

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

Wednesday, April 3, 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, Marylou Mileck and Laura Betts present at 6:06pm; Charles Sargenti, James Russ and Michelle Downey not present.
2. Approval of Agenda: Kay moved to approve agenda. The agenda was approved objections without objection.
3. Approval of March 6, 2024 meeting minutes: there was no quorum on March 6; thus no action taken.
4. Public Comment & Announcements on non-agenda items:

Patricia Mera reminds us that Earth Day will be on April 20. The RVAMAC will do an information table again.

Lew Chichester reports that Scott Ellsmore from CalTrans, RVAMAC admin and his email string from end of February are not very clear but the HM4 Survey came out of it. The survey was difficult and awkward until he read the instructions when he found out it is not for the general public. CalTrans is trying to make things safer and seem to be realizing they can do things cheaply. CalTrans also mentioned other projects the county can do; then Lew saw the posting at Keith's where the community can comment on the plan being developed. Kay will add a link to the survey to the MAC website.

Laura posted the March agenda to Covelo Community Watch and it was suggested that the agenda be posted also in Spanish. It was also suggested to use ChatGPT and use Mexican Spanish. John Haschak offered to review the Spanish translation.

Lourance Hall reports lights and greenhouses are everywhere and asks if the county is doing anything on the seasonal explosion. John Haschak reports the county is responding only to complaints. We can complain anonymously but they need specific addresses where the violations are occurring. Lourance asks why the legal growers are hit by enforcement but not the illegal growers.

Lew Chichester reported that Sheriff Kendall called to say his daughter is in labor with his first grandchild and that he was not available for today's meeting. Lew reports the usual illegal growers with "Hecho in Mexico" from last year are back in his area of the valley.

5. Report from County and Tribal officials & Public Comment:
 - a. Tribal Council update: none
 - b. Sheriff Kendall: None.
 - c. Supervisor Haschak: John met with Jim Russ, Bill Whipple, Kelly Hanson and Travis Killmer a couple of weeks ago to talk about the CDBG for \$500K to update the MOU between the RVIT and county. They also talked about the dog problem. John has contacted the Community Foundation for money for animals and wants the RVIT to work with Bones about housing dumped dogs. John met today with Rich Molinari who said they are getting a fourth animal control officer but are still at 95% capacity at the shelter. John talked about tribal attendance at

the RVAMAC meetings and Jim Russ said he would be here for today's meeting but has not appeared. John has been talking with Julia Peterson about the MOU for the banners, lights, etc. The RVIT said they would talk with Julia Peterson about that. The cleanup should start in the next few months but training might happen sooner. He has taken pictures of some of the trash sites identified by Jim Russ and Bill Whipple.

John has been working on restructuring the library director position, making it a county librarian/branch manager to save money. The county wants to have the museum be an independent nonprofit.

John met with Dashiell and Scott Ellsmore, who gave Dashiell some grants to pursue and update plans, etc. and resubmit for funding. Rich Molinari will bring the idea of changing the priorities to the BOS to evaluate aggressiveness and adoptability rather than first in, first destroyed.

Laura asked if it was legal to trap dogs and shoot them even though the owner tried to get the dog back. Children came across a pile of dead dogs at the creek recently. Bones tried to get access to one of the trapped dogs that came off of their property and was told animal control had been called, which did not happen, and the dog was found dead. John said the cages the RVIT has are "rough" but they are looking for money to redo the cages so dogs can be housed.

Roxana Oliver reported she lives at Tabor and Little Lake. They try to feed loose dogs. Tribal police have cages out and have trapped dogs; but then the owners come out, and let the dogs loose. She asks if it possible to require tribal owners have to register their dogs like they do in Ukiah? She is not comfortable going out to exercise.

Laura said tribal police are trapping dogs but not working with the pound. Lew Chichester said the owners are the problem. Laura said a regulation was suggested to the RVIT and there is an ordinance for registering dogs. It was suggested the ordinance be changed to come in line with the county on licensing and tribal government enforcing it.

Lourance Hall did chipping under CART and suggests perhaps if we can get funding for chips for the community maybe it would be a step in the right direction. She can follow up on that.

John said the county is getting a new Carevan; available maybe in six months.

d. Mendocino County DOT Dashiell and Winokur: None.

e. Mendocino County Animal Control: None.

6. Discussion and possible action ongoing problems in the community with uncontained dogs, dogs that have been abandoned (dumped), dogs killing other dogs and creating a nuisance and potential safety issue.

Pat Sobrero asks if the county supervisor bringing dog issue to the RVIT is the best route, not the community doing so.

Laura said the tribal community has brought it with no action; perhaps John might have more impact. Roxana asks if the RVIT has money for their own animal control. Tribal members should have more involvement with the council.

Kathy reports seeing two dogs hit in one morning near the health center. Roxana Oliver reports illegal growers asked her to use her male pit bull for breeding but knows they do not take care of their animals. Roxana provided PedigreeFoundation.org/shelters-grant address for money for dog care.

7. Discussion and possible action to help and support for the Round Valley Skatepark Project. in getting approval to build a skatepark at The Covelo Community Park aka The Recreation Center from Mendocino County. Review and approval of letter of support.

Dane asks if the Project has asked for county approval. Patricia Mera responded that they got letter of support from the Lions; then they came to the RVAMAC for the letter of support. She asked John Haschak what the next step is and she is waiting to hear back. Kay moved to approve the letter of support to the Board of Supervisors; discussion ensued; John said he reached out to GSA who said there appear to be no restrictions. Patricia said the Lions appear to be willing to take on the fiscal sponsorship. Lourance said the Lions' letter of support was approved but not signed yet. Lourance said it makes sense to change the fiscal sponsorship; so all groups should be included in any meeting. Patricia will email everyone to coordinate a meeting. The letter to the Board of Supervisors was approved without objections.

