

**COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
REGULAR MEETING
73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 115
Palm Desert, California
November 5, 2012- 3:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John J. Benoit, Riverside County Supervisor, District IV
Kathy De Rosa, City of Cathedral City
John Donnelly, Wildlife Conservation Board
Jim Foote, U.S. Forest Service (Voting for BLM)
Kristy Franklin, City of La Quinta
Patrick Kemp, Natural Resources Agency
Eddy Konno, California Department of Fish and Game
William Kroonen, City of Palm Desert
Karin Messaros, National Park Service
Chris Mills, City of Palm Springs
Allan Muth, University of California
Pedro Reyes, California State Department of Finance
Paul Riesman, California State Parks
Iris Smotrich, City of Rancho Mirage
Larry Spicer, City of Indian Wells
Joan Taylor, Governor's Appointee
Ellen Lloyd Trover, Senate Rules Committee Appointee–
(*Vice-Chairwoman*)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Buford Crites, State Assembly Appointee–(*Chairman*)
Russell Betts, City of Desert Hot Springs
Tribe Representative, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

STAFF PRESENT:

Kevin McKernan, Executive Director
Kerrie Godfrey, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Diana Paz, Staff Services Analyst

OTHERS PRESENT:

Britt Wilson, City of Rancho Mirage
Jono Hildner, Friends of the Palm Springs Mountains
Gail Sevens California State Parks
Tom Smotrich, Member of the Public

1.0 Call to Order & Introductions

Vice Chairwoman Trover declared a quorum with 16 voting members present at 3:03 pm.

2.0 Approval of Minutes of September 10, 2012 meeting

Vice Chairwoman Trover asked if there were any comments additions or changes to the September 10, 2012 Minutes. There was no further discussion, so a motion was made and seconded (Spicer/Kroonen) to approve the Minutes. The September 2012 Minutes were approved by a roll call vote of the 16 Board members present with 15 yes and one abstention.

3.0 Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

Vice Chairwoman Trover asked if there were any comments on any items not on the agenda.

Jono Hildner, Friends of the Palm Springs Mountains (FOPSM), addressed the Angel Cove article which was published in the Desert Sun Newspaper on October 30, 2012. Jono clarified to the Board that the FOPSM's did not initiate any conversations with the reporter nor gave out any information leading to the publishing of the article. Jono suggested a press conference should be made once the project has been approved by all members involved and after completion of the project acquisition.

Chris Mills, City of Palm Springs, stated that no one from the City instigated the article and noted that the reporter had inquired on a map of the project prior to the article being published; however, the map was not provided to the reporter until after the article had already been published. He additionally noted that the project was listed on their City Council Agenda but no other information was given to the reporter.

Kevin McKernan, Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy (CVMC), stated that he also spoke to the reporter, only after the publication had been released, and was told by the reporter that neither the City nor the FOPSM's gave any information for the article that was published. Kevin noted that although the opportunity to recognize all of the members involved with the project was missed, he did in fact plan to follow-up with the newspaper for a press conference after the project closes. He additionally noted that he would like to not only include in the press conference all of the members involved with the project but also to emphasize the amount of clean-up that was done on the property and the apprehension of shooters illegally using the property for their own use. Kevin thanked Jono for attending the meeting.

4.0 Action Items - public hearing Agenda Item

4.1 Resolution 2012-15 expressing the Conservancy's appreciation of Gordon Moller's service to the Conservancy from 2006 until his passing in 2012.

Vice Chairwoman Trover commented on the wonderful person that Gordon Moller was and noted that the Board had lost a very good friend and member of the Board. Vice Chairwoman Trover and Kevin McKernan presented the Resolution to Iris Smotrich, City of Rancho Mirage, to present to Gordon Moller's family and partner. Iris thanked the Conservancy Board on behalf of the City of Rancho Mirage as well as on behalf of Charles Townsend, his partner.

All Board members expressed how much Gordon would be missed as a friend and colleague.

Vice Chairwoman Trover then asked for approval of the motion to adopt Resolution 2012-15. A motion was made and seconded (Spicer/Kroonen) to adopt the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of the 16 Board members present.

