

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY HABITAT CONSERVATION AGENCY
Reserve Managers Coordinating Committee**

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 24, 2022

10:00 a.m.

Via Zoom

13225 Cajalco Road

Perris, CA 92570

1. Call to Order

The meeting was held via Zoom and called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Harry Sandoval, Chairperson

2. Roll Call – Self-Introductions

Name	Agency/Reserve
Alex Marks	MWD
Jarin Valencia	City of Riverside, Parks/Sycamore Canyon
Harry Sandoval	RCHCA /Lake Mathews Reserve
Riana Fisher	RCHCA /Lake Mathews Reserve
Robert Williams	Riverside County Parks/SWMSR
Joe Messin	UCR/Motte Rimrock
Amanda Swaller	USFWS
James Gannon	BLM
Kristen Lalumiere	BLM
Brendan Himelright	USFWS
Chris Wagner	March Air Reserve Base

3. Approval of Minutes from October 7, 2021

The minutes of October 7, 2021, meeting was presented for approval.

MOTION to approve the minutes as presented: Robert Williams

SECOND: Alex Marks

Motion Approved

4. Public Comment

No comments were offered.

5. SKR Recovery and Status Update.

Harry announced that the USFWS has published the reclassification of the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat from Endangered to Threatened with a 4(d) Rule on February 17, 2022. The RCHCA appreciates and acknowledges all of the reserve managers and partner agencies' efforts in the downlisting. Management activities for the foreseen future will remain the same.

6. **SKR Rangewide Monitoring Plan Update and Request for Data Collection Input**

Harry discussed the need for input regarding data collection for the Rangewide Management and Monitoring Plan, e.g. what morphology and habitat/vegetation data should be collected when doing SKR monitoring to better manage the reserves and towards recovery. This information will go into the final monitoring protocol plan. Currently, RCHCA collects data on ear length, weight, reproductive status, and vegetation data from transects.

Robert mentioned that SWMSR monitors for multiple species, so the current data collected for SKR is relevant.

Harry added that the monitoring protocol is looking at approximately 150 grids rangewide, so with the time involved, refining data collection to be most efficient is preferred to be able to make decisions on the species in the future.

Robert asked if RCHCA is collaborating with the San Diego Zoo for data collection recommendations. Harry replied RCHCA is, as well as with the military bases doing monitoring in San Diego County.

It is anticipated that this information will be put into place for this year's monitoring season. RCHCA will keep the RMCC apprised of what the Technical Team develops for the monitoring protocol.

7. **Roundtable / Reserve Manager Reports**

a. **Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve**

Robert Williams: Nothing significant to report. Doing a lot of vegetation management, though with lack of rain, not anticipating much for weed abatement. Stinknet issues are not significant. Highlighted that RivCo Parks is working on an OHV facility. The Diamond Valley site has been removed from the list of potential sites due to various issues.

b. **Sycamore Canyon**

Jarin Valencia: Nothing new to report. Has been working on vegetation control and trail marking.

c. **MWD**

Alex Marks: Nothing to report.

d. **BLM**

James Gannon: Working on Stinknet in various areas. Crews are out at Lake Mathews and Steele Peak preparing for a prescribed burn. BLM requested additional funds to implement the SKR Rangewide Plan. Surprised that there was not more news about the Downlisting.

Kristen Lalumiere: Nothing to add.

e. **UCR Motte Rimrock**

Joe Messin: Trapping has migrated to late March/early April.

f. **March Air Reserve Base**

Chris Wagner: Purchased some wildlife cameras, so is able to monitor satellite population on the west side of the 215. SKR is no longer on the east side of the freeway.

g. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Amanda Swaller: Asked how managers are working with the new Rangewide plan.

Harry responded that it's very new at this point. Asked where should managers go regarding questions on the 4(d) rule?

Amanda responded that they can go to her, or Brendan, but that nothing has changed with species protection regarding management.

Brendan Himelright: Expressed appreciation for everyone's efforts towards the Downlisting and that the Rangewide plan for Management and Monitoring will be an important step towards fully delisting SKR.

h. Lake Mathews / Estelle Mountain

Harry Sandoval: Harry reported that over winter, RCHCA completed broadcast seeding for 30 acres of grassland and 1.5 acres of coastal sagescrub. Also working with CalFire on VMPs for ten year renewal, which added about 4,000 acres that will hopefully standardized management activities throughout. Additionally, began treating Stinknet.

Harry mentioned that RCHCA has been having issues with SCE coming in to work with notifications that lack specifics on location where work is occurring. Last year, SCE did a presentation on their CROPS notification system for reserve lands. Asked has anyone received notifications or good results from the CROPS system?

Robert chimed in that they also have had issues with contractors coming into the reserve. Has received emails from CROPS that only clarifies if its overland travel or on existing roads but SCE has not been very responsive to questions about the notification.

Harry agreed that the notifications are helpful, but better coordination is needed on details of work performed and locations.

Amanda asked the group about leadtimes for notifications from SCE before work begins. Harry replied he gets about 5 days on average, which is sufficient, but wishes he had more details about the project itself. Will talk with SCE about these types of issues. Amanda added that USFWS is happy to assist with any communication between the reserves and SCE.

Harry added that he hopes the next or future RMCC meeting can be in person at one of the reserves. He will be sending out the updated Habitat Suitability Model to the managers soon.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 AM.