

**COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
REGULAR MEETING
73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 115
Palm Desert, California
January 11, 2010 - 3:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Benoit, Riverside County Supervisor, District IV
Buford Crites, State Assembly Appointee
John Donnelly, Wildlife Conservation Board
Jim Ferguson, City of Palm Desert– *Chairman*
Jim Foote, U.S. Forest Service (non-voting)
Kristy Franklin, City of La Quinta
John Kalish, Bureau of Land Management
Patrick Kemp, Natural Resources Agency
Paul Marchand, City of Cathedral City
Ron Meepos, City of Rancho Mirage
Richard Milanovich, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
Chris Mills, City of Palm Springs
Al Muth, University of California
Robert Schladale, Department of Finance
Larry Spicer, City of Indian Wells
Ellen Lloyd Trover, Senate Rules Committee Appointee

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Karl Baker, City of Desert Hot Springs
Kathy Dice, California State Parks
Rick Hutcheson, City of Palm Springs
Eddy Konno, California Department of Fish and Game
Curt Sauer, National Park Service
Joan Taylor, Governor's Appointee

STAFF PRESENT:

Bill Havert, Executive Director
Geary Hund, Associate Director
Kerrie Godfrey, Staff Services Analyst

OTHERS PRESENT:

None

VACANT POSITIONS:

None

1.0 Call to Order & Introductions

The Chairman, Jim Ferguson, declared that a quorum was present at 3:00 pm.

2.0 Approval of Minutes of March 09, 2009 meeting

Chairman Ferguson asked if there were any additions or changes to the March 09, 2009 Minutes. There were none. A motion was made and seconded (Muth/Trover) to approve the Minutes as distributed. The motion was adopted by all members saying "Aye" in a unanimous vote.

3.0 Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

Chairman Ferguson asked if there were any comments on any items not on the agenda. There were none.

4.0 Closed Session – No matter is scheduled

Chairman Ferguson asked if there were any closed session items. There were none.

5.0 Action items – public hearing

5.1 Election of Chair and Vice-chair.

Bill Havert explained that the term of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson is one year, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 33506. The election is normally held at the July meeting; however, the July meeting was cancelled this year. The Board Members eligible to serve as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are the city and county representatives, the Chairperson of the Tribal Council of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, and the appointees of the Governor, the Senate Committee on Rules, and the Speaker of the Assembly. The representatives of the various state and federal agencies are not eligible.

Al Muth opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Paul Marchand nominated Ellen Lloyd Trover and Larry Spicer seconded the nomination. The Chair asked Ellen Lloyd Trover if she would accept the nomination and she accepted. The Chairman asked for additional nominations and there were none so nominations were closed. Chairman Ferguson maintained a motion to elect Ellen Lloyd Trover by acclamation. The motion was made and seconded (Marchand/Spicer). Ellen Lloyd Trover was elected for a one year term as Vice Chairman by unanimous vote.

Al Muth opened the floor for nominations for Chairman. Buford Crites nominated Jim Ferguson and Richard Milanovich seconded the nomination. Jim Ferguson accepted the nomination and asked if there were any additional nominations. There were none and nominations were closed with motion and a second (Crites/Milanovich) and a unanimous voice vote. Chairman Ferguson maintained a motion to elect Jim Ferguson by acclamation. The motion was made and seconded (Crites/Milanovich). Jim Ferguson was elected for a one year term as Chairman by unanimous vote.

5.2 Resolution supporting designation of a portion of Highway 74 as the Roy Wilson Memorial Highway.

Bill Havert explained that more than one Board Member had expressed a desire to honor Roy Wilson in some way. He noted that one way to do this is the designation of a portion of Highway 74 in the National Monument as the Roy Wilson Memorial Highway. This is supported by Friends of the Desert Mountains and may be supported by the Coachella Valley Association of Governments. With Roy's many years of service on the Conservancy's Governing Board and his strong support for the National Monument and conservation, the suggested dedication seems to be a very appropriate way to recognize Roy's many contributions to the Coachella Valley. Bill noted that the designation has to be made through action of the State Legislature. The request would come jointly from the Friends of the Desert Mountains, the Conservancy, and the Coachella Valley Association of Governments if it approves a resolution to do so.

