

**COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
REGULAR MEETING
73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 115
Palm Desert, California
July 11, 2011 - 3:00 p.m.**

M I N U T E S

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John J. Benoit, Riverside County Supervisor, District IV
Jim Foote, U.S. Forest Service (non-voting)
John Kalish, Bureau of Land Management
Patrick Kemp, Natural Resources Agency
Eddy Konno, California Department of Fish and Game
William Kroonen, City of Palm Desert
Chris Mills, City of Palm Springs
Gordon Moller, City of Rancho Mirage
Al Muth, University of California
Paul Riesman, California State Parks
Larry Spicer, City of Indian Wells
Ellen Lloyd Trover, Senate Rules Committee Appointee – *Chairwoman*

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Buford Crites, State Assembly Appointee – *Vice-Chairman*
Karl Baker, City of Desert Hot Springs
John Donnelly, Wildlife Conservation Board
Kristy Franklin, City of La Quinta
Karin Messaros, National Park Service
Richard Milanovich, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
Pedro Reyes, Department of Finance
Joan Taylor, Governor's Appointee
Sam Toles, City of Cathedral City

STAFF PRESENT:

Kevin McKernan, Executive Director
Kerrie Godfrey, Staff Services Analyst

OTHERS PRESENT:

None

VACANT POSITIONS:

Vacant, Staff Environmental Scientist

1.0 Call to Order & Introductions

Chair Trover declared a quorum with 12 members present at 3:10 pm. John J. Benoit arrived at 3:15 and was not available to vote on the minutes.

2.0 Approval of Minutes of May 2011 meetings

Chair Trover asked if there were any additions or changes to the May 09, 2011 Minutes. Seeing none, a motion was made and seconded (Mills/Muth) to approve the Minutes. The motion was adopted by 11 members saying "Aye" in a unanimous vote.

3.0 Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

Chair Trover asked if there were any comments on any items not on the agenda. There were none.

4.0 Closed Session – No matters scheduled

Pursuant to Government Code sections 11126 (a)(1), 11126 (e)(1) and 11126.3(a) the Board may hold a closed session to discuss and take possible action on personnel matters and or receive advice of counsel on pending or potential litigation. In addition, pursuant to Government Code section 11126 (c) 7 (A) the Board may meet in closed session with its negotiator prior to the purchase or sale of real property by or for the state body to give instructions to its negotiator regarding the price and terms of payment for the purchase or sale. Confidential memoranda related to these issues may be considered during such closed session discussions.

5.0 Action Items - public hearing

5.1 Resolution 2011-07 expressing the Conservancy's appreciation of Ron Meepos' service to the Conservancy since 2002 until his passing in 2011.

Chair Trover explained that more than one Board Member has expressed a desire to honor Ron Meepos for his service to the Conservancy and the Coachella Valley. With Ron's many years of service on the Governing Board and his contributions in many other ways as an environmental leader and selfless, dedicated public servant in the Coachella Valley, the suggested dedication of a Conservancy Resolution for his family seems to be a very appropriate way to memorialize his service.

Chair Trover asked the board representative from the City of Rancho Mirage, Councilmember Gordon Moller, if he would like to say anything.

Gordon Moller expressed that he thought this resolution would be appreciated by Ron's family and he would like to be able to present it to them at the next City of Rancho Mirage Council Meeting.

Chair Trover asked if there were any other discussion on the item. Since there was none, she asked for a motion to memorialize Ron Meepos' service on the Conservancy Board. A motion was made and seconded (Moller/Kroonen) to adopt the motion. The motion passed by the unanimous vote of the 12 members present.

5.2 Resolution 2011-08 approving a local assistance grant to the Friends of the Desert Mountains for the acquisition of approximately 74 acres in the Edom Hill Conservation Area

Kevin McKernan explained that at its March meeting the Governing Board was briefed about the Edom Hill Conservation Area and the funding situation prior to the freeze on bond funds. Information about the appraisal process was also provided and subsequently grants were approved for the acquisition of 2 parcels in the Edom Hill area at this meeting. Since then, additional offer letters were mailed to willing sellers in the Edom Hill area, the Thermal Canyon area, and in a third area, Martinez Canyon, to continue acquisition projects that had begun before the bond freeze and which were part of the Conservancy's priority projects. He referred the board to the map in the agenda packet and noted the Friends has requested that the Conservancy approve a local assistance grant for five additional parcels consisting of approximately 74 acres in the Edom Hill area. These parcels belong to landowners who have been identified as willing sellers. The five parcels in the Edom Hill area would consolidate conservation ownership in a large portion of the Conservation Area.

Chair Trover asked if there were any other discussion on the item. Since there was none, she asked for a motion to approve the local assistance grant for acquisition of 74 acres in Edom Hill. A motion was made and seconded (Kroonen/Benoit) to adopt the motion. The motion passed by the unanimous vote of the 12 members present.

6.0 Reports

6.1 Written Reports.

Chair Trover asked if there were any discussion. Kevin McKernan introduced himself to the Board as the new Executive Director for the Conservancy. He briefly discussed his background and then he proceeded to provide the Board information about the new CVCC contract and the Conservancy's recent local assistance grant acquisition updates.

6.2 Board Member comments and reports from Conservancy member agencies. Chair Trover asked if there were any discussion. Supervisor Benoit spoke briefly about the State's financial situation and the possibility of adding the Conservancy to the most recent water bond legislation.

7.0 Adjourn to the September 12, 2011 meeting

A motion was made and seconded (Spicer/Mills) to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned without objection at 4:03 p.m.