

Coachella Valley Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
November 12, 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 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  
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 Jan Harnik

Supervisor V. Manuel Perez  
Director Russ Martin  
Board Member Anthony Bianco  
Director Alex Cardenas

**Others Present**

Tom Kirk  
Gary Leong  
Katie Barrows  
Kathleen Brundige  
Trisha Stull  
Ben Druyon  
Oscar Vizcarra  
Peter Satin  
Tory Brewster  
Michael McDonagh  
Jim Karpiak

**Members Not Present**

Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair  
Supervisor Kevin Jefferies  
Supervisor Karen Spiegel  
Director Nancy Wright

**Agency**

City of Cathedral City  
City of Desert Hot Springs  
City of Indian Wells  
City of Indio  
City of La Quinta  
City of Palm Desert, *Arrived during Item 6A*  
City of Palm Springs  
City of Rancho Mirage  
Riverside County – District 3, Alternate, *Arrived During Item 6A*  
Riverside County – District 4  
Riverside County – District 5  
Coachella Valley Water District, *Left during Item 6C*  
Imperial Irrigation District

CVAG  
CVAG  
CVAG  
CVAG  
CVAG  
CVAG  
CVAG  
CVAG  
CVAG  
CivicSpark Fellow  
CVAG Consultant  
CVMC

**Agency**

City of Coachella  
Riverside County – District 1  
Riverside County – District 2  
Mission Springs Water District

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**4. COMMISSION CHAIR / DIRECTOR COMMENTS** – Chair Evans acknowledged that there were changes in elected offices due to the recent election. Desert Hot Springs Councilmember Gary Gardner thanked the Committee for their support letters for the Sand to Snow National Monument. Katie Barrows acknowledged Jim Sullivan’s retirement and introduced Peter Satin, the new regional planner.

**5. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. Approve September 10, 2020 CVCC Meeting Minutes**

**IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER GARDNER AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER KITE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES AND 6 ABSENT.**

<b>Councilmember Rita Lamb</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Councilmember Gary Gardner</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Ted Mertens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Elaine Holmes</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Linda Evans, Chair</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Susan Marie Weber</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Councilmember Dennis Woods</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Richard W. Kite</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Supervisor Kevin Jefferies</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Supervisor Karen Spiegel</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Councilmember Jan Harnik</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Supervisor V. Manuel Perez</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Director Russ Martin</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>Absent</b>

**6. DISCUSSION / ACTION**

**A. Update on CVCC Land Management Efforts**

Kathleen Brundige gave an update on the recent land management work that has been done by CVCC. Member discussion ensued and staff indicated they would distribute a copy of the presentation to members.

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

## **B. Introduction of CivicSpark Fellow**

Kathleen Brundige introduced the CivicSpark Fellow, Tory Brewster. Ms. Brewster discussed the work she will be completing for CVCC.

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

## **C. Acquisition of tax default parcels from the Riverside County Treasurer-Tax Collector's July 2017 Default List**

Jim Karpiak, Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy, gave the staff presentation and provided an update on the properties to be acquired from the July 2017 Default List.

**IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER GARDNER AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM HOLMES TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 20-013 AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF SEVEN TAX DEFAULT PROPERTIES TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 29.34 +/- ACRES AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$70,694,41, PLUS ADMINISTRATION COSTS, AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT OF SALE TO PURCHASE THE PROPERTIES.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 12 AYES, 1 ABSTAIN AND 4 ABSENT.**

<b>Councilmember Rita Lamb</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Councilmember Gary Gardner</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Ted Mertens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Elaine Holmes</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Linda Evans, Chair</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Susan Marie Weber</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>Councilmember Dennis Woods</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Richard W. Kite</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Supervisor Kevin Jefferies</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Supervisor Karen Spiegel</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Councilmember Jan Harnik</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Supervisor V. Manuel Perez</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Director Russ Martin</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>Absent</b>

## **D. Acquisition of tax default parcels from the Riverside County Treasurer-Tax Collector's July 2018 Default List**

Mr. Karpiak provided an update on the properties to be acquired from the July 2018 Default List.

**IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER KITE AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER GARDNER TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 20-014 AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF EIGHT TAX DEFAULT PROPERTIES TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 152.91 +/- ACRES AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$68,417.03, PLUS ADMINISTRATION COSTS, AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT OF SALE TO PURCHASE THE PROPERTIES.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 12 AYES, 1 ABSTAIN AND 4 ABSENT.**

<b>Councilmember Rita Lamb</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Councilmember Gary Gardner</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Ted Mertens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Elaine Holmes</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Linda Evans, Chair</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Susan Marie Weber</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>Councilmember Dennis Woods</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Richard W. Kite</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Supervisor Kevin Jefferies</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Supervisor Karen Spiegel</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Councilmember Jan Harnik</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Supervisor V. Manuel Perez</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Director Russ Martin</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>Absent</b>

**E. Acquisition of tax default parcels from the Riverside County Treasurer-Tax Collector's July 2019 Default List**

Mr. Karpiak provided an update on the properties to be acquired from the July 2019 Default List.

**IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER GARDNER AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER KITE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 20-015 AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF EIGHT TAX DEFAULT PROPERTIES TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 200.16 +/- ACRES AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$53,585.95, PLUS ADMINISTRATION COSTS, AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT OF SALE TO PURCHASE THE PROPERTIES.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 12 AYES, 1 ABSTAIN AND 4 ABSENT.**

<b>Councilmember Rita Lamb</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Councilmember Gary Gardner</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Ted Mertens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Elaine Holmes</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Linda Evans, Chair</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Susan Marie Weber</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>Councilmember Dennis Woods</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Richard W. Kite</b>	<b>Aye</b>

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

**F. Construction Plans for the La Quinta Peninsular Bighorn Sheep Fence**

Ms. Barrows provided an update to the fence project, including acquiring a consultant to complete construction plans for the La Quinta Peninsular Bighorn Sheep Fence. Member discussion ensued.

**IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER HARNIK AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM HOLMES TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH A CONSULTANT, SELECTED BASED ON COMPETITIVE BIDS, TO COMPLETE LA QUINTA BIGHORN SHEEP FENCE PROJECT CONSTRUCTION PLANS THAT MEET COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS, FOR NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$50,000.**

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

Councilmember Rita Lamb	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair	Absent
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
Supervisor Kevin Jefferies	Absent
Supervisor Karen Spiegel	Absent
Councilmember Jan Harnik	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Director Russ Martin	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Aye
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
Vice President Randy Duncan	Absent

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

**A. Attendance Record**

**B. CVCC's Investment Report as of September 30, 2020**

**C. CVCC's Quarterly Unaudited Financial Statements as of June 30, 2020**

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

None

## **9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Upcoming meetings:

- Coachella Valley Conservation Commission: January 14, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

## **10. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Trisha Stull*