

Action Minutes of the regular meeting of the Round Valley Area Municipal Advisory Council (RVAMAC)
Held Wednesday, August 4, 2021

Online by Zoom at URL <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81233910849>

The meeting was called to order by Presiding Officer Jessica Stull-Otto at 6:01 p.m.

1. The meeting was attended by the following persons:

Council members

Jessica Stull-Otto, Lew Chichester, Dane Downing, Kathy Britton, Charles Sargenti (Alternate)

Officials

3rd District Supervisor John Haschak, Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall, Sergeant Wright, California Highway Patrol, James Sookne and Nephele Barrett, Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG), Tom Fitzgerald, Jen Buck, and David Morgan, CalTrans

General Public

Pat Sobrero, Heidi Edwards, Lourance Hall, Mary Lou Mileck, Mary Jane Cummings

2. The agenda was approved by consensus.

3. Report from Supervisor John Haschak & Public Comment.

The referendum against the entire 22.18 ordinance obtained over 6,000 signatures and is expected to qualify after the signatures are verified. The alternate referendum opposing the 10% provision in the ordinance did not obtain the minimum number of signatures. Covid19 restrictions for the county will be tightened starting August 10 due to the surge of the delta variant. Masks will be required indoors in public places among other restrictions. The drought task force, comprised of John and Supervisor McGourty, met with county counsel regarding water theft and water hauling, and will be meeting with Sheriff Kendall and the district attorney. The Board of Supervisors has approved bonuses for sheriff's deputies who locate to Covelo. Lew asked about the current controversy between the county and Sheriff Kendall and Sheriff Kendall explained that there were two issues, one was the county suggesting that the Sheriff be held personally liable for budget shortfalls and two an attempt to consolidate the sheriff IT department with the countys. Sheriff Kendall explained that the cause of the shortfall was underfunding and that a requirement for a secure connection to the DOJ required the IT department to be a part of the sheriffs office.

4. Discussion, Public Comment, & Possible Action: Public safety and enforcement needs.

The issue of reckless driving, speeding, and general disregard for public safety was discussed at length. Sheriff Kendall and Sergeant Wright discussed the need to make sure that those individuals arrested and whose cars are impounded for reckless driving will be prosecuted otherwise the law enforcement agency doing the impounding is responsible for the costs associated with impoundment.

CalTrans' Tom Fitzgerald volunteered to open an investigation, for areas of CalTrans responsibility, into the reckless and irresponsible driving. That can include the use of cameras in problematic intersections to monitor traffic behavior. Tom also discussed Clean California grants that are available for local community beautification grants and reported that the CalTrans local assistance office can help with such grant applications. Jen Buck added that grants are also available for county jurisdiction areas which the local assistance office can help with, in collaboration with the county DOT.

Nephele Barrett of MCOG added that they, also, are available and more than willing to help with grant writing.

ACTION TAKEN: Jessica and Kathy will write a letter supporting the Sheriff's office and the local Highway Patrol's efforts to educate county DA and local judiciary on the necessity of prosecution of arrested individuals.

5. Discussion, Public Comment, & Possible Action: Highway 162 Trail Project

Nephele Barrett: Right-of-way appraisal should begin in a few weeks.

David Morgan: Regarding trail features to prevent unauthorized access (e.g. quads) CalTrans has the ability to try more conservative approaches first and assess whether more impactful measures are needed down the road.

6. Non-agendized discussion of Hwy. 162 rock issue

Tom Fitzgerald of CalTrans committed to the following:

- 1) Keep the CalTrans dump truck in Covelo through the winter
- 2) The resident driver can use the truck for commuting to work when weather conditions are such that rockfall is likely to be a problem
- 3) A smaller truck (pickup with blade) will be stationed in the Willits yard and will be used if needed while the Covelo employee is at work, and
- 4) Will do a study of areas where rockfall is a likely problem and develop protective measures to keep the rock out of the roadway

7. No further action was taken by the Council. Meeting was adjourned by the Presiding Officer at 8:16 p.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION THE VIDEO OF THE MEETING ON ZOOM CAN BE VIEWED AT:

<https://mac.roundvalley.org/agendas-minutes/>