

<p><b>Midcoast Community Council</b>  <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  <a href="http://www.MidcoastCommunityCouncil.org">http://www.MidcoastCommunityCouncil.org</a></p>	<p>Michelle Weil, Chair          Claire Toutant, Vice Chair          Len Erickson, Secretary          Dave Olson, Treasurer          Gregg Dieguez          Jill Grant          Dan Haggerty</p>
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## ***Minutes for Meeting of April 28, 2021***

### **Call to Order (7pm)**

All Council Members present. 84 others present. This meeting was conducted virtually in compliance of State and County COVID-related orders.

### **1. Board of Supervisors' Report**

Lena report - Case rate still too high to move to yellow tier. Increased vaccine availability, including Johnson & Johnson now being approved and in use. Update to rental assistance fund, and Federal Restaurant Revitalization fund starts May 3rd. Supervisors Horsley and Pine are introducing ordinance to require buffer zones between firearms dealers and schools or residential areas. Supervisors Horsley and Slocum are introducing an ordinance to fine illegal fireworks use. County Parks has added two documents documenting 5 year fuel management projects and the ranking methodology. Samtrans is hosting a Coastside multilingual meeting on bus routes on May 5.

Harvey Rarback - La Honda Indivisible policing meeting with many representatives. HMB will have an update on the Yanira Serrano Presente! community program discussing policing with the Latino community. City Manager Nisbet met with Caltrans on the VMS sign program.

Bob Nisbet - reported on that meeting; felt that Caltrans wasn't getting the HMB message from past comments. He hopes the Midcoast and HMB can have common statements. The sign near the Ford dealership was felt to be unacceptable. Will likely move further south, so that the city might support the program.

Kellyx Nelson - Water Quality webinar recording is available on youtube.

Sean McPhetridge CUSD - 2nd week of hybrid back to school for students. About 1/2 students morning physical, half afternoon, through 8th grade. High school has some days fully physical, others at home. CUSD has worked with the County to provide an easement to the county from the parallel trail to El Granada school. Last board meeting discussed using bond dollars for elementary school upgrades, starting with replacing the poorest condition portable classrooms. The district has declining enrollment, and expects that to continue. High school process of selecting contractors will start in June.

Jill asked if the hybrid model might continue after pandemic is controlled. Sean said some programs might continue partially hybrid (e.g. reading improvement), but not most.

Michelle asked if hybrid was likely to continue at the Fall start of year. Sean said no, the plan is unlikely to have hybrid in the Fall. Asked about seismic funds. Sean said currently no known seismic issues, and no plans to apply for grants.

## **2. (7:30) Public Comment & Announcement**

Steve Terry - spoke on Fire Station 41 lighting, and County planning updates. Said they consist mostly of dimming existing lights. Does not believe this will resolve the violations with respect to lights shining off the property. Thinks different lights will be safer than the brighter lights the fire department wants, and asks that MCC invite the planner to one of our meetings.

Dan Haggerty - Said he realized that his interruptions at our April 14th meeting, had made some people uncomfortable, and apologized.

Claire Toutant - Covid testing on Monday afternoons in HMB is being underutilized, and encouraged people to get tested if they have any reason to believe they have been exposed or have Covid

Gregg Dieguez - He is very impressed with the level of community involvement. He requested that people who want to contact him consider using the full council alias (midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com). He is honored to represent the community.

Kimberly Williams - agrees with Steve Terry about fire station lighting. Following up on Bob Nisbet's comments, she continues to be opposed to the Caltrans emergency sign project, and heard nobody from the community speaking in support of the signs. She heard Caltrans not committing to only use them for emergency purposes. She feels that the sign near the airport is in a rural area, not industrial. The signs will not solve the emergency evacuation issues.

Jill Grant - said that the fire department thinks only one person has complained, because only one violation was filed, despite all the complaints voiced at MCC meetings.

Dan Haggerty - A deer was on the side of the highway near Mirada west. Suggested people be extra careful. Would like the Caltrans sign program on a future agenda.

## **3. (7:43) Consent Agenda**

a. Approval of minutes for April 14, 2021 were pulled from consent at Jill's request, and will be heard after item 4c.

## **4. Regular Agenda**

### **a. (7:45) Wildfire Preparedness on the Midcoast**

Kellyx Nelson provided some updates from the previous MCC meeting.

A grant to the Coastal Conservancy Wildfire Resilience Program was submitted today for a shovel ready project on public lands. The RCD partnered with County Parks for a \$2.1M project at Quarry Park to create a shaded fuel break (removing smaller

under story trees to meet Calfire standards), and a 200 ft wide fire break along the southern boundary.

Local RCDs have been working on a streamlined permitting process, creating a public works plan, able to utilize the State EIR, which means CEQA and Coastal Development Permit are already in place.

RCD is working with private company Panorama Environmental to develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan for Quarry Park and other areas. May get County matching funds. More creating a process than a set of goals.

Gregg asked if these are new projects; no, these are projects previously identified, because they had to be shovel ready.

Jill asked how and when community comment would occur for the CWPP. Kellyx said that will be determined as further progress is made.

