

<p>Midcoast Community Council <i>An elected Advisory Council to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors representing Montara, Moss Beach, El Granada, Princeton, and Miramar</i> PO Box 248, Moss Beach, CA 94038 http://www.MidcoastCommunityCouncil.org</p>	<p>Michelle Weil, Chair Claire Toutant, Vice Chair Len Erickson, Treasurer Dave Olson, Secretary Gregg Dieguez Jill Grant Dan Haggerty</p>
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Minutes for Meeting of June 23, 2021

Call to Order (7:05pm)

All Council Members present. This meeting was conducted virtually in compliance of State and County COVID-related orders.

1. Board of Supervisors' Report

Lena Silberman reported that the local hazard mitigation plan is on track and will be sent to an outside contractor by July 23rd. Many of MCC's requests have currently been identified in the draft including: Evacuation Planning for the Midcoast and working with PG&E to add PSPS Resource Centers on the Coastside. The new hazardous tree ordinance is effective July 1, allowing property owners in unincorporated areas to remove eucalyptus, pines, acacia, tan oak, or bay trees if they fall within 100' of homes or 30' of an escape route on public or private property without a permit, and without a fee. Press release is due tomorrow. If the community is interested in having a local vaccination clinic, fill out this form <https://bit.ly/3h6mvB7>

Carlyle Ann Young suggested a vaccination clinic at Pillar Ridge.

Dan asked about fire station lighting; Lena said nothing to report, Supervisor Horsley has stepped back on this issue, but she will ask the Planning Dept. Dan asked if Supv. Horsley could talk to DPW about not removing the cut trees and limbs, so more cutting could be done. Leana replied that Khoa was discussing that with Calfire, but she hadn't heard the answer yet. Same question with regard to stump grinding.

Jill asked for more details about relaxed tree permitting. No permit is needed if meets the requirements.

Maureen Fleming asked if some kind of waiver could be put in place to add a new water spigot if not already present on one side of a house. Lena will look into it.

Gregg said he'd heard from community members that the \$500K sounded high, and the community would like as much cutting done as possible with the money available.

Lena said that part of the reason was the extra insurance required, and using already qualified contractors.

Jill asked about competitive bidding; Lena replied that DPW said that would take longer before trees could be cut.

Melinda MacNaughton liked the idea of leaving chips for compost, and if fire-resistant plants could be used in the restoration. Michelle asked that this question be deferred to the Wildfire agenda item.

(7:23) Harvey Rarback, HMB City Council reported that the budget was passed, and there are substantial reserves. The east side Hwy 1 trail is part of the budget, probably finished by 2023, both at the south and north end of the city. The Public Safety subcommittee will have an in-person meeting tomorrow at 5pm, discussing policing issues. In July there will be a full council meeting to seek public input on public safety issues, with experts from other police agencies and Stanford.

Claire asked why it was only in-person. Harvey answered he had just heard it a few minutes ago. She also asked what would be done to mitigate the traffic impact of the highway widening. Harvey said it's only being widened near Grandview, but he doesn't know about the specific mitigation measures. Claire asked Harvey to try to get mitigation measures as part of the project.

Dan asked about the new traffic signal at Terrace, and what about the traffic impact of a crosswalk at that location, and whether an underpass had been considered, and if not, could it be. Harvey has not heard discussion of that, and that the design is complete. He did say that one difference between the new Terrace signal, and Frenchman's Creek, is that there will be two lanes each direction at the signal, so traffic should not back up as much. That doesn't help pedestrian safety, of course.

Carlyle Ann asked about the Frenchman's Creek signal, and said that it's blocked by tree branches, and asked if they could be trimmed to make them more visible. Harvey said he will bring it up, but Carlyle Ann could also talk to Caltrans, and John Doughty. She asked if the Public Safety meeting would cover evacuations. Harvey said no, but the city is completing it's Emergency Operations Plan next month, and evacuation routes will be included.

