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**PLUMAS COUNTY  
PLANNING COMMISSION**

Minutes of the Meeting of August 16, 2012

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**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)

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Plumas County Planning Commission (*the Commission*) convenes in a meeting on August 16, 2012, at 10:03 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, Rydell

**Commissioners Absent:** Dotta

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**Also in attendance** (Supervisors, Consultants, County Staff):

Randy Wilson, *Director - Planning*  
Heidi Wightman, *Recording Secretary*

**IV. CONSENT ITEMS:**

**A. ITEMS TO BE CONTINUED OR WITHDRAWN FROM THE AGENDA**

Williams suggests withdrawing Item VIII (Discussion with the Plumas County Sheriff & California Highway Patrol) because the Sheriff will not be able to attend due to a county emergency situation. It is questioned if the California Highway Patrol will also not be able to attend. Wilson recommends leaving the item on the agenda until more is known.

Schramel calls for a vote to accept the agenda. A unanimous affirmative voice vote is recorded.

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (May 17, 2012 & June 7, 2012)**

Olofson moves to accept the Minutes of May 17<sup>th</sup>. Williams comments that there was a lot more spirited discussion regarding fire and the different alternatives that were not included in the Minutes. Wilson states that if Williams does not feel

comfortable with the minutes, he can have Nancy Fluke review the tape and make any necessary changes. Williams moves that the tapes & notes from the meeting be re-reviewed to make sure the Minutes are as complete as possible and bring them back at the next meeting. Williams would like the Minutes to be revised to offer more clarity, and because Commissioner Rydell wasn't able to attend the meeting, it would be beneficial for him as well. Wilson states he will talk to Nancy about William's concerns and have her re-listen to the tapes, noting that it is more than reasonable that if there is a concern by any one of the Commissioners that the Minutes aren't satisfactory that we hold off approval.

Olofson comments that this issue has come up before and he has been told, more often than not, that Minutes are not intended to reflect the discussions of a meeting, but rather actions taken. Olofson feels there must be some obvious way for the public and absent Commissioners to listen to the transcript of the meetings. Perhaps have it available on the internet.

Regarding the Minutes of May 17<sup>th</sup>, Schramel notes that Item VI on page 2 of the Minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet, states "Indian Valley Waster Master Service District area". "Waster" should be "Waste".

Regarding the Minutes of June 7<sup>th</sup>, Item VII on page 2, bullets 2 & 4, "Herlong" is misspelled.

Williams makes a motion to approve the Minutes of June 7, 2012, with corrections. Rydell seconds the motion and a unanimous affirmative voice vote is recorded.

**V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS / COMMENTS**

Rydell reports that he attended an ABWAC meeting a couple of weeks ago regarding air quality.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Wilson gives an update on the status of the Chips Fire.

**VII. GENERAL PLAN UPDATE PROCESS**

**A. CONSULTANT TEAM'S REPORT**

**1. STATUS ON CONSULTANT PRODUCTS**

Wilson reports that according to the *Environmental and Final General Plan Schedule* (Attachment B of the Minutes from May 17, 2012), we should be in the Draft EIR comment period, and we are not. Wilson notes that he did not start receiving portions of the Administrative Draft (ADEIR) until early July instead of mid to late June. Wilson had asked the consultants to do the best analysis they could in regard to population growth projections because there is a potential weakness there if someone were to challenge the General Plan. The numbers are not very high in terms of growth since the last General Plan and there's no significant impact to traffic. The consultants are now producing the sections that are tied to air quality, traffic, etc. The delay is due in part because they've been working to get that portion correct. Wilson anticipates it will be ready to go out for comments sometime in early September.

Olofson questions the General Plan extension granted by the Office of Planning and Research (OPR). Wilson replies that the extension ran out on April 21, 2012. However, Wilson went to the Board of Supervisors and had them agree that we would not accept any General Plan Amendments until the General Plan is completed. The Planning Department is still working under the conditions agreed to with the extension. Terri Simon-Jackson with the Forest Service expresses concern about their ability to make comments on the DEIR if it is released after Thanksgiving because their staff will be tied up with the Chips Fire cleanup.

#### **B. PUBLIC INPUT OPPORTUNITY**

Harry Reeves states he appreciates the candor with which Wilson openly discussed the delay in getting the DEIR out for comments.

