
**PLUMAS COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION**

Minutes of the Meeting of October 4, 2012

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS

Mark Dotta, *Commissioner* (District 1)

Betsy Schramel, *Chair* (District 2)

Richard Rydell, *Commissioner* (District 3)

Larry Williams, *Commissioner* (District 4)

John Olofson, *Vice Chair* (District 5)



I. CALL TO ORDER

The Plumas County Planning Commission (*the Commission*) convenes in a meeting on October 4, 2012, at 10:01 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 (*Rydell attends telephonically at 7310 Winding Oaks Drive, Colorado Springs, CO, a public place where other members of the public can participate in the meeting*)

Commissioners Absent: Dotta



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

Supervisor Lori Simpson, *Supervisor, District 4*

Randy Wilson, *Director - Planning*

Rebecca Herrin, *Senior Planner*

Jerry Sipe, *Environmental Health/OES*

IV. CONSENT ITEMS:

A. ITEMS TO BE CONTINUED OR WITHDRAWN FROM THE AGENDA

Approval of the minutes from May 17, 2012 is added to the agenda 4-0.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Schramel asks for a clarification on the information contained in the minutes from May 17, 2012. The consultants' information is all that is available from the meeting that was held at the Mineral Building.

Schramel notes that item #6 on page 2 should be changed from "Waster Master" to "Water Master". The correction is noted.

Schramel calls for a motion to approve the minutes from May 17, 2012. Motion is made by Olofson, seconded by Williams, approved 3-0 with Rydell abstaining as he was not at the meeting.

Schramel calls for a motion to approve the minutes from August 16, 2012. Motion is made by Olofson, seconded by Williams, with a unanimous affirmative voice vote recorded.

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS / COMMENTS

Williams reports that he attended the Plumas County Coordinating Council representing himself. He presented a short paper and asked questions regarding the recent Chips Fire. The Chips Fire was a major topic of discussion at the meeting and Williams thinks that the firefighting methods and facts surrounding the fire should be brought to light.

Schramel presents an article that she brought in regarding arsenic in food that is a "study in process". She feels that this is an important issue, especially because the recent Lake Almanor Municipal Service Review (MSR) identifies areas with arsenic in the water supplies.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

Larry Douglas speaks about economic recovery and the need for a jobs plan. He states that the water resources of the county are an asset and manufacturing jobs should be relocating to Plumas County because we offer such a high quality of lifestyle.

Schramel comments that Douglas should review the General Plan as the policies regarding economic development are extensive.

VII. GENERAL PLAN UPDATE PROCESS

A. CONSULTANT TEAM'S REPORT –*the Consultant is not present.*

1. STATUS REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE DRAFT EIR

Wilson reports that the consultants' work on the General Plan update Environmental Impact Report is ongoing with Wilson calling every week until the EIR is released. He is reporting regularly to the Board of Supervisors on the progress, because the Board is concerned. The Commission has expressed concerns as well.

The remaining elements should be available for staff's review next week with a "screencheck" version of the EIR to be produced the following week. Remaining elements to be reviewed are "Air Quality", "Cumulative Impacts", "Alternatives" and "Climate Change". Staff members Wilson and Herrin have been submitting comments on a section by section basis. For example, the Biological Resources section needed to be updated with background information from Terri Simon-Jackson about the USFS piece of the County resource.

Jim Moose, the attorney hired as part of the consultant team, provided feedback on the Transportation section which was important as the Transportation section drives other sections, such as Air Quality.

Williams questions whether figures on CO₂ emissions from wildfires will be included in the analysis. Wilson will forward concern to consultant team.

Rydell questions when the end date will be. Wilson answers that there will be a 45-day review period. If the document is released at the beginning of November, the review would be completed by the middle of December with hearing and certification in late January or early February, shortly after the end of the year.

A completion date of April 2012 was previously projected by the consultants.

Olofson questions whether the Governor's Office of Planning and Research is concerned with the delay in adopting the update. Wilson responds that there has been no push from OPR as the County is following the terms of the General Plan extension, although it has expired. The Board of Supervisors agreed not to process General Plan amendments while the plan was being updated.

Larry Douglas questions whether there are any developments waiting for General Plan amendments. Wilson responds that no, there is no push to development as the economy offers people little incentive to sell their houses and relocate.

B. PUBLIC INPUT OPPORTUNITY – *Larry Douglas discusses the Woodbridge project in the City of Portola.*

VIII JERRY SIPE, DIRECTOR-OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES (OES) & DIRECTOR-ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

A. MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

Sipe presents information on the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and update process. In 2004, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) started requiring each jurisdiction to have a Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Plumas County adopted a plan in 2006, although it was limited in scope. Handouts on the proposal for the update ("Public Information Package, October 2012" and "2012 Plumas County HMP October Hazard Identification and Profiling Workshop" schedule) are presented and discussed.

While it is still used for reference, the Plan is out of date and is inconsistent with the Safety Element of the General Plan. There is a mandate to update these plans every five years. A Disaster Recovery Initiative grant was obtained to provide funding to update the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Safety Element.