Kathryn Slater Carter said that both SAM and MWSD budgets were passed at their most recent meetings. At the last MWSD meeting they announced they are going to be having our elected community service Academy on July 28 at 6:30 via zoom. There will be 3 meetings about what it takes and how to become an elected representative of your community.

(7:42) 2. Public Comment & Announcement

Anne Martin talked about a code violation near her home on Miramar Drive, just below the Miramar water tank. The violation is on an undeveloped lot owned by a developer Teg Partners in 2017 by building a fence. In 2019, the county decided that even though there was a violation, that there is no threat to public health or safety, no additional enforcement action would be pursued. In September of 2020, the county was put on notice that there's a significant threat and public safety, we've learned through a Public Records Act request that in September 2020 CAL FIRE sent an email to deputy county direct development director Lisa that the fire truck access to the residents at 655 Miramar drive with this fence in place, makes it difficult, to access that residence in a reasonable time. In 2020, a family with two young children purchased and moved into that home. The illegal fence would also make it difficult to access the developers' empty lot, and acres of open space, on top of that ridge if a fire were to break out. County planning has taken no action for nine months to have this fence removed. We're asking the MCC for help, requesting that this violation be enforced, without further delay, anything you can do to help we'd appreciate it.

Genevieve Wortzman-Show spoke on the same issue. It affects 11 nearby families. The affected road is the only access road for those homes, and it would impede fire trucks.

Krystlyn Geidt said that the Chamber has opened it's Business Resource Center. The website allows businesses to request help or a list of resources.

Matt Show spoke on the same issue as Anne. He says it causes traffic safety issues for the water district and trucks working on the cell tower at the water tank. The inability to turn around means trucks have to back down a steep grade past areas where children are playing.

Carlisle Ann said that per the fire marshal that there are minimum requirements for safe turnaround for emergency equipment. She has been at the site, and hopes the MCC will write a letter.

Dick Martin lives in the same area. He wants to be sure fire equipment can get up there and on into El Granada.

(7:53) **3. Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer's report was pulled, waiting for the June 2021 bank statement.

Dan moved to approve the Feb 24, 2021, and June 9, 2021 minutes, 2nd Gregg, passed 6-0-1, Jill abstained.

(7:30) **4a. Regular Agenda - Harbor District Master Plan**

Jim Pruett gave a presentation on the Master Plan process, and it's outcomes and benefits. He encouraged the community to take the survey for the Master Plan. He spoke about a number of projects, including Surfers Beach beach replenishment, the West Point Trail living shoreline restoration, new restrooms, at Surfers Beach, and working with RCD on the stormwater systems in the harbor, replacing and repairing pipes, and cleaning up bird guano before it can enter the harbor. The District also provides free vessel sanitary pump out. He spoke about a joint project with Sea Valor to install 4 life saving buoys with attached ropes in the harbor area. After they are installed and proven, the District will work with other agencies along the coast to encourage them to install additional stations. The district is also replacing 3 docks at Oyster Point.

(8:18) **Council Clarifications**

Dan asked for something like a spreadsheet to show all active projects. He also is concerned that too much development in the harbor could cause damage to the environment. He also asked if they would consider using Sand Savers in at least a part of the Surfers Beach sand replenishment project, and that results be presented to the Coastal Commission.

Jim answered that they will seek input from the community on preserving the district's harbor. One of his biggest concerns is to increase the business aspect of a commercial fishing harbor, and that will be in the plan, so that it's not just restaurants and stores. On the Sand Savers, the district did discuss this with the Coastal Commission, and it's considered hard armoring, and it would be very difficult to get it approved.

Jill said that she was concerned about the restroom lighting not causing more light pollution and whether we could see the lighting plans before they were installed. She also mentioned past issues with the RV park lighting there. Jim said that yes, those plans would be available to the public prior to installation, and they are following the dark sky lighting requirements.

