

Horse & Livestock Watershed Alliance Meeting

February 5, 2014 Minutes

1. Progress and demonstration of website pages—Steve

- a. Final logo was blue HLWA w/various animals
- b. For easy finding, put Ojai Valley & Ventura River in upper sections of pages.
- c. Assign a page to different people to complete it within a few weeks—before Water Board sends out mailing within community in March.

1. Home Page – Lynn, Dana & Sonya
2. About Us—Leigh
3. Resources—Sonya
4. Membership--Mike

- d. Photos needed from the group—photos on website are only placeholder of photos “borrowed” from the internet. Please place in a Dropbox folder.

- i. RCD photos: Shutterfly, search for “RCD Ventura County Photos”

- e. Need Mission Statement & Member Titles for website

- i. Mission Statement (from 5/1/13 meeting)

“Represent horse & livestock community in the Ventura River Watershed regarding environmental issues. Work with government agencies and stakeholders to influence and meet regulatory requirements while minimizing economic impact and maintaining the current rural lifestyle.”

- ii. Member Titles (from 11/12/12 meeting)

1. Director—Alan Connell (majority voted yes)
2. Co Director—Keri
3. Secretary (flyers?/minutes email updates)—Leigh/RCD?
4. Outreach Director—Get in touch with horse owners—Nereyda & June?
5. Research (committee)—Carolyn Ebken
6. Collaboration Director--Akiva
7. Treasurer—Mike

Some people don’t attend anymore. Group agreed that it needs to update various positions.

2. Facebook preview—Stefanie

- a. Search in Facebook for “Horse & Livestock Watershed Alliance” Looks fantastic!
 - i. Comments—correct H&LWSA to HLWA & change photos to include more horses.

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3. Waiver/Water Board updates—Sonya

- a. 100' from river terminology—LA Regional Water Quality Control Board wanted terminology to state on a case by case basis. However the group wanted it edited to state, “100 feet from the edge of the bank during a 10-year flow.”
- b. 2 other TMDL areas to obtain implementation plans include Malibu & one other location. HLWA is assisting with the direction of how these other areas will be regulated.

4. Permitting requirements for compost/manure structures—Sonya

- a. FYI. Building & Safety requires a permit for anything over 6', Planning for everything.
- b. A larger composting structure over 200 yards that would be sending manure offsite or bringing manure in would require CEQA review. The farther away from the river, the better.

5. Membership—Alan

- a. Group agreed on \$25/month/family to upkeep website.

6. DRAFT Ventura River Watershed Plan from the VRWC—Lynn

- a. Plan heavily utilizes Dr. Al Lydecker's unpublished & unpeer reviewed report, which is severely biased against horses & livestock. Lynn stated she did not think it appropriate to base the Plan on his conclusions.
- b. Lorraine is accepting comments, which the RCD has already submitted written and via phone. RCD comments state that the report appears biased against Horses & Livestock. According to the Water Board Horses & Livestock are only 10%, but Urban Areas over 28%. Address all areas equally/proportionately. No action is required at this time from HLWA.
- c. Also, the Council will be utilizing a Technical Advisory Committee to review and obtain additional data. Data collection was discussed in the Ventura River Watershed Committee (VRWC) meeting (2/6). The Santa Barbara Channel Keepers are using an appropriate, documented State sampling protocol. Sampling results are acceptable to the Water Board, but the issue is the conclusions from Dr. Leydecker.