
**PLUMAS COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION**

Minutes of the Meeting of March 17, 2011

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS

Mark Dotta, *Commissioner* (District 1)

Betsy Schramel, *Chair* (District 2)

Richard Rydell, *Commissioner* (District 3)

Larry Williams, *Commissioner* (District 4)

John Olofson, *Vice Chair* (District 5)



The Plumas County Planning Commission (*the Commission*) convenes in a Meeting on March 17, 2011, at 10:02 a.m. in the Planning and Building Services Conference Room, Quincy, CA; Chair Betsy Schramel presiding.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

III. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Schramel, Olofson, Dotta,
Rydell - *Attends the meeting 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: Williams

County Supervisors, County Staff, and General Plan Update Consultants Attending:

Jon Kennedy, Supervisor (*District 5*)

Randy Wilson, Planning Director

Rebecca Herrin, Senior Planner

Nancy Fluke, Recording Secretary

IV. CONSENT ITEMS:

Recording Secretary is directed to make corrections to the Agenda of March 17, 2011, and the Minutes of March 3, 2011, to reflect that the Planning Commission meeting date of February 2, 2011, should be changed to January 20, 2011 (no meeting took place on 2/2/11).

A. ITEMS TO BE CONTINUED OR WITHDRAWN FROM THE AGENDA

Schramel calls for a motion to approve the agenda with the correction as noted above. Dotta makes the motion, Olofson seconds the motion, and a unanimous affirmative voice vote is recorded.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Schramel calls for a motion to approve the minutes of March 3, 2011, with the correction as noted above. Motion is made by Dotta, Olofson seconds the motion, and a unanimous affirmative voice vote is recorded.

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS / COMMENTS

Olofson comments that he attended a meeting in Loyalton of the Sierra Valley Groundwater District and found the discussion interesting that pertained to a possible subdivision in Beckwourth and how it might impact the aquifer. Becky Herrin, Senior Planner, contributed a brief summation of the land and water issues in that particular area.

Schramel mentions that the California Geological Survey provides information and maps on the Internet pertaining to earthquake hazard areas. Wilson adds that the USGS also has earthquake related information on their website.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY – *No comments are made.*

VII. PRESENTATION: QUINCY HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR PROJECT SURVEY – JARRETT GIBSON

Jarrett Gibson, Quincy High School Senior, introduces himself and explains that his Senior project centered around a survey he conducted at Quincy High School dealing with way the students and teachers view their town, government, and society. Gibson explains that in the cover letter that accompanied the survey; he tells the student and teachers that Plumas County is in the process of updating the General Plan which in a sense is a “new constitution” that will impact residents of the county for approximately a 30 year span of time. Gibson passes out copies of the survey. The following is a summary of the questions Gibson asked:

1. *Ten or twenty years from now, how do you want Plumas County to be: What is your vision of perfection for the county?*
2. *Plumas County should: Change (specify) or remain mostly the same?*
3. *Rank in terms of most important to least important: parks & recreation, good jobs, public health and services, environment, education.*
4. *What industry could be the most profitable for the longest time? Think about sustainable growth. (i.e., timber, tourism, agriculture, railroad, hydroelectric-power, water resources, research, green-energy, biomass)*
5. *Years from now do you think Plumas County would be a nice place to retire?*
6. *Describe what would be the best public project. If you were a county official in charge of constructing any public building, park, or facility, and had unlimited funds, what would you build? What is your dream project?*
7. *Rank the ways which you believe will best improve tourism in Plumas County.*
8. *Do you like living in Plumas County now?*

Gibson continues with a Power Point presentation containing text and various graphs and charts exhibiting the results of his survey. Gibson explains that the results are more qualitative than quantitative, and also that he ultimately chose to focus on the student responses and not the teachers. Gibson shares that he was disappointed that the representation of students participating was not more evenly distributed throughout the four grade levels; however, overall he was pleased with the responses. Commissioners, Staff,

and attendees encourage Gibson to broaden his efforts to include surveying other high schools in the area. Gibson responds that he will consider doing that.

Transcriber's Note: Attached you will find a copy of Jarett Gibson's Power Point presentation showing the results of his survey. This material can also be located on the Plumas County Website (www.plumascounty.us).

VIII. GENERAL PLAN UPDATE PROCESS

A. CONSULTANT TEAM'S REPORT – *Consultant will not attend this meeting*

Wilson states that the next time the consultant will attend a Planning Commission meeting most likely will be after Staff has had a chance to review the Administrative Draft of the Goals and Policies.

