
**PLUMAS COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION**
Minutes of the Meeting of September 17, 2009

The Plumas County Planning Commission (the *Commission*) convenes in a Meeting on September 17, 2009, at 10:02 a.m. in the Planning & Building Services Conference Room, Quincy, CA; Betsy Schramel, Vice Chair, presiding. Members appointed are as follows:

Mark Dotta, Chair (District 1);
Elizabeth "Betsy" Schramel, Vice Chair (District 2);
Richard Rydell, Commissioner (District 3);
Larry Williams, Commissioner (District 4); and
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
Absent: Mark Dotta & Rich Rydell

IV. **CONSENT ITEMS:**

A. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

B. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Minutes are not available for approval.

V. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS / COMMENTS**

Schramel states that starting Monday, September 21, 2009, 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M., in Greenville (High School), the Transportation Commission will present the *Regional*

Transportation Plan of Plumas County. Schramel adds that this would be a good meeting to attend to learn about roads and how roads are used. Wilson states that the member of the Consultant Team that deals with traffic concerns has been working with the Transportation Commission. Wilson also talks about a Technical Advisory Committee that is composed of CalTrans staff, Transportation Commission staff, Design Workshop and Planning staff who are working together on transportation issues.

Schramel announces that September 25, 2009, 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., in Taylorsville, there will be a workshop on sustainable agriculture. Schramel explains that the discussions will center around organic farming, effective water use, and solar power on pumps, plus there will be a farm tour (Kingdon Farm).

Schramel explains that several years ago she went to the local schools and the college in an effort to get information out to students about how they can participate in the future of Plumas County. Schramel adds that schools in Greenville established a program to study natural resources. Schramel reports that she recently found an article in the local newspaper about efforts in Greenville to teach journalism so the students can write about various projects (i.e., water, power).

Williams reports that on October 2, 2009, Plumas Corporation will have their annual dinner which will include a speaker who will talk about Economic Development. Wilson says he will give an update to the Commission about this event.

Wilson reports that Feather Publishing is graciously providing the Planning Department with the front section from each of the four newspapers. Wilson says this has helped him become familiar with events in those communities.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

At this time, the public has the opportunity to address the Commission concerning any item of interest not listed on this agenda. The Commission may not discuss or take any action on any item presented during the public comment period that is not on the agenda. The Commission may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by members of the public. Upon recognition by the Chairman, please state your name, address, and subject matter. Discussion of any non-agenda items will be limited to three (3) minutes or such reasonable time as is granted by the majority of the Commission.

Schramel opens the Public Comment Opportunity. Bob Kile, resident of Indian Valley (North Arm), introduces himself and states he and others in the North Arm area have concerns about a copper mine that is being proposed in that area. Kile expresses his opinion that such a project is not environmentally sound for water quality and wildlife and would be a detriment to the community. Kile adds that he believes all copper mines have some kind of residual (acid) that gets into the water. Kile cites a similar situation in Genesee whereby an amendment to the General Plan was submitted (Kile provides handout). Kile adds that he would like to see some of the language from that amendment in the General Plan. Kile lists the following items he would like considered: noise, wildlife, water table, traffic problems, runoff, boom & bust, and jobs. Schramel asks how many homes have been built there since the last mining. Kile responds – Hundreds of homes. Kile explains that he lives 2 1.2 miles from Engels Mine and there is still drainage coming from the tailings that gets into the creek in the winter. Kile adds that has never been cleaned up. Williams mentions to Kile that the community members from his locale can be put on the Planning Commission contact list. Kile comments that John Shower is the President of the Moonlight Valley Alliance and is more knowledgeable about this subject.

Olofson adds that Showers is on the contact list. Kile concludes his comments by saying they wanted to go on record that they are opposed to the copper mine. Planning Director Wilson asks Senior Planner Becky Herrin if there currently are any projects in that area and Herrin responds, "No." Herrin adds that there is an MOA with the Forest Service that the permit process is done locally, and anything on private land and State Conservation would come through the County. Kile comments that the Moonlight Mine area is in Forest Service land, but the mine close to him is on private property. Schramel asks Terry Simon-Jackson, Forest Service employee in attendance, if the Forest Service has anything to say about this. Jackson states she doesn't work in that area, but she will try to find out. Wilson suggests that this topic is continued during Item VII-B, *Public Input Opportunity for the General Plan Update*. Schramel asks if there are any other public comments. Hearing none, Schramel closes the *Public Comment Opportunity*.

VII. GENERAL PLAN UPDATE PROCESS

A. CONSULTANT TEAM'S REPORT

1. GOALS

Wilson explains that the Consultant, Coleen Shade, couldn't be here today. Wilson says Shade relayed to him that she plans to attend at least one Planning Commission meeting each month. Wilson refers to a goals handout prepared by Shade and suggests the Commissioners provide feedback to take back to Shade.

Schramel mentions a Board of Supervisors resolution she became aware of in October of 2008 that talked about including Federal, State, and local cooperative efforts in the General Plan update. Schramel reads a portion from the draft resolution that refers to the Supervisors' intent to form a coordinating committee. Wilson adds that the resolution has been adopted by the Board of Supervisors and there is a Coordinating Council in place that is made up of the following members: Frank Stewart, Brian Morris, Bob Perreault and Randy Wilson. Wilson continues that this Council has met to formulate letters for Board of Supervisors input on the transportation plans from both Lassen and Plumas National Forests. Schramel asks for copies of the resolution for the other Commissioners and suggests that a representative from that Council gives a report at a future Planning Commission meeting.

