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**PLUMAS COUNTY  
PLANNING COMMISSION**  
Minutes of the Meeting of March 4, 2010

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The Plumas County Planning Commission (the *Commission*) convenes in a Meeting on March 4, 2010, at 10:04 a.m. in the Planning and Building Services Conference Room, Quincy, CA; Chair Mark Dotta 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: Terry Swofford

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A. **ITEMS TO BE CONTINUED OR WITHDRAWN FROM THE AGENDA**

Dotta asks the Commissioners if there are any items to be continued or withdrawn from the agenda. Hearing none, Dotta calls for a motion to approve the agenda as it stands. Schramel makes the motion, Olofson seconds the motion, and a unanimous affirmative voice vote is recorded.

B. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Dotta calls for a motion to approve the minutes of January 7, 2010. Motion is made by Williams. Olofson seconds the motion and a unanimous affirmative voice vote is recorded.

Dotta calls for a motion to approve the minutes of January 21, 2009. Motion is made by Schramel. Williams seconds the motion and a unanimous affirmative voice vote is recorded.

## **V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS / COMMENTS**

Schramel mentions an article in the paper about the group named SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) who hosted a forum dealing with the topics of shopping locally to strengthen a sustainable economy and how buying fair trade helps to alleviate global poverty.

Olofson says he attended a "Creeks and Communities" conference in Reno which provided information from various botanists, biologists, and hydrologists. Olofson also stated that he gleaned information from some of the other attendees, particularly a woman who mentioned the economic benefits to ranchers to provide fishing opportunities on their properties to fly fisherman.

Schramel recommends to the Commissioners that they read an article in the newspaper written by the Chair of the Sierra County Board of Supervisors about State and local forestry issues in conjunction with the Forest Service.

Schramel cites an article in the newspaper about the January, 2011, proposed fire and building codes, and particularly the following points that are mentioned: 1. Requirement to have residential fire sprinklers in all new one- and two-family units and townhouse construction; and, 2. Regulations for homes built in the wildland-urban interface in order to make them more ember resistant and increase structure survivability.

## **VI. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Dotta opens the Public Comment Opportunity. Guy McNett, attendee, offers thanks to the Commissioners who attended the Indian Valley Working Group session.

Dotta asks if there are any other Public Comments. Hearing none, Dotta closes the Public Comment Opportunity.

## **VII. GENERAL PLAN UPDATE PROCESS**

### **A. CONSULTANT TEAM'S REPORT**

#### **1. STATUS ON CONSULTANT PRODUCTS**

Wilson says that the Consultant is not in attendance at this meeting. Wilson adds that the Consultant is still working on the background information for the Briefing Report.

Wilson comments on the success of the Working Groups and how each group is distinctive. Wilson adds that a member of the Indian Valley group was amazed at the extensiveness of the General Plan. Olofson mentions that he attended all the Working Group session and he encourages other Commissioners to do the same. John Hafen, member of the Indian Valley Working Group, asks how information brought out at each session will be communicated between the groups. Wilson answers that the website will

help in that regard. Hafen asks about the level of cooperation between the Planning Commission and the Forest Service in the General Plan Update process since the Forest Service historically is reluctant to work with local jurisdictions. Olofson shares a discussion he recently had with Dave Weixelman from the Forest Service who was unaware of the County's General Plan. Olofson adds that his hope in the future is that the Forest Service will work closely with the Planning Commission on the Plumas County General Plan Update. Wilson states that the Forest Service intends to update their own plan when funds are available, and that they do realize the importance of working with the Planning Commission to make both plans compatible. Williams offers the suggestion to write a letter or procedure paper to the head forester in Vallejo to express the desire to collaborate. Wilson comments that the Board of Supervisors might be interested in doing that.

Schramel brings up the matter of Forest Service funding for local education. A discussion ensues among Commissioners, Staff, and Bill Wickman, presenter from the Plumas County Economic Recovery Committee, about the changes that have taken place regarding this funding. Wilson elaborates about the difficulty with Federal funding and the "pull" that the Eastern States have over the Western States in Washington D.C. Wickman stresses the importance of having powerful representation in Washington D.C. to accomplish what is needed in the Western part of the country.

