
**PLUMAS COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION**

Minutes of the Meeting of October 18, 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 18, 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, Dotta, & Williams

Commissioners Absent: Rydell

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

Supervisor Terry Swofford – *District 1*

Randy Wilson, *Director - Planning*

Rebecca Herrin, *Senior Planner*

IV. CONSENT ITEMS:

A. ITEMS TO BE CONTINUED OR WITHDRAWN FROM THE AGENDA –*none*
M/S/C to approve agenda- Olofson/Williams/4-0

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –*none*

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS / COMMENTS –*none*

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

Harry Reeves questions the status of the General Plan. As this item is on the agenda, it will be discussed later in the meeting.

VII. GENERAL PLAN UPDATE PROCESS

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

1. STATUS REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE DRAFT EIR

Staff (Wilson and Herrin) has reviewed all draft sections of the DEIR except for the Alternatives analysis. Wilson and Consultant Colleen Shade have a weekly conference call to discuss progress of the DEIR. Staff provides a quick turnaround in commenting on the individual sections and the consultants have been responding to those comments in a timely manner.

The Lake Almanor Municipal Service review information provided by LAFCO has been inserted into the document.

Jim Moose, attorney, has provided legal review. The Board of Supervisors has been briefed on the status.

Discussion ensues on the Commission's role in reviewing the Draft EIR and disappointment with the timeline not being met. Wilson explains that if the Commission received the DEIR prior to its official release, the DEIR becomes a public document. Staff's review is considered internal and does not trigger public release of the document.

Supervisor Swofford expresses that the Board members are anxious for the DEIR to be released. Wilson explains that, while the extension granted by the Office of Planning and Research has expired, the Board is still abiding by the terms of the extension in that no General Plan Amendments are being accepted or processed. OPRs role in reviewing of General Plans is generally limited; the extension granted by the State makes the County unique.

Harry Reeves expresses interest in the form that the Alternatives Analysis will take. The "SPI (Sierra Pacific Industries)" alternative, a "less development" alternative and a "no project" alternative appear to be the three that will be analyzed.

B. PUBLIC INPUT OPPORTUNITY – The public is provided input opportunity.

VIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Continued discussion: re: recent Cottage Food Legislation (AB 1616)

Wilson explains the basic difference between a use permitted "by right" versus one permitted conditionally. The State legislation allows the County to set standards in order to reduce impacts of the use, while not allowing the County to prohibit the use.

The zoning code will need to be updated following adoption of the General Plan.

Schramel discusses the regulation and the role of the Food Policy Council and General Plan issues. She reads an article on the difficulties that small operations have with inspections and processing.

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

By a straw poll, the Commissioners vote 3 to 1 to pursue option 1, allowing the use by right in certain zones.

2. Discussion: re: Indian Valley Watermaster District Legislation (Logue-AB 1578)

Commissioners have all received copies of the legislation. This is legislation to establish a watermaster position for Indian Valley.

3. Discussion: re: Lake Almanor Area Municipal Service Review, Public Review Draft (dated September 13, 2012)

The Lake Almanor MSR was adopted by LAFCO on Monday, October 14, 2012. The document provides valuable information on response times and capital needs and provides a snapshot in time of each special district in the area. The information was utilized by the consultants in the Public Facilities element and the DEIR.

Schramel comments that she found the discussion in the document on the difference in services provided by volunteers versus paid employees very informative. She is encouraged that special districts are working on consolidations. Wilson responds that decentralized, unincorporated services providers have limited resources and that the MSR/Spheres of Influence of the special districts can create fragmentation on the landscape.

Recent legislation is heading towards requiring special districts to participate on LAFCOs. Previously, the requirement to participate in funding LAFCO discouraged Plumas special districts from participating. Schramel mentions an article in the local paper about the fire districts' need for volunteers.

B. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Wilson reports on the status of the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) plan process, the relicensing by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), cold water fisheries, the "thermal curtain" and other issues involving Lake Almanor, Propositions 50 and 84 grants, which will be provided funding for the plan and various projects.

The IRWM may identify projects in a disadvantaged county such as Plumas in order to qualify for grant funding in the future. Such projects could include infrastructure upgrades for water and sewer systems.

1. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETINGS

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

2. ON-GOING PROJECT UPDATES

a. Zoning Administrator

Wilson discusses a project in La Porte which consists of a division between heirs. The project has been continued several times due to the requirement for the development to obtain structural fire protection. A recent meeting with landowners in the Little Grass Valley area and the La Porte Fire Protection District has initiated discussions of annexing the area to the district.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE - None

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Commission cancels the November 1, 2012 regularly scheduled meeting due to the fact that the DEIR will not be ready for release.

M/S/C: Williams/Olofson/carried to cancel the November 1, 2012 meeting and to have the next meeting be held on November 15, 2012.

Cottage Food ordinance recommendation for November 15, 2012 regularly scheduled meeting.

Other future items include inviting the Sheriff to give a presentation, a presentation on the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA), discussion of public (federal) lands being used for development of solar facilities, transmission lines and power grids.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Schramel calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting of October 18, 2012.

M/S/C: Williams/Olofson/4-0 to adjourn the meeting
Meeting is adjourned at 12:46 p.m..

The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting is set for November 15, 2012, at 10:00 a.m., in the Planning & Building Services Conference Room.

Betsy Schramel, Chair
Plumas County Planning Commission

Rebecca Herrin, Senior Planner
Plumas County Planning Department