

Antelope Valley RPAC Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2014

RPAC Member Attendees:

Dan Anthony
Katy Buell
John Vannoy
Ned Welsh
Bruce Woodworth
Gerry Le Francois
Tim Fesko
Arden Gerbig
Don Morris
Mark Langner
Orval Mosby
Victoria Victor

Excused Absences:

Loretta Cochran
Mark Langner

Guests:

Doug Power (MWTC)
Jeff Ulrich (USFS)
Bill VanLente (resident of Coleville)
Pam Hamic (Local business owner)

Public Comment:

Dan Anthony requested that we add meeting attendance expectations on a future AVRPAC meeting. Bruce Woodworth suggested that the Board of Supervisors published meeting agendas have some way of distinguishing "controversial items" to help alert interested parties.

Approval of Minutes:

Corrections: Several corrections were made to the draft minutes
Moved by Ned Welsh
Seconded by Don Morris
Passed with corrections

Informational / Discussion of Actions:

MWTC Update:

Doug Power discussed current activity at the base. The last summer battalion was in progress. The MWTC worked with the USFS on some wildfire fighting efforts. The annual Marine Ball is to be held at the Peppermill on Friday, November 7th. The Marines will perform a Color Guard Ceremony at Coleville schools on Veteran's Day, November 11th.

USFS Update:

Jeff Ulrich reported that the Wheeler Stream restoration plan has been released and is being implemented. The first stage of the Pinon removal program will be 29,000 acres of trees in the East Walker. He

discussed a portable pyrolysis (bio-char) unit to convert the waste wood into a soil amendment product and oil.

Jeff visited the Sweetwater Mtns with botanists. There was concern about the amount of off-roading that is visible in the Sweetwaters. We discussed issues with single-track off-roading and how best it can be managed.

The Freemont fire is out and burned 7200 acres.

Mountain Gate:

Phase 2 of Mountain Gate is deferred until spring 2015.

Supervisor's Report:

Tim Fesko elaborated on the Phase 2 Mtn Gate bidding process and said the County will re-bid in the spring in hopes of receiving 3 to 4 bids.

To produce a balanced budget without significant layoffs, concessions were made by the bargaining units. End result was one layoff vs. eight. The final budget was voted on at the October Board of Supervisor's meeting.

Bridge repairs on Topaz Lane to shore up damaged piers.

Frontier is bringing in DSL internet over existing phone lines. One member said the price he was quoted \$48.95 for both phone and internet service.

Deer Hunter BBQ held on October 5th

In a game of musical chairs, Bob Musil is County Clerk and Recorder allowing Beck to be sworn in as the County Assessor prior to January.

Ten cottonwood trees will be removed in Topaz. Liberty Utilities notified Caltrans of the tree removal. The trees to be removed have been determined to be dead or near dead by the Utility's arborist and verified by the State arborist. Trees to be removed are on both sides of Hwy 395 north of Topaz Ln.

OHV use on County Roadways discussion:

John Vannoy presented a letter from the Bridgeport RPAC to the BOS requesting dual use of county maintained roads. A discussion ensued on the interpretation of the existing regulations and whether CEQA would be triggered. Informal use of the county roads by OHVs was discussed and did we want to encourage OHV use on the roadways vs. having them abide the law. It was also suggested that we roll this issue into the trails planning and defer writing a letter to the Board. The downside of attempting to formalize use of 3 mile segments of county roads for OHVs is the shut down of the existing informal use.

The upside is that Antelope Valley and Bridgeport could promote OHV friendly communities.

John Vannoy made a motion to write a letter to the Board of Supervisors in line with the Bridgeport RPAC's letter. Seconded by Ned Welsh.

In favor – 7

Opposed – 2

Abstain – 1 (Tim Fesko)

Gerry will draft the letter and send to Dan Anthony.

Main Street: (Trails Planning/Scenic Byways/Active Transportation Plan)

Gerry brought the draft Main Street Design concepts prepared by Opticos. The group had the opportunity to review the plans and we directed our comments and feedback to Gerry to meet the Oct 15th deadline for comments. Gerry was also going to visit the businesses soliciting their input.

Meeting adjourned by Dan Anthony

Next meeting: Nov 6, 2014, 630PM Walker Community Center

