



Westport Municipal Advisory Council

P. O. Box 307, Westport, CA 95488
www.westportmac.org

Draft Minutes of July 11, 2017 Meeting Westport Community Church, 24900 Abalone Street, Westport

1. Roll Call – All Directors were present: Sally Grigg, Bill Knapp, Kevin Michel, Robert Scott, Thad Van Bueren. Visitors: Petra Buchanan, Sue Korhummel, James Korhummel, Trish Steel of Broadband Alliance Joseph Feigon representing Seakay.

2. Approval of Minutes – June 6, 2017 Meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Public Expression – Robert Scott pointed out that the temporary traffic signal controlling one way traffic on Hwy 1 above the north end of the Wages Creek RV Park and Campground does a poor job of managing traffic flow. Discussion among members of the public and other WMAC Directors described long waits, very short periods of green letting only a few of the cars waiting through, no traffic waiting at the other end after a long wait for a green, and several observances of cars running a red light if they saw cars entering on a green ahead of them.

4. New Business

a) Broadband Forum – Trish Steel, Broadband Alliance of Mendocino Co. and Joe Feigon of local broadband provider SeaKay hosted an open forum addressing broadband in the WMAC sphere of influence. Joe Feigon presented the concept of Business Quality Broadband, defined as 15 MegaBytes (MB) download speed and 5 MB upload speed, able to support multiple carrier services (such as telephone, video conferencing, streaming high definition video). SeaKay's distribution system is based on narrow band wireless microwave technology. The system was reported to allow reaching remote customers in forested areas, hillsides, ravines and ridges. Such deployment would require a series of low power, low cost radios with line of sight between each pair connecting the endpoint to a radio located on a ridge overlooking Westport. To date no installations have been done that do not have direct line of sight to the ridge overlooking Westport. Trish Steel talked about the Broadband Alliance's desire to reach people in remote areas like Westport and its surrounding community. The goal is to make them aware of the possibility of getting "real" broadband internet and that there are county, state and federal programs that can help. However, the government programs have been slow to bring real service to remote locations. Small, local providers, like SeaKay, have started to deliver service. They need to expand their customer base to maintain reliable high quality service. The Broadband Alliance has been trying to identify possible customers in remote rural areas throughout Mendocino Co. to prove there is a market for high speed internet service. SeaKay is trying to reach possible customers, verifying locations and lines of sight to develop and expansion plan for the Westport area. Both are planning to have a booth at the August 19 WVFD BBQ as the next step.

b) CDPM 2017-0004 (CalTrans) – This item was an after the fact permit modification to accommodate a change deemed necessary to prevent bluff erosion at the Westport Union Landing State Beach Vista Point. This was a project that WMAC had supported when

initially proposed. After brief discussion, it was decided to return the reply form with “No Comment”.

c) Permitting and Code Enforcement for Marijuana Operations – During this agenda item, the only member of the public remaining was Petra Buchanan. She has a Marijuana Operation being developed on her 20 acre parcel. Initial discussion among the Directors was related to lack of information or guidance from the county. WMAC has not been made aware of any Marijuana permit applications in its sphere of influence. At this point Ms. Buchanan asked to describe what she was doing on her property. She plans to develop a large commercial Medical Marijuana growing operation. She briefly outlined the permitting process she is currently engaged in. To date hundreds of permits have been applied for in Mendocino Co, only a few have been granted. Hers has not been granted yet, but she believes it is moving through the process with no significant issues. She stated that she has met with neighbors throughout the process and is trying to work out any concerns they might have. After additional discussion it was moved, Van Bueren, and seconded, Scott, that WMAC would contact the County Agriculture Agency and Building and Planning seeking information on how their agencies will coordinate permit referrals and code enforcement actions with the WMAC. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Old Business

a.) Westport Transfer Station – The BOS approved the plan to allow the reopening of the Westport Transfer Station, providing Saturday only trash and recycle drop off. Solid Waste of Willits will hire an operator with plans to open the facility soon.

6. No Announcements or Correspondence

7. Preliminary Agenda for next meeting – Marijuana Operations

8. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM

Attested by:

Thad Van Bueren, Chair

Bill Knapp, Secretary