
PLUMAS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes of the Meeting of January 5, 2012

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)



I. CALL TO ORDER

The Plumas County Planning Commission (*the Commission*) convenes in a meeting on January 5, 2012, at 10:04 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, & 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: Williams



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

Terry Swofford, *Supervisor*
Randy Wilson, *Director - Planning*
Rebecca Herrin, *Senior Planner*
Nancy Fluke, *Recording Secretary*

IV. CONSENT ITEMS:

A. **ITEMS TO BE CONTINUED OR WITHDRAWN FROM THE AGENDA**

Schramel calls for a motion to approve the agenda for January 5, 2012. Motion is made by Dotta, seconded by Olofson, with a unanimous affirmative voice vote recorded.

B. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Schramel calls for a motion to approve the minutes from September 22, 2011. Motion is made by Olofson, seconded by Dotta, with a unanimous affirmative voice vote recorded.

Schramel calls for a motion to approve the minutes from December 1, 2011. Motion is made by Dotta, seconded by Olofson, with a unanimous affirmative voice vote recorded.

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS / COMMENTS

Olofson mentions that he attended a recent Plumas County Economic Recovery Committee meeting where businessman Randy Pew elaborated about the loss of 30+ jobs as a result of a misunderstanding between Pew Logging and the Forest Service.

Schramel states that it is time for Planning Commission elections of officers again. Following a brief discussion, a decision is made to hold the elections in February.

Schramel mentions an article she read stating that the Corp. of Engineers has new rules regarding levees. Schramel continues that the article specifically mentions the need to remove trees from levees.

Schramel briefly mentions a few other articles she has come across pertaining to infill, biomass, and the elimination of a subsidy for ethanol.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

Todd Andersen, resident of Indian Valley, relays various aspects of his work experience that he feels would be helpful, if used in conjunction with water on his property, to develop a water bottling facility and/or an extra supply of water for catastrophic wildfires.

Shirley Kossow, resident of Indian Valley, states she wants to go on record suggesting that the County considers developing a *Park and Ride* site with sanitary facilities at what is commonly known as the Taylorsville "T" (Hwy. 89 and Arlington Road). Kossow adds that she has spoken to Bob Perreault, Director Public Works, and that he says there is no funding at the present time to support that project. Terri Simon-Jackson, Plumas National Forest, contributes that she can check to see if there are any Federal grant funds available to develop a *Park and Ride*. Andersen expresses concern about having sanitary facilities in such close proximity to his property/water supply.

VII. GENERAL PLAN UPDATE PROCESS

A. CONSULTANT TEAM'S REPORT

1. STATUS ON CONSULTANT PRODUCTS

Wilson states that the *Notice of Preparation to Prepare a Program Environmental Impact Report for the 2030 Plumas County General Plan (NOP)* is in the final stages of completion and is expected to be released on January 9, 2012. Wilson adds that the finalized NOP will go to the Office of Planning & Research and they will distribute it to interested agencies and parties. Herrin contributes that a checklist will be provided to the County listing who has received the NOP.

Wilson reports that the revised draft of the General Plan reflecting the changes the Board of Supervisors suggested will be available on the County website

tomorrow so it can be reviewed prior to the joint BOS/PC meeting on January 12, 2012.

B. PUBLIC INPUT OPPORTUNITY – *There is no comment.*

VIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Wilson states that Brian Morris, General Manager of the *Flood Control & Water Conservation District*, has left Plumas County and is now working for Siskiyou County. Wilson says that he, Bob Perreault, and County Counsel will each assume a portion of Morris' workload. Wilson continues that part of his duties will be facilitating the Feather River Regional Water Management Group and updating the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). Wilson adds that the Water Contractor will be Bob Perreault.

Wilson states that Morris had also been the Chair of the Plumas County Coordinating Council. Wilson adds that the next meeting of that group will take place on February 3rd. Wilson provides a summary of the agenda items for that meeting.

