

Action Minutes of the regular meeting of the Round Valley Area Municipal Advisory Council (RVAMAC)  
Held Wednesday, February 2, 2022

Online by Zoom at URL <https://zoom.us/j/2324039636>

The meeting was called to order by Presiding Officer Charles Sargenti at 6:02 p.m.

1. The meeting was attended by the following persons:

**Council members**

Lew Chichester, Charles Sargenti (Alternate), Kathy Britton, Dane Downing, Laura Betts

**Officials**

Travis Killmer, Mendocino County Executive Office Disaster Recovery Field Coordinator, Matt Kendall, Mendocino County Sheriff, James Sookne, MCOG, John Haschak, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Supervisor, Brentt Blaser, Emergency Services Coordinator, Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services

**General Public**

Pat Sobrero, Kay Richards, Susan O'Brien, Carol Borden, Mary Lou Mileck, Lourance Hall, Norma Ramirez, Tomas Ramirez, Patricia, Jennifer Sturgill

2. The agenda was approved by consensus on motion of Lew Chichester and second by Charles Sargenti

3. Action taken: Resolution authorizing remote teleconference meetings was approved by consensus after motion by Kathy Britton and second by Charles Sargenti

4. Approval of December 1st and January 5th Meeting Minutes. Motion by Charles to approve seconded by Kathy, passed by consensus.

5. Report from Supervisor John Haschak:

- Reconfiguration of the transfer station to accommodate "possum belly" transport vehicles required a second approval due to some issues by the Board of Supervisors. Work should begin soon and will only take a few days.
- John advised Tom Varga from Mendo Recycle that we need a month or two of notice for the hazmat collection and would publicize the event to make sure people showed up for it. They're working on it for the spring.
- Water hauling and extraction (pumping). John and Supervisor McGourty are working on this issue and will bring a proposal to the Board on March 15.
- Ongoing problems with U.S. Cellular. John and Sheriff Kendall will be contacting State Senator Mike McGuire who has been helping with the discussions with the company.
- Laura Betts has been approved as the 3<sup>rd</sup> District representative on the Public Safety Advisory Board.

6. Report from Sheriff Kendall:

- Three new recruits have started training at the Police Academy, one of whom, Marcus McCarty, has expressed interest in working out of Covelo where he is from.
- The department is continuing to work with the Supervisors on hiring incentives due to the intense statewide competition for officers.
- They're hiring for corrections officers as well as dispatch and are trying to get that information out to the public.

- Have received \$600,000 to deal with illegal marijuana grows. It is earmarked for overtime and per diem. Is working with a consortium of other sheriffs to form a non-profit to deal with human trafficking, marijuana, and environmental degradations. Matt needs a forensic accountant to deal with cartel operations and an environmental survey group to participate in enforcement actions where egregious environmental damage has occurred. Also will be sharing resources with the other sheriffs.
- Regarding cross-deputizing tribal police or tribal getting peace officer status as his officers do, Matt stated that two issues are standing in the way – tribal sovereign immunity and civil service protections for tribal police employees.

7. Update from MCOG on Hwy. 162 trail

James Sookne reported that construction funds have been allocated by the California Transportation Commission. There are some right-of-way and design issues left to be worked out but the target date for putting the project out to bid is late March/April.

8. Discussion & Possible Action: Formation of an ad hoc committee charged with exploring the need for and requirements of development of a town water system. Supervisor Haschak, Lew, and Dane offered comments regarding a direction to pursue. The matter was put off for a future agenda.

9. Discussion & Possible Action: Round Valley Area Fire Reduction and Fire Prevention Projects: Travis Kilmer reported that Lourance has provided a list of roads compiled by the CVFD and will “run with that” and apply for grant funding to get the clearing done on those sites. He also mentioned that grants through CalFire Fire Prevention grants are available for the purchase of equipment such as a chipper. Laura asked if the tribe was eligible for those grants and Travis determined that the tribe was eligible. He will contact Toni Bettega of the Tribal Natural Resources Dept. to learn if there is interest.

10. Hazmobile – John will speak with the head of that program Tom Varga and report back at the next meeting. John also mentioned he is working with CalTrans on a Bulk Amnesty Day for large refuse items.

11. Report on loose dogs – Lew and Laura will meet with Tribal Council in February regarding this subject and report back.

12. Action taken: Website improvement – motion was made by Lew and seconded, passed by consensus, authorizing the payment of up to \$250 to Emily Elickson-Brown for website work.

13. Brentt Blaser from the county OES stated he was appealing for volunteers such as for the Sheriff’s Department search and rescue team or ham radio folks to help with auxiliary communication services. He would like to see the MAC and interested individuals help spread the word. Further info may be found at [MendoReady.org](http://MendoReady.org).

14. Discussion & Possible Action: Community beautification and local news source. Pat Sobrero mentioned that she knew the property owner for the FFA sign south of town and would provide that information to Amber Grable of the Covelo FFA. Several participants provided information about past valley news publications.

15. No further action was taken by the Council. Meeting was adjourned by the Presiding Officer at 7:49

p.m.

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

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