

## MINUTES

### MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 19, 2020  
MCOG Conference Room

#### **Members Present**

Andrew Stricklin, City of Ukiah  
Jason Wise, *for Alicia Meier, County DOT*  
Dusty Duley, City of Willits  
Jesse Davis, County DPBS  
Richard Shoemaker, City of Point Arena  
Jacob King, MTA

#### **Members Present Via Teleconference**

Tasha Ahlstrand, Caltrans

#### **Staff & Others Present**

Nephele Barrett, MCOG Administration  
Alexis Pedrotti, MCOG Planning  
Lisa Davey-Bates, MCOG Planning  
Loretta Ellard, MCOG Planning

#### **Members Absent**

Mitch Stogner, NCRA (*Non-Voting*)  
Barbara Moed, AQMD  
Tom Varga, City of Fort Bragg

1. **Call to Order/Introductions** – Nephele called the meeting to order at approx. 10:02 a.m.
2. **Public Expression** – None.
3. **Input from Native American Tribal Governments' Representatives** – This is a standing agenda item to allow input from tribal representatives. There were no tribal representatives present. Nephele advised that MCOG is now participating in Caltrans' quarterly tribal meetings, and the next quarterly meeting will be held in Covelo, in April.
4. **Approval of 1/15/20 Minutes** – Motion by Dusty Duley, seconded by Andrew Stricklin, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (7 ayes), to approve the minutes of 1/15/20.
5. **FY 2019/20 Overall Work Program – Second Quarter Status Report** – Alexis (Lexi) reviewed the second quarter status report and responded to questions. A brief discussion ensued. Information only.
6. **FY 2020/21 Draft Overall Work Program** – Lexi reviewed her staff report covering proposed work elements, and explained the draft budget includes a 4% increase estimated for MCOG's Planning Services contractor (Davey-Bates Consulting). The contract amount will not be known until a new or extended planning services contract is awarded by MCOG, likely in late spring/early summer.

Lexi advised that MCOG staff obtained a cost estimate to increase the scope of the Pavement Management Program (PMP) update project to include digital imaging, as discussed by the TAC last month, and the estimate was higher than anticipated (\$316,800 for regular photo distress

data, and \$457,600 for high contract photo plus distress data). Nephele noted that adding the digital imaging would more than double the cost of the update, and staff does not think the Rural Planning Assistance (RPA) grant program previously discussed would be a good fit for this project, as grant awards are typically on a smaller scale (*e.g. \$50k+- range*).

Discussion ensued, and possible suggestions to reduce the cost included: prioritizing roadways for imaging, and purchasing video equipment for use by an intern to video roadways. The option of applying for a small RPA grant for a reduced project was discussed, and it was agreed the County would need to identify priorities. Loretta noted the 2/27/20 RPA grant deadline, and Jason advised that he will follow-up, and if the County wants MCOG to pursue a grant, he will provide the information by this Friday, 2/21/20.

Tasha was asked if this type of project would be eligible for the Caltrans Transportation Planning Grants program (anticipated this fall), and she offered to check with Caltrans grant program staff.

Lexi advised that the annual LTF estimate from the County Auditor increased 8.35% over last year, so additional LTF funds could be requested for planning, if needed. Nephele expressed concern that the PMP update may be underfunded, and suggested considering adding a small amount of additional LTF funds (to be kept in reserve, and carried over to next year if not needed) if the bids come in higher than \$140,000. An additional 8% over last year's LTF amount (\$147,701) would equal approx. \$11,800 (*rounded*).

Discussion turned to the issue of whether a work element should be added to the draft OWP for development of **Local Roadway Safety Plans** (*listed separately on today's agenda as item #7*). Nephele advised that the County, City of Ukiah, and City of Point Arena have applied for and been awarded LRSP grant funds, and there is interest in having MCOG administer a region-wide project. Dusty advised that Willits has submitted an application, and has been told Caltrans is trying to get it funded also. Nephele explained that an RFP could be developed for the funded agencies, with remaining agencies identified as an option, noting that administrative details on how MCOG could administer the project (and be reimbursed) still need to be worked out. Staff will plan to include this work element in the final OWP, rather than the draft.

