

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Approved MINUTES

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

Town Hall, 363 N. Main St., Fort Bragg, (Highway 1 and Laurel St.)

ADDITIONAL MEDIA:

<https://city.fortbragg.com/578/Community-Meetings>

The Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) meets as the Board of Directors of:
Mendocino Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) and
Mendocino County Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE)

1. Call to Order / Roll Call. The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. with Directors Rex Jackman, (Caltrans/PAC), Larry Stranske, Richey Wasserman, Michael Cimolino, Michael Carter/Alt., and Chair Gjerde, presiding. Directors Susan Ranochak and Steve Scalmanini were excused.

Staff present: Phil Dow, Executive Director; Janet Orth, Deputy Director/CFO; Loretta Ellard, Deputy Planner; James Sookne, Regional Project Manager, and Marta Ford, Administrative Assistant.

Presenter: Tom Varga, City of Fort Bragg Public Works Director

2. Convene as RTPA – Transportation Tour. Chair Gjerde allowed for public expression prior to the tour and announced there would be opportunity for public expression after the tour as well, per the agenda. The group then boarded the MTA trolley for the scheduled tour, which included the following itinerary:

- EV charging station sites at City Hall
- MTA’s Diana Stuart transit center
- Coastal Trail – north trailhead at Glass Beach
- Pudding Creek Trestle and start of Haul Road
- Main Street sidewalk projects adjacent to Noyo Bridge
- North Harbor Drive and Noyo Harbor Access Plan
- Coastal Trail – south trailhead west of Cypress Street
- Chestnut Street Corridor / Safe Routes to School
- Green Alleys – innovative storm water treatment
- Coastal Trail – central access, west of Town Hall

3. Recess as RTPA – Lunch – Reconvene as Policy Advisory Committee.

4. Public Expression. Mr. Dusty Dillion, Noyo Harbor Commissioner, commented, “Keep up the good work!”

5. Regular Calendar: Discussion of Fort Bragg Area Tour, Transportation Plans and Projects, and Related Material. Tom Varga summarized the tour stating the group saw two to three years of transportation projects which was a good reflection of completed accomplishments for Fort Bragg. Other projects that are planned, such as the Coastal Trails, will continue until complete. Comments from the board included:

- Director Cimolino felt the tour showcased a lot of work that was done in the area;
- Director Stranske thought the tour was “really interesting, especial the pavers” in the Green Alleys, and appreciated Mr. Varga providing additional information. He was impressed with the work that has been achieved, considering the amount of “red tape” that can prolong projects;
- Director Jackman thanked Mr. Varga and felt the tour was educational and impressive; he finds breaks from the routine meetings to be valuable;
- Chair Gjerde agreed with Director Jackman and added it is nice to do one or two tours per year to see the projects that are discussed at the board meetings.

Executive Director Dow thanked Mr. Varga for narrating the tour; Mr. Varga brought more local experience to the tour. Mr. Dow then reported on Transportation Funding; see agenda item 10d.1.

6 - 8. Consent Calendar: Upon motion by Stranske, second by Carter, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (6 Ayes –Jackman/PAC, Stranske, Wasserman, Cimolino, Carter/Alt., Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 2 Absent – Ranochak, Scalmanini): IT IS ORDERED that consent items are approved:

6. Approval of March 6, 2017 Minutes – *as written*

7. Approval of February 21, 2017 Executive Committee Minutes – *as written*

8. Acceptance of Triennial Performance Audit of Mendocino Transit Authority. - *Overall, MTA received a favorable audit.*

9. Recess as Policy Advisory Committee – Reconvene as RTPA – Ratify Action of Policy Advisory Committee. Upon motion by Carter, second by Cimolino, and carried unanimously (5 Ayes – Stranske, Wasserman, Cimolino, Carter/Alt., and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 2 Absent – Ranochak, Scalmanini): IT IS ORDERED the actions taken by the Policy Advisory Committee are ratified by the MCOG Board of Directors.

10. Reports - Information

- a. Mendocino Transit Authority. Chair Gjerde reported that MTA has a company selling advertising on the buses; they have had success in the short time it has been in process. Revenue generated by the advertising assists with the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) that MTA included in the new three-year contract with their employees.
- b. North Coast Railroad Authority. Ms. Ellard reported that NCRA continues to work on obtaining permits for the Ukiah Depot property; there have been delays from State and Federal agencies. NCRA is working with the City of Ukiah to extend Clay Street and recently received clear title on Mason Street that allows them to make decisions to sell or lease the property if it is in excess to the railroad’s needs. The next NCRA meeting agenda includes the future of surplus property near the Cloverdale Depot and their audit of the last fiscal year to be reviewed for approval.
- c. MCOG Staff - Summary of Meetings. Mr. Dow had nothing specific to speak on.
- d. MCOG Administration Staff.
 1. *Transportation Funding.* Mr. Dow reported the funding situation improved over this last week or so, with the passage of Senate Bill 1. There are no details available at this time about the actual amount of funding in the bill. He suspects the amounts should put the Mendocino County region back on track and in position to work on more improvement projects. Chair Gjerde stated Fort Bragg, Willits, and Point Arena’s voter-approved half cent sales tax

dedicated to roads made them eligible as self-help cities for State-Local Partnership funds. Currently, there are five or six self-help cities (in addition to self-help counties) in California, which will be included in the matching funds. Mr. Dow explained it was a “bonus” for the counties/cities stepping up to pass dedicated transportation sales taxes. Ukiah recently passed a half-cent sales tax intended for transportation purposes; however, it went on the ballot as a simple majority advisory measure for a general tax and does not qualify for the State matching funds. Ms. Ellard added that at a recent meeting it was reported that the State-Local Partnership guidelines are being developed and should be available in January 2018. If the guidelines are the same as prior guidelines for this program, it would provide a 50% match.

Chair Gjerde made further comments about the funding bill and how much the local governments may expect to receive over a ten-year course. He explained how the funds may close the gap created by lost tax revenue from reduced gasoline prices in the last two or three years.

2. *Miscellaneous.* Next MCOG meeting will include a review of the FY 2017/18 budget.

- e. MCOG Planning Staff - Miscellaneous. Nothing to report.
- f. MCOG Directors. Nothing to report.
- g. California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) Delegates. Ms. Orth reported that she, Loretta Ellard, and Director Steve Scalmanini attended the Regional Leadership Forum in Monterey from March 29-31. She mentioned topics included the SB1 transportation bill, the various self-help sales tax measures, what is going on in other Councils of Governments and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies around the state, climate change actions, updates on affordable housing and bicycle and pedestrian projects, social justice around disadvantaged communities, and even the Burning Man movement. She said the presentations seemed shorter which allowed more presentations to cover more topics this year. The forum offers great networking opportunities.

11. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Submitted: PHILLIP J. DOW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Marta Ford, Administrative Assistant