

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

Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Library Commons 23925 Howard Street, Covelo, CA

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To join Zoom meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/2324039636> Meeting ID: 232 403 9636 Call In: +1 669 900 6833 For those who are not able to attend by phone or video, you may make public comment at the Library Commons. Public comment is available for all items on the agenda.

Minutes

1. Call to Order & Roll call 6:03pm; Marylou Mileck, Dane Downing, Kay Richards and Kathy Britton present; Laura Betts, James Russ, Michelle Downey and Charles Sargenti absent.
2. Dane D. moved to approve the agenda which was approved without objections. It was noted that physical copies of the agenda would be helpful at the meeting.
3. Approval of August 7, 2024 meeting minutes: Marylou M. moved to approve the minutes which were approved without objections.
4. Public Comment & Announcements on non-agenda items.

Rio Cardone commented on nothing being done about unregulated grows but he is struggling with permitting. Sheriff Kendall responded as to what LE goes after, and code enforcement deals with everything else. Rio C. reports he is held accountable to a standard while unregulated grows are allowed to break the same law controlling him. Rio C. wants legal grows to be rewarded and all grows held to the same standard. Sheriff Kendall responded he does not know what triggers code enforcement, but knows what triggers him. John H. was here recently looking at grows and let Code Enforcement know what he saw, but they were already aware of some of the situations. Rio C. asked John H. if there is an abatement program and said the recent busts are up and running again already.

Kim Stillwell asked why greenhouses aren't torn down and grows cleaned up after busts. Sheriff Kendall responded that our environmental issues are falling on deaf ears. Short Creek has turned into a dump - Rio Cardone saw it today and commented that our situation would not be allowed in Willits or Ukiah. The only way to combat this high fine. Sheriff Kendall reported that the Dept. of Cannabis Control decides who to control, and legal growers should stand up and complain that LE is not allowed to bust illegal grows. Bruce Hilbach-Barger asked if anyone is putting pressure on the state toward the abatement program, and Sheriff Kendall responded that he is. John H. said he talks with the state all the time about this but that it is complaint-driven code enforcement. People need to complain so there is pressure on Code Enforcement. Sheriff Kendall believes the CA Attorney General does listen to sheriffs. Cannabis Control (47 officers in 58 counties and only working in cities) does not listen to sheriffs. Nothing is being done at the state level. There

is no reason to be in the legal market if the illegal market is uncontrolled. There are state and county abatement programs. LE takes bigger grows; Code Enforcement should take the rest. Citations issued; growers (from Chile, Mexico and Honduras for the most part) just move to other spots.

A possible agenda item For October: letter on behalf of legal growers as to lopsided enforcement of laws. Rio C. offered to assist in drafting the letter.

John H. says he can take a RVAMAC letter to the BOS on this issue.

Pat Sobrero asks if complaints for code enforcement are dangerous. Sheriff Kendall responded that this is why overflights are preferred.

Anna Mackin from Economic Development for the county has found an EPA fund opportunity for planning around recreation economy, conservation and sustainability. Her team is looking at Round Valley area to see if there is interest to figure out recreation ideas. Lourance Hall noted that envisioning workshops with Hana overlaps with this idea. Anna M. and Lourance H. are connecting. Kay R. to post contact information.

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

a. Tribal Council update : none

b. Sheriff Kendall reported the RVA last month had 107 incidents including service calls and arrests; Laytonville to Garberville only 58; includes 18 search warrants served last month with 11 arrests. Lt. Lorenzo reported on the school lockdown; it was a miscommunication and done out of an abundance of caution by the new superintendent. MCSO did not feel it was a real situation; the superintendent heard the information and made the decision. MCSO put out the information received but did not tell the school to lockdown. Kim S. stated Tribal Police ordered the lockdown the second time regarding the man in the trailer park. Lt. Lorenzo has had several meetings with the new superintendent. Stephanie Steffano-Davis noted work is needed on their internal processes. Kim S. noted they had a lack of information as to what was going on while it was going on. They had to lock down due to that.

Supt. Davis reported that the decision is the school's whether to shut down.

Marylou M. asked about communication between MCSO and tribal police in incidents. Tribal Police listens to MCSO radio and backs them on calls. MCSO cannot direct Tribal Police. Jordan Walstrom, acting chief of Tribal Police, reported they are a department of 2; he takes 3 days off every 2 weeks. They get 30-50 calls per week on their own; and they assist other LEs on other calls. If there is a serious situation, MCSO calls on all other LE available in the area. No Nixle was issued because there was no credible information that a dangerous person was walking around.

Dane asks about noise issues because he was told there is no noise control ordinance. Sheriff Kendall confirmed there is no county ordinance for noise. Sup. McGourty and the county are working on a county ordinance for the BOS with fines.

c. Supervisor Haschak commented on recent events. GRTA has looked at the letters; they are meeting Friday with the Hopland tribe and have another meeting next Thursday. They are trying to get individual

meetings with all tribes along the proposed trail to work together on a plan that is good for everyone. Mental health wing of the jail is ongoing. Measure B facility broke ground. 5150s will be eligible for that facility. Bids are much lower than expected and had another \$9M grant, costing the county a lot less (about \$4M). He has on the next Tuesday BOS meeting agenda item for cannabis density issues - please give him feedback. He is also working on campaign contribution limit changes and carbon reduction projects such as solar panels and changes to improve the BOS activity.

d. Mendocino County DOT : none.

e. RVIT Tribal Police : see above comments. ACP Walstrom is also an EMT and has provided these services. Tribal Police respond to all calls River to River. They can detain for state crimes for MCSO if they witness it. ACP Walstrom is using available tactics for side shows, reckless driving, etc. He provides evidence to CHP who prepares the reports and can issue the warrants.

6. New Business:

6a. Letter of support in alignment with Vision Statement for Great Redwood Trail Access - Dos Rios to Alder Point, submitted by (Vincent Brown, Dwight Stillwell and Roy Pina): Marylou M. moved to approve the letter which was approved without objections. RVAMAC agrees that only council members present when correspondence is approved will be the signers on RVAMAC correspondence.

6b. Discussion and possible action regarding recent RVUSD lockdowns and lack of Nixle report to community at large of ongoing law enforcement activity in Covelo, the RVAMAC will request law enforcement to explain the events and the protocol for notifying the community by Nixle or otherwise: see above notes. No action taken.

6c Discussion and possible action: how to achieve noise control abatement without county noise ordinance. Table to October.

6d. Discussion and possible action: letter of support for Covelo Fire Hydrant project. CCSD is ready to be the sub-applicant for funding for this phase of the project. Lew Chichester explained the process. Approval of a letter of support is requested for the October agenda. Dane D. must recuse from the vote due to his being a CCSD employee. The RVAMAC will need 4 council members not including Dane D. at the next meeting to approve any letter.

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, attached - 7a. approval of letter (draft). Marylou M. moved to approve the letter which was approved without objections. Dane D. is to give Kay R. addressees for the letter.

Marylou moved to table the next three items to October. No objections were made.

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 October.

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. Tabled to October.

7d. Discussion and possible action: Safe Routes to School program. (Tabled for letter from Andreas)
Tabled to October.

8. Treasurer's report : no report; tabled to October.

9. Next Meeting: October 2, 2024. Send agenda items to admin@mac.roundvalley.org.

0. Adjournment: Kay R. moved to adjourn at 8:06pm which was approved without objections.