(20:28) Claire asked whether the eel grass in the harbor would interfere with dredging sand from the harbor for the replenishment. Jim said that the project will move the eelgrass first. Claire then asked about the stockpiled sand at the airport. Jim said that sand will be used in the West Point Trail living shoreline project. Claire asked about the new RV park references, and whether the old RV park status will change. Jim said the restrooms at the old RV park will change the parking. 8 spots will be ADA, and two will have EV charging stations. To do that, the RV park will have fewer spaces.

Len asked if the regular parking spots already at the restroom location will change. Jim said that they will have about the same number, but in a new location, as well as the new ADA and EV charging spaces. The District is also looking into allowing fishermen to park RVs again at the main harbor parking lot, but it would cost enough that it won't be done right now.

Gregg asked about water requirements for the projects being undertaken, and whether there would be a net increase. Jim said he'd have to get back with the answer, but he doesn't think that they will increase water demand, except for the new restroom.

(8:35) Public Comment

Carlyle Ann asked when the new restrooms would be ready, after summarizing the history of the old restrooms, and who will maintain the new restrooms. Jim said that they hope to break ground on the restrooms by the end of the year, and hopes they will be open by summer 2022. Carlyle Ann also asked about trash pickup at that location. Jim said it's done by the Harbor District now, and they will continue to do so.

Fran Pollard is concerned about the parking being taken away as part of the restroom project. She mentioned that much of the parking on the Burnham strip will be removed as part of the GCSO park project, and she's concerned about where surfers will park, and hopes that the district can add more parking on the west side of the highway as part of the restroom. Jim said that was considered, but there wasn't enough room. Fran suggested taking out even more RV spaces. Jim said the parking isn't one to one, but it's close. He doesn't know how to solve the overall parking issues.

Melinda asked about habitat restoration. Jim said that yes, it's been approved for the harbor overall, but they don't have funding currently to do it. However, the West Point project will be doing habitat restoration both on the berm, and on the shoreline.

Jim answered a chat question by Michelle Dragony about the sand storage at the airport. It's about \$4600/mo to the County, but the district is being reimbursed by FEMA.

(8:45) 4b. Wildfire Preparedness

Michelle said that she, Len, and Gregg have been working on this issue, and started with updates by the parties that they have been working with.

Sheena Sidhu, the RCD forest health manager said that she has been receiving lots of calls from the community. She commended the MCC for their work on this issue. Len brought up the idea of a scoping consultant to work on Quarry Park projects. Originally thought about \$10K, looks like \$75K. RCD has offered to act as the funding recipient. The idea is to have projects ready to go with grants or other funding opportunities. RCD is working with Lena on this, with hopes to have a consultant in August, with scoping done by early 2022, because spring is the big grant season. RCD has been working with the County on tree permits that Lena reported on, and also on the Public Works Plan to streamline CDP that RCD is working on with the Coastal Commission and other agencies. It would streamline the CDP to 30 days, rather than months, and also reduce costs. She referred to the April MCC meeting, and said that the community message has been very clear. She and Hannah at County Parks worked on a grant proposal for number 16 & 18 on the Parks list, totalling \$1.7M. The Coastal Conservancy has given a grant of \$1M for that project (for the shaded fuel break at the southern boundary). The Conservancy is likely to fund the project on the western boundary once the permits are obtained.

(8:58) Len gave a brief presentation showing a map of El Granada, and the location of the proposed projects. He asked Sheena if the RCD would be doing the RFP for scoping those projects. Sheena said yes, if the funding can be obtained. Len wrote a list of all the people and agencies involved. He talked about the DPW project, and worked with Matthew Clark of GCSD to look at the various areas, and said that there are over 500 trees that could be removed. He said the County wanted to step back after the first DPW project, and asked if the RCD could remain involved. Sheena said yes, they work with private and public property owners, as long as it's inside their boundaries. Len said that there are large numbers of trees on private property in upper El Granada. He closed with a list of the agencies, and how to pursue the goals of removing more eucalyptus. He also mentioned the Caltrans Bypass lands, and an area in Miramar.