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

**VIII. PRESENTATION: PLUMAS COUNTY ECONOMIC RECOVERY COMMITTEE -  
*Bill Wickman***

Bill Wickman introduces himself and clarifies that the name of his group is not called the *Economic Development Council*, as mentioned in the agenda, but instead the group is called the *Plumas County Economic Recovery Committee*. Wickman provides background information about his career and time spent in Plumas County. Wickman explains that this committee began as a small ad hoc group of citizens from all areas of the county who were concerned about the closure of the small log mill as well as other economic issues. Wickman reads a mission statement and explains that this committee is not subject to Brown Act requirements because it is not a publicly appointed group. Wickman says that the committee's focus is from an economic standpoint and he cites the committee's work on the "think local" campaign recently promoted in Plumas County communities. Wickman states that the committee is looking for similar groups in other counties to network with, and that they have linked up with a couple already. Wickman hands out a packet of material and begins explaining, and answering questions, regarding various aspects covered in the following packet items:

- Letter (dated 12/24/09) from the PCERC/Bill Wickman to Senators, Representatives and State Representatives, re: Water Issues in the State of California and S. 1759, H.B. 3105;
- Letter (dated 12/14/09) from the PCERC/Bill Wickman to Mr. Randy Moore, Regional Forester, re: Impacts that the current and past mill closures are having and will continue to have on Plumas County;
- Letter (dated 12/14/09) from the PCERC/Bill Wickman to Senator Feinstein, Congressman Herger, Congressman McClintock, Congressman Lungren, Congressman Radanovich, re: Meeting with Forest Service Regional Forester;

- Letter (dated 10/8/09) from the PCERC/Bill Wickman to Senator Cox, re: Support of SB 67;
- Letter (dated 9/15/09) from the PCERC/Bill Wickman to Governor Schwarzenegger, re: Senate Bill 14;
- Letter (dated 9/9/09) from the PCERC/Bill Wickman to Chairwoman Thrall, re: Formation of the PCERC to try and address the local economic impacts associated with the reduction in the environmentally sound use of our forests;
- Letter (dated 8/25/09) from the PCERC/Bill Wickman to Governor Schwarzenegger, re: Opposition to SB 670;
- Letter (dated 7/30/09) from the PCERC/Bill Wickman to Forest Supervisor Alice Carlton, re: Request for Consideration of Biomass on the Plumas National Forest;
- Letter (dated 7/30/09) from the PCERC/Bill Wickman to Representative Wally Herger, re: H.R. 2899;
- Letter (dated 6/23/09) from the PCERC/Bill Wickman to Chair, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee, Fran Pavley, re: Support for Assembly Bill 1066 (Mendoza);
- Letter (dated 6/19/09) from the PCERC/Bill Wickman to Senator Feinstein, re: Request Emergency Process to Address Hazardous Fuel Conditions on National Forests in California;
- Letter (dated 6/11/09) from the PCERC/Bill Wickman to Senators Feinstein and Boxer; Congressmen Costa, Herger, McClintock, Lundgren, Radanovich, Thompson, and Waxman; and State Senator Cox and State Assemblyman Logue, Re: Markey-Waxman Climate and Energy Bill.

Wickman concludes his presentation by saying the PCERC consists of extremely dedicated volunteers; but due to time constraints, they must pick and choose their battles from the huge amount of issues out there that need to be addressed.

**Note:** Subsequent to this meeting, Wickman provides copies of the following items for distribution to the Commissioners:

- Summary statement re: formation of the PCERC (Plumas County Economic Recovery Committee and the SFAC (Sustainable Forest Action Coalition));
- March 19, 2010 PCERC Meeting Agenda;
- Letter (dated 3/3/10) from the PCERC/Bill Wickman to To Whom It May Concern, re: Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications (PST) Mid Mile Fiber Project;
- Letter (dated 2/28/10) from the PCERC/Bill Wickman to Representatives Lummis and Herseth-Sandlin, re: Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA);
- Letter (dated 1/28/10) from the PCERC/Bill Wickman to Ken Alex, Senior Asst. Attorney General, Re: Appeal of the 2004 Sierra Nevada Framework.

## **IX. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **A. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### **1. PLANNING DEPARTMENT WEBSITE UPDATE**

Dennis Miller, GIS Coordinator, begins a visual presentation of the Website showing what has been recently been added or changed. Miller also focuses on maps showing undeveloped prime opportunity parcels throughout the county.

**2. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REPORT**

Wilson says the most relevant items discussed at the recent Board of Supervisors meeting was a letter to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy dealing with sustainability, and a new Superintendent named for Lassen National Forest.

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

**4. ON-GOING PROJECT UPDATES – *No report***

**X. CORRESPONDENCE**

- Letter to Planning Commission Chair Mark Dotta from Eastern Plumas Health Care asking if he would like to attend their meetings and provide input.

**XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Sherman Swanson to speak at the March 18, 2010, Planning Commission meeting.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Dotta adjourns the meeting of March 4, 2010, at 12:07 p.m. The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting is March 18, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., in the Planning & Building Department Conference Room.

  
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Nancy Fluke, Recording Secretary

  
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Mark Dotta, Chair  
Plumas County Planning Commission