

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

Wednesday, August 7, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Library Commons 23925 Howard Street, Covelo, CA

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## Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order & Roll call at 6:05pm: Kathy Britton, Marylou Mileck, Dane Downing, Kay Richards present; James Russ, Michelle Downey and Laura Betts absent.
2. Approval of Agenda: Approved without objections.
3. Approval of July 3, 2024 meeting minutes: Approved without objections.
4. Public Comment & Announcements on non-agenda items.

Dwight Stillwell asked how to get tribal representatives to show up. He offered to talk to the Tribal Council to see if anyone can take Jim Russ or Michelle Downey's places. Dwight Stillwell reported receiving a letter of support from RVIT for his group's GRTA comments. He requested that their GRT vision statement dated July 6, 2024, be put on the agenda for September for a letter of support from RVAMAC. Kathy B. instructed Kay R. to draft a letter of support.

Robbie Wyre reported there was water testing money through RVCWD available but it can't be spent until the first part of the work of water quantity testing is done. Dane D. explained that 12 wells are funded for drilling but on public land because private landowners sell, move, lock their gates or otherwise drop out of the project. RVCWD is not sure how much money is needed for costs. They will be able to test quality for lower and upper aquifers on the same well. There are reverse osmosis systems available at Amazon for \$439 and an ad should be posted on the RVAMAC website. The system removes PFAs, arsenic, chromium, etc. Finding grant money to give away systems would be helpful and Robbie has found a possible source, possibly partnering with RVIT with Julia Russ as the contact. The source is Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program. Robbie plans to check with Elvis Johns Sr. who is the new water manager for RVIT.

New County road signs were stolen right after they were put up. John H. noted the Bloody Run Creek sign was put up with special hardware and hasn't been harassed.

### 5. Report from County and Tribal officials & Public Comment:

a. Tribal Council update: none.

b. Sheriff Kendall: (Lt. Dustin Lorenzo appeared for him). Sheriff Kendall was in Sacramento for a Prop 36 meeting. 2 deputies are leaving MCSO and there are 8 in the academy right now. Our area can expect response delays because of 162 work. MCSO is advised that paving will take 3 years. Currently the "bad spots" are targeted; then they will tear out others; then chip seal. Dwight Stillwell asked about the recent busts; nothing served in the hills, why just the valley? Lt. Lorenzo reported 21 warrants were served last week and listed out the various LE agencies taking part. This coalition is working in 3 counties and are serving warrants in each of the counties involved. Locations are selected based upon complaints; then the most egregious environmental

violators are targeted first. Very toxic pesticides are being found in some grows. Kathy B. asked if those grows were going to be prosecuted. Proving who is running the grows is difficult. LE is finding chemicals from third world countries. Kim Stillwell asked about Tribal Police boundaries and what tribal officers are allowed to do because she cannot get a response from the RVIT. Lt. Lorenzo said they can enforce tribal laws on tribal members on tribal land. Tribal police can also make citizen arrests and call MCSO.

Pat Sobrero asks what police presence is in the valley, and how often. Lt. Lorenzo reported 2 deputies work everyday in northern Mendocino County from top of Ridgewood to the county line, covering 1800 square miles. Covelo is covered 70% of the time by both deputies, either on the phone or in the valley.

There will be a regular MCSO community meeting in Covelo on August 21.

c. Supervisor Haschak: The Round Valley Skatepark was on the Board of Supervisor's agenda; they approved the GSA to look into the possibility of selling or transferring land near the airport. John H. contacted Tim Hallman Friday who had no update, but confirmed GSA is looking at all possibilities. Ken Stanley, director of road maintenance, said missing street names in Covelo have been brought up, including replacing them with tamper proof hardware. Signs were stolen within a day. They were broken off and the hardware was not disturbed. \$300 is the total cost for the signs. John H. talked with Lt Commander with CHP who has been actively sending groups of two officers a couple of times a week. They will also be at the Blackberry Festival and Keiths providing information about safe driving and employment with CHP. CHP is using grant money for increased coverage. If RVAMAC will have a table at the Blackberry Festival, he can give us evacuation signs. The Prescribed Burn table can pass them out.

d. Mendocino County DOT: none.

e. RVCWD: none

## 6. New Business:

6a. Discussion and possible action on the possibility of scheduling a community dump day. Kay R. read the email from Julia Peterson at CalTrans. Kathy B. suggested contacting the current trash company to see if they would do a free day. The trash company has signed up for an information table at the Blackberry Festival. Maybe ask for a quarterly CRV day at the dump? Maybe a letter to McGuire about taking CRV here and not providing a redemption place. Put on the agenda for September. John H. said there are programs for mattresses and tire disposal grants. Bags of human waste and grow bags are now appearing on the sides of roads. Dwight Stillwell asked why busted grows are not cleaned up and it was suggested to ask LE about this.

6b. Discussion and possible action to support email to CalTrans requesting the replacement of missing road/street signage from the Fire and Disaster Preparedness Working Group. Action is to hold off to find out if these are the county signs. Pat asks that the letter be approved to be sent out after clarification. Dane moved to approve the letter and it passed without objection.

6c. Discussion and possible action regarding the ongoing fireworks in town (Covelo). Reportedly this is happening frequently in the area of the trailer park on Howard Street and the vicinity of the Covelo Cave/RVIT Health and safety complex. Residents are concerned about the danger of fire and it is disturbing the peace. Calls to dispatch are logged, but since it happens in the middle of the night, deputies are often not in the area.

Kathy related calls have been made, but told no one can respond. Tribal police know who they are and suggest MCSO talk with them.

Lt. Lorenzo reported that if deputies are in the valley they would respond. If deputies are in Piercy, etc., and come to Covelo it's difficult to investigate. The dispatchers know whether calls can be covered.

## 7. Old Business:

7a. Discussion and possible action: issue RVAMAC comments in alignment with letter from Round Valley County Water District re: Eel River water diversion. Attachments 7a. (tabled on June 5, 2024 and July 3, 2024): put RVCWD letter on MAC letterhead and bring it to the next meeting.

7b. Discussion and possible action: 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 September.

7c. 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. John talked about meetings that occurred with animal control, RVIT, county CEO, deputy CEO, etc. Without tribal agreement to adopt county ordinance, nothing will probably improve. Will keep this on the agenda. John reported; nothing new. Tabled to September.

7d. Discussion and possible action: Safe Routes to School program. Table to September - Kay will contact Andreas Krause again.

7e. Discussion and possible action: requesting an in-person polling place in Round Valley for the November 2024 election. Kay reported Katrina Bartolomie said because we did not have a polling place here this year for the primary, we cannot have a policy place for the general election. Our polling place will need 4 people at all times. This item was tabled for a year and a half, to be on the agenda prior to the 2026 election primary.

8. Treasurer's report : balance is \$2,500.

9. Next Meeting: September 4, 2024. Send agenda items to [admin@mac.roundvalley.org](mailto:admin@mac.roundvalley.org).

10. Adjournment