
**PLUMAS COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION**

Minutes of the Meeting of May 16, 2013

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS

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



I. CALL TO ORDER

The Plumas County Planning Commission (*the Commission*) convenes in a meeting on May 16, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. in the Planning and Building Services Conference Room, Quincy, CA; Chair Olofson, presiding.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

III. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Olofson, Dotta, Schramel, Williams, Rydell

Commissioners Absent: none

Also in attendance (Supervisors, Consultants, County Staff):
Randy Wilson, *Planning Director*
Rebecca Herrin, *Senior Planner*
Terry Swofford, *Supervisor, District 1*

IV. CONSENT ITEMS:

A. ITEMS TO BE CONTINUED OR WITHDRAWN FROM THE AGENDA –*none*
M/S/C to approve agenda: Dotta/Williams/5-0

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/S/C to approve minutes of the meeting of December 13, 2012: Williams/Schramel/5-0

M/S/C to approve minutes of the meeting of March 7, 2013: Williams/Schramel/5-0

M/S/C to approve minutes of the meeting of March 21, 2013: Williams/Dotta/5-0

M/S/C to approve minutes of the meeting of April 4, 2013: Dotta/Williams/5-0

M/S/C to approve minutes of the meeting of April 18, 2013: Dotta/Williams/5-0

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS / COMMENTS

Chair Olofson states that he attended a meeting of the Sierra County Committee on Economic Development in Sierraville. Greg Williams of the Sierra Buttes Trails Association and Bill Copren of Trout Unlimited each gave presentations. Olofson

suggests inviting the two presenters to make similar presentations to the Commission at a later date.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

Chair Olofson explains that the procedure for public comment has been changed. Public members should state their names at the time they first speak and the general location of the County they are from. Various members of the public speak about water issues, water rights, biomass, methods for elimination of forest waste, and ongoing issues with the Greenhouse Gas report that has been removed from the DEIR.

VII. PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION

A. 1959 General Plan

Presentation given by Randy Wilson, Planning Director, and open discussion with the Commission. He reads from the plan.

The introduction states:

"In the State of California there still remain some areas where rapacious growth and uncontrolled development have not taken place. Plumas County is one of those areas; and it must look ahead to the future and prepare to meet, guide and control the forces of good and bad development. Shall Plumas County permit the destruction of its future by bad development, excessive use of land and misuse of its resources? Shall the natural principles of land use be compromised, ignored and violated? We are hopeful that Plumas County will remain alert and continue to guard its resources against compromise and misuse."

"Growth brings problems. Growth means more traffic and more demands for better highways. It means increased needs for other public facilities; it means problems of conflicting land use, increased demands for land, and increased pressures for and against zoning changes. The problems can be met effectively by the preparation of a general plan and continuous advanced planning."

The 1959 plan had higher population projections than were realized.

Commissioner Schramel reads:

"In planning for these objectives Plumas County should be considered:

"As an area possessing great timber, water and mineral resources providing opportunities for employment and industrial and recreation development.

"As a great outdoor recreation area with unique scenic beauty, abundant fish and game, excellent climate, and year-round accessibility providing diversified recreation opportunities for not only local residents, but for the state and nation as well.

"As a desirable place to live and work with a healthful smog-free climate, good climate, good employment opportunities, adequate schools and roads, without the problems of overcrowding and with excellent opportunities for constructive use of leisure time."

Dotta mentions that the Upper Feather River Plan (1955) and the Forestry Plan (1955) contain similar language to this plan. He has copies of these plans that were his father's

and asks if he should bring them. The 1955 plan speaks to sustainable forestry and sustained yield. He reads from the 1959 plan:

"Multipurpose use of some areas is desirable, but multipurpose use should be permitted only when proposed uses are compatible with resource management practices."

Discussion ensues about timber issues, fuel management and fire suppression, timber harvest requirements for slash removal and possible job creation from fuels management.

Mia Van Fleet states that when considering jobs and economic development, the definition of sustainability in the General Plan should be changed to the Webster's dictionary meaning. Government policies, such as for protection of spotted owl and the yellow legged frog, place creatures over men. People should be placed above animals because of God. She adds that they (ranchers) produce because they love the land.

Chair Olofson explains that once the General Plan is updated, the zoning code will be updated and the Commission will, on a regular basis, review the General Plan. There will be many public opportunities for change. There will also be an annual report on the General Plan to the Board of Supervisors.

