
**PLUMAS COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION**

Minutes of the Special Meeting of August 13, 2009

The Plumas County Planning Commission (the *Commission*) convenes in a Special Meeting on August 13, 2009, at 10:05 a.m. in the Plumas County Board of Supervisors Chambers, Quincy, CA; Betsy Schramel, Vice Chair, presiding. Members appointed are as follows:

1. Mark Dotta, Chair (District 1);
2. Elizabeth "Betsy" Schramel, Vice Chair (District 2);
3. Richard Rydell, Commissioner (District 3);
4. Larry Williams, Commissioner (District 4); and
5. John Olofson, Commissioner (District 5).

Staff in Attendance: Randy Wilson, Planning Director
Rebecca Herrin, Senior Planner
Nancy Fluke, Recording Secretary

Supervisors in Attendance: Ole Olsen, Terry Swofford, and Sherrie Thrall

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – By Vice Chair Schramel.

II. **SALUTE TO THE FLAG** – By Planning Commission and Attendees.

III. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Betsy Schramel, John Olofson, Larry Williams & Rich Rydell.
Absent: Mark Dotta.

IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Schramel calls for a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Motion is made by Rydell. Williams seconds the motion with a unanimous affirmative voice vote recorded.

V. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS / COMMENTS**

Rydell presents a handout from the *Almanor Basin Watershed Advisory Committee (ABWAC)* and explains that he wants to share this information because a number of the goals and objectives of the ABWAC plan should be included in our General Plan Update. Rydell also states that since ABWAC already exists in the basin, it would be a valuable group to work with during the General Plan Update process. Rydell asks Supervisor Thrall if she has any comments to add since she attended the last ABWAC meeting. Thrall states that the Board of Supervisors did approve the ABWAC plan. Thrall adds that there are things in the ABWAC plan that directly relate to elements of the General Plan.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

Schramel opens the Public Comment Opportunity. Hearing no comments, Schramel closes the Public Comment Opportunity.

VII. STAKEHOLDERS GROUP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Schramel explains that Stakeholders can basically be anyone and adds that a list of prospective Stakeholders is in the process of being formed. Schramel introduces Coleen Shade from Design Workshop and explains that she and her team will be canvassing the County to hold discussions with people on the Stakeholders list to get their particular perspective as it relates to the General Plan Update.

Schramel introduces Glenn Harris, Superintendent, *Plumas Office of Education/Plumas Unified School District (the District)*, and Ron Taylor, Ph.D., Superintendent/President, *Feather River College (the College)*, as prospective Stakeholders; and asks them to share with the Planning Commission their perspectives in relation to the General Plan Update.

Taylor expresses the desire on the part of Feather River College to participate as a Stakeholder. Taylor continues that the direction of the County economy has an enormous significance as far as the offerings the College provides; and that once there is an indication what direction the County economy is going, then the College knows what kind of training to offer and commit to. Taylor adds that it is always advantageous to have college programs that actually draw people to the County, and he cites such programs as dental hygiene and machine shop; however, Taylor mentions that the State is not in a position at this time to assist colleges with new programs. Taylor states that the better option is to build on already existing programs at Feather River College, which are programs with a specific focus on the job market in our region. Taylor reiterates that the desire is for Feather River College to be part of the General Plan Update process and states that he is interested in how the process will work. Rydell asks Taylor what specific programs the College is considering for the future. Taylor responds that various technician training programs are being considered. Rydell asks about health care studies, and Taylor responds that health care programs are always being considered; however, health care programs require the ability to place the students in clinical settings, and that is not always easy to find in Plumas County. Taylor states that the College recently received grant funds to help support a home health aide program and nurse assistant program. Schramel mentions the equestrian program at the College as being successful not only in bringing people into the County, but also meeting the needs of people already in the County. Schramel explains that when the College was established approximately forty years ago, it was hoped that there would be a strong vocational curriculum that would coordinate with the needs of students coming out of the local High Schools. Schramel expresses her concern that this emphasis has gone away to some extent and asks Taylor if this type of relationship between the school district and the College could be re-established. Williams explains that there are efforts in the beginning stages statewide (starting in 7th grade and weaving into college curriculums) pertaining to "green" technology.

Schramel asks if there are any more comments or questions pertaining to the College's interest in the General Plan update. Hearing none, Schramel asks Harris to contribute to the discussion. Harris begins by saying the School District very much wants to be a player in terms of partners and have representatives from the District participate in the various focus groups. Harris believes there are components on the table that are sometimes not talked about and also that difficulties arise when you are a County that doesn't have many

