
**PLUMAS COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION**

Minutes of the Meeting of September 1, 2011

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS

Mark Dotta, *Commissioner* (District 1) **Larry Williams**, *Commissioner* (District 4)
Betsy Schramel, *Chair* (District 2) **John Olofson**, *Vice Chair* (District 5)
Richard Rydell, *Commissioner* (District 3)



I. CALL TO ORDER

The Plumas County Planning Commission (*the Commission*) convenes in a meeting on September 1, 2011, at 10:07 a.m. in the Planning and Building Services Conference Room, Quincy, CA; Chair Betsy Schramel presiding.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

III. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Schramel, Olofson, Williams, Dotta, & Rydell

Commissioners Absent: None

County Supervisors, County Staff, and General Plan Update Consultants Attending:

Terry Swofford, Plumas County Supervisor
Lori Simpson, Plumas County Supervisor
Coleen Shade, Consultant
Randy Wilson, Planning Director
Rebecca Herrin, Senior Planner
Nancy Fluke, Recording Secretary

IV. CONSENT ITEMS:

A. ITEMS TO BE CONTINUED OR WITHDRAWN FROM THE AGENDA

Olofson suggests that *Item VII – Eastern Plumas Municipal Service Review* is postponed until the Draft General Plan review and discussion has been completed. The other Commissions are in agreement.

Schramel calls for a motion to approve the agenda for September 1, 2011, with the postponement of *Item VII* noted. The motion is made by Dotta, Williams seconds the motion, and a unanimous affirmative voice vote is recorded.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Schramel calls for a motion to approve the minutes of June 2, 2011. The Motion is made by Williams, Olofson seconds the motion, and a unanimous affirmative voice vote is recorded.

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS / COMMENTS

Schramel asks Wilson about the "fire fee" and the State Responsibility Areas (SRAs). Wilson states that CalFire has been asked to give a presentation at the September 15, 2011, meeting regarding the SRAs; and the Forest Service will also be present at that meeting to explain the Federal Responsibility Areas (FRAs). Wilson adds that Direct Responsibility Areas (DPAs) will also be explained. Wilson mentions that part of the fee pertains to certification of our Safety Element in the General Plan Update process.

Olofson asks whether the Commission can "wrap up" the review and comment period for the *Draft General Plan – August, 2011* at the September 15, 2011, meeting. Coleen Shade, Consultant, explains two scenarios to answer the question:

- o Yes = if you mean that the Draft is adequately ready by the end of September so that the environmental process (EIR) can begin at the beginning of October;
- o No = if you mean that the Draft is *completely* finished by the end of September with no changes anticipated.

Olofson expresses his concern that the Commission will run out of time, especially with a presentation scheduled for the next meeting. Wilson explains that the meeting on September 15, 2011, is expected to be an all day session.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

Cedric Twight, representative from Sierra Pacific Industries, cautions the Commission not to expedite the General Plan in order to save money and in the process pass over good ideas.

VII. EASTERN PLUMAS MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW - *Postponed to a future meeting*

VIII. GENERAL PLAN UPDATE PROCESS

A. CONSULTANT TEAM'S REPORT

Regarding the Draft General Plan, Shade provides the following sequence of events:

- o Review the Draft General Plan with the Commission today and also on September 15th;
- o Baring any significant changes to the document, they hope to have the Notice of Preparation (NOP) start at the beginning of October (30 day period);
- o During 30 day period, they will hold a public hearing with the Planning Commission and a public hearing with the Board of Supervisors to get input,

particularly any alternatives that need to be studied in the environmental document;

- Baseline text for the EIR will begin before the 30 period is over;
- Once the 30 day period closes, they will start the analysis;
- They will come back to the Planning Commission with range of alternatives that will be evaluated in the EIR to make sure nothing is missed;
- The Public Draft of the EIR will be available in late January (45 day review and comment period);
- The Planning Commission should be able to recommend the Draft General Plan to the Board of Supervisors in April.

Shade provides background information regarding her part-time employment with the firm RO Anderson and her contracted employment with Design Workshop. Shade emphasizes that the partners in the Contract Team are the same, and that she has the support of both Design Workshop and RO Anderson to see that the Plumas County General Plan reaches a successful completion.

