

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

Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Library Commons 23925 Howard Street, Covelo, CA

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To join Zoom meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/2324039636> Meeting ID: 232 403 9636 Call In: +1 669 900 6833 For those who are not able to attend by phone or video, you may make public comment at the Library Commons. Public comment is available for all items on the agenda.

**AMENDED MEETING MINUTES**

Call to Order & Roll call at 6pm: present and in quorum are Kathy Britton, Dane Downing, Charles Sargenti, Kay Richards and Laura Betts. Marylou Mileck appeared by Zoom.

Approval of Agenda: *Charles moves to table Agenda Items No. 10 and 11 to November meeting; Kay moved to move Julia Peterson to 6:30pm to accommodate her schedule. The Agenda as amended was approved without objection.*

Approval of September 6, 2023 meeting minutes: *Kay moved to approve and the minutes were approved without objection.*

Public Comment & Announcements on non-agenda items: *none*

Report from County and Tribal officials & Public Comment:

a. Tribal Council update: none

b. Sheriff Kendall : *over the past three months, there were 51 calls to Covelo, 26 resulting in arrests. There are two more recruits in the Academy. The MCSO is losing three deputies this month to other counties with much higher pay. Recruiting started again for the Academy. Jail personnel improving with hiring. The county fair weekend had three overdoses by Fentanyl; 1 died. There was a homicide on the south coast - suspect on the loose. Someone died kayaking. LE dealing with a "horrific sex crime". Laura asked about the Mexican Independence Day mess in Covelo – tribal police were chasing individuals in town – and wanted to know about liability. Laura commented tribal police were acting outside of their jurisdiction. Sheriff responded that river to river still applies to tribal police jurisdiction and that neither tribal nor MCSO has liability for the other's activities. Kathy commented that the drivers should have been required to have a parade permit and that they put a lot of people at risk. The Sheriff said a lot of people were taken in and released for the Covelo events, and firearms seized. It is a product of LE's inability to keep arrestees in custody because they are "nonviolent".*

c. Supervisor Haschak: *There was a September 16, 2023 county listening session in Covelo which was productive. Haschak talked with the new county grants division about a USDA grant to fund housing at the Covelo Ranger Station and the county is looking at it. Grants limited to \$100K. Low interest loans were larger. HazMobile has no date for Covelo yet although the program is on again. Haschak worked with Caltrans for Bloody Run Creek signs at the bridge.*

d. Mendocino County DOT – follow up to listening session 9/16/2023 – *see below for reporting of comments.*

e. James Sookne, MCOG: *the multi-purpose trail project is ongoing. The plan is to get all areas paved this year (Brian hoping for the end of this week); bridge, striping, small details will occur next year. Erosion control will be in place. Kay asks if barriers are going up; James says bollards will be in place this year; on the east end of Henderson; they will do what they can to prevent vehicles on the path. Charles asks if all landowners are getting fences replaced. James says yes, some in kind (field to field,*

*etc.) Chain link was requested by some property owners. Carol Borden asked again for a gate or fence for her property that was removed by Wylatti and not replaced; trespassers are coming onto her property and taking split wood. Sookne offered to contact Brian Hurt.*

6. Item No. 13 (discussion and possible action regarding unsafe traffic on Howard, Main and 162 in town) was moved up in the Agenda. *Lew Chichester asked the Sheriff to weigh in on the issue and write a letter of support to county transportation for money for help with this problem; the Sheriff answered “yes” and everyone should lean on state representatives to help MDoT get money. Howard Dashiell and Alicia Winokur from MDoT reported that active transportation grants had letters of support, but there was too much competition in the last round so they were unsuccessful. The county will apply again for bulb outs. The 2019 MCOG plan will be the basis for that grant funding. Covelo is a pilot school for safe routes to school. 2025 is the next grant cycle for Howard and Airport and Foothill work. It is too late to do re-striping for Airport and Howard this year. Nonetheless they will try to get that intersection redone this year. Lew wants to know if school traffic calming area speed bumps/humps like in Arcata could be applied to Covelo. Dashiell said it is operationally out of the question for the area; we can read studies that say aggressive traffic will screech to a halt, go over, swerve around the bumps, etc. Charles mentions speed bumps that are going in on Commercial – will MDoT be watching the results of the “experiment”? Julia Peterson says CalTrans is installing rubberized humps with a flat top as a pilot program for Covelo and that these can be relocated in town as needed. Caltrans will watch to see if they will be effective. Dashiell has seen communities chipping in to install and remove humps after they decided the humps were not what they wanted. Joe Gauder asked if will there be a traffic study on Main Street after the humps are installed on Commercial. Joe noted heavy foot traffic with the charter school and that there are no school zone signs on Main Street now because they were taken down and need to be replaced. Dashiell requested photos of heavy foot traffic on Main Street because he has not seen what Joe is talking about. Tina Wilson reported that 3 buses come in 2x per day to the Charter School and parents come in also. The Charter School moved their drop off to but now buses are moved to Main because of construction. A bottle neck as developed. Many kids do not walk home – but should be dangerous. Dashiell said buses should be enough to stop responsible drivers. It was also reported that local 1<sup>st</sup> responders are doing 50 down Main Street to get to the fire hall. Dane asks the Sheriff if he is aware of increased traffic on Main at Grange, and the Sheriff is aware. There were two near collisions a recent morning. The Sheriff reported many citations written at Linda Duke's house. Dane asks if it is shown other streets are being used can speed bumps be moved to side streets? Julia Peterson reported CalTrans is installing speed humps such that they don't push drivers to other streets. Alicia Winokur asks when speed bumps are going in Current construction to end of this week; speed humps will arrive in mid-November. Alicia wants to send staff to do traffic counts on Main Street before speed bumps are in and then after. Charles asks Dashiell about legislation re the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile rule (SB or AB 26 – allowed for 5 mile an hour reduction in the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile if qualified as a high volume area – Howard qualifies). Dashiell said still probably going to be over 25, unless children are present. If you can live with 35 mph they can shoot radar.*