(9:05) Council questions

Dan said that Quarry Park is the biggest issue, and said he thought there were not enough fuel breaks planned in that area to really solve the problem, and asked Sheena what she had learned in working with County Parks about thinning out trees in Quarry Park. Sheena said she couldn't speak for the Parks Dept., but that they are primarily working off the prioritization list that was approved. They are open to more projects. He asked what species of trees were best for replanting. Sheena said that they haven't gone that far, since none of the projects so far involve planting new trees, but there was discussion at the April meeting about restoring chaparral habitat, rather than trees, but no actual plans yet. An ecological analysis would be needed.

(9:13) Public Comment

Kimberly Williams speaking as a private citizen said that she had concerns about the PWP because of its size and magnitude of projects. She said it would really be important for the 5 year reviews to be done by the RCD, because government agencies often don't have the resources to do it. Sheena said that at the RCD meeting last week they addressed a number of comments in this area. It will be at the Coastal Comm on July 8th. She feels that the RCD will be able to meet what they have said.

Clemens Heldmaier, MWSD Gen Mgr said that they hope to be involved, and that they also own a number of parcels and facilities, particularly water. He's concerned about impacts on their surface water supplies, as well as the Marine Sanctuary. The big fires in Santa Rosa and other areas have raised new issues, because the fires were so intense that the water systems are damaged through suction and melting, and that contaminated the water. The cost was quite large. He also mentioned that they have an interest in the Caltrans Bypass land. MWSD has received complaints about those lands, both eucalyptus and undergrowth.

Carlyle Ann asked when the next chipper program would be in Moss Beach. Sheena said there was one in April, and current events are scheduled through July. They hope to have more local events in the fall. Sheena said that the chipping events have been curbside, and said that if there was interest in a central dropoff event to send her email, they will consider it.

Melinda is concerned about the replanting to retain moisture. She asked about when replanting would be done on the Columbus traffic circle (C1). Sheena said RCD isn't part of that project, so she couldn't answer. Michelle said that there is no current funding for replanting after the cutting, but that the MCC is very interested in that. Melinda mentioned that the Greenbelt Alliance had a presentation that showed how greenbelts could also help prevent fire spread. She asked what shaded fuel breaks

meant. Sheena answered that it means to remove the lower vegetation, but not the trees and canopy.

Fran asked about the Coastal Conservancy grant. \$1.7M requested, grant was \$1M. She asked if the governor's money would be available for Quarry Park. Sheena said that the grant programs are not yet in place. Fran asked if the state was just handing out money. Sheena said she didn't know of that, but perhaps the County might get some. Fran asked about Quarry Park overall. Sheena said no project yet, but likely in the future.

Maureen talked about the POST firebreak in 2009, and that poison oak came up in its place, and hopes replanting might prevent that.

(9:30) **Council**

Dan asked about controlling eucalyptus regrowth, and that chips would prevent that, in his experience, and asked Sheena what was the speediest removal process, chips vs herbicide. Sheena said that chips and herbicides are all tools, and which tool is used depends partly on the land owner. There will be more than enough chips to cover the area, so that still leaves the issue of removing the extra material.

Dave said that poison oak was a natural chaparral plant, and a common transition plant after an area was cleared. It is usually crowded out by succession plants over time.

Claire is glad so many people are concerned about replanting. She hopes that the PWP will have some consideration of the state of the land after the trees are cut. She pointed out that the state money is not a lot when spread over the whole state.

Gregg showed slides, and said that he'd like to see us move from tactical to strategic. The help we are getting is largely piecemeal, and there are competing priorities in different agencies. He thinks we probably need governance that's focused on our priorities, and that we need to keep the larger issues in mind. Sheena said that having projects ready to go is the best way to be sure we get funding to do the projects, even if it sounds like a piecemeal approach.

Dan asked if Sheena had talked to the school district and GGNRA about the trees on their lands. Sheena said not yet. Len said he had been in touch with GGNRA, and would give Sheena the contact info.

(9:42) **4c. Future MCC Meeting Format**

Dave discussed the changes to the temporary Covid-19 suspension of parts of the Brown Act.

