

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

Wednesday, May 01, 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: Kay Richards, Kathy Britton, Dane Downing, Marylou Mileck, Laura Betts present at 6:07pm; James Russ, Michelle Downey and Charles Sargenti absent.
2. Approval of Agenda: Kay moves to approve agenda; approved with no objections.
3. Approval of April 03, 2024 meeting minutes: Kay moves to approve minutes; Laura notes that the correct title is Tribal President and “Bill Whipple” should be “Lewis Whipple”; minutes approved with amendments and without further objection.
4. Public Comment & Announcements on non-agenda items/Comentarios públicos y anuncios sobre temas que no están en la agenda.

Reminder of the Survey for Safe Routes to School

Mendocino County is seeking board members for Homeless Services Continuum of Care

Pat Sobrero: Street Project movie on May 10th at Library; she will put out fliers.

Lew Chichester: MDoT has applied for the money but more people need to say we need it so fill out the survey. Pat Sobrero wrote a letter to remember the Charter School and Library in their planning and to consult their other report and implement those plans.

5. Report from County and Tribal officials & Public Comment/Informe de funcionarios tribales y del condado y comentarios públicos
 - a. Tribal Council update: none. Laura reported as Tribal Housing Chair said they hired 3 personnel who are patrolling tribal housing from 4pm to 7am. They can observe and report but take no action.
 - b. Sheriff Kendall: there has been an uptick in service calls; this month up to 129 incidents in Covelo including civil work; calls for service were 32: welfare to fraud, citizen assist, domestic, disturbances, 2 burglaries. MCSO has 5 in academies who are graduating soon. 6 more are going to the academies. CalFire will start to require burn permits soon; get the vegetation burning done soon. Wet winter is increasing the fuel load. Dane asks if there is a plan to address larger non permitted grows this year. Sheriff said MCSO is working with Fish & Wildlife and Humboldt sheriff for the larger grows in both counties. Nickole Whipple asks about cross-deputization bill - Sheriff said that is the AB 2138 by James Ramos and is a pilot project with 3 nations for 2 years. Sheriff is 100% in favor of it. AB 2138 will make reservations a municipality that can have a police department. MCSO will be offering testimony when hearings are held in Sacramento. RVIT is not one of the 3 nations – those are Hoopa, Blue Lake, and one in San Bernadino County.
 - c. Supervisor Haschak: Earth Day was a great event. He has talked with CEO about dogs and is trying to meet with tribal leaders, Rich Molinaro and RV community in RV. County budget is a terrible mess, and the county is making cuts as far away from people as possible but it will be difficult. He doesn't want to jeopardize sheriff staffing improvements.
 - d. Mendocino County DOT: none
 - e. Mendocino County Animal Control –Rich Molinari : report by John Haschak

6. New Business/neuvo negocio:

a. Discussion and possible action: RVAMAC support for Round Valley County Water District's position re: Eel River water diversion.

Bruce Hilbach said there is no open comment period right now so he asks that the MAC put it back on the agenda for next month and attach this letter to the agenda and email so people read it. Bruce Hilbach wants support for the tribal resolution and the removal of the dams. Diversion is for power production. He wants to make the Eel River whole again. Sonoma County is wasting their runoff and not taking care of their watershed. If Sonoma's water is taken away they will have to learn how to budget their own water. Bruce reads the RVCWD letter that was not part of today's agenda. Bruce would like to get a letter of support from the RVAMAC. Lew suggested a resolution. Kathy asks Bruce to provide a draft resolution and provide it for the next meeting.

b. Discussion and possible action: Michelle Merrifield to present information for the community on the Great Redwood Trail Project. Also to present and discuss the concerns of others in the Kinest'e Community Coalition and the Wailaki community about the proposed Great Redwood Trail.

Michelle: The trail is from Longvale through the Eel River canyon past North Fork area. People are concerned about being open to public walk-through on personal property and old railroad tracks. She asks why wasn't the railroad track cleaned up before trying any projects and where is the trail going through. This project is detrimental to wildlife, rivers and aqua life. She is wanting letters to Sen McGuire, Newsom, Deb Halland. People were aware of this in 1998 but it is now just surfacing and they are going ahead without taking into account feelings of tribal members. The GRTA thinks people are going to come to hike, etc. A survey went out that was geared toward "yes" answers, allowing nothing where you could say you do not agree with the idea. Michelle said "no, I don't agree". Michelle has ancestral roots all over this area and this is personal to her that people will just walk through without protection of ancestral sites. The GRTA should be concerned about wildlife, people's safety, cartels growing weed, Murder Mountain. The GRTA is taking \$75M with no information about where that is coming from (how it is funded). She is concerned about increase in prices caused by increased traffic. There is another 600 mile trail in the Sierra Butte area - will the two trails connect? Michelle has a petition to object to the trail, to offer other options. Can it be rerouted, such as Highway 1?

