

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

Wednesday, October 02, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Library Commons 23925 Howard Street, Covelo, CA

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

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 : Kathy Britton, Marylou Mileck, Kay Richards and Laura Betts present at 6:06pm; Dane Downing, James Russ, Michelle Downey and Charles Sargenti not present
2. Marylou M. moved to approve agenda; approved without objections.
3. Kay R. moved to approve September 04, 2024 meeting minutes; approved without objections.
4. Public Comment & Announcements on non-agenda items.

4a. The Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) is in the beginning stages of community outreach for the 2026 Regional Transportation/Active Transportation Plan. We plan to attend various County events and MAC meetings throughout the next few months to encourage community input on this plan, and invite people to MCOG's website where they can take a survey and add comments on an interactive map. _The survey is available now, and the mapping tool will be posted soon.

<https://www.mendocinocog.org/2026-regional-transportation-active-transportation-plan>

MCOG will be scheduled on the November Round Valley MAC agenda to give a brief report (via Zoom) on this project. Please visit the above link to participate in the survey.

4b. The Mendocino County Behavioral Health Advisory Board has a vacant position in District 3. For more information please email: bhboard@mendocinocounty.org. An application link is available on the County of Mendocino Behavioral Health Board web page. They look at all possible services in behavioral health, evaluate them and try to provide them.

4c. Patricia Mera has created an online auction starting on 10/1 "Create the Skate Art Exhibit" fundraiser, and also looking for donations to pay for bands to play at a free concert on November 2. She has asked the RVIT also.

4d. Covelo Candidates Forum on 10/8/24 at Library Commons.

4e. Bruce Hilbach-Barger announced an upcoming meeting with the Upper Eel River Watershed group facilitated by CA Wilderness Coalition at request of Mike Thompson. The meeting is to be here early next week, possibly Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, to discuss the future, if Pillsbury dams are removed, for those affected by this possibility. Bruce H-B. to send information to RVAMAC admin and Kay R. will email it out to the Friends of the MAC list.

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

a. Tribal Council update : none

b. Sheriff Kendall : Lt. Lorenzo appeared for the Sheriff. The MCSO had a good week. MCSO swore in new employees: 2 new deputies; stole a police officer from Lake County; hired a Lassen County sheriff deputy on lateral; and swore in a new community service officer. 2 more deputies are scheduled on 10/16/24 to be sworn in. A MCSO deputy who left for AZ returned and is being rehired. MCSO stole another police officer from Clearlake; another CSO from Ukiah will be sworn in. Mexican Independence Day had a strong LE showing two weeks ago – the day was uneventful. Last week MCSO served 16 warrants in Round Valley and one in the MNF. Over 30K plants and over 23K pounds of processed marijuana were seized along with 6 firearms and cash. Northern Mendocino County had 521 calls for service: 298 from Willits; 78 from Laytonville; 145 from Round Valley – 19 of which resulted in reports, mostly warrants. These include thefts and vandalism.

Lew Chichester reported people in the valley complaining to him that they were busted but “next door was not”, so why not all of them? The appearance is that big commercial grows are not raided, but someone with 25 plants, kids in the yard, basically were invaded by big armed guys. They think MCSO not raiding tribal properties, but only privately owned. It appears that some grows are exempt, which is not a good look for MCSO. Lt. Lorenzo reported that MCSO is not serving warrants on tribal land right now due to the threats by the tribal attorney to being litigation. These threats have been referred to county counsel, and while MCSO waits for guidance, to avoid litigation, MCSO is not enforcing laws on tribal land. Laura B. said the tribe is handling it on certain land, but not on all. Lourance suggests the RVIT could change the perception by informing us as to what the RVIT is doing. Lt. Lorenzo reported that environmental crimes are driving search warrants now. Report to F&G or MCSO and they can forward appropriately. Raids have resulted from human waste dumps.

c. Supervisor Haschak : McGourty brought up a noise ordinance and the BOS decided to work on it, directing county counsel to come up with ordinance language. John H. reminded us of Anna Macken's recreational grant which includes also revitalizing downtowns. The BOS is looking at campaign contribution limits – the county defaults to state law but is now looking at limiting more for individual contributions. As for the cannabis density issue – 2 permits per parcel – the BOS voted to return to the previous limits. John H. and Chris Rogers are having a campaign open house on this Sunday at Lumberjacks in Willits. John H. was at the Heath Center Fair here. John H. will reach out to Tim Pullman as to the status of turning over Rec Center land for construction of the Round Valley Skatepark.

d. Mendocino County DOT: not planned.

e. MCOG: should be here in November.

6. New Business:

6a Lourance Hall requested a letter of support for the Recreational Tech position in the Mendocino National Forest.

Jared Prado – rec tech in the MNF, appeared and asked for support to increase pay rates and add another rec tech on a 5/6/7 pay scale; he says he can't run a chain saw alone! They are wanting interns from the high school also and volunteers. Grow sites are coming back in the forest. He will be doing a full presentation of status and needs for the MNF next week in Willows. Lourance read and emailed a draft letter during the meeting. Kay R. moved to approve the letter; approved without objections. The letter was finalized and emailed to Lourance and Jared during the meeting.

6b. Discussion and possible action regarding the issue of "gangs" in Round Valley and spraying/graffiti signs on buildings in town was requested by Michelle Merrifield. Also, the monument at Inspiration Point was spray painted with “gang signs”. They used a light blue color and wrote all over the cement parts of the monument. This is vandalism to a California State monument alongside Hwy 162, which has been reported to both MCSO and Tribal Police.

The RVAMAC suggested bringing this issue to MCSO meeting this month. A game camera was also suggested for Inspiration Point. It is unknown if these are “gang” tags or others.

7. Old Business:

7a. County noise ordinance: John H reported on this above. Tabled to November.

7b. Lew Chichester requested a letter of support for Covelo Fire Hydrant project in September. Draft letter to be submitted. Tabled to November.

7c. Rio Cardone requested a letter to the BOS on behalf of legal growers as to lopsided enforcement of County cannabis laws. Draft letter to be submitted. Supervisor Haschak said he can take a RVAMAC letter to the BOS on this issue. Tabled to November.

7d. The creation of 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 was requested by the RVAMAC. Tabled to November.

7e. The RVA has 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 November.

7f. Safe Routes to School program. (Tabled for letter from Andreas, Krause for updates if any). Tabled to November.

8. Treasurer’s report : none as Dane D. was absent.

9. Next Meeting: November 6, 2024. Send agenda items to admin@mac.roundvalley.org.

10. Adjournment 7:05pm