

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

Wednesday, November 01, 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.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order at 6:00pm. Roll call: Dane Downing, Marylou Mileck, Laura Betts and Kay Richards present; Kathy Britton, Charles Sargenti, Michelle Downey and James Russ absent.
2. Approval of Agenda: Kay moved to approve with amendment – correcting typos re October/November. Agenda as amended was approved without objection.
3. Action Item: Kay moved to approve October 4, 2023, meeting minutes with typos to be corrected. Minutes as amended were approved without objection.
4. Public Comment & Announcements on non-agenda items. None
5. Report from County and Tribal officials & Public Comment:
 - a. Tribal Council update: none
 - b. Sheriff Kendall : Citizen Connect - has anyone used it on Publications at Mendocino County Sheriff webpage? No coroner investigations or sex crimes are reported. 4 coroner cases this period; young female case for Ruby's murder was dismissed due to time constraints; expecting a refile. 12 arrests. Forest Service housing: there are a couple of houses at Eel River station also; looking for agreement with Forest Service for housing in addition to Covelo Ranger Station. 170 calls over last 30 days for our area. Not all were criminal calls.
 - c. Supervisor Haschak : Clerk of Board has a list of RVAMAC council members and expiration dates. There was a water agency presentation by consultants at the BOS yesterday for \$300K; would cost \$780K a year to re-establish a county water agency. They are hoping UC will take up lead. They hired an ED for the Redwood Trail. Robbie Wyre interjected that the Trail plan is being pushed at the local tribes rather than asking, and has been historically the way things go. There is some resistance by native Americans: RVIT has the most frontage on the trail from Dos Rios to past Island Mountain. Property owners are worried about tourists, etc. walking the area that has marginal history. The Redwood Trail presenters at the RVIT event probably were not ready for the push back they got. No one could explain how the trail was going to work from San Francisco to Cloverdale then to Willits where the trail would start. Robbie Wyre commented that the project was an affront to the local tribes and poor planning. John Haschak said he would take these concerns back. They are still developing the master plan which might just be a single track dirt trail in our area - something should be out in the next three or four months. The parts in Ukiah and Wilits will be paved. The State assumed \$40M in debt from the railroad bankruptcy for this. Laura reports other tribes have passed resolutions saying they are not in agreement with the plan because of criminal activity, vandalism, etc. that has occurred already and will continue with more people there.

6:17pm Laura Betts left the meeting so quorum was lost. The meeting ended at 6:20pm. At 6:23pm Laura Betts returned because she realized without her there was no quorum.

d. Mendocino County DOT : Kay Richards read Alicia Meier's email which is an attachment to these minutes.

6. Old Business:

- a. Discussion and possible action on the election of an Assistant Presiding Officer (Vice-Chairperson): John reports that Marylou and Kay's terms end in February 2027; Michelle Downey's term ends August 2026; Laura, Kathy and Jim Russ' terms ended in October 2023 but they remain on council until they are replaced by the BOS; Dane's term ended October 2022; Charles' term ended October 2023. Laura nominated Marylou as Assistant Presiding Officer and Dane seconded. Marylou said she cannot guarantee she will be present in Covelo for meetings. John said she can appear by zoom 2x per year. Dane said if Marylou posts the agenda where she appears from, there is no limitation to appear by zoom. Marylou was elected as Vice Presiding Officer without objection.
- b. Discussion/Update: 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. Kay moves to table to next meeting. John said grant people are looking for money for this project. Item tabled.
- c. Discussion and possible action on continual problems with telephone service, landline through Frontier and cellular service. Consider a letter of support to both service providers requesting them to work on improvement of telephone services in and around Covelo.
Update with information that was obtained by Lew Chichester. Also, information from Mary Jane Cummings, sample complaint letter and addresses of appropriate agencies that it can be sent to. Lew: update - radio station land line is required by federal law; someone called from a cell phone and Lew could not call back from the land line, then got through and the call dropped after 10 minutes. The station was only getting 2 calls a month and now he is thinking it was not lack of interest but a phone problem. He had a 1.5 hour conversation with Frontier tech who asked what number called; so he told Lew he could see it did not connect; our local Frontier guy Jeremy explained "how it all works". Jeremy supposes that because it is US Cellular calls that are being dropped so it is how they are routing their calls from a tower to a routing trunk and a lot of providers do not own the routing trunk. Whoever US Cellular is contracting with is not doing a very good job. Tina and Lew have publicized how to contact the FCC and MJ Cummings drafted a generic complaint letter. It is more effective if individual US Cellular customers make complaints over the MAC. Kay is to post on the MAC website and email to the MAC Friends list. Kay is to draft a letter to our state and federal representatives on behalf of the MAC for next meeting. Laura reports the Health Center is getting complaints about not answering the phone but the phones are not ringing.
- d. 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 November meeting. Tabled to next meeting.
- e. 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). This item tabled at the October 4 meeting for additional information. Tabled to next meeting.

New Business:

7. Informational item from John Haschak with respect to notices from County of Mendocino Planning and building Department. John contacted Julia Crog who said there haven't been hardly any notices.
8. Informational item, Notice from County of Mendocino Planning and Building Department for installation of a trailer during the construction of a home on the Bauer Ranch Subdivision. No comments were requested to be sent back to PBS.
9. Informational item: Mary Jane Cummings, Keep the Ridges Green
<https://www.mendocinocounty.org/home/showpublisheddocument/60978/638330484299800000>
10. Discussion and possible action on the issue of the establishment of cannabis overlay zone/prohibition zones: John Haschak reports the County spent \$140K to consultants to do overlays; if you are in a zone for cannabis, you could opt-out to prohibit it if you got 60% of zone property owners to agree. If you had a no cannabis zone and 60% of property owners wanted it, you can opt in. Fairbanks has this. County Counsel wanted to have only the supervisors say when the opt in and opt outs were approved. John said people should still have the right to opt in or opt out and work with the supervisors. In Redwood Valley they wanted to opt out from the ag areas where cultivation was happening with permitting. What happens when you want to opt out, what do you do about legal grows? John was pushing for protecting legal businesses by a grandfather clause. McGordy's mind was changed so might go through. The county hasn't been able to opt in since 2019 but you can still opt out. John doesn't know if opting on will be considered in the future. Robbie Wyre spoke about controlling household water use and Newsom's executive order, and that County Counsel added language to Newsom's order so that Mendocino County can't use any household water for commercial agriculture, not just cannabis. John asks Robbie to email his issues so he can get a clear understanding.
11. Treasurer reports no changes from last meeting
12. Next Meeting: December 06, 2023. Send agenda items to admin@mac.roundvalley.org.
13. Adjournment 7:27pm