

Following is a summary of key items discussed at the last Board of Directors meeting. To review the full agenda and staff reports for all items, click [here](#). To review the meeting PowerPoint presentations, click [here](#).

RCHCA Thanks Mike Gardner for Many Years of Service

A Proclamation was presented to Councilmember Mike Gardner, City of Riverside, for his longstanding service to the RCHCA. Councilmember Gardner was a founding member of RCHCA and served as Board Chairman in 2011. Throughout his tenure he has provided invaluable leadership and guidance in implementing the SKR Habitat Conservation Plan.

Stinknet Research Project Update Provided

- Assistant Professor Lorelee Larios, UCR School of Botany and Plant Sciences, provided a presentation on the Stinknet Research Project
- Phase one of the project is complete. Results show SKR do not incorporate Stinknet into their diets. Also provided were preliminary results from pre- and post-emergent treatments on the plant.
- The next phase will continue to evaluate efficacy of treatment applications to eradicate or control the plant and continue to explore if Stinknet is disrupting SKR foraging.

Status Update Provided on SKR Recovery Efforts

- USFWS has completed the Species Status Review for SKR and the Proposed Draft Rule is being reviewed.
- In October staff and Board Members (Michael Vargas, Lesa Sobek) visited Congressional Leaders in Washington, D.C., to provide an update on SKR recovery efforts in Western Riverside and to provide notice of the draft proposed rule.

Steele Peak Public Access Plan Update

- Staff continues work to develop the conceptual access plan for Steele Peak.
- Meetings are being held with the public and the wildlife agencies to discuss and receive input on the Access Plan.
- Next steps are to gather surveys from the community, identify funding, and determine mitigation requirements.

Riverside Communities Partnership Project Introduced

- The Board authorized staff to establish the Riverside Communities Partnership Project (RCPP) as a not for profit 501(c)(3).
- RCPP will work to seek funding opportunities to support environmental educational outreach and other conservation efforts.

- RCPP received a grant of AmeriCorps National Civilian Communities Corps (NCCC) volunteers to assist with filling the gaps of project needs in Riverside.
- The team will be here January thru April 2020.
- An information session will be held on Thursday, December 5, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. at the WRCOG Office. Please feel free to send a designated staff member to learn how the team can support a project in your community.
- Please contact Princess Hester at phester@wrcog.us or (951) 405-6704 for more information.

Educational Outreach Program Update

- RCHCA hosted 1,000 students from eight local school districts at its Celebrating Endangered Species Events in September and October.
- Students participated in hands-on learning stations highlighting environmental education and the importance of preserving our natural resources.
- RCHCA Board members Michael Vargas, James Stewart, and Joseph Morabito participated in the events.

New RCHCA Website Launched

- RCHCA has launched a new and improved website at www.rchca.us

Bureau of Land Management Grant Awarded

- BLM has awarded a contract to RCHCA for a total of \$606,112 for a variety of tasks:
 - SKR Management & Monitoring Plan – \$248,741
 - SKR Monitoring (surveys DNA Sampling) – \$123,390
 - Fencing Access Control – \$4,933
 - Habitat Management – \$189,310
 - Education / Outreach – \$27,810
 - Remote Sensing – \$11,928

SKR Reserve Management and Monitoring Efforts Update

- MWD renewed RCHCA's contract for land management and monitoring services for an additional 5-year term providing up to \$200,000 in annual revenue
- RCHCA, under contract to Waste Management, Inc., completed two biological surveys for small mammals and reptiles for approximately \$10,000
- RCHCA staff attended the 2019 Wildlife Society Annual Meeting in Reno, NV
- RCHCA staff chaired and presented a session at the 2019 Cal-IPC Conference on non-chemical methods of weed control.
- RCHCA staff received ENVI software training for advanced techniques of analyzing aerial imagery for land management.
- RCHCA staff took the Department of Pesticide Regulation's Qualified Applicators Certificate Exams in order to meet the State's requirements for safe handling and application of herbicides

Next Meeting

The next RCHCA Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 20, 2020, at 11:30 a.m., in WRCOG's office, located at 3390 University Avenue, Suite 200, Riverside.