incorporated city governments to work with some of the issues; therefore, the Planning commission has a challenge. Harris states that the challenge he is looking at is the future of these four distinct areas of the County and their economic survival. Harris adds that without the proper mechanisms in place, there is difficulty having discussion about the future of Quincy, for example, because there is no local organizational government to provide structure. Harris continues that the County has four distinct communities that are in dramatic decline; and from the District perspective, he doesn't want the District to have a reactionary response to that decline. Harris says that he is at the meeting today to offer the expertise and background of the District to assist the Planning Commission's effort to look at the economic survival of these communities. Harris expresses his belief that there isn't a larger or more effective organization in the County than the K-12 School District with it's investment in personnel, quality education, and the facilities in each community. Harris explains that he wants to grow the District in spite of the economic times; and in order to do that, each community needs to discover what they want for future graduates. Harris adds that we owe it to our graduates to be prepared with the necessary skills that they can go to schools like MIT if that is what they choose. Harris believes a vital component for the success of students, and the County in general, is to tap into all the technology available (i.e., "dark fiber"). Harris stresses the urgency to have a coordinated effort to establish a vision, a direction, and an economic plan for these communities. Harris adds that the District will be more than willing to assist the Planning Commission in the process. Schramel asks Harris to think about what he wants in the General Plan to assist with education. Harris says the most important factor right now would be the technology. Olofson asks what specific tools he would need and what he means by "dark fiber." Harris explains that pipelines of fiber are laid out for all the band width that we need in this county and that right now there is not a motivation to make all that available for use on a large scale. Olofson states that one of his goals for the General Plan is to establish countywide broad band availability and develop incentives to make it happen with the help of people who understand the technology. Harris responds that there is funding available for this type of technology and he welcomes the Planning Commission to be part of the process to get funding. Harris adds that he has already invited the College to be a part of the process to tap into the technology, and there is also coordinated in place with other counties. Olofson encourages Coleen Shade from Design Workshop to assign someone on their team to look into the issues related to technology and the General Plan Update. Taylor relays the desire of the College to participate in this effort as well. Harris reiterates that with an organized effort, there is no reason why technology can't reach everyone in Plumas County. Schramel adds that staying up on the latest technology makes the possibilities endless for our students.

VIII. PRESENTATION – PASSION FOR THE LAND (DVD – 1 HR.)

Schramel introduces Holly George, the Livestock and Natural Resource Advisor (University of California Cooperative Extension) in Plumas County. George explains that she has had the honor of being part of a project to produce a DVD media production called "Passion for the Land" which is a collection of twelve personal stories about agriculture and resource stewardship in Sierra Valley. George says this is an effort to get their voices heard by policy/decision makers, and provide an emphasis on sustainability. George provides "Passion for the Land" brochures and begins the presentation. Subjects "Passion for the Land" touches on are as follows:

- Risks of losing small farms and ranches & the need to keep people on the land,
- Water regulatory programs & watershed stewardship,
- "Ranch Days" for Kids and involving youth in agriculture,

- Estate planning and passing the land on in families,
- Agricultural viability,
- Wildlife preservation,
- History and tradition in Sierra Valley.

Following the presentation, discussion takes place among the Commissioners and attendees concerning possible venues for showing "Passion for the Land" such as; the Plumas Sierra County Fair, local cable companies, community leaders, realtors, and schools. Williams asks about the current status of the Williamson Act and Wilson provides a brief explanation of Williamson Act legislation. Schramel adds how important it is to keep up-to-date about the Williamson Act.

IX. GENERAL PLAN UPDATE PROCESS

A. THE CONSULTANT TEAM'S REPORT

Coleen Shade from Design Workshop explains that the Stakeholders interviews are continuing and that there will be more than the 15 interviews that were originally planned. Shade adds that she is also beginning to work with Wilson to form the Working Groups in October.

Rydell stresses the need for Design Workshop to be provided any and all material by the Planning Department that pertains to the Plumas County Planning Commission from its beginning. Rydell asks that a list of the materials provided to Design Workshop is available to the Commissioners so that they can make sure nothing is missed.

Schramel asks Shade if she has anything else to report. Shade says she plans to have time set aside at the two September Planning Commission meetings to specifically go over goals.

Wilson mentions that the Stakeholder lists are continuing to grow.

X. BROWN ACT WORKSHOP

Copies of the *Ralph M. Brown Act and Related Statutes (Effective January 1, 2004)*; and, *Open & Public IV: A Guide to the Ralph M. Brown Act* are distribution to Commissioners. Wilson explains that he spoke to County Counsel, James Reichle, who expressed his regrets that he could not be at the meeting today to be a part of the *Brown Act* review. Wilson states that it would be helpful to have Reichle available to lend his expertise on the subject.

XI. CONSENT ITEMS:

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Schramel asks for a motion to approve the minutes of July 9, 2009. Williams makes the motion. Rydell seconds the motion and a unanimous voice vote is recorded.

XII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REPORT

Wilson reports that the Board of Supervisors did an indefinite continuance of the Thran Parcel Map (Sierra Valley). Wilson adds that this matter will be heard again after the update of the General Plan.

Wilson briefly mentions that a contract was cancelled by the Board of Supervisors pertaining to a Williamson Act / Lot Line Adjustment issue.

Wilson mentions that a hearing on the Lake Front EIR certification will take place in Chester on August 26, 2009.

2. DISTRIBUTION TO COMMISSIONERS OF: *PMC REVIEW OF THE PLUMAS COUNTY GENERAL PLAN – 2008 (Correspondence & Documentation)*.

Commissioners receive their copies of the PMC Review document to be discussed at the Special Planning Commission meeting scheduled for August 20, 2009. Wilson encourages the Commissioners to examine the Opportunity Map which he plans to elaborate on at the next meeting.

3. ON-GOING PROJECT UPDATES – No report.

XIII. CORRESPONDENCE

Copies of information provided by Holly George and pertaining to the *California Constitutional Convention – Town Hall Meeting Draft Agenda* are made available.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Schramel calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion is made by Williams. Rydell seconds the motion with a unanimous affirmative voice vote recorded. The meeting adjourns at 11:40 a.m. The next regular Planning Commission meeting will take place August 20, 2009, 10:00 a.m., at the Planning & Building Services Conference Room.


Betsy Schramel, Vice Chair
Plumas County Planning Commission Betsy


Nancy Fluke, Recording Secretary