4.2 2013 Meeting Schedule.

Vice Chairwoman Trover asked if there was any discussion on the item. Since there was none, she asked for a motion to adopt the 2013 Meeting Schedule. A motion was made and seconded (De Rosa/Benoit) to adopt the motion. The motion passed by a roll call vote of the 16 Board members present with 15 ayes and one abstention by Larry Spicer.

4.3 Resolution 2012-16 approving a local assistance grant to the Friends of the Desert Mountains for acquisition of approximately 883 acres in the Upper Mission Creek/ Big Morongo Canyon Conservation Area.

Kevin McKernan discussed the 883 acre parcel which was formerly proposed as the Palmwood development. He mentioned that the acquisition goals for conservation in the area of the proposed development would be completed with this acquisition. He noted that the property had been appraised and approved by the Department of General Services and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Kevin also stated that another partnership funding opportunity given the size of the project involved Federal Section 6 funds as well as Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) funds. Kevin additionally noted that BLM has targeted this same area for acquisition and therefore might take ownership in the future if CVCC decides not to take ownership given that they also purchased property adjacent to the 883 acre parcel.

John Donnelly, Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), added to Kevin's comments and stated that his board members would also be considering this project at their November 29, 2012 meeting and that they would be approving a subgrant of Federal Section 6 funds as well as a grant agreement from WCB. Kevin thanked John and Candice for all their work on this project.

Vice Chairwoman Trover asked if there was any further discussion on the item. Since there was none, she asked for a motion to adopt Resolution 2012-16. A motion was made and seconded (Mills/Kroonen) to adopt the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of the 16 Board members present.

5.0 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.

6.0 Reports

6.1 Written Reports.

Vice Chairwoman Trover read aloud the thank you card that was sent from Kevin and Cindee McKernan thanking the Conservancy Board for their condolences and donation after the passing of Cindee's father. Kevin thanked the Board again for their kindness.

Vice Chairwoman Trover asked if there were any further discussions.

Kevin provided the Board with a very brief update on acquisitions and acquisition priorities.

Pedro Reyes, California State Department of Finance, inquired on CVCC Tax Default 10-11 Projects. Kevin explained that through the acquisition contract that CVMC has with CVCC, the tax default projects require the identification of tax default properties for CVCC to purchase of which CVCC, since they are a public agency, can object to the public sale of the properties before they are advertised for auction.

Kerrie Godfrey, Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy (CVMC), reminded the Board members of the Ethics Training that is required to be taken every two years by all State Board Members; and certificate due by December 31, 2012.

John Benoit inquired from the State Board Members serving on the Conservancy Board if they had attempted contacting anyone regarding the FPPC administrative site. John suggested that a legislator be involved in addressing the issue of a 99% repetitive training. Pedro Reyes and Patrick Kemp, both stated that no petition to change the ethics training rules had been initiated.

Kristy Franklin, City of La Quinta, pointed out that two options are provided for the ethics training: interactive or non-interactive.

Kerrie additionally informed the Board members that the Ethics Training Certificate was due by December 31, 2012, and that she would remind them about the Form 700 at the January 14, 2013 meeting.

6.2 Board Member comments and reports from Conservancy member agencies.

Vice Chairwoman Trover asked if there were any discussions.

John Benoit pointed out that this meeting would be Councilmember Larry Spicer's last meeting with the Conservancy Board. Larry Spicer, City of Indian Wells, stated that his City Councilmember appointment ends December 6, 2012; therefore he will not be serving as Councilmember nor on the Conservancy Board any longer. Larry thanked the Board members and said he really enjoyed working with each Board member. All Board members present expressed their good wishes for Larry and thanked him for his service..

John Benoit commented on local elections and stated that status of the elections would be posted on the County's website by 8:15pm on Election Day.

Paul Riesman, California State Parks, gave an update on the projects being worked on by those in his agency and thanked all of the cities in the valley for all of their help as well.

7.0 Adjourn to the January 14, 2013 meeting

The meeting was adjourned without objection at 3:50 p.m.