

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

Wednesday, March 06, 2024 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: Kathy Britton, Kay Richards, Dane Downing present; Laura Betts, Charles Sargenti, James Russ and Michelle Downey not present. Quorum not met so meeting will not occur. Laura had asked on May 6 to zoom but Dane reminded the council that the Brown Act does not allow her to zoom this late without posting at her location to make it a public meeting location. John Haschak did tell Jim Russ there is a meeting tonight and Kathy had asked the agenda to be distributed to tribal council.
2. Approval of Agenda: no quorum, no action taken.
3. Action Item: Approval of February 07, 2024 meeting minutes: no quorum, no action taken.
4. Public Comment & Announcements on non-agenda items. Kay read Julia Peterson's email and Andreas Krause's email. Patricia Mera spoke about skate park support from the MAC; a proposed letter of support will be prepared for the April MAC meeting as an action item. Kathy asked John about getting a polling center to make voting easier. Kathy reported that if anyone has Frontier phone service, ZPDI has been charging her mother for directory assistance calls even though her mother has not been in the house for 4 or 5 months.

Jessica Stuhl Otto wanted to share what she sees: she lives on Main Street; there is a tremendous increase in traffic; cars that normally turn on Grange go all the way south on Main; she has seen police and fire racing on Main Street as well as big trucks passing each other and a double tank propane truck on Main Street. Little kids on Main Street are in danger; a family that walks every day with kids on bikes that jump into the ditch when cars come down Main.

5. Report from County and Tribal officials & Public Comment:
 - a. Tribal Council update: none
 - b. Sheriff Kendall: 17 calls for service in RV; a couple of domestics; one drunk in public; one arson; 9 arrests from DV to alcohol and drug intoxication; one arrest on assist to tribal. Patricia Mera thanked the Sheriff for the donation from MCSO to the skatepark project.
 - c. Supervisor Haschak: AT&T tried to get out of their obligation to provide land lines. He went to the recent meeting and made a statement, stressing it was a bad idea to end land lines where there is no cell service, as happens our county. Supervisors from Humboldt and Mendocino, and other counties, were at the meeting. John is meeting Jim Russ, Travis Kilmer and Kelly Hansen this Friday about the CBDG for clean up. John needs photos of trashed tribal property and other issues. Kathy Britton surveyed local students who said their primary goal is to clean up Round Valley. John will talk to Katrina Bartolomei about the poll/vote issue and notes that Round Valley needs a polling place. Lew asks John what we are supposed to do about the dogs. Animal control is not functioning/overwhelmed. Kathy said a lack of spay and neuter is also a problem. IRT not coming back yet for services. Lourance checked with UC Davis who can't commit to a whole week, but possibly a 3-day weekend. Jessica says BOS needs to change policy from first-in, first-euthanized to choosing which dogs are dangerous and euthanizing them first. Dane suggests getting non-infrastructure money from Safe Routes to School to use on dog issue – paying people to catch wild dogs, etc., a week at the hotel so the trappers can stay in town to react faster to reports, etc.

- d. Mendocino County DOT Dashiell and Winokur: conversation with Julia Peterson. Kathy asks about the street signage letter that was sent – Dashiell sent it to the sign shop, Bill Williamson has gone out to look at the signs, and if any repairs are needed they will be made. There has been an increase in theft of signs as well as social media posts about scavenger hunts and other encouragement to steal signs. Dane reports mailboxes have been torn out on Fairbanks that were fixed before Dane could call it in. John Haschak has also gotten complaints from other parts of his district on these problems. John said first responders use GPS now but Lourance said no one from the Covelo fire district uses GPS.
- e. Mendocino County Animal Control – Mr. Rich Molinari did not appear despite Kathy's request
- f. Julia Peterson, CalTrans: weather permitting the humps will be removed and remaining 6 will be extended. 6 months are usually needed to make habits change so she thinks traffic will settle down on Main Street then. Federal money is available to do work. Perhaps ask the county to use CalTrans local assistance funds? CalTrans still needs a maintenance agreement for the poles, lights and banners. CalTrans retains control over humps. Whoever assumes the work will need an encroachment permit and plan for that maintenance, and must have \$6M insurance and be a governmental agency. Alicia Winokur asks about local assistance funding and whether it is only for Highway 162; if so, would CalTrans be administering projects? Julia said local assistance funds can be used off of Highway 162. Alicia notes that an Active Transportation Cycle is coming out next week, due in June, for a Safe Routes to School application. It will be competitive (read: insufficient money to cover anticipated applications. If the ATP program falls through can the county use local assistance dollars? Lourance is optimistic that people will go back to driving on 162 – Main is where they will continue to go. The same people are doing the same thing on Main Street. Local Assistance is CalTrans money they administer from the federal government and can grant money to the county but also special districts and tribes.

Alicia needs to do outreach and asks if anyone can anyone here assist. She needs public comments from the tribes and school board. Kay and Lew can help with outreach to the school. John has meeting with the RVIT on Friday so wants to meet with Alicia.

Jessica Stull-Otto reminds us of the Round Valley Nonmotorized Feasibility Study to get us to the next level to apply for grants. Jessica will also help with outreach.

Patricia: a lot of locals are Spanish speakers are not aware of transportation/road issues. When doing outreach all should be bilingual.

Alicia also says sidewalks going in on between Crawford and Henderson along the school grounds. That area was picked due to accidents and injuries.

Tina Wilson also brings up dog problems. They are killing livestock and wild animals and are aggressive toward humans. Jessica said that issue is within the Safe Routes to School Program – we should get creative to use that. Lew said 8 years ago 8th graders did not walk to school because of dogs. Blue Zones has video put together that might be available to show the conditions.

Julia asks if there is a non-infrastructure component to Safe Routes to School – Alicia is not sure but will look into it.

Marline Fulwider commented on the dog situation. Growers leave dogs behind which is a major contributing factor. Growers are everywhere and we will always have this problem. Marline would like to be a part of a collaboration on this issue. She's going to the RVIT Saturday meeting to try to start to bridge the gap with non-tribal government and community.

Dane asks about speed mitigation on Howard which would be unanimously supported and notes if sidewalks and curbs go in on Howard it would block drainage for a lot of houses so they will get push back on those ideas.

Howard Dashiell reported that Alicia is working on Safe Routes to School and is basing the grant application on that study. If the grant comes through it will be robust and will get a lot done.

Jessica asks John Haschak if we can get a Public Health focus we can use to win grants.

Alicia reports traffic counts on Main Street: counter was set prior to humps 10/31/2023 – set out on 162 and Main, then again 1/15/24 for a week. 162 decreased by 1200 cars; on Main Street the Average Daily count of vehicles went from 420 to 560. Jessica S-O feels this represents the decrease in population due to seasonal growers having left town already. We need a count when the growers come back. Also notes on 10/31 construction had started on 162 so that contributed to Main Street traffic.

Tina: since October her car has been hit twice on Main Street at the ERCS and the ERCS had been hit by a car.

Alicia can use hard facts for the Safe Routes to School grant application – photos, etc. Julia has public comments from us that Alicia can use.

Jessica reports there are still rubber burns in the intersections on 162. Julia says drivers have been slowed down. Is there a problem and can you prove the problem?

10. Treasurer's report: none.

11. Next Meeting: April 03, 2024. Send agenda items to admin@mac.roundvalley.org.

12. Adjournment: meeting ended 7:48pm