

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Approved MINUTES

Monday, April 1, 2019

Gualala Community Center, 47950 Center St., Gualala

ADDITIONAL MEDIA:

*Find YouTube link at <http://www.mendocinocog.org> under Meetings
or search Mendocino County Video at www.youtube.com*

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 10:20 a.m. on the bus in Point Arena prior to departing on the Transportation Tour. Present were Directors Jim O. Brown, Richey Wasserman, Tess Albin-Smith, Michael Carter/Alt., John Haschak, Brad Mettam (Caltrans/PAC), and Dan Gjerde present; Chair Gjerde presiding. Director Larry Stranske was excused.

Staff present: Nephela Barrett, Executive Director; Janet Orth, Deputy Director/CFO; Loretta Ellard, Deputy Planner, and Marta Ford, Administrative Assistant.

Guest Presenters: Frank Demling, Project Manager, Caltrans District 1; Brad Mettam, Deputy District Director for Planning and Local Assistance, Caltrans, District 1; Paul Anderson, Deputy City Clerk, City of Point Arena; and, Robert Juengling, Chairman, Gualala Municipal Advisory Council.

Transportation was graciously provided by Mendocino Transit Authority (MTA).

2. Convene as RTPA

3. Transportation Tour – Part 1: Point Arena. The group boarded the MTA shuttle for Part 1 of the scheduled tour in the Point Arena area, which included the following itinerary:

- Pedestrian Needs Study priority project sites
- Safe Routes to School, Lake/Main Streets
- EV charging station at 24870 Highway 1 (center of town)
- Windy Hollow Road, Garcia River alternative bridge sites
- Iverson and Port Roads
- Arena Cove Launch Facility

The group proceeded on the bus to Gualala Community Center; Mr. Mettam left the group for a previously scheduled event.

4. Recess – Lunch – Reconvene as Policy Advisory Committee (PAC). The lunch recess started at approximately 11:45 a.m. and the meeting was reconvened at 12:15 p.m. as the Policy Advisory Committee for a working lunch.

5. Public Expression

- Kathleen Chasey, Redwood Coast Land Conservancy (RCLC), explained that RCLC is in the process of buying the Mill Bend parcels, 112 acres at the mouth of the Gualala River, to extend the California Coastal Trail. With the purchase, RCLC is interested in constructing a pedestrian/bicycle walkway attached to the bridge. Chair Gjerde suggested for her to contact the MCOG Executive Director to research options. Executive Director Barrett said MCOG will be updating the Active Transportation Plan and the Regional Transportation Plan in

about a year. Those are two of the documents that guide what projects to fund. Robert Juengling, Gualala Community Center Chairman, added that the project Ms. Chasey mentioned makes sense due to the location of the proposed project. Ms. Chasey also discussed RCLC's interest in continuing the California Coastal trail at Mile Marker 10 between Schooner Gulch and Hearn Gulch. Caltrans and a private owner currently own property in that vicinity; RCLC is interested in obtaining the private property to extend the trail. Director Gjerde explained that, although MCOG's main priorities are in transportation, funding may be available to assist with recreational pedestrian and bicycle projects.

- Richard Winn, Gualala resident, shared his concerns regarding bicycle safety and creating more designated bicycle lanes away from the highway traffic through town.

6. Discussion of Point Arena/Gualala Area Tour, Transportation Plans & Projects, Related

Matters. Ms. Barrett explained that MCOG's mobile tours give opportunities to go back to the locations where public input on plans and projects have been collected and for the committee to review progress first hand. She introduced Frank Demling, Project Manager, Caltrans, and Liza Walker, Senior Environmental Planner, Caltrans. Mr. Demling attended to discuss and be a tour guide for the Gualala portion of the tour. He provided handouts on the outcome of community surveys that were collected at a public meeting in Gualala last year. The handouts Mr. Demling provided included maps of alternative routes in the Gualala Downtown Enhancements Project for pedestrian improvements and bicycle lanes.

Questions and comments from Board Members included:

- Director Gjerde was pleased to see the progress on alternative routes for the Windy Hollow project and that feasibility study has progressed to fund an alternative route.
- Director Haschak expressed his appreciation to visit and discuss the Garcia River Bridge. He has heard about the issues and this tour has provided an opportunity to review the issues personally.

Mr. Demling presented updated information on the Gualala Streetscape Enhancement Project. He reported that Design staff is working with Environmental to conduct an alternative analysis. There are two alternatives they are currently studying. He provided copies of maps of both alternative routes.

Chair Gjerde opened the floor to public comments.

- What is happening with Mountain View Road? (*Mr. Winn*) – Ms. Barrett replied the question would be better directed to a Mendocino County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) representative; they would be able to provide an update on the storm damage repairs on that road. Chair Gjerde explained that, as a general rule, MCDOT usually takes about two to four years from the time of damage to obtain approval for emergency funding and to complete repairs.

