

**THE GOVERNING BOARD  
OF THE JOINT POWERS AGENCY OF THE  
STANISLAUS ANIMAL SERVICES AGENCY (SASA)**  
Meeting Minutes

**Regular Meeting**

**Thursday**

**October 20, 2022**

**Members Present:**

Scotty Douglas, Alternate for Joe Lopez, City of Modesto-Chair – Present  
Jody Hayes, Stanislaus County – Present  
Merry Mayhew, City of Hughson – Present  
Michael Pitcock, City of Waterford – Present  
Ken Irwin, City of Patterson – Present  
Alex Terrazas, City of Ceres – Present

**Staff Present:**

Sweena Pannu, Deputy County Counsel  
Vaughn Maurice, Executive Director  
Megan Morriss, Confidential Assistant  
Connie Hooker, Operations Manager  
Andrew Johnson, General Services Agency  
Denelle Qualls, General Services Agency

**Guests and Dignitaries:** None

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am by Chair, Scotty Douglas.

**1. Welcome:**

**2. Roll Call (Silent):** See above

**3. Presentations:** None

**4. Public Comment Period (Limit of 5 minutes per person):** None

**5. Minutes of Previous Meetings:**

A. Motion to approve the Agency Board Meeting Minutes from September 15, 2022 (City of Hughson/City of Patterson; 6-0)

**6. Correspondence:** None

**7. New Business:**

A. Motion to accept the Year-End True-up Report for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and revisit the True-up fund's distribution in the next 2-3 months. (Stanislaus County/City of Modesto; 6-0)

- B. Motion to revisit the budget mid-year to include the Board of Supervisors approved recruitment and retention program and see if budget adjustments need to be made at that time. (Stanislaus County/City of Modesto; 6-0)
- C. Motion to approve to provide the Director with spending authority of up to \$40,000 in the current budget to implement spay/neuter voucher program. Board further gave direction that the Director will bring back further information on funds needed/budget adjustments for this program at mid-year budget as necessary. (City of Modesto/City of Ceres; 6-0)
- D. Motion to authorize the Director to implement a spay/neuter voucher program at SASA or in the community for \$250 for each voucher in the current fiscal year not to exceed \$40,000. (Stanislaus County/City of Patterson; 6-0)
- E. Motion to approve the establishment of a Licensing and Education Team (canvassing). (City of Patterson/City of Hughson; 6-0)
- F. Motion to approve the new SASA landscaping contract. (City of Hughson/Stanislaus County; 6-0)

**8. Committee Reports:**

**A. Executive Director Report:**

- i. Current population is 196 dogs with 25 dogs on the red list as of this morning. Better than where we were a couple of weeks ago where we had 55 dogs on the red list. Much thanks to the Rescue partners.
- ii. Human Resources issue -Two key positions in the Business office have been filled. These are the two positions the Board previously approved. 2 HR issues have both been resolved. We now have 2 supervisor positions available and will be doing the recruitment process for those positions. We have a new Business Manager as of 10/24/22 who comes from Merced County. Recruitment and Retention plan played a role in securing the Business Manager position. Dr. Cadwell, our contract Vet is interested in the full-time position. CEO-HR is looking at the salary range to see if we can adjust it a little bit to secure Dr. Cadwell to the position. We respect the work she does. She is the best at spays/neuters.
- iii. Media Report – Social media person is now on-board for two months. She has made a great impact. 129 total posts for the month of September. Facebook reached 108,000 people.

Instagram reached 5500 people. We got 3700 hits on Facebook and 850 hits on Instagram. We have done some Facebook paid advertising and have been really successful. It is very inexpensive. Our paid Facebook reach was 11,000 people and really promoted our Beggin' for Birdies fundraiser. Also, the Director appeared on Fox 40 TV to promote the Shelter and appeared on TV with some of our very own dogs. Also promoted our \$5000 donor gift that allowed us to offer no fee dog adoptions weekend. As we promoted this special, radio stations and new media picked up the story which gave us additional media exposure. Sacramento Fox 40 invited us to do their afternoon show which went great. We are now scheduled to come on once a month on Fox 40 at noon to promote our shelter and its animals.

- iv. We will do more advertising for our longest stay dogs. We will be advertising on our lobby televisions, Instagram, and Facebook.
- v. We will be working on putting together a real solid volunteer program. People that could come in and help us. We made some changes in supervision job duties and now the volunteer coordinator will just focus on getting more volunteers with our agency and less on other job duties that were assigned to that position. We have 5 major goals. First, start by getting volunteer drivers. Next, build relationships with other shelters who can take dogs from us and get them adopted quickly. For example, we sent 6 dogs down to Long Beach that had been here for over 35 days. All 6 dogs were adopted within 4 days. We had to use a staff person to drive the vehicle and would rather use a volunteer so we don't have to pay staff time to drive when a volunteer could do it. Response has been good. Volunteers will need to take a Defensive Driving course prior to driving. Next, we are going to have a volunteer greeter who will greet people as they come in and help them navigate the shelter. Next is focusing on adoptions with businesses such as Petco in Turlock. Visited the sight and had a great meeting with them. They are excited to do off-site adoptions there. We would like to do this with volunteers. Then the volunteer supervisor will work on re-instatement of programs like the inmate workers program and the welfare to work programs. There have been instances in the past where volunteers through these programs have become full-time staff at SASA. They learned good skills through our programs and were hired on. These are main items our volunteer coordinator will be working on in the next coming months.
- vi. Stanislaus County asked the Director if he can provide a visual aid on the shelter numbers currently and where we have been in

the past. The Director agreed to provide that in future meetings as he likes to develop visual materials.

- vii. The Director will also have the volunteer supervisor create a list of volunteer opportunities so the partners can advertise in their own communities. The volunteer supervisor is working on visual media to provide that highlights the volunteer opportunities available at SASA.
- viii. The visual aid provided today has our senior dog Rockwell on it. He is a great senior dog that has been in the shelter a long time. The Director will be taking Rockwell to his next Fox 40 TV event if he is still at the shelter to help advertise our Seniors for Seniors event.

**9. Informational:**

- A. Stanislaus County made a statement about backyard breeders. He sees all the dogs in our shelter and is moved by this fact. He states that the backyard breeders are out in the community taking advantage of people advertising dogs for thousands of dollars for specific breeds. Case in point, the gentleman who is recently being prosecuted for his crimes. He highly doubts all the breeders in our community are compliant with our regulations and ordinances. He would like the canvassing staff members to focus on the backyard breeders. Maybe do a sting on Craigslist for people selling dogs for thousands of dollars.
- B. Operations Manager, Connie Hooker, advised that years ago we had one animal control officer that did litter permits. He would do covert meetings from Craigslist and other websites. It did become a little dangerous for our staff to conduct these meetings which is why it stopped.
- C. City of Modesto is very excited for the canvassing program to be restarted.

**10. Member Referrals:** None

**11. Closed Session:** None

**12. Adjournment:** Adjourned meeting at 10:32am

**Adjourned:** 10:32am

ATTESTED: Megan Morriss, Confidential Assistant  
of the Governing Board  
of the Joint Powers Agency  
of the Stanislaus Animal Services Agency  
State of California