

Coachella Valley Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
April 8, 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 10:30 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 Richard W. Kite  
Councilmember Glenn Miller  
Supervisor Karen Spiegel  
Mayor Pro Tem Jan Harnik  
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez  
  
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt  
Director Russ Martin  
Board Member Anthony Bianco  
  
Director Alex Cardenas  
Vice President Randy Duncan

**Agency**

City of Cathedral City  
City of Coachella  
City of Desert Hot Springs  
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 1  
Riverside County – District 2  
Riverside County – District 3  
Riverside County – District 4, *arrived during Item 4*  
Riverside County – District 5, *arrived during Item 6A*  
Riverside County – District 5, *left during Item 6A*  
Coachella Valley Water District, *arrived during Item 4*  
Imperial Irrigation District  
Mission Springs Water District

**Others Present**

Tom Kirk CVAG  
Katie Barrows CVAG  
Kathleen Brundige CVAG  
Peter Satin CVAG  
Trisha Stull CVAG  
Erica Felci CVAG  
Joanna Stueckle CVAG  
Oscar Vizcarra CVAG  
Tory Brewster CivicSpark Fellow  
Jim Karpiak CVMC  
Erin Schaeffer CDFW  
Randy Bynder Bighorn Institute  
Felicia Brechtel Sierra Club  
Paul Valldigham Riverside County – District 5

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Randy Bynder, of the Bighorn Institute, shared that he was here to listen to Item 6C and the update on the CVMSHCP and bighorn sheep fence.

### **4. COMMISSION CHAIR / DIRECTOR COMMENTS –**

Chair Evans thanked those who attended the CV Link groundbreaking event, which was held at a future bridge connecting the cities of Indio and La Quinta.

Mayor Steven Hernandez asked about the potential of federal earmarks, and whether CVCC would have the opportunity to receive any available government funding. Executive Director Tom Kirk indicated that CVAG and CVCC were tracking the potential opportunities, and that CVAG is providing letters of support to cities for their projects. Supervisor V. Manuel Perez suggested that CVCC staff follow up with Assemblyman Edwardo Garcia about the funding opportunities.

### **5. CONSENT CALENDAR**

#### **A. IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER KITE AND SECONDED BY MAYOR KELLY TO:**

**Approve March 11, 2021 CVCC Meeting Minutes**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 13 AYES AND 4 ABSENT.**

<b>Councilmember Rita Lamb</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Steven Hernandez</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Gary Gardner</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Donna Griffith</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Elaine Holmes</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>Mayor Linda Evans</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Kathleen Kelly</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Dennis Woods</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Richard W. Kite</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Glenn Miller</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Supervisor Karen Spiegel</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Jan Harnik</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Supervisor V. Manuel Perez</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Director Russ Martin</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>Board Member Anthony Bianco</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>Director Alex Cardenas</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Vice President Randy Duncan</b>	<b>Aye</b>

### **6. DISCUSSION / ACTION**

#### **A. 2020 Annual Report**

Peter Satin presented the highlights of the 2020 Annual Report, including progress toward acquisition goals and current monitoring activities. Member discussion ensued.

**THE COMMISSION REVIEWED AND ACCEPTED THE 2020 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE COACHELLA VALLEY MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN.**

**B. Acquisition of 12 parcels from the Riverside County Treasurer-Tax Collector's 2020 Tax Default List**

Jim Karpiak of Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy provided an overview of the purchase, including the property locations and conservation value of the 12 parcels recommended for acquisition.

**IT WAS MOVED BY BOARD MEMBER BIANCO AND SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR PEREZ TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 21-003 AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF 12 TAX DEFAULT PARCELS, TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 107.62+/- ACRES, AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$51,532.62, PLUS ADMINISTRATION COSTS, AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT OF SALE TO PURCHASE THE PROPERTIES.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 17 AYES.**

<b>Councilmember Rita Lamb</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Steven Hernandez</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Gary Gardner</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Donna Griffith</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Elaine Holmes</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Linda Evans</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Kathleen Kelly</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Dennis Woods</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Richard W. Kite</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Glenn Miller</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Supervisor Karen Spiegel</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Jan Harnik</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Supervisor V. Manuel Perez</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Supervisor Jeff Hewitt</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Board Member Anthony Bianco</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Director Alex Cardenas</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Vice President Randy Duncan</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**C. Update on the Peninsular Bighorn Sheep in the CVMSHCP Plan Area**

Erin Schaeffer, of California Department of Fish and Wildlife, gave an update on the recovery and monitoring methods of the Peninsular bighorn sheep (PBS) population. Katie Barrows provided an update on the construction of a fence in the City of La Quinta. Member discussion ensued and Ms. Schaeffer and Ms. Barrows answered members' questions

The Chair welcomed public comment from Mr. Bynder, who thanked the Commission for the update.

There was no action taken as this was an informational update.

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

**A. Attendance Record**

**8. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Upcoming meetings via Zoom:

- Coachella Valley Conservation Commission: May 13, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

**10. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Trisha Stull*