*Alicia Winokur reported that MCOG hired a consultant for a local road safety plan and applied for grant money. The county was successful and was awarded money for a sidewalk or pathway on Crawford from Biggar to Foothill.*

Discussion: 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. *Kathy asks the Sheriff if he had contact with Forestry regarding the Ranger Station and he reported he is working on it. Item is moved to November agenda.*

Discussion and possible action: Whether to request, again, that the county seek money for Round Valley area road work from the CTC or federal infrastructure funding. Approve second letter to Board of Supervisors and County Department of Transportation. Update on listening session with the County transportation officials on September 16, 2024. *This item was not addressed at the meeting due to reporting by MDoT.*

Discussion and possible action on continual problems with telephone service, landline through Frontier and cellular service. Consider a letter of support both service providers requesting them to work on improvement of telephone services in and around Covelo: *John suggests going back to McGuire to complain – it was a public safety issue when Haschak and Kendall went to McGuire because 911 calls were dropped. Tina Wilson said it is still a public safety issue. Fingers are pointing back and forth between Frontier and US Cellular. Dane reports Frontier lines are dropping calls; he is told fuses pop at the hubs. Frontier says they will send out a tech and automatically credit his bill, and when he calls Frontier says there was no complaint, then they only have 2 month records for tickets, unless you have a ticket number. John suggests making contact with McGuire's office. Lew suggests documenting all instances of problems to make complaint stronger than writing the letter. A Frontier tech reported to Dane that the equipment is antiquated and the recent efforts were only to get current tech back up but there is no effort for new tech to the valley. MAC suggests collecting community reports of lack of telephone service to prepare complaint. John will contact McGuire with a record of community issues.*

Discussion and possible action: addition to Bylaws pertaining to excessive meeting absences of Council members and submission of request for removal of pertinent Council members to the Board of Supervisors due to excessive meeting absences: *these items were not addressed at the meeting.*

Discussion and possible action on appointment of an Assistant Presiding Officer (Vice-Chairperson): *Kay suggested tabling this item to November to give people time to think about it. Kathy moves to table to November. John needs to check with clerk of the board to determine terms of current council members. Tabled without objection to November.*

Discussion and Possible action to approve a monthly payment of \$25/hr. for the preparation and production of meeting minutes by the Secretary or Appointee designated for that purpose. (Original draft by Jim Shields and reviewed by Supervisor Haschak.): *John reached out to PBS who did not respond so he assumes it was ok. Dane moved to approve; approved without objection.*

Discussion and possible action: Approve a maximum of \$250 for technical consultation for website, email, and possible other technical media platforms in order to assure ongoing MAC access and control (Imil Ferrera consultant). *Charles wants to pay up to \$250 at \$30-\$40 per hour. Charles still getting emails addressed to [admin@mac.roundvalley.org](mailto:admin@mac.roundvalley.org); ask Joe Gauder? Charles asks if we want our own website. Kay reports she likes current website because it is free and easy to administer. Lew did not realize he must maintain a Google account for MAC video records and has no interest in that – “I don't like the cloud stuff”. The free MAC Google Drive is running out of room for video. Dane says there is no Brown Act obligation to keep meeting recordings beyond 30 days. John suggests an hourly rate for Imil with tasks in a contract. Charles said Imil would just be a consultant for website and email and will educate Charles on these issues. Jessica Stuhl-Otto said to contact Joe Gauder for any website changes. Kathy tabled this item, without objection, for more information until November.*

Discussion about requesting a report from CalTrans regarding the pedestrian path: *James Sookne from MCOG reports that the bridge is going in next year; will be compacted for winter – October/November as weather allows. Fencing going in. Carol B. still has no fencing and people are coming into her property, taking wood and tore down the no trespassing signs; Brian said he would take care of that and did not, feeling very insecure. James will get in touch with Brian.*

Discussion about requesting an update from CalTrans on the Highway162 Beautification project with information about how the "speed bumps" in the road will be installed. *The recent motorcycle vs. vehicle accident at 162 and Eberle street should be considered in starting the installation of all of the traffic calming measures: Julia Peterson said the project will be done this year. Crosswalks will be in second portion. No bulb outs are going in.*

18. Treasurer's report: no expenses since last report; \$1,897.71 balance.
19. Next Meeting: November 1, 2023. Send agenda items to [admin@mac.roundvalley.org](mailto:admin@mac.roundvalley.org).
20. Adjournment at 7:30pm