

**Coachella Valley Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2020**



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 Evans at 11:03 am via Zoom.
- 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 Ted Mertens
Mayor Pro Tem Elaine Holmes
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair
Councilmember Susan Marie Weber
Councilmember Dennis Woods
Councilmember Richard W. Kite
Councilmember Glenn Miller
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick
Councilmember Jan Harnik
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt
Board Member Anthony Bianco
Director Alex Cardenas
Vice President Randy Duncan

Agency

City of Cathedral City *Arrived @ 11:11 am*
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, Alternate
Riverside County – District 2, Alternate
Riverside County – District 3, Alternate
Riverside County – District 4
Riverside County – District 5 *Arrived @ 11:08 am*
Coachella Valley Water District
Imperial Irrigation District
Mission Springs Water District

Others Present

Tom Kirk	CVAG
Katie Barrows	CVAG
Jim Sullivan	CVAG
Kathleen Brundige	CVAG
Gary Leong	CVAG
Erica Felci	CVAG
Beverly Newton	CVAG
Libby Carlson	CVAG
Joanna Stueckle	CVAG
Oscar Vizcarra	CVAG
Jim Karpiak	CVMC

Chair Evans led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

- Katie Barrows summarized a comment received via email from Michele Klaussen regarding Item 5B.1.

4. COMMISSION CHAIR / DIRECTOR COMMENTS – None

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

A. Approve the February 13, 2020 CVCC Meeting Minutes

B. 1 Approve Resolution 20-003 authorizing acceptance of the donation of a portion of APN 667-160-001 totaling approximately 66.0 acres in the Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon Conservation Area from Painted Hills Wind Holdings, LLC, and pay transaction related costs not expected to exceed \$3,000; and authorize the Executive Director to execute all necessary agreements and take such other actions as necessary for the acquisition.

B. 2 Approve Resolution 20-004 authorizing acceptance of the donation of a portion of APN 516-030-014 totaling approximately 5.0 acres in the Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon Conservation Area from Guzinski-Etchason Family and pay transaction costs not expected to exceed \$2,500; and authorize the Executive Director to execute all necessary contracts and take such other actions as necessary for the acquisition.

C. Annual inflation adjustment to the Local Development Mitigation Fee

D. Authorize contract with the San Diego Natural History Museum for management of cowbirds through September 30, 2020 for an amount not to exceed \$46,719

E. Approve no-cost Amendment #1 to the Technical Assistance Agreement with United States Geological Survey (USGS) to fulfill the tasks of the study *Determining Habitat Use and Response to Human Recreational Activities of Peninsular Bighorn Sheep (Ovis canadensis nelson)*, extending the term through December 31, 2020

F. Approve a Master Research Agreement with the University of California allowing CVCC to continue to engage in contracts with the University of California

G. Review and accept Resolution 20-009 in Appreciation of Michelle Ouellette

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councilmember Rita Lamb	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair	Aye
Councilmember Gary Gardner	Aye
Councilmember Ted Mertens	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Elaine Holmes	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair	Aye
Councilmember Susan Marie Weber	Aye
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	Aye
Councilmember Glenn Miller	Aye
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick	Aye
Councilmember Jan Harnik	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Aye

Director Alex Cardenas
Vice President Randy Duncan

Aye
Aye

6. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. 2019 Annual Report on Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation

Plan - Jim Sullivan presented the annual progress report on the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan.

The Commission requested an annotated version to share with their respective Councils.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER GARDNER AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER HARNIK TO REVIEW AND ACCEPT THE 2019 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE COACHELLA VALLEY MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councilmember Rita Lamb	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair	Aye
Councilmember Gary Gardner	Aye
Councilmember Ted Mertens	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Elaine Holmes	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair	Aye
Councilmember Susan Marie Weber	Aye
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	Aye
Councilmember Glenn Miller	Aye
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick	Aye
Councilmember Jan Harnik	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Aye
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
Vice President Randy Duncan	Aye

B. Acquisition of 15 Parcels Totaling Approximately 1,348.85 Acres in the Desert Tortoise and Linkage Conservation Area

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER GARDNER AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER FITZPATRICK TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 20-005 AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF 15 PARCELS TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 1348.85 ACRES IN THE DESERT TORTOISE AND LINKAGE CONSERVATION AREA AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$606,430 PLUS CLOSING AND TRANSACTION RELATED COSTS NOT TO EXCEED \$42,000; AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY CONTRACTS AND TAKE SUCH OTHER ACTIONS AS NECESSARY FOR THE ACQUISITION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councilmember Rita Lamb	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair	Aye

Councilmember Gary Gardner	Aye
Councilmember Ted Mertens	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Elaine Holmes	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair	Aye
Councilmember Susan Marie Weber	Aye
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	Aye
Councilmember Glenn Miller	Aye
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick	Aye
Councilmember Jan Harnik	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Aye
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
Vice President Randy Duncan	Aye