7 - 9. Consent Calendar. Upon motion by Brown, second by Haschak, and carried unanimously (6 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 2 Absent): IT IS ORDERED that consent items are approved:

7. Approval of March 4, 2019 Minutes – *as written*

8. Approval of February 20, 2019 Executive Committee Minutes – *as written*

9. Acceptance of 2017/18 Fiscal Audit of Mendocino Transit Authority – *MTA received a clean audit, as presented by R. J. Ricciardi, Inc., CPAs.*

10. Recess as Policy Advisory Committee - Reconvene as RTPA - Ratify Action of Policy Advisory Committee. Upon motion by Carter/Alt., second by Brown, and carried unanimously

(6 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 1 Absent): IT IS ORDERED that the actions taken by the Policy Advisory Committee are ratified by the MCOG Board of Directors.

11. Reports - Information

- a. Mendocino Transit Authority. None.
- b. North Coast Railroad Authority. Ms. Ellard reported that the March NCRA meeting was cancelled.
- c. MCOG Staff - Summary of Meetings. Ms. Barrett referred to the written staff report.
- d. MCOG Administration Staff. Chair Gjerde asked MCOG staff members if they had heard from either California Transportation Commission (CTC) or Rural Counties Task Force (RCTF). At the February MCOG meeting, Susan Bransen, CTC Executive Director, mentioned her intent to follow up with the State concerning legislation to provide a funding stream to address emergency access routes on private property. Ms. Barrett stated, from the meetings she has attended, she has not heard any plans yet. New or any changes for the current proposed legislative bills were due to be submitted by the end of February. Ms. Barrett will discuss the request with the RCTF to pursue the possibility of the task force working with the CTC on that.
Ms. Barrett reported on other legislation including:
 - SB 152 (*Senator Beall*) proposes to change the percentage of funding in various categories of the Active Transportation Program (ATP). If passed, it would increase the small urban and rural areas' share, but at the cost of reducing the statewide amounts available for competition. It would have an impact on Mendocino County; the MCOG Board may be asked at a later meeting to take a position. The item is on the next North State Super Region (NSSR) meeting's agenda for discussion.
 - AB 1568 (*McCarty*) makes a proposal to prohibit a city or county from applying for state grants while not compliant with housing element law. This proposed bill has received pushback from local agencies as it appears to go against the will of the voters when Proposition 6 was defeated. The League of California Cities is receptive to advocating a change to the language to focus on local agencies adhering to housing element compliance.
 - SB 127 (*Wiener*) proposes that a percent of the State Highway Operation Preservation Program (SHOPP) funds will be used for the ATP; although ATP is a program MCOG supports, there are concerns that if this bill passes it will decrease the necessary funds for State facility projects that are covered in the SHOPP.
- e. MCOG Planning Staff. Ms. Ellard reported that the pending status of awards notification for the Sustainable Communities and Climate Adaptation planning grant programs has been postponed by Caltrans until mid-May. MCOG has applied for two projects, the Mendocino County Fire Vulnerability Assessment & Emergency Preparedness study and the SB 743 VMT (Vehicle Miles Traveled) Regional Baseline Study. The grant funding has been included in the draft MCOG 2019/20 Overall Work Program (OWP), including the required funding match as if they have been approved; if they are not granted, they will be removed from the OWP. She also reported an additional application is planned to be submitted for Rural Planning Assistance (RPA) funds to the SB743 VMT study.
- f. MCOG Directors. Director Haschak reported that the Ad Hoc Committee met to review options and to decide on a recommendation for the next Planning and Administration contracts for MCOG. Chair Gjerde reported the recommendation would be officially

announced at the May MCOG meeting, and they intended to recommend extension of the existing contracts. Question and comments included: With the current owner retiring, how is that going to work and who would be in charge? (*Albin-Smith*) Ms. Barrett announced that she intends to purchase the business from Mr. Dow.

- g. California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) Delegates. Director Albin-Smith attended the Yosemite Leadership & Policy Conference March 14-17. She reported that after the Local Government Commission and CALCOG discovered each address similar topics at their conferences, they collaborated to merge the two conferences. Topics presented at the conference included:
- Micro Transit – City of West Sacramento’s Pilot On-Demand Rideshare Service
 - Fire Recovery, Disaster Relief, and Planning for the ‘New Normal’ – City of Santa Rosa and County of Butte presented “After a Tragedy: How to Heal and Rebuild a Community”
 - The Road to OZ: Will Opportunity Zones Get Us There? Opportunity Zones, Qualified Opportunity Funds (QOF), & Oppsites.com – opportunities to invest in redevelopment of lower income areas.
 - What’s Under the Surface: Understanding the Impacts of California’s Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
 - Supporting the repeal of Article 34 on Public Affordable Housing Projects (more than 50% of the units to be affordable).

On the last day they provided a networking breakfast opportunity, the Regional Roundtable, for participants to sit with other local agencies in their regions. Director Albin-Smith said it was interesting to meet people from other neighboring agencies and get different perspectives on shared issues. Ms. Orth had also attended the conference and noted some general highlights such as economic and workforce development issues.

Mr. Juengling thanked MCOG and Caltrans for having the meeting on the South Coast, and the Independent Coastal Observer and the local residents for attending the meeting.

12. Transportation Tour – Part 2: Gualala. The group proceeded with the walking tour of the downtown Gualala project area, led by Mr. Demling, including the following itinerary:

- Pedestrian Needs Study priority project sites
- Downtown Gualala Streetscape Project features, and
- Long-term extended pedestrian features for Old State Highway.

13. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Submitted: NEPHELE BARRETT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Marta Ford, Administrative Assistant