

**COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
RE-SCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING  
73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 115  
Palm Desert, California  
April 8, 2013 - 3:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Russell Betts, City of Desert Hot Springs  
Jean Benson, City of Palm Desert  
Buford Crites, State Assembly Appointee–(*Vice-Chairman*)  
John Donnelly, Wildlife Conservation Board  
Karin Finn, California State Department of Finance  
Jim Foote, U.S. Forest Service (Non-voting member)  
Kristy Franklin, City of La Quinta  
John Kalish, Bureau of Land Management  
Patrick Kemp, Natural Resources Agency  
Karin Messaros, National Park Service  
Chris Mills, City of Palm Springs  
Allan Muth, University of California  
Paul Reisman, California State Parks  
Mary Roche, City of Indian Wells  
Ellen Lloyd Trover, Senate Rules Committee Appointee–  
(*Chairwoman*)  
Ted Weill, City of Rancho Mirage

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

John J. Benoit, Riverside County Supervisor, District IV  
Kathy De Rosa, City of Cathedral City  
Eddy Konno, California Department of Fish and Game  
Larry Olinger, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians  
Joan Taylor, Governor's Appointee

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Kerrie Godfrey, Associate Governmental Program Analyst  
(Acting Executive Director)  
Diana Rosas, Staff Services Analyst

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Katie Barrows, Coachella Valley Conservation Commission  
Jim R. Karpiak, Member of the Public, Candidate for E.D.

1.0 Call to Order & Introductions

Chairwoman Trover declared a quorum with 14 voting members present at 3:00 pm. Paul Reisman walked in to the meeting 10 minutes late and was not present for the roll call nor the voting of the Approval of the February 25, 2013 Meeting Minutes.

2.0 Approval of Minutes of February 25, 2013 meeting

Mary Roche, City of Indian Wells, pointed out a correction in the minutes under item 4.2 in the third paragraph where she was incorrectly listed as a member of the City of Rancho Mirage.

A motion was made and seconded (Crites/Mills) to approve the Minutes with one correction. The February 2013 Draft Minutes with one correction were approved by a roll call vote of the Board Members present.

3.0 Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

There were no comments on items not on the agenda.

4.0 Closed Session – Two matters scheduled

Commenced closed session at 3:10 pm and discussed the personnel matter consisting of a report from the Search Committee for a new Executive Director regarding the applications received, the interviews conducted and the recommended candidate. The second item discussed was a potential litigation matter regarding an unpaid assessment.

Adjourned closed session at 3:40 pm.

5.0 Action Items – Public Hearing Agenda Items

5.1 Recommendation from the Search Committee to offer the position of Executive Director to the top ranked candidate and to recommend the salary for the position.

Chairwoman Trover introduced Jim R. Karpiak as the top ranked candidate to interview for the Executive Director position with the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy. She informed Jim that after some discussion the Governing Board decided to extend their offer to him for the Conservancy Executive Director position. There were no questions from the Governing Board for Jim.

A motion was made and seconded (Muth/Mills) to offer the position of Executive Director to the top ranked candidate. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote of the Board Members present.

Chairwoman Trover announced that after some discussion during closed session the Governing Board decided to offer the Executive Director position to Jim at the top salary range with the approximately 4.62% mandated Governor's Personal Leave reduction. Kerrie Godfrey, Conservancy Staff, explained the 4.62%

mandated Governor's Personal Leave as one full day that the employee is mandated to take off from work with no pay which equals out to an approximately 4.62% reduction in the salary range. Patrick Kemp, Natural Resources Agency, confirmed that the mandated 4.62% cut is expected to end at the end of June 30, 2013.

A motion was made and seconded (Weill/Mills) to offer the salary for the Executive Director position at the top range of the Conservancy's pay scale for an Executive Director. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote of the Board Members present.

5.2 Discussion about the Resources and Environmental Protection Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) 2013-14 Budget Report and Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee Meeting scheduled at 9:30 am on April 11, 2013.

Chairwoman Trover discussed the LAO report in which it is suggested disestablishing or consolidating conservancies including the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy. Chairwoman Trover mentioned that CVCC's Chairman prepared a letter to the CA State Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee in response to the report and that she also prepared a response outlining the statewide and economic importance of the Conservancy.

Patrick Kemp, Natural Resources Agency, said he attends all of the legislative hearings with legislative staff and he has not seen nor heard any attention to the LAO report. He further confirmed that the Natural Resources Agency Secretary would be very much opposed to the LAO report's proposal with the Legislature.

## 6.0 Reports

### 6.1 Written Reports.

Chairwoman Trover asked the Board if they had any questions for staff on the written reports; there being none, the Board continued on to the next agenda item.

6.2 Board Member comments and reports from Conservancy member agencies. Vice Chairman, Buford Crites, welcomed Councilmember Jean Benson back to the Conservancy Board.

Paul Reisman, CA State Parks, stated that a new District Superintendent for the Colorado Desert District had been appointed and that Kathy Dice would be covering in the interim until it is determined if he will be replaced as a member of the Conservancy Board. Chairwoman Trover expressed her gratitude towards Paul for serving on the Board and said the Conservancy would certainly miss him if he were to be replaced.

Chairwoman Trover also thanked the Governing Board for amending their schedules and attending this meeting on such short notice.

7.0 Adjourn to a meeting date to be determined by the Board Chairwoman.

Chairwoman Trover proposed to the Board that the meeting be adjourned to a meeting date that would be set by the Chairwoman with a two-week's notice rather than to the regularly scheduled May 13, 2013 meeting; the Board agreed.

The meeting was adjourned without objection at 3:59 p.m.