

---

**PLUMAS COUNTY  
PLANNING COMMISSION**  
Minutes of the Meeting of December 3, 2009

---

The Plumas County Planning Commission (the *Commission*) convenes in a Meeting on December 3, 2009, at 10:01 a.m. in the Planning and Building Services Conference Room, Quincy, CA; Mark Dotta, 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: None

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - By Chair Dotta
- II. **SALUTE TO THE FLAG** – By Planning Commission and Attendees
- III. **ROLL CALL**

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

IV. **CONSENT ITEMS:**

A. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

B. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Dotta calls for a motion to approve the minutes of September 17, 2009. Motion is made by Williams. Schramel seconds the motion with a unanimous affirmative voice vote recorded.

***Note to Recording Secretary:***

*For future reference, the name John Showers should be John Shower and Engel Mine should be Engels Mine.*

**V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS / COMMENTS**

Olofson reports that he attended an interesting meeting where Holly George, from the Agricultural Commissioner's office, discussed Federal grants to assist young farmers.

**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.*

Dotta opens the Public Comment Opportunity. Hearing none, Dotta closes the Public Comment Opportunity.

**VII. GENERAL PLAN UPDATE PROCESS**

**A. CONSULTANT TEAM'S REPORT**

**1. DISCUSSION ON THE JOINT BOS/PC WORKSHOP HELD NOVEMBER 10, 2009**

Wilson opens a discussion about the recent joint workshop of the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission which was facilitated by the General Plan Update Consultants and focused on the General Plan Update Process. Comments are shared that reflect overall approval of the workshop content and structure.

**2. STATUS ON CONSULTANT PRODUCTS – No Report**

**B. PUBLIC INPUT OPPORTUNITY – No comments.**

**VIII. PRESENTATION REGARDING THE PLUMAS COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL AND CURRENT PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS**

Jerry Hurley, Coordinator of the Plumas County Fire Safe Council, begins his presentation by saying the Fire Safe Council's objective is to put forth efforts to mitigate wildland fires in Plumas County through "fire wise" community programs and pre-fire activities. Hurley adds that the Fire Safe Council meetings take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month, starting at 9:00 a.m., and are located in the Planning & Building Services Conference Room. Hurley begins a Power Point presentation highlighting the following:

- Photos showing the contrast between a forest area in the late 1940's and the same forest area today.
- Priorities: 1<sup>st</sup> Safety; 2<sup>nd</sup> Structure Protection; 3<sup>rd</sup> Forests and watershed.
- It is an advantage to have defensible space and non-combustible space around structures.
- Problems associated with the shortages of Forest Service Staff and resources.
- Possible responsibility of Building Department to inspect fire clearances around structures.

- Fire Physics: Fuel – Weather – Topography.
- Fire Management: Reduce Volatile Fuels – Horizontal Separation of Fuels – Vertical Separation of Fuels.
- What Fire Safe Council is doing: Educating communities – Community fire protection plans – Grants for mitigation activities – County-wide fuel assessment strategy – Assisting Communities with Fire Safe Councils or Nationally Recognized Firewise Communities.
- Goal of the Plumas County Wildlife Protection Plan: Identify situations and factors putting communities at risk from wildfire, and suggest appropriate mitigation measures.
- Suggestion to incorporate Fire Safe Councils and Firewise Communities in General Plan.
- Concern about fire protection and the associated costs for property owners outside a fire district.

**IX. CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (CHCD) AND RECOMMENDATION BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGARDING THESE CHANGES**

Wilson begins the discussion about the changes to *the Housing Element* by saying they are minor in nature and are focused on the *low* and *very low* income ranges. Wilson asks the Commissioners to review the changes, and adds that his recommendation is that the Planning Commission approves the changes and then presents the document to the Board. Wilson states that the changes are not going to create any physical effects on the environment. Dotta asks if the Commissioners have any questions regarding the changes. Schramel states she has a problem with the use of the word *minimal* as it pertains to health and safety on the first page of *Goals*. John Sheehan says you will want to retain that term because it is a philosophical goal of the people of California to minimize regulation and reduce the cost of housing in general across the board for all income groups. Herrin adds that the use of the wording "*minimum standards necessary to insure health and safety*" is used often in planning. Williams shares his interpretation that everybody gets the same treatment. Schramel humorously adds that she's not sure she's going to get past that wording. Dotta asks if there are any other concerns about the changes; and if not, is anyone willing to make the motion to recommend the Housing Element document, with the changes, to the Board of Supervisors. Olofson makes the motion. Williams seconds the motion and a unanimous affirmative voice vote is recorded.

**X. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**A. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**1. PLANNING DEPARTMENT WEBSITE UPDATE**

Wilson states that the development of the Planning and Building Services website continues to evolve.

**2. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REPORT**

Wilson hands out material that lists the names of the individuals chosen by the Supervisors to participate in the Working Groups. The kickoff meeting for the Working Groups will take place January 6, 2010 in the Quincy Library Meeting Room.

**3. REVIEW OF THE EXISTING PLUMAS COUNTY GENERAL PLAN**

**4. ON-GOING PROJECT UPDATES**

- a.) **Zoning Administrator** – There will not be a ZA Hearing in December.
- b.) **Current Planning** – No report.

**XI. CORRESPONDENCE – None.**

**XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Brian Morris, General Manager of the *Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District*, will speak at the December 17, 2009, Planning Commission meeting.
- Wilson and Sheehan briefly mention that there is an effort to develop a County Trails Master Plan and at a future meeting there will be a recommendation for the Planning Commission to consider that plan and incorporate it in the General Plan.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Dotta adjourns the meeting at 12:16 p.m. The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting is December 17, 2009, 10:00 a.m., in the Planning & Building Department Conference Room.



Mark Dotta, Chair  
Plumas County Planning Commission



Nancy Fluke, Recording Secretary