A consultant has been retained (Baker) and Ethan Mobley is our contact person. Funding is through this fiscal year with completion in June of 2013.

The plan is intended to provide information to be used for mitigation of disaster impacts. Methods for modifying existing developments, raising public education and awareness, protection of natural resources, and providing emergency services are to be included. Structural project improvements can be identified for future funding. For example, the Arlington Bridge in Indian Valley jams with debris and logs during flood events. If the

problem is identified within the plan, it may be possible to obtain funding to reconstruct the bridge in such a way as to mitigate the problem.

The first step is public engagement and public outreach. Workshops are scheduled to begin October 22, 2012 with an open house in four communities from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Portola, Greenville, Quincy, and Chester). The purpose of the public outreach is to identify issues and hazards resulting from wildfire, flooding, severe weather, and geo-hazards such as earthquakes, rockslides, and landslides. The public is encouraged to share specific information about hazards, including pictures, etc.

The plan covers the disaster component of the Safety element, while not all the issues. The plan addresses public exposure risks to some sort of disaster. However, the outreach for the plan is not divergent from the Safety Element and the consultant will be reviewing the Public Health and Safety Element.

Discussion ensues on toxic mining site identification, sediment transport of mercury from mining sites, pesticides at Lake Davis, critical infrastructure, dam risk assessment. Terri Simon-Jackson adds to the discussion on mining and mining cleanup. The Chips, and other fires, may broaden the scope of the problem through increased erosion and sediment transport, possibly resulting in mercury transfer.

B. RECENT COTTAGE FOOD LEGISLATION (AB 1616)

Sipe hands out "Questions and Answers-California's New Homemade Food Act Also Known as the Cottage Food Operation Law". This new legislation changes how local food production is handled and is an issue for the Department of Environmental Health, as well as for the Planning Department. This is why the Commission is involved in this issue; the Commission's role would be to review legislation, ask questions of staff, mandate changes to the code, and have a meeting for discussion. Then the Commission would recommended code changes to the Board of Supervisors.

The legislation becomes effective January 1, 2013. Discussion of the process involved with two types of food production and the need to register with Department of Environmental Health so that operations can be tracked.

Of particular importance to the Commission is the section of the bill that refers to zoning issues (Chapter 6.1, Cottage Food Operations, 51035). The State recognizes that planning and zoning varies throughout the State and outlines how a City or County should regulate these operations, but preempts certain uses from local prohibition.

Wilson explains the options:

1. Operation may be allowed by right in certain zones,
2. Operation may be allowed with a minor use permit which would set standards for allowable uses and allow the operation in line with legal standards, or
3. Discretionary permit as a sort of modified Special Use Permit. This permit would apply conditions customized to each site.

The first meeting in November is targeted to discuss Commission's recommended actions on the Cottage Food Legislation.

Rydell leaves the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

IX. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Wilson offers a discussion on Euclidean zoning and the need for land use codes to reduce neighbor impacts.

1. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETINGS

Wilson reports that the Board is concerned with the General Plan being completed.

The budget has been adopted with Nancy Fluke being cut from the Planning Department, remaining staff's hours cut to four days/ nine hours each day. As a result, capacity has been greatly reduced.

2. ON-GOING PROJECT UPDATES

a. Zoning Administrator

Zoning Administrator approved the Turner Permit to Mine/Reclamation Plan. The issues with the Office of Mine Reclamation were addressed.

a. Current Planning

The Plumas County Coordinating Council meetings will continue to be held on Fridays. The County will not schedule any other meetings on Fridays.

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

Wilson reports on the IRWM. There has been preliminary approval of a grant for approximately \$700,000 in the Flood Control budget. There are USFS issues and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensing issues that will be addressed.

There is a contract with Tom Hunter, former Public Works Director. Discussion of 401 permitting, Environmental Impact Report release, cold water pool at Bucks Lake with relicensing next year, all of which will impact cooling water and settlement agreement. Work is ongoing to produce an alternative to the thermal curtain at Lake Almanor.

Wilson discusses the Prop 50 grant funding, which contains monies for Last Chance II. Discusses issues with "plug and pond" controversy in relation to Last Chance II. It may be possible to modify the grant or the project. There will be a field trip on October 19, 2012 intended to lead to definition of the problems, development of alternatives and solutions to the identified agreed upon problems.

This controversy needs to be resolved so that conflicts can be avoided throughout the IRWM process.

Schramel mentions the Water Master bill involving Indian Valley (AB 1578) and requests to have it put on the next agenda for discussion.

Wilson goes on to discuss Prop 84 funding and gives credit to Gia Martynn for providing assistance with funding.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE - None

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Items for the October 18th agenda:

Cottage Food Legislation

AB 1578

LAFCo Municipal Service Review for Lake Almanor

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Schramel calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting of October 4, 2012. Motion is made by Olofson, seconded by Williams, with a unanimous affirmative voice vote recorded.

The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting is set for October 18, 2012, at 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