

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Round Valley Area Municipal Advisory Council
Wednesday, September 7, 2022
Online by Zoom at URL <https://zoom.us/j/2324039636>

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

The meeting was attended by the following persons:

Council Members:

Charles Sargenti
Lew Chichester
Jessica Stull-Otto
Kathy Britton
Dane Downing
Laura Betts

County/State Officials:

Matt Kendall, Mendocino County Sheriff
John Haschak, 3rd District Supervisor, Mendocino County
Travis Kilmer, Mendocino County Executive Office Disaster Recovery Field Coordinator
Julia Peterson, CalTrans Clean California Coordinator
Garrett James, Mendocino OES
James Sookne, MCOG

General Public:

Mary Jane Cummings
Lourance Hall
Kay Richards
Carol Borden
Patricia
Pat Sobrero
Imil Ferrara
Marianne English

No Action Taken: Agenda.

Jessica: asked about Charles' email resigning as secretary which was tabled from the last meeting and should have been on this agenda; Charles agreed it should have been on the agenda; need to figure out who is taking minutes but cannot take any action on that issue at this meeting.

No motion to approve agenda and no vote taken.

Action Taken: Authorization of Remote Teleconference Meetings

Resolution authorizing remote teleconference meetings: Motion by Lew; Kathy 2nd. Roll call vote:
Dane yes, Lew yes, Kathy yes, Jessica yes, Laura yes.

Non-Agenda Items:

Laura: wants to know how to remove council members who do not attend to allow others to come onto council. Lew suggests referring that issue to John Haschak.

Reports from County/State officials:

Matt Kendall: 2 more deputies in academy and 2 more applications being processed; calls for service down; more people leaving the county; moving in the right direction. Extreme heat and potential thunderstorms causing concern. New jail build continuing – breaking ground early next year. Rural mail theft in Willits and Ukiah areas is increasing. He has deputies in Covelo every day, but time here is not regular. Illegal growers are leaving. Still needs more corrections officers and deputy sheriffs. MCSO is trying to hire out of the academy to increase staff.

John Haschak:

Travis Kilmer: distributed information at the BBF; continuing surveys about August Complex impact on community residents; looking for additional feedback; CalRecycle Farm and Ranch Cleanup projects: November 10 is next application deadline; county can apply up to 4 sites and only 1 site has applied; county awarded money for grant-writing staff and listening sessions for fire recovery needs; Round Valley was identified as area to have listening sessions; what does community need?

Julia Peterson: report on Free Dump Week; showed video at 6:11pm; successful week; not final totals but collected 476 cy tires; 264 appliances; 900 cy metal; 2 possum-bellied trailers every day for 2160 cy trash; 250 yard dumpsters daily; 100+ cy recycling. CalTrans impressed with community involvement which will prove the need of Covelo for additional financial assistance to remove trash from Covelo. Julia hopes for community feedback from Free Dump Week. CalTrans will not be holding another event for Covelo in the Spring which would have been a tire event; the tires in this event consumed funding for the Spring event that was planned. Julia is brainstorming for more money. Lew asks what our community can do to get more money. Julia thinks Covelo needs \$1M for trash cleanup, perhaps a free day every month? Federal EPA or _____ would be sources for additional funding. She needs Covelo community support in her efforts to seek funding. She has been applying for auto abatement funding for Covelo and each of the three attempts has been rejected. Lake County event is planned; if successful she hopes Covelo will get the same consideration. Covelo's success was a surprise to CalTrans and consumed more funding than was expected. Is auto abatement or another dump day a priority? Lew suggests a free day for only appliances and metal which would have a big impact. Covelo streetscape project: met with a steering committee in Covelo and decided to schedule public in person meeting. Julia's report is informative and extensive and ends at approximately 6:44pm.

James Sookne: Bike trail report; getting closer to advertising the contract by the end of September; just contracted with engineering consult with CalTrans; need to award by the end of 2022; want to start before the rain; Dane asks about contingencies – Sookne says money received from CalTrans to fill in the gaps; bids are all over the place; 2 phase project – town to Biggar and Biggar to Hurt; looking at building Phase I first; other option to so put bid out and have a clause that the proposal is good for period of time then after ask CalTrans for more money; “a little scary” he says. Lew asks if construction does “squared away” can you share them? Our community would appreciate more information as to the expected outcome and we need to see what is expected to be accomplished; he says it is in the CEQA document posted on his website; he can send a link; if not in CEQA document he can email a general plan.

