

MBCA BOARD MEETING **APPROVED MINUTES**

Thursday, February 8, 2024 / 5:00 – 7:00 pm Via Zoom

Black Bold Italics = Board vote *Blue Italics = action commitment*

Regular Meeting Called to Order at 5:14 PM

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kerrie Aley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pat Flanagan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Allan Songer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Bardwell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Hammer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laraine Turk
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stacy Doolittle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Janet Johnston	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Wold
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Fick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Kennington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cathy Zarakov
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arch McCulloch	

• Introduction of Guests and Board Directors

Steve welcomed and thanked guests Helen Jeong and Jennifer Rendon for attending today. Ted Stimpfel joined later.

• Agenda approval

Laraine moved to approve the agenda. Steve seconded, & all were in favor. (13-0)

• Minutes from January 11, 2024, BOD meeting

Laraine read an edit received from Cathy for the Treasurer report. Steve moved approval of the revised minutes. Brian seconded, and all were in favor. (13-0)

• Treasurer's Report

Cathy noted there were several new members and donations. Expenses have been mainly Tour-related, plus scholarship distribution. Our checking account stands at \$20,814.58 with the CD at \$62,476.33. The report was accepted by consensus.

Outreach and Organizational Issues

Educational Support

1) Scholarship updates confirm committee members

Scholarships are beginning to be in the news so *Laraine will get the Scholarship committee going soon. Laraine will review past documentation of committee assignments and communicate and update via email.*

2) Field Trips – JJ

Details are coming together for the field trips. Janet will update us at our next meeting.

Housing

1) Program 4 study update–KA, SB, JJ

There's been no response to our lengthy Program 4 feedback. Kerrie has continued her research and was able to find census housing data in the Community Action Guides, including vacancies, residents, and rental housing, which was missing from the Program 4 report. *She will tabulate those for possible future use. She's working to develop a standardized comment letter template on Google docs. Stacy and Laraine will help with this and to develop a style sheet.*

Presentation by Dave Rosenfeld Exec. Director Solar Rights Alliance

Dave started by expressing his appreciation for MBCA: "I love what you guys do." A *summary of Dave's lengthy presentation and follow-up Q&A is appended to the minutes.*

2) Morongo Basin Housing Solutions Working Group – JJ

No report - Janet had to leave early.

3) Homeless update - JJ

No report - Janet had to leave early.

Outreach and Organizational Issues

1) Confirm, Committees and their members – LT

Laraine to email list of committees.

2) Events Committee reports

a. *Annual meeting recap – All*

Steve commented on how well it went, with great appreciation for all the speakers who helped us out at the last minute. *Laraine will load the PowerPoint slides for the presentations onto the website.*

b. *DWL spring tour update – SD*

Stacy asked for a vote on 3 possible designs for the cover of 2024 Tour program.

We voted on the one taken at Stacy's home. We are close to the final site selection and have a lot of new possibilities for future Tours as well.

3) Website and Social media updates.

Stacy uses several platforms of social media to expand awareness of MBCA events, issues, and related news. Advertising our annual meeting this way undoubtedly expanded our audience.

4) Steve Rieman plaque dedication Friday 2-9-24 at JT Visitor Center.

Several people plan to attend.

+David informed us that the Supervisor candidates' debate that had been cancelled was rescheduled on short notice to 4 p.m. tomorrow at the JT Community Center.

Climate Change

1) IDWG 30x30 status update & Carbon sequester – PF

Steve had 15 copies of the report printed for Pat to take to a meeting, but it has been cancelled. Sarah noted how Susy Boyd at the annual meeting gave a lot of credit to Arch and Pat for the document. Pat reinforced how critical it is to understand the major points of the report and specifically the value of the desert, and the information

“needs to be spread far and wide.” *Laraine will send a link to the online document to Ted, Jennifer, and Helen. Pat will share the printed copies upon request; each of the Supervisor candidates should receive one.*

2) Chuckwalla National Monument – AM

Arch will attend an event this weekend at Whitewater Preserve that in part will be promoting CNM.

3) Joshua tree ordinance - DF

There will be a private showing of Casey Kiernan's film “I Thought They Were Protected” at Harrison House on February 24. *Check with David if you'd like to attend.*

Renewable Energy

1) Update on industrial scale solar projects in California and Nevada – DF, BH, PF.

Laraine noted that the Amargosa Conservancy is promoting attendance at a 2/13 BLM public comment meeting in Las Vegas about the extensive proposed projects in Nevada.

- 2) BLM [Western Solar Plan](#) Submittal deadline 4-18-24 -SB
Land open to RE development is proposed to be expanded by 4.5 million acres. *We'll comment and include the Carbon in the Desert report.*

Water Issues

- 1) Cadiz – DF
The issue of Cadiz seeking to use an environmental justice approach has been written about several times recently. David mentioned the [Groundswell for Water](#) group. Pat reported that a Cadiz representative made a presentation to the Desert Resource District. *Pat will forward to us a link to the recording of that meeting.*

- 2) JBWD update – SD, DF
David and Stacy are making efforts to move the district toward addressing climate change. JBWD is delaying addressing state requirements to purchase electric vehicles, because even the top of the line ones would be problematic with the great distances with heavy loads travelled by JBWD personnel.

- 3) MWA update – BH
Brian showed a map of recent rainfall in the MWA area from January 1 - February 9. The flow at the lower narrows was exceeding the flow coming into the system. They're uncertain if it's urban runoff or something else and will follow up on the mystery. There is a classic rain shadow pattern. The high of 18.9" was Lake Arrowhead.

County Governance

- 1) Update on: [Wonder Inn](#), [Flamingo 640](#), [Eco Dome Landers](#), [Joshua Tree Campground](#), [Yonder](#) , Reset Hotel

It was just announced that the *Wonder Inn* appeal has been withdrawn. Kudos to Pat for her participation on our behalf. Steve noted that the group still owns a lot of land, but their intentions are unknown. *Flamingo 640* is dead. We're waiting for updates on the *EcoDome*. The *JT Campground* will eventually go before the Planning Commission. The designer of the *Reset Hotel* may be a local architect. The *container hotel* on commercial land in 29 Palms is meeting with their Planning staff. *Pat is following this.*

We need to point out to government officials where these kinds of things SHOULD go.

- 2) [Minute Land](#) – SB
Steve sent an FYI notification about this to Wardlaw, Duron, Rowe, & Harris.

- 3) Light Trespass – SB
Steve was asked by Margaret Prescod if MBCA would cohost a dark sky event in Wonder Valley. Steve will get in touch with Ignacio Nunez about the status of their planned public media program. We congratulated Steve, Allan, and Kerrie for the very effective lighting exhibit at the annual meeting.

Laraine suggested we create a video to “tell the story” of the main points of the Carbon Sequestration report. A visual presentation will go further than the printed report can. Robin Kobaly has illustrations from her book and other presentations. This could be a collaborative project among several groups, e.g. MBCA, MDLT, and Robin, and could be used in schools. *Pat and Arch will talk with Robin at their next meeting.*

4) Scenic 247 – SK

Sarah will inquire about the status of Scenic 247 and report next month.

Adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Letters: Support CEQA, Support Chuckwalla, Request repeal of Rough Hat EIS, Support for Ca Council of Land Trusts

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, March 14, 2024, 5:00 – 7:00 PM - Zoom