Chairman Ferguson asked for any additional discussion on the item and there was none. He asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2010-01. A motion was made and seconded (Benoit/Marchand) to adopt the resolution. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

5.3 Adoption of Meeting Schedule for 2010.

Chairman Ferguson asked for any discussion on the item and there was none. A motion was made and seconded (Muth/Marchand) to approve the meeting schedule for 2010. The motion was passed and the 2010 meeting schedule was adopted by unanimous vote.

6.0 Information Items

6.1 Conflict of Interest reporting, Form 700.

Chairman Ferguson asked when the reports were due to the CVMC staff. Kerrie Godfrey explained that the reports should be sent to the Conservancy NLT March 30, 2010 because she needs to send them to the FPPC NLT April 1, 2010. There was no additional discussion and Chairman Ferguson called for an omnibus motion to receive and file written report item 6.1. A motion was made and seconded (Marchand/Crites) to receive and file written report 6.1. The motion was adopted by all members saying "Aye" in a unanimous vote.

6.2 CVCC acquisitions in 2009 (oral report from staff).

Bill Havert and Geary Hund, Conservancy staff, presented the Board with a PowerPoint presentation displaying the various land acquisitions that the Conservancy has helped the CVCC acquire as Acquisitions Manager throughout 2009. They also showed Senator Feinstein's proposed Sand to Snow National Monument, part of the California Desert Protection Act of 2010 which she recently introduced. The majority of the Riverside County portion of the proposed Monument is within Conservancy Territory. It contains proposed additions to the existing San Geronio Wilderness, on lands managed by the Forest Service, the Whitewater Canyon ACEC, a Wildlife Corridor that the Conservancy has been working on for many years, as well as a section of the Pacific Crest Trail. Bill believes this proposal will be of interest to all the jurisdictions in the Coachella Valley. Larry Spicer asked what practical impact this might have on this area. Bill answered that it highlights the importance of these areas and shows the value of the acquisition programs that the Conservancy has supported in these areas. The protection of these areas helps implement the CVMSHCP and there might be benefits to ecotourism by highlighting the various recreation and scenic values of the National Monument. Larry Spicer asked if there was a private property owner in this area and this Legislation was approved, does this change the value of their land? And may this have an impact on us if we wanted to acquire the land? Bill Havert answered that the vast majority of the land there is already federal land (BLM or USFS) and as we have experienced with the existing National Monument, highlighting it this way tends to help those agencies get better appropriations for acquisition and for management of these lands. They have a greater ability to fulfill their functions in these areas and it helps foster partnerships with other entities that own land in that area. The Wildlands Conservancy has the Mission Creek and Whitewater Preserves which we helped fund the acquisition of and then conveyed to them. They provide great opportunities for school groups to come there for environmental education and for public access and recreation opportunities. As result of these efforts, they are getting better known. John Benoit noted that he had a meeting with a representative from Senator Feinstein's office about the proposed legislation. There was no additional discussion and Chairman Ferguson called for a motion to receive and file written report item 6.2. A motion was made and seconded (Marchand/Crites) to receive and file written report 6.2. The motion was adopted by all members saying "Aye" in a unanimous vote.

6.3 Prognosis for availability of Prop. 84 funds.

Patrick Kemp explained the Finance Letter dated December 17, 2008 is still in force on bond acquisitions and expenditures. He noted that we have not been given any authorization to make new commitments in the conservation area. The only new commitments are under a strict criterion in the areas of job creation or leveraging large amounts of federal funds and public safety. The bond situation remains about the same as last year. The cash situation is better than last year and according to the Director of Finance, we should be OK cash wise for the remainder of this FY but, next year could be another story. The governor has declared a

state of emergency and the legislature has 45 days to meet on his proposed recommendations to solve the problem (March). He noted that it looks like the Conservancy kept busy working with other partners which is what a lot of the other Conservancies are doing also. Patrick asked if there were any questions. There was no additional discussion and Chairman Ferguson called for a motion to receive and file written report item 6.3. A motion was made and seconded (Marchand/Crites) to receive and file written report 6.3. The motion was adopted by all members saying "Aye" in a unanimous vote.

7.0 Reports

Chairman Ferguson called for an omnibus motion to receive and file written reports items 7.1-7.2. A motion was made and seconded (Marchand/Muth) to receive and file written reports 7.1 - 7.2. The motion was adopted by all members saying "Aye" in a unanimous vote.

8.0 Adjourn to the March 8, 2010 meeting.

A motion was made and seconded (Muth/Marchand) to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned without objection at 3:26 p.m.