
**PLUMAS COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION**

Minutes of the Meeting of June 7, 2012

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS

Betsy Schramel , Chair	(District 2)
John Olofson , Vice Chair	(District 5)
Mark Dotta	(District 1)
Richard Rydell	(District 3)
Larry Williams	(District 4)



I. CALL TO ORDER

The Plumas County Planning Commission (*the Commission*) convenes in a meeting on June 7, 2012, at 10:00 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, & 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: None

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

Randy Wilson, *Director - Planning*
Nancy Fluke, *Recording Secretary*

IV. CONSENT ITEMS:

A. ITEMS TO BE CONTINUED OR WITHDRAWN FROM THE AGENDA

Schramel asks if there are any revisions to the agenda. Hearing none, Schramel calls for a motion to approve the June 7, 2012, agenda. Motion is made by Dotta, seconded by Williams, and a unanimous affirmative voice vote is recorded.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 17, 2012 - *not available for approval at this time*

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS / COMMENTS

Schramel announces that the Greenville Museum will be open from Memorial Day to Labor Day, Wednesday thru Sunday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Schramel adds that the museum will feature an exhibit this summer that focuses on Indian Valley Schools.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY – No Comments

VII. PRESENTATION BY BOB MARSHALL ON FIBER OPTICS

Bob Marshall, General Manager of Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative (PSREC), distributes a handout titled; *Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications Mid-Mile Fiber Project*. Marshall begins by providing a history of the PSREC. Marshall explains that PSREC is a member cooperative with a goal to improve quality of life for its members, and to keep members current regarding advances in the telecommunications arena. Marshall continues his presentation by touching on the following key points:

- Fiber-optic collaborative groups can be formed throughout Plumas, Lassen, and Sierra Counties. (Examples of possible participants: colleges & other local schools, libraries, local hospitals, prisons, military, tribes, law enforcement, and other county, state & federal agencies);
- CEQA and NEPA steps have been completed for fiber-optic implementation (Reno to Susanville, Reno to Quincy, linkages to Loyalton, Graeagle, Herlong);
- Initial fiber-optic implementation is focused on commercial districts;
- Fiber-optics will be in place for most users (Reno to Susanville, Reno to Quincy, linkages to Loyalton, Graeagle, Herlong) by the end of 2012;
- The next step is to have fiber-optics from Quincy to Westwood, and then to Chester;
- Fiber-optics can be beneficial to recreation in the region;
- Fiber-optics will help to facilitate people who want to move to this region and work from home;
- High school and college courses set up to provide education about using fiber-optic technology.

VIII. GENERAL PLAN UPDATE PROCESS

Wilson reports that he has received, and is reviewing, the first components of the Administrative Draft of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the General Plan update. Wilson also mentions that Becky Herrin, Senior Planner, is presently attending a workshop to learn the various facets of updating zoning codes. Wilson adds that this instruction will be helpful because the zoning code updates, following approval of the General Plan, will be done in-house rather than being contracted out.

The following comments are pertinent to this item but they were voiced out of sequence later on in the meeting:

Dotta asks Wilson about Planning Commission involvement in the zoning code update process after the General Plan is finalized. Wilson responds that the Planning Commission definitely will be involved. Wilson adds that there is a potential that the zoning code update process may actually spark more controversy than the General Plan Update process.

Harry Reeves, member of Audubon Society, describes confusion that was brought to his attention recently by the Sierra Nevada Alliance concerning the adequacy of rural fire protection in Plumas County. Wilson comments that the subject is currently in the forefront of discussion on many levels throughout Plumas County. Reeves says having continued open discussions on the matter by all parties concerned will be helpful.

Terri Simon-Jackson, Planning Staff Officer - PNF, asks why making pellets from forest material isn't being promoted more. A discussion ensues regarding transportation cost being the likely reason why pellet production isn't being promoted more aggressively.

Regarding the EIR, Simon-Jackson offers the suggestion that people who have positive comments about the draft EIR should make a point of going on record to demonstrate their approval.

IX. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETINGS

Wilson states that budget discussions have been continuing, but there is no news at this time when the adoption of the County budget will take place.

2. ON-GOING PROJECT UPDATES

a. Zoning Administrator

Wilson reports that the zoning hearing on the mining reclamation plan (Turner Excavation, Inc. – Diamond Mountain Road) in Indian Valley is likely to be continued at the next Zoning Administrator meeting due to the need to perform an on-site visit.

b. Current Planning – No report

3. INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT (IRWM)

Wilson states that David Keller, Director – Community Development, has received a grant for \$250,000.00 pertinent to the “disadvantaged communities” designation in the *Upper Feather River Integrated Regional Water Management Plan*.

Wilson states that the County is required to have in place a Hazard Mitigation Plan to look at potential hazardous issues (i.e., floods, fires) in the County, and to establish mitigation measures for those issues. Wilson stresses that such a plan needs to be integrated into the Safety Element of the General Plan. Discussion ensues regarding various examples (past and future) of hazardous scenarios in Plumas County.

Wilson explains that he and Leah Wills will be attending more meetings pertaining to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issues in the Feather River Canyon.

Wilson mentions that climate change is a frequent topic at meetings he attends, and that he will have more information on that subject in the future.

Olofson asks Wilson if the Planning Commission will be involved in the update process of the IRWMP. Wilson responds that there will be an opportunity for Planning Commission members to participate in the IRWMP update process via working groups (similar to the General Plan update working groups).

XI. CORRESPONDENCE - None

XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- The draft EIR
- Turner Excavation mining issue
- Presentation by Randy Wilson and Leah Wills in August (same as the presentation at a recent Coordinating Council meeting)
- Alice Berg of the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) – presentation on fisheries
- SMARA (more detailed explanation by Randy Wilson)
- Biomass article
- Incorporation

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Discussion ensues regarding whether there is a need to hold the June 21st Regular Planning Commission meeting. Following discussion, Schramel calls for a motion to cancel the meeting on June 21st. Motion is made by Dotta, seconded by Olofson, with a unanimous affirmative voice vote recorded.

There being no further business, Schramel calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting of June 7, 2012. Motion is made by Williams, seconded by Dotta, with a unanimous affirmative voice vote recorded. The meeting adjourns at 12:51 p.m.

Elizabeth Schramel, Chair
Plumas County Planning Commission



Nancy Fluke, Recording Secretary
Plumas County Planning Department