

Coachella Valley Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 10, 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 Linda Evans at 11:01 am 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 Ted Mertens
Mayor Pro Tem Elaine Holmes
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair
Councilmember Dennis Woods
Councilmember Richard W. Kite
Mayor Glenn Miller
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick
Councilmember Jan Harnik
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, Alternate
City of La Quinta
City of Palm Springs
City of Rancho Mirage
Riverside County – District 1, Alternate
Riverside County – District 2, Alternate
Riverside County – District 3, Alternate, *Left during Item 6C*
Riverside County – District 5, Alternate
Coachella Valley Water District, *Left during Item 6C*
Imperial Irrigation District
Mission Springs Water District, Alternate

Others Present

Tom Kirk CVAG
Gary Leong CVAG
Katie Barrows CVAG
Kathleen Brundige CVAG
Trisha Stull CVAG
Erica Felci CVAG
Ben Druyon CVAG
Joanna Stueckle CVAG
Oscar Vizcarra CVAG
Jim Karpiak CVMC
Cameron Barrows UCR
Pat Cooper Riverside County – District 4
Joan Taylor Sierra Club
Stan Henry
Jim Sullivan

Members Not Present
Councilmember Susan Marie Weber
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez

Agency
City of Palm Desert
Riverside County – District 4

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Evans encouraged public comments on both agenda and on non-agenda items at this time. Joan Taylor of Sierra Club commented that the bighorn sheep barrier fence was long overdue, and that Sierra Club would consider legal action on this matter.

4. COMMISSION CHAIR / DIRECTOR COMMENTS – Tom Kirk introduced Trisha Stull, the new Program Assistant II at CVAG. He also commented on Zoom meeting logistics.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve June 11, 2020 CVCC Meeting Minutes

B. Authorize the Chair and/or Executive Director to execute a letter of engagement with Best, Best & Krieger to provide legal services related to implementation of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan at a cost not to exceed \$32,000 for July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

C. Approve Amendment #4 to the In-Lieu Fee Program contract with ICF Jones & Stokes for a no-cost extension through September 30, 2021

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER HARNIK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER FITZPATRICK TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 14 AYES, 1 ABSTAIN AND 2 ABSENT.

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	Absent
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	Aye
Mayor Glenn Miller	Aye
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick	Aye
Councilmember Jan Harnik	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Absent
Director Russ Martin	Abstain
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Aye
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
Vice President Randy Duncan	Aye

6. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Election of CVCC Officers for Fiscal Year 2020/21

Tom Kirk introduced the item and sought nominations for CVCC officers for fiscal year 2020/21. Councilmember Fitzpatrick nominated Mayor Evans to serve as chair.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER KITE AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER MERTENS TO ELECT MAYOR EVANS AS CVCC CHAIR.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 15 AYES AND 2 ABSENT.

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	Absent
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	Aye
Mayor Glenn Miller	Aye
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick	Aye
Councilmember Jan Harnik	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Absent
Director Russ Martin	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Aye
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
Vice President Randy Duncan	Aye

The discussion continued. Councilmember Harnik nominated Mayor Hernandez to serve as CVCC vice chair.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER KITE AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER FITZPATRICK TO ELECT MAYOR HERNANDEZ AS CVCC VICE CHAIR.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 15 AYES AND 2 ABSENT.

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	Absent
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	Aye
Mayor Glenn Miller	Aye
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick	Aye

Councilmember Jan Harnik	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Absent
Director Russ Martin	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Aye
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
Vice President Randy Duncan	Aye

B. Acquisition of two parcels totaling approximately 15.44 acres in the Thousand Palms Conservation Area

Jim Karpiak, Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy, provided an update on the properties to be acquired. It was noted that, due to a clerical error, the agenda listed this item as Resolution 20-009 instead of Resolution 20-012.

IT WAS MOVED BY DIRECTOR CARDENAS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER GARDNER TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 20-012 AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF TWO PARCELS TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 15.44 ACRES IN THE THOUSAND PALMS CONSERVATION AREA AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$42,460, PLUS CLOSING AND TRANSACTION-RELATED 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 WITH 15 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT.

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	Absent
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	Aye
Mayor Glenn Miller	Aye
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick	Aye
Councilmember Jan Harnik	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Absent
Director Russ Martin	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Aye
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
Vice President Randy Duncan	Aye

C. Presentation on Biological Monitoring Program

Dr. Cameron Barrows, of University of California- Riverside, provided the annual update on the biological monitoring program and various species that are being protected. Member discussion ensued.

There was no action taken.

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

A. Attendance Record

B. Update on Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority

C. Contracts Under \$25,000

D. Letter outlining the Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit for Fiscal Year 2019/2020

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next scheduled meeting via Zoom:

- Coachella Valley Conservation Commission, November 12, 2020 at 11 a.m.

10. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Trisha Stull