B. PUBLIC INPUT OPPORTUNITY – *Public Input and Discussion*

Wilson comments that the Scott Morgan of the Office of Planning & Research will meet in the Planning & Building Services conference room with a Navy representative, as well as representatives from Plumas County and surrounding counties, on April 8, 2011. Wilson explains that at this meeting, information on a new GIS data layer will be discussed.

Terri Simon-Jackson, Forest Service representative, reports that the Planning Rule draft is currently out for public comment.

Wilson provides a reminder that the Coordinating Council meets the first Friday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in the Planning & Building Services conference room. Wilson adds that the Forest Service Planning Rule is a topic under review by the Coordinating Council.

An open discussion takes place among Commissioners, Staff and attendees about trail corridors in and around Plumas County, the multiple uses envisioned for the trails, and the importance of the Plumas County General Plan and the Forest Service Planning Rule to address public perspectives on this matter.

Julie Newman, Fish and Game representative, presents a copy of the draft Goals and Policies document with her comments added. Cedric Twight of Sierra Pacific Industries questions whether the comments she has made on the document could be misconstrued as an official position of Fish and Game. Discussion ensues among Newman, Twight, and Herrin on this subject, but no definitive conclusion is made.

C. DRAFT GENERAL PLAN GOALS & POLICIES, COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT GOALS & POLICIES, AND PLANNING AREA MAPS – *Discussion & next steps*

1. NOTES FROM THE GOALS & POLICIES EXERCISE CONDUCTED AT THE JANUARY 20, 2011, PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

Schramel opens the continued discussion concerning the notes from the exercise Coleen Shade, Consultant, conducted at the January 20, 2011, Planning Commission meeting. The following topics are touched on during the discussion:

- Land Use - Transferrable Development Rights (TDRs), infill;
- Circulation - Use of round-a-bouts;
- Economics – Focus on Plumas County assets;
- Conservation & Open Space – Mining bonds, SMARA.

Schramel continues this item for further discussion at the next meeting.

2. REVIEW OF THE REVISED PLANNING AREA MAPS

Herrin displays drafts of the Planning Area Maps and explains that these maps reflect certain changes made as a result of the comments received; however, in the meantime she has received more comments (per the December 2, 2010, meeting), and those suggestions are still in the process of being incorporated into the maps. Herrin states the updated maps will be ready to review at the April 7, 2011, meeting.

IX. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Schramel asks Wilson to provide an update on the OPR Extension. Wilson reports that he is asking OPR to consider granting Plumas County a one-year extension of the original General Plan Update Extension. Wilson elaborates that the process has taken longer than anticipated due to the extensive desire on the part of the public to provide input into the process. Wilson adds that he will let the Commission know when he has a response from OPR.

Schramel requests that the Building Official, John Cunningham, provides an update concerning building regulations to the Planning Commission at the next meeting. Wilson responds that he will arrange for that to occur.

1. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REPORT

Wilson states that the Board of Supervisors voted to support a letter for the "Share the Dream" trail project which was presented by a private group that is interested in developing trails for ATV use.

2. ON-GOING PROJECT UPDATES

a.) Zoning Administrator

Wilson provides a brief summary of decisions made at a recent zoning hearing in the following areas of the county:

- Frenchman's (item continued);
- Chilcoot (approved);
- Whitehawk (approved with condition added).

b.) Current Planning - *No update given*

X. CORRESPONDENCE – None

XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Items suggested at this meeting:

- *Explanation about SMARA (Surface Mining and Reclamation Act)*
- *Continued discussion regarding the Goals & Policies Work Session notes (left off on Conservation & Open Space)*
- *Update from the Building Official, John Cunningham*

Items suggested previously:

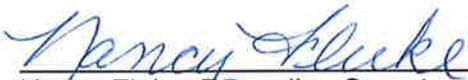
- *Comments received on the Draft Goals and Policies*
- *Jay Newman, CalFire Captain - Update on CalFire regulations.*
- *Planning Area maps*
- *Administrative draft of the General Plan Goals & Policies*
- *Presentation by John Benoit, Executive Officer of LAFCo*

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Schramel adjourns the meeting of March 17, 2011, at 1:02 p.m. The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting is set for April 7, 2011, 10:00 a.m., in the Planning & Building Services Conference Room.



Betsy Schramel, Chair
Plumas County Planning Commission



Nancy Fluke, Recording Secretary
Plumas County Planning Department