Returning to the goals list prepared by Shade, Olofson states these goals were not what he was expecting. Wilson says these are *umbrella* goals for the update itself and that there is room for change. Wilson reminds the Commissioners that they will also be developing *specific* goals for the elements which will contain language that is different from these goals. Schramel states her belief energy should also be part of the wording in these goals. Olofson states, "We have lost what we're doing here," and he asks Wilson if these goals are a part of the General Plan, or are these goals for how they will arrive at the General Plan. Wilson says the latter is correct and continues to explain that Shade attempted to put down on paper the goals the Commissioners provided at previous meetings for the update process.

B. PUBLIC INPUT OPPORTUNITY

Wilson returns to the discussion that took place under *Item VI* concerning mining. Wilson states that there have been no recent permits filed for copper mining in Plumas County. Wilson adds if a copper mine is being considered by Plumas National Forest, it is his hope they would choose to work with the Planning Department on that matter. A general discussion takes place among Commissioners and Staff about State and local mining regulations as they relate to reclamation. Olofson speaks to Bob Kile about the need for his group to have a representative at every Planning Commission meeting and any other meeting that might have a bearing on mining. Olofson adds that he is dedicated to prevent another "Walker Mine" situation from occurring in Plumas County and that he will encourage open and honest discussions about mining with the National Forest. Schramel adds that the Plumas County General Plan can be designed to be very specific concerning mining. Kile thanks the Commissioners for listening to his concerns.

VIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REPORT

Wilson reports discussion at the most recent Supervisors meeting that LAFCo has interviewed candidates for the Executive Officer position but that a decision has not been made yet. Wilson adds that he will not be acting as temporary Executive Officer when Feather River Inn matters come before LAFCo. Williams asks about pending LAFCo lawsuits and Wilson replies that there is nothing new to report.

Wilson reports that the Board took action, as recommended by the Administrative Officer, to do staff reductions of four full-time employees from the following departments: 1 from Museum, 2 from Records Management, and 1 unfilled position from Treasurer/Tax Collector.

Wilson states that the Board approved the ordinance changes for Lot Line Adjustments and Appeals, and that those changes should go into effect in 30 days.

Wilson says the Board is suggesting the following possible dates for a joint BOS/PC workshop: October 7, 8, 15, or November 5, 2009. Brief discussion takes place among Commissioners and Staff about the pros and cons of these dates. Wilson states that this workshop will be done gratis by Design Workshop and that they will basically have the presentations and discussions focused on the goals listed in the handout presented during *Item VII-A-1*. Wilson adds that the workshop most likely will take place in the Mineral Building at the Fairgrounds and that it will be noticed in the newspapers.

Wilson ends his Board of Supervisors report by saying the Supervisors held a discussion on climate change in California, however, Wilson was unable to attend that portion of the meeting.

2. PMC REVIEW OF THE PLUMAS COUNTY GENERAL PLAN, AND REVIEW OF THE EXISTING GENERAL PLAN – Discussion continued to the October 1, 2009, meeting..

3. ON-GOING PROJECT UPDATES

a. Zoning Administrator

Wilson discusses the approval of the Paige parcel map with a condition to provide a circular driveway for fire safety. A general discussion follows among Commissioners and Staff, with participation by Jay Newman, *CalFire* Captain, about fire safety, proposed *CalFire* framework for change, and locations of regional Cal Fire facilities.

Schramel compliments Staff on the Project Tracking Sheet and adds that she finds it most helpful in understanding the nature of current projects under review by the Planning Department and Zoning Administrator.

b. Current Planning – No report.

Note: Discussion

Olofson asks the question whether the numerous committees throughout the county (i.e., Transportation Commission, Airport Land Use Commission) are paying attention to the General Plan Update. Olofson expresses concern that “the tail is wagging the dog” and that the public can’t possibly participate in all the meetings taking place. Olofson cites as an example that he has no idea what the Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) is doing as far as land use issues are concerned and what that entity might have to do with the General Plan. A lengthy discussion takes place whereby Wilson explains the specific function of the ALUC and the *Airport Land Use Compatibility Plans* and how they relate to the Planning Commission and the General Plan. Wilson adds that he will arrange for a representative from the ALUC to give a presentation at an upcoming Planning Commission meeting.

4. PLANNING DEPARTMENT WEBSITE UPDATE

Dennis Miller, GIS Coordinator, shows the Commissioners the website he has developed (www.plumascountyplanningandbuilding.com) for Planning and Building Services which includes selection options for the Planning Commission and the General Plan Update. Miller explains that such things as agendas, minutes, maps, forms, contacts, general information, surveys/polls, and other input can be a part of this website. Miller asks the Commissioners if they personally want their Email information on the website. Olofson and Williams reply that they do want to include their Email information and Schramel replies she does not want to include her Email information at this time.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE – None.

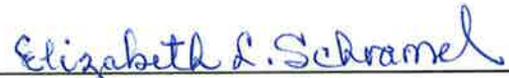
X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Presentation by Brian Morris, General Manager, *Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District*
- Report from the *Economic Recovery Committee*
- Report from *Coordinating Council*
- Presentation by the *Plumas County Airport Land Use Commission*
- BOS/PC Workshop

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Schramel calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion is made by Olofson. Williams seconds the motion with a unanimous affirmative voice vote recorded. The meeting adjourns at 12:08 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting is October 1, 2009, 10:00 A.M., in the Planning & Building Department Conference Room.



Betsy Schramel, Vice Chair
Plumas County Planning Commission



Nancy Fluke, Recording Secretary