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Regional Transportation Authority Wildlife Linkages Working Group

Legal Action Items of 9 a.m., July 10, 2009, meeting

Committee Members

Rafael Cancino, Town of Sahuarita
Jennifer Christelman, Town of Marana
Rick Ellis, Pima County, Chair
Janice Przybyl, Sky Island Alliance
John Windes, AZGFD

Staff

Jim DeGrood
Steve Matthews
Joan Reedy
Teresa Ruiz
Claire Zucker

Public/Agencies

Tom Furgason, SWCA
David Grandmaison, AZGFD
Chris Haas, SWCA
Michael Ingraldi, AZGFD
Jennifer Jennings, Logan Simpson Design
Siobhan Nordhaugen, ADOT
Scott Richardson, USFWS
Ray Schweinsburg, AZGFD
Geoffrey Soroka, SWCA

Item 2 - Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting – June 12, 2009

Motion was made by Jennifer Christelman to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2009, meeting. The motion was seconded by Janice Przybyl and unanimously approved.

Item 5 - Proposal Review

Three proposals were presented for consideration by Rafael Cancino. The purpose of these proposals varied; construction, initial assessment, and pre and post construction monitoring to determine placement and type of wildlife linkages for roadway construction improvements that are currently planned for these roadways.

Proposal 1) Town of Sahuarita, Sahuarita Road (La Villita Road to Country Club) Wildlife Linkages Structure Construction

MOTION by Rick Ellis to move forward the proposal at the estimated funding level of \$568,400 with certain conditions: 1) that a hydraulic analysis be performed to determine the need for inlet aprons; 2) the understanding that the design of the wildlife crossing elements will be refined as the project moves forward and any cost savings associated with those elements be made available to offset costs for the complementary features such as fencing; and, 3) a commitment from the Town of Sahuarita that the preservation of the wildlife corridors served by these improvements be integrated in the town's General Plan. Janice Przybyl seconded; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Cancino agreed to convey the Working Group's concerns.

Proposal 2) Town of Sahuarita, Initial Assessment (Pima Mine Road, Old Nogales Highway, Nogales Highway, and Quail Creek Crossing Extension

MOTION by Janice Przybyl to accept this proposal as written at a cost of \$100,000. Seconded by Rick Ellis. Vote passed with one abstention. John Windes voted NO based on monitoring concerns, but said he won't delay the proposal.

Proposal 3) Town of Sahuarita, Sahuarita Road (La Villita Road to Country Club) Pre- and Post-Construction Monitoring of Wildlife Crossing Structures

MOTION by Rick Ellis to accept this proposal provided the objective statements are modified. The proposal cost is \$135,000. Motion seconded by John Windes. Discussion followed. SWCA agreed to absorb camera costs of \$1,420. The motion was approved unanimously.

Item 9 - Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m. by Chair Rick Ellis.