Transcriber's Notation: *At this point the tape recorder malfunctions and dialog is lost. The problem is not detected until part-way through Item VIII-C-1 where the recording resumes.*

Schramel comments that if necessary, the Planning Commission would hold a special meeting before the end of September to complete the review process of the *Draft General Plan – August, 2011*. A brief discussion takes place and the Commissioners decide that September 22nd would be the best date for a special meeting if one is required. Rydell states that he will have to attend by phone on the 15th and 22nd.

B. PUBLIC INPUT OPPORTUNITY

George Terhune, community member and Chair of the Airport Land Use Commission, provides a handout that explains his personal concerns about the Draft General Plan language as it pertains to the military. Specifically, Terhune objects to usage of words such as “ensure” which he feels “over commits” the County. Terhune states that he will continue to attend meetings of the Planning Commission, and also begin attending Plumas County Coordinating Council meetings, to further share his concerns.

C. DRAFT GENERAL PLAN GOALS & POLICIES, COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT GOALS & POLICIES, AND PLANNING AREA MAPS

1. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT GENERAL PLAN – DATED AUGUST, 2011

Shade suggests that the Commissioners provide their comments today on such things as format and structure of the *Draft General Plan – August, 2011*, and then go into depth on the elements at the all-day meeting on September 15th. The following comments are made regarding the Draft:

- Williams comments that a Table of Contents is needed, plus a reference page that explains acronyms and provides definitions. Cedric Twight adds that words can be bolded throughout the document indicating that there is a definition for that word. Staff states that those items have been addressed, but were not ready in time for the release of the Draft;
- Williams states that the percentages in the Introduction don't add up;

- Wilson says he would like to see credits with the photographs;
- Williams contributes that the historic/cultural information is not accurate in places or has omitted information (i.e., Native American tribes, longboard ski lift, Swiss Americans, feathers on the Feather River);
- Williams states that the format is boring, inconsistent, and runs together. Williams cites some ways to make it more interesting (i.e., underlining, spacing, highlighting, bolding, bulleting);
- Twight suggests clarifying Agriculture/Forest lands;
- Schramel stresses that she would like response times for Emergency Services addressed in the General Plan;
- Dotta asks why Global Warming is treated similar to an element. Shade explains that it has to do with the State requirement for counties to have a Climate Action Plan;
- Olofson expresses his concern about measuring progress. Shade mentions annual reporting that is required yearly to the Board of Supervisors;
- Wilson points out the use of the word “strive” to allow latitude in the General Plan. Shade adds that it may not be the best word to use in some circumstances;
- Simpson questions using specific names of companies, etc. A suggestion is made to use generic wording, but allow specific names to be used for example purposes;
- Reeves contributes that State requirements could be flagged in some fashion;
- Dotta requests clarification regarding community plan and city plan;
- Schramel expresses her desire to have background information in the Introduction concerning the Visioning Sessions, surveys, public meetings, etc., that have taken place between 2002 and 2007;
- Rydell asks for clarification concerning the roles and responsibilities of the Consultant and the Planning Director pertinent to the delivery of the Draft General Plan to the Planning Commission.

2. CONTINUED REVIEW OF THE REVISED PLANNING AREA MAPS – BECKY HERRIN, SENIOR PLANNER

Herrin reports that minor changes are being made on the maps and they will be ready for the next meeting.

IX. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. PLANNING DIRECTOR’S REPORT

1. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REPORT

Wilson reports that the target date for the approval of the budget is September 20, 2011.

2. ON-GOING PROJECT UPDATES

a.) Zoning Administrator – No Report

b.) Current Planning – No report

X. CORRESPONDENCE - None

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Items suggested at this meeting:

- *Police and medical included with fire responsibility area discussions*

Items suggested at previous meetings:

- *CalFire has been requested to do a presentation at the September 15th Planning Commission meeting regarding State Responsibility Areas (SRAs) and Federal Responsibility Areas (FRAs) within Plumas County*
- *Hydropower Relicensing and Climate Change.*
- *A presentation by the Fire Safe Council*
- *Presentation by John Benoit, Executive Officer of LAFCo (October)*
- *Continued Updates on maps*

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Schramel calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting of September 1, 2011. The motion is made by Williams, Olofson seconds the motion, and a unanimous affirmative voice vote is recorded. The meeting adjourns at 12:45 p.m. The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting is set for September 15, 2011, 10:00 a.m., in the Planning & Building Services Conference Room.



Betsy Schramel, Chair
Plumas County Planning Commission



Nancy Fluke, Recording Secretary
Plumas County Planning Department