Wilson states he read a recent newspaper article that addressed the subject of the *Thermal Curtain* at Lake Almanor. Wilson says Rock Creek Dam and Cresta Dam have 401 permits that got by PG&E without addressing cold water issues with the 2105 re-licensing, and now the Thermal Curtain is "alive" since they issued the new report. Wilson says he is not officially assigned to this topic, but he feels he will probably be moved in that direction to address the EIR and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) efforts focused on Almanor. Terri Simon-Jackson says the EIR has not been released yet; but when it is, there will be a public comment period. Simon-Jackson adds that the *Thermal Curtain* is just one alternative that is being considered. Simon-Jackson explains that the temperature issue involves finding a way to get cold water from Lake Almanor to Lake Oroville for cold water fisheries (i.e., trout, salmon) when the dams along the way are raising the temperature of the water. Simon-Jackson states she will find out if there is a summary report she can share with the Commission from the Department of Water Resources.

Wilson provides a brief update about Feather River Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) projects.

- Complaint from Heather Kingdon and Robert Biaocchi that plug and pond projects are creating water rights issues for downstream users (*handout provided*). Wilson reads the following concluding paragraph of a letter in response to the Kingdon/Biaocchi letter:

In conclusion, I concur with Division staff findings that the pond and plug channel restoration projects do not constitute a diversion and beneficial use of the surface water, and therefore, do not require a water right permit from the State Water Board.

James W. Kassell, Asst. Deputy Director, Division of Water Rights, State Water Resources Control Board.

- Wilson relays that he signed a Notice of Determination concerning the Upper Dotta Canyon Restoration Project above Red Clover Valley. Wilson continues that he wrote a letter (*handout provided*) indicating there had been a scoping meeting when the project kicked off and the resulting input was part of the direction of the Board of Supervisors in Resolution 2011-4685 on April 5, 2011. Wilson says the initial study included a water rights analysis which concluded that there was no significant impact to water rights. Wilson mentions that the Perrazzo Meadows issue of the stream drying up was due to construction. Wilson continues that this project has a "plan B" contingency that involves monitoring flows going in and out of the project for five years. Wilson reads from his letter the following:

The contingency is not included as a mitigation measure, as ECQA recognizes mitigation for impacts, and the analysis concludes that there would be no impact. This contingency plan for this project is unique to the project and future stream restoration projects performed by the CRM will follow Board Resolution 2011-7685 and will address the unique circumstances of such projects and will develop a contingency plan(s) that are unique to such projects.

For the record, Wilson states that his decision is appealable to the Board of Supervisors for ten days.

Wilson shares information titled, *New California Environmental Quality Act and General Plan Requirements* (*handout provided*) summarizing recent changes made by the State Office of Planning & Research (OPR).

Handout – Wilson provides an informational handout titled, *Agrarian Urbanism: "Food not as a means of making a living, but as a basis for making a life."* A brief discussion ensues regarding food/growing in Plumas County.

- 1. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETINGS – No report**
- 2. ON-GOING PROJECT UPDATES – No report**

IX. CORRESPONDENCE - None

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion takes place whether there is a need for the Planning Commission to meet on January 19th and/or February 2nd, taking into account that there is the special BOS/PC meeting on January 12th (*agenda is provided to Commissioners*). The Commissioners agree that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Planning Commission will take place February 16, 2012.

Items suggested for future agendas:

- Taylor Lake update by Terri Simon-Jackson
- Election of officers
- John Benoit (LAFCo) presentation
- Biomass article

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Schramel calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting of January 5, 2012. Motion is made by Olofson, seconded by Dotta, with a unanimous affirmative voice vote recorded. The meeting adjourns at 12:16 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting is set for February 16, 2012, at 10:00 a.m., in the Planning & Building Services Conference Room.

Elizabeth Schramel,

Betsy Schramel, Chair

Plumas County Planning Commission

Nancy Fluke

Nancy Fluke, Recording Secretary
Plumas County Planning Department