C. Acquisition of 1 Parcel Totaling Approximately 5.0 Acres in the Thousand Palms Conservation Area

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER MERTENS AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM HOLMES TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 20-006 AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF 1 PARCEL TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 5.0 ACRES IN THE THOUSAND PALMS CONSERVATION AREA AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000 PLUS CLOSING COSTS NOT TO EXCEED \$4,500; AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY CONTRACTS AND TAKE SUCH OTHER ACTIONS AS NECESSARY FOR THE ACQUISITION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councilmember Rita Lamb	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair	Aye
Councilmember Gary Gardner	Aye
Councilmember Ted Mertens	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Elaine Holmes	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair	Aye
Councilmember Susan Marie Weber	Aye
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	Aye
Councilmember Glenn Miller	Aye
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick	Aye
Councilmember Jan Harnik	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Aye
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
Vice President Randy Duncan	Aye

D. Acquisition of 1 Parcel Totaling Approximately 5.0 Acres in the Willow Hole Conservation Area

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER MILLER AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER KITE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 20-007 AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF 1 PARCEL TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 5.0 ACRES IN THE WILLOW HOLE CONSERVATION AREA AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$15,000 PLUS CLOSING AND TRANSACTION RELATED COSTS NOT TO EXCEED \$3,500; AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY CONTRACTS AND TAKE SUCH OTHER ACTIONS AS NECESSARY FOR THE ACQUISITION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councilmember Rita Lamb	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair	Aye
Councilmember Gary Gardner	Aye
Councilmember Ted Mertens	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Elaine Holmes	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair	Aye
Councilmember Susan Marie Weber	Aye
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	Aye
Councilmember Glenn Miller	Aye
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick	Aye
Councilmember Jan Harnik	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Aye
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
Vice President Randy Duncan	Aye

E. Acquisition of 1 Tax Default Parcel Totaling Approximately 4.77 Acres From the Riverside County Treasurer-Tax Collector

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER GARDNER AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER WOODS TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 20-008 AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF 1 TAX DEFAULT PARCEL AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$7381.42 PLUS ADMINISTRATION COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT OF SALE TO PURCHASE THE PROPERTY.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 16 AYES AND 1 NO.

Councilmember Rita Lamb	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair	Aye
Councilmember Gary Gardner	Aye
Councilmember Ted Mertens	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Elaine Holmes	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair	Aye
Councilmember Susan Marie Weber	No
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	Aye
Councilmember Glenn Miller	Aye
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick	Aye
Councilmember Jan Harnik	Aye

Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Aye
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
Vice President Randy Duncan	Aye

F. Sale of Approximately 17 Acres to CVAG for CV Link Mitigation

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER HARNIK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER GARDNER TO AUTHORIZE THE SALE OF 17 ACRES OF CVCC PROPERTY TO CVAG; ACCEPT AN ENDOWMENT FOR PERPETUAL MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT; AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY CONTRACTS AND TAKE SUCH OTHER ACTIONS AS NEEDED FOR THE SALE.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 14 AYES AND 3 ABSTENTIONS.

Councilmember Rita Lamb	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair	Aye
Councilmember Gary Gardner	Aye
Councilmember Ted Mertens	Abstain
Mayor Pro Tem Elaine Holmes	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair	Aye
Councilmember Susan Marie Weber	Abstain
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	Abstain
Councilmember Glenn Miller	Aye
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick	Aye
Councilmember Jan Harnik	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Aye
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
Vice President Randy Duncan	Aye

G. Contract with Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy for Land Acquisition Manager Services

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER GARDNER AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER FITZPATRICK TO APPROVE A THREE YEAR CONTRACT WITH THE COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY, PAID AT AN HOURLY RATE FOR ACTUAL WORK PERFORMED, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$76,490 PER YEAR FOR THE FIRST 12 MONTHS. THE NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT SHALL INCREASE BY 3% ANNUALLY, TO \$78,785 FOR THE SECOND TWELVE MONTHS AND TO \$81,149 FOR THE THIRD TWELVE MONTHS

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councilmember Rita Lamb	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair	Aye
Councilmember Gary Gardner	Aye

Councilmember Ted Mertens	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Elaine Holmes	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair	Aye
Councilmember Susan Marie Weber	Aye
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	Aye
Councilmember Glenn Miller	Aye
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick	Aye
Councilmember Jan Harnik	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Aye
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
Vice President Randy Duncan	Aye

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

- A. CVCC Attendance Record**
- B. Unaudited Financial Statement Through March 31, 2020**
- C. Investment Report Through March 31, 2020**

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - None

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Coachella Valley Conservation Commission, June 11, 2020 at 11 am

10. ADJOURN - The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Libby Carlson