Nickole Whipple: She also works with Michelle and Perry Lincoln on policy work and is asking the RVAMAC for support for opposition to the trail. Today the ask is that the RVAMAC support either by letter, or attending the community events and provide public comment about protecting salmon, supporting tribes, and are very much against river diversions. The state and BOS want to put in a tourist area and exploiting tribal areas while agencies are trying to restore fisheries. They do not want their sites exploited but want public comment to reroute the trail away from the Eel River.

John Haschak: He is on the board of the GRTA and has heard these concerns. The master plan just came out and is available for public comment. The environmental degradation from the railroad is immense and will require clean up for a walking trail. The public can comment on the master plan: GreatRedwoodMasterPlan.org.

Nickole: McGuire's office person Jason Lyle said a while back that the plan was in draft, and there was intentional verbage to allow for rerouting. She asks what changed? The GRTA did not consult with tribes, so how does John plan to mitigate that? John said the trail board will make

ample consultation with the tribes - there are attempts to do that outreach. Lyle was referring to rerouting around landslides along the canyon and collapsed tunnels, not rerouting the entire trail. He doesn't see the rerouting away from the Eel River Canyon happening. Nickole asks how will the trail be safe and kept from eroding into the river; that this is not realistic.

Lourance Hall: what is the plan for emergencies? There is no cell service, etc. John said the master plan does take safety/emergencies into consideration.

Lew Chichester: if people stayed up to date about what is happening in the community meetings in several areas, they will see everyone has the same concerns, same questions. There were answers to these each concern. The concerns that have not been addressed are the ones that Nickole identified, such as tribal concerns of heritage/sovereignty/cultural concerns. This will be a rustic, not well-maintained trail.

John: agreed with Lew.

Bruce Hilbach.: He agreed that most concerns have been addressed. At the Alder Point meeting it seemed the trail will accommodate property owners but the project needs to address sacred site concerns. Railroad construction disregarded sacred sites, a community has expressed concerns and the trail has not addressed the trail coming in. Lew suggests the RVAMAC support the idea that these concerns need to be looked at.

Lourance: tribes and emergency services need to be consulted or it is going to be a disaster. Will there be cultural monitors? John said that is part of the plan.

Nickole: what agency is controlling this project? John: the Great Redwood Trail is a state agency. Nickole said that is where the confusion is - they are federal sovereign nation; John will be taking these concerns to the board. Kathy puts this on the next month agenda and the RVAMAC will work on a letter of support and expressing concerns.

7. Old Business/viejos asuntos:

- 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 the 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.

Tabled to next month.

- b. The RVAMAC should do a group survey response on the Safe Routes to School program. Status of work group together for the May meeting (Marylou).

Make Main a one-way street for a couple of blocks south off of Howard? Julie Peterson said we need a coherent idea of what the community wants; Alicia Winokur said out down what the issues/problems are (traffic, late night high speeds, etc.) and what the proposed solutions are/"what matters' affecting ability to drive and walk - try to sort it all out over time. Julia said there is state money to supplement county budgets; Alicia said you can then go to the state. There are other unincorporated towns that have gotten state money - Julia has worked on those projects. Produce a survey - whoever responds gets to say what we do. Email survey; post fliers around town - report out. We know Main and Howard are problem areas. Alicia said speak to the issues on Main Street - she knows the problem is there but not clear on what the problem is.

Table to next meeting for report.

- c. Discussion and possible action: 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. (Continued from March and April agendas)
Covered by John's report; leave on agenda until problem is taken care of.
- d. 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. Supervisor Haschak will look into this issue.

Email update(from Charles Sargenti): For now, they have decided to keep the possum belly. However, they have reduced the hours by 30 minutes due to a requirement that Preston take a lunch break. Also he doesn't have a set time to close for lunch. He takes the break anytime between noon and two, which means, if you show up when he's just started the break, you'll have to wait half an hour. Since public access has been reduced by half an hour they should either open earlier or close it later and the lunch break should be a set time and posted so people know when not to try to go to the dump

John: looking at more efficiency, adding another possum belly; Kathy said Preston said it looks like the company is leaving it at status quo. take off the agenda until something comes up.

- e. Discussion and possible action on maintenance of the sidewalks on the South side of Howard Street from the Library to Foothill Boulevard (schools).
covered by safe routes to school discussion. encourage people to take the survey.
- f. Discussion and possible action on requesting an in-person polling place in Round Valley for the November 2024 election.
John: Katrina 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?

Tabled to next meeting.

8. Treasurer's report/informed del tesorero: no change from previous meeting; \$2,268.10 balance.
9. Next Meeting/ Próxima reunión : June 05, 2024. Send agenda items to admin@mac.roundvalley.org.
05 de junio de 2024. Enviar puntos de la agenda a admin@mac.roundvalley.org
10. Adjournment/aplazamiento 7:35pm