Action Taken: Tri Counties Bank closure:

<https://www.fdic.gov/contact/>

<https://dfpi.ca.gov/file-a-complaint/>

Mary Jane Cummings: Those are the links to the federal and state bank regulators for people to make complaints about the bank closing.

Lew encourages public to communicate directly to state government regarding any impact by bank closure and attend September meeting. Jessica proposes letter by MAC in opposition to closure and adding Marylou Mileck's information as to possible new location. Motion by Jessica; Lew 2nd. Roll

call vote: Jessica yes, Dane yes, Lew yes, Kathy yes, Laura yes, Charles yes.

No Action taken: Requests to county for general plan referrals and updates:

Jessica suggest to sending MAC letter (or a phone call) to request again timely notification of referrals by County Planning Department and that the Presiding Officer notify the council when the referrals come to the MAC so the MAC can respond timely; Jessica suggests inviting the planner on updating the general plan to attend a meeting; Kay Richards offers to draft letter to Planning.

Action taken: Approval of letter to Community Foundation in support of signage grant

Disaster Preparedness Group: Pat Sobrero reports on need for, and grant proposal for, address and road signage to the Community Foundation; wants permission from the MAC for the grant. Motion to approve group's grant application for address signage by Lew, 2nd by Laura; Roll call vote: Laura yes, Dane yes, Lew yes, Kathy yes, Jessica yes, Charles yes.

Lew asks about road signage; the group was going to write to MDOT about fixing road signs (county road number v. names). MDOT said they don't know the names of these streets and we would need to do a formal name change. Lew will report on the issue.

Treasurer's Report:

One invoice to process; should be just over \$2,400 in account; Dane purchased stamps which are lasting quite a while and is using his personal envelopes. He will propose purchasing addressed, stamped envelopes from post office to save the effort when they run out at an appropriate time. **No action taken.**

Action Taken: Approval of DRAFT MAC Guiding Principles:

Dane: Motion and 2nd not required; only proposals are required and call for objections, then a roll call vote. It is in the bylaws and not a Brown Act requirement.

Lew: he is more familiar with motions and 2nd, but is fine with Dane's process; Lew has not had enough time to review and consider the guiding principles; would like to avoid past issues with regard to MAC procedure; wants to propose language to keep discussions on topic to keep meeting moving.

Dane: other bodies have addressed this issue of "hot topics" by having the Presiding Officer set time limits on comment; 6(b) role of "secretary" needs to be changed to "Presiding Officer". He proposes return to stated bylaws with vote by consensus; action is proposed, and the MAC decide by consensus. Does not need to be included in the MAC Guiding Principles. Bylaws do not contain motion and 2nd language.

Jessica: requiring a 2nd shuts down a meeting; room for feedback from council is not available by this procedure. Agrees that time limits on public comments are acceptable. This time limit should not apply to council members. Council members should not be prevented from making proposals. She wants to add language to the DRAFT. If MAC can agree to approve the current draft, she would support that with the understanding that Lew would come back with new language; that the principles will be updated as appropriate; Jessica requests the MAC to approve the DRAFT.

Lew: DRAFT is fine; no objections to the current document but intends to present language to limit discussion if appropriate. DRAFT is incomplete.

Charles: suggests review of DRAFT by County Counsel. Lew and Dane disagree. Jessica suggests sending the approved DRAFT to County Counsel.

Roll call vote: Lew yes, Dane yes, Kathy no vote, Laura yes, Jessica yes, Charles yes.

No Action Taken: Compensation for Secretary of MAC (tabled from last meeting)

Travis: MAC secretary rates are \$18 per hour

Jessica: Sadie from RVMAC said \$23 per hour; can we set the rate now.

Lew: pay \$23 per hour; what is the job description; or \$100 per meeting

Dane: secretary paid to write the minutes; not to be paid to attend AND write the minutes. Perhaps a stipend per meeting. If \$100 per meeting that is half the budget.

Kay Richards offers to be the secretary if typing minutes is the only job.

Tabled.

Adjournment of Meeting: Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm