

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

Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Library Commons 23925 Howard Street, Covelo, CA

Mailing Address: PO Box 372, Covelo, CA 95428 <https://mac.roundvalley.org/>

Minutes

1. Call to Order & Roll call: Marylou Mileck, Dane Downing, Laura Betts and Kay Richards present at 6:03pm; James Russ and Michelle Downey not present. Kathy Britton appeared at 6:12pm.
2. Approval of Agenda: Kay moved and agenda was approved without objection.
3. Approval of May 01, 2024 meeting minutes: Dane moved and minutes were approved without objection.
4. Public Comment & Announcements on non-agenda items.

Pat Sobrero: The Fire Disaster and Preparedness group's Community Foundation grant paid for 346 signs. There is some money left over so more signs can be made. They found a less expensive vendor and fewer people needed posts, so they have more money for signs than they had anticipated. There will be a chipper day in Round Valley on June 18 and residents can sign up on the Mendocino Community Firesafe Council webpage, or stop by the RV library.

Patria Mera: On June 21 the Skatepark Project will have a fundraiser at the park.

5. Reports from County and Tribal officials & Public Comment:
 - a. Tribal Council update: none
 - b. Sheriff Kendall: Capt. Quincy Cromer reported for the Sheriff. Lalo Escareno just finished his training and will be assigned in Willits. More deputies are coming. MCSO is hiring laterals and backgrounds are being checked. The MCSO is directing people to MendoReady.org for information. CHP has been in town for sideshows.
 - c. Supervisor Haschak: There was a BOS meeting this morning – annexation was a topic. CBDG MOU with RVIT is in place and should be moving forward. There was a meeting with Animal Care Services and others. to figure out what can be done about the dogs in Round Valley. There is another meeting next week and John is asking Barb Thrasher and Carlos Rabano to attend. The BOS passed a balanced budget yesterday with one-time money and without too much pain. McCandless (CHP) can now get orders for seizure for side shows now. Laura wants to have Tribal Council attend the animal control meeting, not the TBA (Jim Russ). Patrica Mera asked John about her email 1.5 months ago regarding using Rec Center land for the skate park. John will contact Tim about meeting with the project.
 - d. Mendocino County DOT: Alicia not able to attend.
 - e. Mendocino County Animal Control: none in addition to John Haschak's report.

New Business:

- 6a. Discussion and possible action: Letter of support from RVAMAC in alignment with letter from Round Valley County Water District re: Eel River water diversion.

RVCWD letter presented at the May 1, 2024, meeting is attached. Kay moved to table to July.

- 6b. Discussion and possible action: Letter of support/opposition or resolution from the RVAMAC as to the GRTA Master Plan (Bruce Hilbach).

The Wailaki-Kinest'e Community Coalition requests such with respect to cultural sites including homes and villages, sacred objects, places and sites; and community healing including environmental restoration and historic trauma. A non-specified extension beyond the June 3rd comment deadline has been granted, to allow RVAMAC consideration and final editing of any comments. The GRTA executive director has granted the RVAMAC a limited extension until Monday June 10.

Bruce Hilbach has drafted the attached Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) comment. The initial comment period for the Environmental Review process opened the day of the last RVAMAC meeting and closed on May 31. The scoping meeting and materials were made available on May 15. The scope of the environmental review process has a major impact on the results of the process. The short time frame did not allow full consideration by the RVAMAC.

Kay will use BH's (Bruce Hilbach) language (emailed to the MAC on 6/5/24) to put into letter format for discussion and approval at July meeting. BH asked for an extension for the RVAMAC to comment because the short period of time did not allow boards to meet. the submitted comment is due by 6/10. Long distance reroutes are possible. Feds say the trail must have a public purpose and cannot damage the railroad – other than that the GRTA has great latitude to change its plans. The GRTA has not looked at reroutes. BH wants them to at least look at reroute options.

Motion by ____ to approve Item 6b language, and letter in conformance with 6b was approved without objection. Kay is to prepare and send letter on RVAMAC letterhead by 6/10 to the GRTA.

Lew suggested sending the letter also to the Anderson Valley Advertiser, UDJ, NYTimes to get some traction. BH requested that it be put in public comment for PEIR. John was not aware that any major reroutes were discussed. BH said there are reroutes to surface roads already considered where there were major geologic or infrastructure problems. Laura asked why negotiate with only Kinest'e when they are not recognized and there are other tribe in this area; she wants to change to all tribes, not just Kinest'e, to support all tribes.

Bruce Hilbach emailed a proposed comment letter to RVAMAC today and agrees all tribes, not just Kinest'e, should be identified. The proposed letter will be presented at the July 3 meeting. BH will email Kay by the Sunday before the July meeting so that Kay can put it in final form for approval at the July 3 meeting.

6. Old Business:

7a. 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.

Tabled to July 3. John said Kelly Hansen is continually monitoring for grant money for this project.

7b. Discussion and possible action ongoing problems in the community as to uncontained dogs, dogs that have been abandoned (dumped), dogs killing other dogs and creating a nuisance and potential safety issue. (Continued from March, April and May agendas).

Tabled to July 3. John will update us at the July 3 meeting. Dane saw two dogs jump over a fence in town and attack a dog on a leash - contained but not secured.

7c. Discussion and possible action: Safe Routes to School program.

The RVAMAC was to produce a survey - whoever responds gets to say what we do. Email the survey; post fliers around town - report out. The RVAMAC knows Main and Howard are problem areas. Alicia Winokur of MDoT said speak to the issues on Main Street - she knows the problem is there but not clear on what the problem is. Has anyone drafted a survey, posted fliers, done any outreach? (continued from May meeting)

Mary Lou sent out a lot of emails and Facebook blasts for the survey. Lew said MDoT is doing another traffic study on Howard and Main. Table to July 3 for report from Alicia at MDoT. Bruce Hilbach said MDoT is looking at redoing the intersection of Howard and Airport.

7d. Discussion and possible action: polling place in Round Valley for November election.

From the May meeting: Katrina B. said the problem is she needs trained people; if people would consider getting trained, probably at least 4, maybe 6. John will ask Katrina how many are needed. Lourance knows people who are interested but they need particulars on what is needed. John will get more information if anyone seems to be interested. What do we need? a polling place, or trained people to provide alternate ballots? Has anyone stepped forward to show interest? (continued from May meeting)

John: There is nothing new. We need to find people willing to man the polling station. Dane asks what to do once we find people who are interested. John said contact John H or Katrina B. The ballot vendor who screwed up the last ballots has been decertified by the state. We should put this out on RV Facebook pages to see if anyone is interested. There was a concern as to where and how long training would be. Dane notes candidates for the November election might find it difficult to go to Ukiah to get on the ballot. Katrina had already said No to having someone coming to Round Valley for this purpose.

8. Treasurer's report: no changes from last month. no new invoices. Need to submit anything now or the money goes back to the county.

9. Next Meeting: July 3, 2024. Send agenda items to admin@mac.roundvalley.org.

10. Adjournment: 7:24pm