

Whitfield Manager's Report

To

The Valencia Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors

April 18, 2020

Greetings from home. I appreciate being able to work when others are struggling to survive both the virus and the effects this is having on our economy. Hopefully, you and yours are staying safe and this will end soon and we can meet in person again.

Meetings

I attended a virtual staff meeting on April 9th, which was interesting to use Zoom in this new way of conducting business and meetings.

I attended a virtual Whitfield Committee meeting on April 2nd.

Teams, Zoom, SignIn/Out

Along with the rest of the staff and some board members, I have been learning to operate these digital communication systems in this stay home era. Some things have been easy and other things have been frustrating, but we are all getting there (I think, lol).

Maintenance Building

Just when things were finally moving along and it looked like the construction on the interior space of the maintenance building would be complete, the Corona Virus decided to put a halt to the work. The contractor contacted us on April 8th about working out a schedule for him to continue working on the water harvesting system and septic tank installation.

Whitfield Conservation Area Complex Comprehensive Plan

The majority of my time has been dedicated to updating the WCAC Comprehensive Plan. With other's help, especially Board member Andrew Hautzinger, the plan is close to completion. A draft of the plan is being sent to you for Board review and approval at the April meeting

Newsletter Article

I wrote a newsletter article for the District Newsletter on using iNaturalist, a citizen science phenology app. It's an easy way to record the plants and animals at your home. Check out the article for more information.

eBird

Whereas iNaturalist is used for recording all types of plant and animal life, eBird is another citizen science app that is used strictly for recording the movement of birds. As you probably know, I record birds that I and others have seen at Whitfield in a notebook. I used to enter them into eBird, but fell behind on doing so. Luckily, you can still add them to the data base, and so I am catching up on our entries. This is a project of Cornell University.

Filing

Like eBird, I fell behind on filing documents. I brought several boxes home to be organized during this time at home. It and eBird are part of my catching things up before I retire at the end of May.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Hodoba, AICP

Whitfield Manager