Wilson continues to read:

"Plumas County is unique in the fact that over 70 percent of the county's area of 2,626 square miles (1,681,000 acres) is in public ownership (including federal, state and local governments) and in semi-public use. Almost all of this land is owned by federal and state agencies and managed to provide a sustained timber yield, grazing, wildlife enhancement and outdoor recreation."

Land use maps and land use descriptions are included in the plan. Tables include figures on growth, which were overestimated.

"Most of the land in the county is presently in forest management and this feature should be retained in the future-both on private lands and National Forest lands. Some areas of the county are presently developing in an urban pattern; and these areas are, in fact, committed to urban development. Other areas are suitable for water development in a manner compatible with the prime land use purpose of the county; and these areas and other suitable areas will be committed to recreation use and should be properly developed."

"The existing urban and recreation areas can be extended as development occurs and new lands are needed. In the meantime, the best public interest can be served by holding the intensive development to the existing areas already committed for development in order to guide economic development and extension of existing or required county services. This will result in a minimum infringement upon the surrounding forest and agricultural areas."

The plan discusses use of resources for mining, timber and water. The plan also contains proposals for numerous impoundments and dams, some of which were constructed and some not. It contains a robust section about impoundment of water in the upper basin as proposed reservoirs; so much that Wilson opines that the plan was funded by the Department of Water Resources.

Recreation and transportation systems follow the creation of the reservoirs in the plan.

Wilson states that some of the most valuable water in the County is contained in reservoirs such as Bucks. The water from Bucks makes a high elevation drop to the Bucks powerhouse and is used as a "load balancer" when there is a burst to the power system.

"Agricultural Areas"

"The construction of the water reservoirs will make possible the irrigation of about 4 to 5 times more farmland than is presently irrigated. It is expected that the ultimate density of farm population will be about twice present density as a result of more intensive farming methods and increased yield per acre."

Dotta states that the construction of the reservoirs did not result in the increase of acreage for agriculture nor increase in irrigation.

Wilson reads:

"It is assumed that public policy will demand that all suitable water producing areas be developed for maximum water conservation and storage and that all such projects will be designed and operated to achieve optimum benefits from multi-purpose use in the county before the water is ultimately exported for use to other areas of the state. Maximum benefit from the use of the water resources of Plumas County and the State of California can only be achieved in this manner and this fact should receive state-wide recognition."

Motion is made to table the discussion of the 1959 General Plan until the next regular meeting: M/S/C: Dotta/Schramel/5-0.

VII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Wilson addresses the handouts for today's meeting: The University of California at Davis College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Spring/Summer 2013 publication is devoted to UC Davis research on climate change. Also, the California Planning and Development Report April, 2013, which contains an article about CEQA reform.

Wilson states that the target date for the General Plan update to come back to the Planning Commission is late June. As the date gets closer, there will be a firm commitment.

1. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETINGS

There is no update.

2. ON-GOING PROJECT UPDATES

a. Zoning Administrator

The Zoning Administrator approved the expansion of the Plumas Rural Services facility. The project will be funded with grant money (Community Development Block Grant). There were issues with the parking lot design.

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b. Current Planning

3. INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT (IRWM)

The decision-making process for the grant is being revised. Brian Morris had a more complicated process. After the decision-making process is revised, it will be incorporated into the application and a new Memorandum of Understanding enacted.

Discussion of the Proposition 84 grants for agriculture; some money could be available for upgrading water and wastewater facilities.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE -none

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

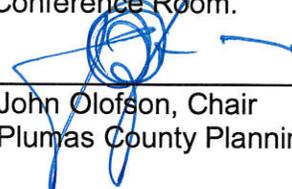
- Leah Wills and Randy Wilson-"missing water" presentation
- Brown Act presentation by County Counsel
- Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA)
- Discussion of public lands being used for development of solar/wind facilities
- Update on the Genesee-Beckwourth Road (FHA) project
- Discussion of methods of developing tourism/ecotourism/economic enhancement activities to Plumas County
- Feather River College President, Dr. Kevin Trutna, to discuss economic development and Vocational Education Program at the college
- Jerry Sipe (Sue McCourt) – Fire protection issues, education and information, evacuation plans.
- Greg Williams (Sierra Buttes Trails Association) and Bill Copren (Trout Unlimited) presentations

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Olofson calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting of May 16, 2013.

M/S/C: Williams/Dotta/4-0 to adjourn the meeting. Meeting is adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting is set for June 6, 2013, at 10:00 a.m., in the Planning & Building Services Conference Room.



John Olofson, Chair
Plumas County Planning Commission



Rebecca Herrin, Senior Planner
Plumas County Planning Department