8. Discussion and possible action due to Transfer station ownership change. Charles has a concern and understands they either plan to or already have eliminated the large capacity trash hauler. This was something the MAC worked hard on getting as it was needed to relieve the lack of capacity leading to illegal dumping along the roadways. The Round Valley community paid for the work, and probably is still paying for it, through a surcharge added to the standard fees. This change should be opposed unless the new company can guarantee an equivalent capacity some other way.

Dane said the possum belly trailers are going to be removed, and the new owner is bringing in smaller bins. Fees had been raised with the higher service; Dane asks if fees will be lower with less service. John said he talked with Preston who confirmed the possum belly trailers are being removed and fees were increased. John will check on the changes. They claimed the possum belly trailers were not getting filled up. Marylou said local trash production has decreased since 2020. Dane said trash business is picking up again this year. No action taken.

9. Discussion and possible action: Zoom recording. (RVAMAC Meetings) Two issues: 1) audio for those who attend in person is very poor. Lew is the only one who is clearly heard. There should be adequate funds available to obtain microphones for each council member plus one "roving" mic for audience members.

Zoom audio is poor. Whether there is money for mics for each council member and a roving mic for guests is posited. There is also an issue with missing videos on website. Kay said she has been in contact with Charles and it will get fixed. During the meeting, the MAC took a poll and our zoom attendees can hear us fine. Laura needs to speak up. If the FRVPL gets their grant for audio/visual equipment, the MAC can use it for meetings. Kathy tabled this item.

10. Discussion and possible action, Charles has been making sure the recordings are in the correct location on the MAC. Google drive but there is no link for the 2024 recordings on the MAC website. (Charles doesn't have access or he would have taken care of it.)

Kay said she would get in contact with Charles to fix this issue.

11. Old Business:

a. Discussion/Update: Continuing discussion on the possibility of the county creating 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. Whether to request the county to look at Department of Agriculture – Rural Development - Rural Housing Service (Community Facilities) for possible funding. This program awards grants to purchase, construct, or improve essential community facilities, to purchase equipment, and pay other related project expenses. Examples of eligible projects include but are not limited to: medical or dental clinics, healthcare facilities, police or fire departments, and public works vehicles. Community Facilities grants cannot be used to pay initial operating expenses or annual recurring expenses, refinance existing debt, pay interest, build or repair facilities in non-rural areas, or pay for construction costs of facilities that will be used for commercial rental space. Sheriff Kendall reported that there are several houses that could be possibly utilized. He is looking for an agreement with the Forest Service.

Kathy tabled this item.

b. Discussion and possible action: "Transportation planning and data collection"? DOT was supposed to coordinate with County DOT to make sure they had notice enough to get traffic data on Main St. prior to the 162-downtown project. At the last steering committee meeting it was clear that they had not yet made sure to coordinate with DOT and that the Cal Trans project would leave a couple week time frame between stopping construction and installing speed bumps where there would be a return to "normal" traffic on Main St. Unfortunately, they seem to have only had this window of time between the construction barrier removal and the installation of the speed humps for a couple weeks including during the Thanksgiving week. Did DOT receive enough notice and were given enough time to plan accordingly

Dane heard the study was conducted in October, before construction, and again in January. Dane suggests the county do it again in October 2024 for better data. Kathy tabled this item with the plan to start bugging county in summer. No action taken.

c. Discussion and possible action: The parking in front of the library was recently repaved and the lines have not yet been re-stripped. Discussion at the Friends of the Library meeting was to make the parking situation safer for pedestrians who have to walk behind big trucks in the oncoming traffic lane to walk north to reach the library. Additionally, there has been a 2nd crash into the garbage can in front of the library, next to the book drop box, from people pulling in too fast or something. Discussion about changing the parking in that section or having DOT work with the owner of the next parcel to the south to make a safer walking area. This is especially important since the speed humps may result in more people driving south on Main to avoid the 162 speed humps when driving south from Howard by the library.

Parking issues at the library and on Main have been an ongoing problem that needs to be figured out. We are not sure how to go about improvements. Main Street block between Greeley and Howard needs to be redesigned. The RVAMAC should do a group survey response on the Safe Routes to School program. Marylou notes the county has money for this so we need to force the issues with the county. Action item for May agenda to do the survey response. Marylou will put a work group together for the May meeting. Lourance suggests pushing attendance of MCOG and DOT here for meetings. John reminds us he is on the MCOG board and said if we have a plan he can bring it forward to MCOG.

d. Discussion and possible action on maintenance of the sidewalks on the South side of Howard Street from the Library to Foothill Boulevard (schools). (Letter has been sent to Andreas Krause and response received)

e. Discussion and possible action on requesting a polling place in Round Valley for the November 2024 election.

John asked Katrina Bartlomei about a polling place in Covelo. She said it is hard to get people trained. John said if people would step up to get trained it would be more likely to happen. Poll place workers get minimum wage. Where the polling place would be was discussed, and suggestions were the American Legion Hall and Buffalo Room. No action taken.

12. Treasurer's report: balance of \$2,268.10. Two charges paid for Post Office Box and Zoom fees. Dane asks if there is a fee for Earth Day table and Patricia Mera confirms there is no fee.

13. Next Meeting: May 01, 2024. Send agenda items to

admin@mac.roundvalley.org.

14. Adjournment: Kay moved to adjourn at 7:20pm, and the meeting was adjourned without objection.