**Motion by Jason Wise, seconded by Richard Shoemaker, and carried on roll call vote (7 ayes; 1 no - King), to recommend approval of the Draft FY 2020/21 Overall Work Program as presented, plus an additional \$11,800 in LTF funds (to be kept in reserve for the Pavement Management Program (PMP) update, if needed) for submittal to Caltrans.**

**7. Local Roadway Safety Plan (LRSP) Requirements for Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)** – Discussed during item #6 above; no further discussion.

**8. Staff Reports**

8a. Housing – AB 101 Planning and Infrastructure Grants – Nephele reviewed information on the Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) program and advised that a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) is currently out for the “over the counter” formula grants (similar to the SB 2 planning grants). Local agencies should have received information from State Housing and Community Development (HCD).

She briefly discussed the Infrastructure grant program, advising that infrastructure projects must be tied directly to housing projects. Jesse Davis advised that the County is working on a project for these funds, for an estimated 48 unit housing project at the intersection of Feedlot Lane and Lovers Lane, a property which was previously a wrecking yard.

Nephele discussed the Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) program, which is similar to LEAP, but funding is allocated to regional agencies to do projects or sub-allocate to local agencies. She advised that MCOG may apply for up to 25% of the available funding immediately, with the balance available next January. However, she noted that if MCOG is to become more involved with housing issues, the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with the County and Cities would need to be amended to add housing duties. This issue is on next week's MCOG Executive Committee agenda for review and recommendation to the MCOG Board. If approved, staff will work with local agencies on the application for the initial funding.

Richard Shoemaker said ABAG (Association of Bay Area Governments) is becoming a resource on this topic, and he will forward information to MCOG which he received at a recent meeting with HCD and city managers. Nephele noted that she also learned that ABAG is offering assistance to regional agencies.

Staff will follow-up on this item, after direction from MCOG on the JPA Amendment.

8b. SB 1 Programs – Local Partnership Program: Local Streets & Roads Program  
Nephele reported that the Local Partnership Program (LPP) draft guidelines include \$200,000 as the minimum formula amount, and the final guidelines are scheduled to be adopted by the California Transportation Commission (CTC) in March. She reported good news that the draft guidelines also include a reduction of the required local match from 50% to 25% for agencies that don't generate \$100,000 in annual transportation sales tax revenue. This only affects Point Arena, as Willits and Fort Bragg receive more than \$100,000. She advised that "system preservation" has been added to the criteria for the competitive program, which should help our region be more competitive. Lisa advised that LPP application cycles are every two years.

Nephele reminded members that project lists for the Local Streets and Roads Program are due May 1, and must be submitted by resolution, separate from other budget matters. She invited members to contact Danielle at MCOG for assistance, if needed.

8c. SB 743/Vehicle Miles Traveled Regional Baseline Study – 2/18/20 & 2/19/20 Public Workshops – Loretta reported on the 2/18/19 inland public workshop, held at the Farm Advisor's Conference Room in Ukiah. She noted that although attendance at this technical workshop was low and not surprising (7 attendees, plus consultant and staff), there was good discussion among consultant and local agency personnel. The coastal public workshop is scheduled to occur later this afternoon/evening (2/19/20) at Fort Bragg Town Hall.

Loretta advised that the SB 743/VMT Technical Advisory Group (TAG) will meet today, following the TAC meeting.

8d. Fire Vulnerability Assessment & Fire Evacuation Preparedness Plan – Update – Loretta and Nephela briefly reported on the status of this project. The consultant is continuing to meet with fire chiefs and emergency services personnel, and plans to have the evacuation plan done before the upcoming fire season. The next Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting is scheduled for March 31 at the Farm Advisor’s conference room in Ukiah.

**9. Miscellaneous**

9a. Next Meeting – 3/18/19, if needed.

**10. Adjournment** – 11:23 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Loretta Ellard  
Deputy Planner

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