### **VIII. DISCUSSION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PLUMAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT AND THE CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL REGARDING THE PLUMAS COUNTY GENERAL PLAN**

Bruce Carpenter with the California Highway Patrol is in attendance. The Plumas County Sheriff is unable to attend because of a county emergency situation. Schramel explains to Carpenter that there are questions under the Public Health and Safety Element of the General Plan. To begin with, Schramel questions how 9-1-1 calls are routed. Carpenter replies that the Sheriff's office will be handling more of the calls directly which will decrease the delays of them going to Susanville and then having to be transferred to the County.

**PHS 6.5.3 Transportation of Hazardous Waste** - *The County shall continue to coordinate with the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and the railroad operators to establish procedures for the movement of hazardous wastes and explosives within the County.* Carpenter responds that the CHP is the authority on hazardous material transportation. There are some highways in the state where it is not allowed. Those routes can be designated based on recommendations from the County. The same applies to the transportation of nuclear material.

**PHS 6.7.3 Maintenance of Emergency Evacuation Plans** - *The County shall continue to create, revise and maintain emergency plans for the broad range of natural and human-made disasters and response activities that could be foreseen to impact Plumas County.* Carpenter states he is not familiar with the specific evacuation plans for the County; however, they work closely with the Sheriff's office, Office of Emergency Services, Public Works, and Caltrans to have a plan. Carpenter is unaware if they have a specific plan. A lot of times it is individual incidents that dictate their actions and they use the incident command system and form unified commands. The Sheriff is primary for evacuations.

**PHS 6.7.4 Streets & Highways Upgrade** - *The County shall evaluate and strive to upgrade vital streets and highways to an acceptable level for emergency services and for public safety.* Carpenter responds that overall the main roads are generally in pretty good condition. The CHP looks at accident pictures and if there are an unusual number of accidents, they make recommendations to Public Works if there is a design or visibility issue. He is not aware of any specific significant issues with roadways in the county.

**PHS 6.7.6 Joint Exercises** - *The County shall encourage fire, law enforcement, emergency medical services, resource management, public health and other governmental and nongovernmental response partners to periodically conduct joint training exercises with the goal of developing the best possible coordinated action and effective response times in the event of a natural or human-made disaster across all local jurisdictions.* Carpenter responds that joint training already occurs, and based on his staff's feedback, it is very beneficial. You not only get to know the other department heads and know who's who, but also who does what. They also talk about what can be given to the effort individually when something happens. They are also actively pursuing doing joint training with the Sheriff's office.

Under Public Health & Safety Implementation Measures No. 21 it states, "*The County shall require emergency backup systems in county emergency facilities to enable uninterrupted continuous operations as required by the California Essential Facilities Act.*" Discussion follows.

## **IX. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **A. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### **1. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETINGS**

Budget hearings are continuing.

#### **2. ON-GOING PROJECT UPDATES**

a) **Zoning Administrator** – The Permit to Mine & Reclamation Plan application for Turner Excavating was approved on August 8<sup>th</sup>.

b) **Current Planning** – *No report*

#### **3. INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT (IRWM) / PLUMAS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MATTERS.**

Wilson reports that we received notice that the County made the list to be funded to update the Upper Feather River IRWM Plan, although it was reduced funding. By the end of the year an agreement and work plan may be in place.

Wilson also reports that he is on the Rock Creek-Cresta Project Ecological Resources Committee (ERC). The committee meets once a month to discuss some of the details of the operation of the Rock Creek-Cresta dam. The EIR on the 401 certification for the settlement agreement on Almanor, Butt Lake, and Belden, which is called 2105, is pending. It's an important issue because it could affect the cold water in Lake Almanor.

Wilson also met with the Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District (SVGWMD) on August 13<sup>th</sup>. Part of the Prop. 50 Grant is an extensive study of the Sierra Valley area, groundwater, climate, etc. He updated the SVGWMD on the latest developments.

## **X. CORRESPONDENCE – *None***

**XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Evacuation Plan for Plumas County

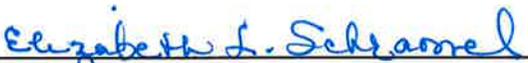
Presentation by Randy Wilson & Leah Wills regarding the IRWM and Plumas County Flood Control issues.

Schramel calls for a motion to cancel the meeting of September 6<sup>th</sup>. Motion is made by Williams, seconded by Olofson, with a unanimous affirmative voice vote recorded.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Schramel calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting of August 16, 2012. Motion is made by Olofson, seconded by Williams, with a unanimous affirmative voice vote recorded. The meeting adjourns at 1:45 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting is set for September 20, 2012, at 10:00 a.m., in the Planning & Building Services Conference Room.

  
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Betsy Schramel, Chair  
Plumas County Planning Commission

  
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Heidi Wightman, Recording Secretary  
Plumas County Planning Department