As of June 15th, those expired, but as part of the new Executive Order N-08-21, the same changes are put in place with an expiration date of September 30, 2021. Unless there are further executive orders, or changes in law from the legislature, we will be back under normal Brown Act rules.

That means that all meetings must be in person, and anybody attending remotely has to have their name and meeting location disclosed when the agenda is published. Additionally, the public must be able to attend at the remote location (even if it's a councilmember's home), and a quorum must be physically present at the main location.

Because we have seen increased community participation with zoom meetings, Dave would like to see the Council adopt a hybrid model, where at least a quorum is physically present, and we set up a monitor, omnidirectional microphone, wide-angle webcam, and two speakers, so that those physically in the room can see and hear remote participants, and remote participants can see the councilmembers, and any

presentations given with a projector. A councilmember's laptop would be used to connect all of the equipment, and manage zoom (or some other video conference tool). That equipment would be under \$300, and the yearly zoom license is \$128 (paid through May 31, 2022).

If we start experimenting in August and September, we can resolve any issues before normal Brown Act requirements need to be followed. The GCSD meeting room is available immediately. PCTV recording would be in-person, or if we adopt the hybrid model, could continue over zoom. Jason at PCTV said their first experience with hybrid meetings would be on July 20th, and their biggest concern was audio feedback problems. Jason will keep Dave up to date on their experiences.

(9:50) Council questions

Len asked if Dave had been in touch with Tim Fox. Answer is Michelle initiated a conversation, but no reply yet. Len asked that if he was at home, what would he have to provide in case the public attended. Dave said normally all that is needed is conference phone or equivalent, so the councilmember's laptop should be sufficient.

Gregg said that he hadn't seen the noticing and attending requirements at any of the public meetings that he'd attended in the last 10 years, and wanted to hear Tim Fox's opinion. He also doesn't see how going back to the old rules could be real in the post-covid world where some people are still at risk. Dave answered that what he described is what the Brown Act requires, and that he's seen it on a number of agendas and meetings. Dave also described a hypothetical situation where a councilmember is still at risk, and the issues that would arise with allowing anybody to be at the same location. He said that is a major issue not yet addressed.

Claire asked if there are other places we could meet besides GCSD, because of its limitations. Dave agreed that there were a number of other locations, including some in HMB. Some have fees that would be a big impact on our budget, and that past councils have wanted to keep meetings on the Midcoast.

Dan raised the same issues Gregg did, and further said that he thought it was a problem, and asked for the logic behind it. Dave said that the issue is that the state of emergency will end, and that ends the suspension of various laws, including the Brown Act. The concerns raised here tonight have been raised by others and addressed to the Legislature. It's possible that they will change the law, or that the state of emergency will continue, and the Governor might extend the suspension of the Brown Act rules. But until then, we need to plan to go back under the normal law.

(9:59) Public Comment

Carlyse Ann wondered if she as a member of the public would have to allow others to attend at her location under the hybrid model. Dave answered no, that only applies to councilmembers. She said she would not go to councilmembers locations. She is in favor of the hybrid model because it makes it easier to attend, especially conflicting meetings times. She doesn't like the GCSD meeting room because of ventilation issues, and would like the council to look for other locations, perhaps the new fire station.

Jill said she has the Johnson and Johnson vaccine, which is only 66% effective, and also has a lot of children in her life that can't yet be vaccinated. She's concerned the Delta variants will hit the schools and that it won't be safe to meet in-person by October. She likes the hybrid idea, and asked if the council could consider meeting outdoors, and also whether we could ask the County for funding of the new equipment that would be required.

Dan said that he's in favor of a hybrid concept, despite its complications. He has talked to community members that are opposed to the zoom meetings, and wanted in-person, but the increased participation justifies hybrid meetings. He also raised the issue of opening and setting up the meeting room, and who would do it. He agrees with Jill that some people will be concerned because the vaccines are not 100% effective.

