

MEETING OF THE ROUND VALLEY AREA MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (RVAMAC)

Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Library Commons 23925 Howard Street, Covelo, CA

Mailing Address: PO Box 372, Covelo, CA 95428

<https://mac.roundvalley.org/>

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order & Roll call at 6:01pm: Kathy Britton, Dane Downing, Kay Richards, Marylou Mileck and Charles Sargenti present.
2. Approval of Agenda: motion to approve by Kay; Charles noted his previous agenda item regarding paying a consultant for MAC technical issues was not carried forward to this agenda; Kay suggested adding this item to today's agenda; after discussion, the item will be put on the October agenda; the agenda was not amended and motion to approve agenda with no modifications passed without objection.
3. Approval of July 2023 meeting minutes: motion to approve by Kay and motion passed without objection. Minutes for the August meeting were not prepared as no quorum was reached. The meeting video is available on the MAC website.
4. Public Comment & Announcements on non-agenda items.
 - a. Lew reported that on 9/16/23 a county meeting will be in the Library as a "listening session". His focus will be disaster preparedness and he intends to ask if the county will provide a template for a plan. Kay read the county announcement of the meeting's purpose.
 - b. Pat Sobrero's issue for 9/16/2023 will be that Frontier and US Cellular are blaming each other for the bad telephone service in the area. Lew said the radio station number, required by law, doesn't work most of the time. Sheriff Kendall noted that when the Frontier employee in Laytonville retired the problems started. Lourance Hall noted that when she is at the fire hall she rarely can get the phone to work. High school students can't have their cell phones now during school, and parents can't get through to the school on land lines. Dane reported service reps say our equipment belongs in a museum (antique and vintage). John Haschak requested that this subject be on the next agenda so he and Sheriff Kendall can talk about it.
 - c. Marylou asks about the CalTrans beautification project status; Dane reported there were delays but by October the work should begin.
 - d. Charles updated on the river access issue from Bill Cull. They met Eric Montonero and other property owners. Jerry and Lillian Tergis own property across the road and are the most affected by people partying, the noise, etc. The Tergises asked for cooperation and were threatened by people accessing the river. The river can be accessed on the other side. Bill Cull wanted to pursue it and Charles recommended the MAC take no action.
5. Report from County and Tribal officials & Public Comment:
 - a. Tribal Council update: none
 - b. Sheriff Kendall : In August CAMP was reduced but is still assisting MCSO with bigger problems; Fish & Wildlife, state parks : busts resulted in seizure of 70,000 plants, 5 tons of process cannabis, firearms and several people who were detained and cited. His big worry is that over 50 % of sites had serious chemicals, including a chemical so strong that 1 tbsp will kill a 400 pound black bear; the chemicals kill carrion eaters, can leave areas uninhabitable, run off to rivers and streams. He is strategizing on cleanup. The chemicals are banned in US but made in Mexico. We need to push the state for remediation. Kathy asks about human trafficking and Sheriff reports they are found regularly but do not want to be labeled as victims and testify. They will accept services but will not show up for court – cartel uses threats effectively against victims' family members. He also reports that on Friday, September 8, the Police Memorial Dedication starts at 5pm at MSCO on Low Gap.

c. Supervisor Haschak : Regarding PBS and County Counsel's suggestion to dissolve the MACs, thanks for everyone who wrote in support of them. The report was a "total curve ball" for him. Susan suggested the MAC report its work annually to the BOS. On September 23, the action item to establish Nicole Mann Day will be before the board for vote. His hip surgery caused him to miss the Blackberry Festival. He wrote a tribute to Richard Wilson which was published locally. Charles asked when timely notice from PBS will start; Jim Shields stated that proper notice from PBS to the MACs has been a problem for years. Sheriff asked if the Clerk of the BOS still does a forecasting reporting - John said no. Jim Shields stated that PBS should not have jurisdiction over the MACs (which started 7 years ago) but should be back under BOS. Dane asks for update on eliminating county buildings in Round Valley - John reported there were no updates.

6. Guest: Jim Shields appeared via Zoom (beginning at approximately 6:50pm) to share his perspective on the MACs and County Counsel's argument as to why MACs should be dissolved.

7. Kay moved to accept verbal resignation of Laura Betts as Presiding Officer of the RVMAC. John confirmed Laura did resign her office. Marylou seconded and motion passed without objection.

8. Election of new Presiding Officer of the MAC: Dane nominated Kathy as the Presiding Officer, Kathy accepted the nomination and Kay seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor of Kathy as the new Presiding Officer to serve out Laura's term.

9. Discussion was had as to whether bylaws were needed for the RVAMAC. Kay noted that the MAC might need, among other things, a procedure for removing council members who did not attend meetings. John said he will take recommendations on this issue, if necessary, and he will make the decision. No further action was taken.

10. Discussion was had as to whether to request that the county create a safe housing area for deputy sheriff and other essential county employees and health care workers on the Forestry Service property located at the Covelo Ranger Station, and whether to request the county to look at Department of Agriculture – Rural Development - Rural Housing Service (Community Facilities) for possible funding. Only 3 houses may remain on the property and 2 are occupied. Kathy noted that the RVIHC is putting in tiny homes which might work for this project. Sheriff Kendall will start a conversation with Forestry as to whether that property be used. There were perhaps 8 houses there at one time. Lew pointed out the infrastructure is there even if the buildings are not. It would be possible to move in double wides instead of building new housing. It is an underutilized property.

11. Whether to request, again, that the county seek money for Round Valley area road work from the CTC or federal infrastructure funding was not brought up as an item of discussion or action.

12. Treasurer's report: \$600 spent this year so far, mostly for PO Box rent and for the zoom account.

13. Next Meeting: October 4, 2023. Send agenda items to admin@mac.roundvalley.org.

15. Adjournment 7:26pm