

PUBLIC LANDS ROUNDTABLE MINUTES

Meeting Location: BLM Ridgecrest Office

Minutes of: October 24, 2024

Called to order at: 6:02pm by Chairman Mark Dunn

Pledge of allegiance was led by Arzell Hale.

A MOTION was made by Sam Merk, 2nd by Arzell Hale, to approve the September 26, 2024 minutes. They were approved as sent.

PLRT MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Barbara Bane, Kayla Browne, Mary Grimsley, Arzell Hale, Raymond Kelso, Francis Kuttor, Will Liebscher, Jaime Lopez Walters, Mark Mason, Sam Merk, Steven Rainey, Hector Villalobos, & Libby Vincent. Field Manager, Phil Desenze; Craig Beck, R/C BLM.

Guests: Heather Dunn; Bradford Hill Young; B. Throne; C. Hollingsworth, Kern County Sheriff; Susan Croll; George Croll; Wendy Schneider; Ed Rockdale;

BLM UPDATES: by Phil Desenze, Ridgecrest Field Manager

LAW ENFORCEMENT: In full swing in regard to our Special Recreation Permits for OHV use in the Spanglers. Rangers are doing their job in regards to education & enforcement.

FIRES: The recent Dove fire in the Jawbone/ Dove Springs area – 954.2 acres in 12 hours were burned. Fire restrictions were lifted as of October 23rd.

EVENTS: Saline Valley weed clean-up, Sierra Club; Petroglyph Festival November 4 & 5; Some of the R/C BLM staff is gearing up for King of the Hammers event in Johnson Valley; State Director, Joe Stoutz (?) visited Barstow. Hasn't been to R/C yet; met with DVP Superintendent Mike Reynolds; met with District 37 motorcycle group. District 37 represents 30 local clubs.

BURROS: Corrals are at full capacity of 990 animals. Adoptions events are on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month. Had to delay round-ups.

WEMO: A week ago, the court struck down the 2029 Amendment of WEMO, including the Biological Opinion. We waiting for our lawyers to give us their opinion and what that means. We will present those answers when we understand what the impacts are going to be. We could possibly have the answers from the state office by the December meeting.

GUEST SPEAKER: CRAIG BECK, RECREATION PLANNER for BLM:

Craig has been here for 34 years. Craig spoke to us on the Restoration Plan for this year. Starts at 15:00 on the tape, ending at 38:54.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new membership requests or assisting members. George Croll has not yet submitted his IWV Water District letter of representation, even though he has been attending our meetings for over a year.

NOMINATIONS FOR NEW OFFICERS: It is the end of the term for Mark Dunn as Chairman and Charlie Hattendorf as Vice-Chair. Mary also announced that she will step down as Secretary. Elections need to be held at the next meeting, December 7th. Nominations were open. Charlie was nominated for Chair, but he wants to step down. Terms are 2 years. George Croll stepped up and volunteered, stating that he has worked in ETA and has a pretty solid background. He now has to get his membership request in and voted in as a member, then can be nominated for Chair. Nominations for a Vice-Chair were opened and Secretary needs to be appointed. Mark made a one-month extension on voting for Chair & Vice-Chair to the January meeting.

SUGGESTIONS are needed from members for what will be on agenda.

FIELD TRIP: Field trip to Conglomerate Mesa was set for December 11th. Meet at BLM office at 8:00am, then at 190/395. Need 4WD or high clearance vehicle will be needed. George asked about using his 2 SXS's, however, it is a county road and SXS's are not allowed.

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD: Meeting on December 3rd. Location not determined yet. George then injected that he believes it will be at the Water District, as they had been asked about it. (Time has been later determined to be 4:30, as of 11/20/24, but was unknown at this meeting). Will asked about the purpose of this particular board, and Raymond explained, he has been on the board for over 20 years, maybe 30, and it was

formed in regards to looking at issue on China Lake. What Issue? There's a lot of proxy stuff, a little of this and a little of that. The government said that China Lake needs to have a board that oversees the clean-up and restoration, and needs advice and input. It is to oversee all projects, from the past. We're going back to the 40's, and further back. Our committee is to oversee what's going on, what they've scheduled, what they're looking for, what technology (paper rustling, couldn't understand), and clean it up, including air & water. They are burning fuel every day. Will added that one day the wind was blowing the smoke cloud towards Mojave. Need to suggest that they do the fuel burns when the wind is blowing northward towards the mountains, and not over the community. Sam did bring this up, but she is only one person, and would like to invite others to attend. They haven't had a meeting since before Covid. George is on the board on the DOD side. It is important that the citizens know what has gone on in the past and what is being done about it to cleaned up.

We have a new Captain, who seems to be more open to community participation. We need to call the public affairs to come to this meeting to speak to us about base issues. She is the Captain for the Navy. She is like a Judge Advocate for the Navy.

The previous command was NOT open to any community participation on the base.

Sam attended a special board meeting of the Indian Wells Valley Water District, that did an amazing job of presenting an alternative, facts & figures, to what the Ground Water Authority has been doing. Sam encouraged everyone to go over to the Water District and pick up a copy of their report. The presentation lasted for 3 hours is on You Tube. Arzell agreed.

Mark Mason: we have a tentative plan for a habitat improvement throughout the year. Mark was told to email Dana Stevenson to set up a meeting, but she has not replied. Phillip said she is still here and the person to contact and is extremely business, as the biologist position has yet to be filled.

Will like to see a sign up the Astronomy place and a plaque for Earl.

Adjourned at: 7:20pm

NEXT PLR MEMBERSHIP MEETING will be 12/5/24.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Grimsley

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Charlie Hattendorf can be reached at: hidesert@gmail.com

Sam can be reached by phone @: 760-793-0050.

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