Dave said that there are a number of locations on the coasts where we can meet, but past councils had a very very strong desire to continue to meet in the Midcoast, So that took out the choices in Half Moon Bay, or Pacifica. Mavericks Event Center or the yacht club are not cheap. We could not afford to meet their rental under our current budget, so it has to be some space free. When the fire station was being built, and they were discussing the possibility of the community using their meeting room, it wasn't very big (30 people), smaller than the GCSD room. Even if it was a larger room, the problem would be meeting there on a regular basis.

The question about meeting in the open is a non-starter to me. It rains in winter, we hope; even if it wasn't raining or really windy, you need power for the zoom equipment.

Dave likes the hybrid model, and hopes that the legislature does something to relax the Brown Act. He agrees with Dan that if we're doing a hybrid model that the Brown Act wording is no longer really all that relevant, but nonetheless, it is the law.

Len asked if the hybrid model meant that any citizen can zoom into the meeting. Dave said yes. Len further said that meant that while remote councilmembers would have to advertise their location, it was unlikely anybody would attend. Dave agreed.

Gregg said the bare minimum we should try for is the hybrid model because of the increased public participation and transparency. He thinks with the hybrid model that the GCSD room will be OK, because we'll have fewer in-person public attendees, due to concerns about risk and other variants. He thinks we should write a letter to our state governance. Jill agreed.

Claire was interested to see so much sentiment of caution about in-person meetings. She's enjoyed the zoom meetings after first disliking them. The increased participation has been good and she is in no rush to get back to in-person meetings if we don't have to. She suggested considering the Sheriff substation meeting room as a possible location.

Michelle agreed with Claire, she's not in a hurry to go back to in-person meetings, in part because she has two young children that aren't likely to be able to be vaccinated until next year. She doesn't want an in-person meeting until we are forced to. Likely many bodies are contacting the legislature, so she doesn't think we need to write a letter. She noted that attendance among councilmembers has been 100% all during the zoom meetings, which she thinks is due to being able to join online from anywhere, so she'd like to see that continue.

Dave agreed that we have had 100% attendance and that was incredibly rare in the past. He also has attended from other locations, and he'd like to be able to keep doing that.

He answered a question in chat about attendance prior to Covid and zoom meetings that it was all over the place. We had anywhere from one person in the audience at some meetings to 50 when there was a really hot issue. Before he was elected to the Council he was often the only member of the public attending. It was rare to have more than four people attending a meeting.

With regard to new equipment, the MCC budget has had an allotment of \$3000 now for about nine years, and it hasn't kept up with inflation. We could certainly ask for more money for an equipment budget or ask the county to acquire it, but there is a real issue with having the county acquire it, because then we have inventory tags and all kinds of problems, so he would rather try to get a one time grant.

He does think it's worth deciding on what we want and sending a letter to the supervisors and to both our assemblyman for the Midcoast, and to our state senator, because the more bodies they hear from, the more likely they are to act.

(10:18) 5. Council Activity

Michelle said that the newsletter articles were late, so we'll publish late. All are now in. Need a councilmember to attend Tsunami meetings. She received an email from Coastside Hope that they will be having a vaccination clinic on Friday, June 25th, from 12-6.

Gregg said both NCCWD and CCWD have published their master plans (get name From CCWD), but MWSD has not yet, saying that they have plenty of water. He'd like a moratorium on new building permits.

Len said he's reported on most of his meetings. He'd like to see the newsletter finished by this Sunday.

Dan attended the Johnson Pier pop-up. He felt that it wasn't as advertised, it was just two people carrying clipboards with the survey, and nothing really to mark them as Harbor District employees.

(10:29) 6. Future Agendas

July 14th – Additional wildfire topics, MCC website upgrade

Perhaps hear from the group of neighbors in EG that got a joint tree removal permit

Maybe issue on Miramar Blvd brought up by neighbors tonight (Gregg lead, Dan, Dave)

Letter on Brown Act covid issues to state legislators, targeted for consent (Claire lead, Gregg)

July 28th - Tentative hybrid meeting discussion

(10:36) Adjournment

Moved Len, 2nd Dave, Passes 7-0