commented that CVCC is not maintaining fences/barriers, at Hot Springs Road and the south end of Berry Road in Sky Valley and south of Langlois Road in Desert Edge.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Meetings:

The next meeting of the **Coachella Valley Conservation Commission** will be held on Thursday, Thursday, June 9, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom webinar.

The next meeting of the **CVAG General Assembly** will be on Monday, June 27, 2022, at 6 p.m. via Zoom webinar.

11. ADJOURN – The meeting was adjourned by Chair Evans at 11:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Nelson, Clerk