

Action Minutes of the regular meeting of the Round Valley Area Municipal Advisory Council (RVAMAC)
Held Wednesday, March 9, 2022

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

The meeting was called to order by Presiding Officer Charles Sargenti at 6:01 p.m.

1. The meeting was attended by the following persons:

Council members

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

Officials

Travis Killmer, Mendocino County Executive Office Disaster Recovery Field Coordinator, Matt Kendall, Lt. Jason Caudillo, Mendocino County Sheriff office, John Haschak, 3rd District Supervisor, Brentt Blaser, Emergency Services Coordinator, Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services, Rochelle Tuttle, Angelica Pete, Julia Russ, Round Valley Indian Tribes Health Center, Tom Fitzgerald, Julia Robertson, CalTrans District 1

General Public

Pat Sobrero, Kay Richards, Susan O'Brien, Mary Lou Mileck, Lourance Hall, Patricia, Brittany

2. The agenda was approved by consensus on motion of Lew Chichester and second by Dane Downing

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

4. Approval of February 2nd Meeting Minutes. Motion by Lew to approve seconded by Dane, passed by consensus.

5. Public Comment & Announcements on non-agenda items.

Supervisor Haschak advised that the county had approved \$200,000 front funding for CalTrans community clean up programs. Julia Robertson provided a Power Point presentation describing the various aspects of the program as it applies to Covelo. These include an expansion of the Adopt-A-Highway program including providing a \$250 stipend, free large item dump days with the possibility of including free car disposal, a customer service desk where the public can call in to report litter, and encampment litter removal. The downtown streetscape/traffic calming project is part of the overall Clean California program.

Jessica Stull-Otto reported that the library was sponsoring a Volunteer Market for people interested in volunteer work in the community on April 9 from noon – 3 pm.

Dane reported on two programs to help households with energy costs. North Coast Energy Services in Ukiah administers the HEAP program which can help with PG&E and propane. They can be reached at 707-463-0303. Another program through PG&E offers forgiveness of past due bills with certain conditions attached. Call 800-743-5000 for more info.

6. Presentation on Native Ways Program for teens and other projects, Rochelle Tuttle, Round Valley Health Center.

Dr. Tuttle is administering a number of grants through the Health Center. One is the Opioid Prevention and Medicated Assistance Treatment program. Round Valley has seen 17 known overdoses since January, including as young as 14 years of age. The Health Center has also received a number of Covid grants. There is the Circles of Care program which is under the directorship of MAC member Kathy Britton offering higher education support for those interested in behavioral health and human services with the intent of increasing local capacity for services in these fields. This allows the Health center to put more effort toward planning a youth mental health department.

Julia Russ is the Youth Prevention coordinator in the Path to Wellness program, a youth alcohol prevention program, and works in several capacities at the Health Center, and Angelica Pete is the Youth Outreach specialist for the Path to Wellness program and is Director of the Native WAY program (WAY is an acronym for Walking Among Youth). Julia mentioned that the Tribal council has appointed a Tribal Coordination Committee of volunteers working with Path to Wellness, and is promoting sober graduation and hoping to expand it to include all graduating seniors, and is running a media campaign using large banners in lieu of billboards which native youth participate in making. Finally she discussed assessment efforts in collecting data and evaluating program effectiveness with the goal of being able to continue even after the original grant which funded the program runs out. Among her other duties Angelica Pete is the facilitator for the Daughters of Tradition program in Path to Wellness. This includes a Talking Circle for high school girls each Thursday. Native WAY participants range in age from 12 to 24 years and have an adult mentor to help with their projects over a 15 week time period. Projects can be both traditional (e.g. basket weaving) or contemporary (e.g. basic auto maintenance). On completion participants put together a Power Point presentation before the Tribal council and the Health Center board. There is a \$300 stipend given every two weeks and participants must spend at least 10 hours per week engaging in program activities and working on their project. The program is open to native and non-native alike. The next round of the program will focus on environmental activism, including the effect of marijuana grows on tribal land. The facebook page is RVIHC Native Way.

7. Tribal Council Update

President Jim Russ discussed issues which are worsening in Round Valley – mental health, homelessness, and opioids especially fentanyl. Lourance gave an example of how these issues hit home. She has looked through the Fire Department incident logs for 2021 and was shocked to see how many were mental health related calls.

8. Report from County officials & Public Comment

Sheriff Kendall met with the Department of Cannabis Control and reported that they have upped their enforcement officers to 77 from 46 last year. Fish and Wildlife, however, only has 1 agent covering 3 counties. The Sheriff's office did more cannabis enforcement last year but still only scratching the surface. They will be doing more this year. He echoed Jim Russ' remarks regarding fentanyl overdoses labeling it as an "absolute epidemic". Deputies have been dispensing Narcan (fentanyl antidote) at an alarming rate, including an incident at the county jail where a jail deputy had searched an inmate and was exposed to powder causing her to be hospitalized. He also expressed great concern regarding the upcoming fire season which looks to be starting months earlier this year. He added due to the current high fuel prices residents need to make sure fuel in vehicles or generators is secured. Lieutenant Caudillo also agreed with Jim Russ and mentioned a recent carjacking and a sexual assault in the valley they are working on. Regarding animal control he reminded the group that animal control is transitioning to animal care and is no longer under the Sheriff's Department. He suggested for tribal animal problems the tribe try to develop a MOU with animal care to take advantage of that service, which would require the adoption of some of the Title 10 county ordinances. Due to staffing issues marijuana enforcement is down to one officer.

Brentt Blaser reviewed steps which residents should be starting now to prepare for fire season and PSPS from PG&E, including home hardening, installing water storage, and checking generators for safe operation. For any questions he can be reached at oes@mendocinocounty.org.

Travis Killmer mentioned that they had received several requests for road clearing and was waiting to learn the status of the grant application for that, and further mentioned that he wants to get ideas about what is needed so when those funding opportunities come around they can be applied for. The prior grant was aiming at around \$500,000 in funding requests but didn't get anywhere near that from folks in the valley.

Supervisor Haschak met with US Cellular with Sheriff Kendall and Senator McGuire. US Cellular claims that, according to their data, the service is improved, citing a low incidence of dropped calls relative to the national average, and they think the problem might be due to some folks still using phones running on the older 3g system. MendoRecycle is scheduling a hazmat pickup in June and are working on where to hold it. Jerry Ward of Solid Waste of Willits reported that the transfer station improvement was not built as it was supposed to be and they are in the process of correcting that so the "possum belly" trailer use, and the corresponding increase in capacity, is not yet operational. The Hwy 162 walk/bike trail is on track but another \$62,000 had to be added to the project. Mendocino county Firewise Council has a special program for seniors and people with disabilities for creating defensible space around their homes.

9. **Action taken:** Formation of an ad hoc exploratory committee charged with researching and planning steps necessary to initiate work on a town water system. Motion to form said committee made by Lew, seconded by Jim Russ. Motion passed by consensus.

10. No further action was taken by the Council. Meeting was adjourned after motion by Jim Russ and second by Kathy Britton, approved by consensus, by the Presiding Officer at 8:02 p.m

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

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