Dan asked what invasive species would be removed. Kellyx said if she had a choice and unlimited funds, she'd get rid of all of it to restore the full native chaparral. With limited funds, it's likely to be just eucalyptus in the shaded fuel break. The firebreak would remove everything. Given the grant deadline, they decided to go with the obvious, not something requiring significant analysis. He further asked what invasive species at Quarry Park are of most concern for wildfire.

Danny Terhey - one of several property owners that got a permit to remove eucalyptus. Asked if the \$2.1M grant could apply to adjacent private lands. Answer is no, due to grant constraints. Also asked if RCD could work with private landowners on grants. Answer is yes, but not likely that they can help with all requests due to their staffing.

Graham - asked when maps would be available showing the work to be done. Kellyx said that the Public Works plan was not at Quarry Park. For the grant that was applied for, there will not be public comment, because the deadline was today, so the grant is already submitted.

Fran Pollard - MPL member and on GCSD Park Advisory Committee. They discussed using volunteer help to clean up Quarry Park, and wondered if RCD could help with that (after confirming with the County). Kellyx not sure, due to resources. Fran also asked why the fire break was only part of what had been discussed. Concerned about risk. Kellyx said that yes, it's valid, but there are huge demands on the existing funds, because many communities are concerned about their fire danger; she sees part of the RCD role as helping be realistic and to see what can be offered, instead of just requesting. Kellyx pointed out that if prioritized for most people affected, then all the San Mateo County money would probably go to the San Bruno Mt. area; that's why there are multiple weights on priority.

Dan - asked for quality maps so the community can understand the work that is proposed, and that will be done. Ideally something that can be printed to be used walking the trails.

**8:20** - Len spoke on the idea of using Midcoast Park Lands funds as a seed to help get other funding. He spoke to the County, MROSD, RCD, and others. He wants to be sure that plans address the full community, not just Quarry Park, since the problem is throughout the community. He mentioned the Sutro Forest efforts to deal with eucalyptus.

Lena said the County thinks it's a good idea, but they need to figure out what the project would entail, and how much money the County might need to commit.

Jill asked if it would be a community effort. Len said it would have community involvement, but be mostly done by contractors.

Barbara Dye said she supports an effort of this type.

Dan said he is concerned that there are too many separate efforts going on. Wonders what happened to Gregg's request for a single coordinating person.

Gregg asked whether the CWPP process would work on governance. Len said not part of this project he has started. The consultants do work with governments, but it's separate. He'd really like to know who is in charge of each effort, and not have balkanization with many independent efforts. Lena said she doesn't think that will be a significant issue with Len's effort.

**8:30** Michelle presented a table of issues, possible resolutions, responsible party, and possible MCC actions (added to the MCC website under meeting materials this evening).

Michelle Fleming asked if handouts would be available on the MCC website. Michelle W said she posted it about 6pm this evening. Asked what was meant by "writing a letter". Michelle W replied writing letters is often the MCC action path, but community can be involved also.

Graham spoke about the petition sent to MCC by upper El Granada Blvd residents pointing out that they did not seem to be included in immediate actions and asking MCC to support action for that area. Asked why that issue wasn't on the table. Len answered that the request should be added to the table, and also that the study Len was proposing would include all the residential areas, including upper EG Blvd. Michelle said that petition was one of the reasons this set of meetings are being held.

Gopi Mattel lives at the top of EG Blvd. Asked if any new technologies were being considered for preventing or fighting wildfires, including possible funding sources. Michelle mentioned cameras, and that MCC has no funding of its own; MCC could possibly work with the County for funding.

Brian Levi lives on upper EG Blvd. He looked into external fire sprinkler systems for his home, and they are expensive; he requests that the County create a tax break for that kind of thing.

### **8:50 - Public comment closed**

Michelle asked Councilmembers for their opinions on which items on the table were worth pursuing.

Dan said that he thinks we are spinning our wheels. Wants action on trimming trees near power lines immediately. Prioritize getting Parks commitment to get shovel ready projects started. Yes, make it easier to cut eucalyptus on private property. Yes, get DPW to thin the median trees. Yes, work on the gate at the top of EG Blvd. Yes, work with Caltrans to trim trees near evacuation routes. Yes, more fire breaks in Quarry Park. He wants us to track the items, and share progress with the public.

Dave said the document was too late to have read prior to the meeting, so he had no time to choose prioritized items on the list. Document was too long and too late.

Jill also thought the document was too late. Mentioned the 2011 tsunami, and that maybe we needed neighborhood programs, block captains, etc. CERT was mentioned as meeting many of those needs by Dave and Michelle Dragony. Michelle D. spoke at length on CERT.

Claire also hadn't seen the document until this evening. Shares some of Dan's concerns about wheel spinning. She would pick the first 3 items in the table: simplify private property eucalyptus removal, grow the chipper program, and improve early wildfire detection. She believes that most of the agencies in the table are already in communication with them. She suggested that we should focus on just a few things that we can do quickly. Once those are done, then consider other items.

Michelle agreed with Claire's final points; said that's what she hoped for.

Len circled 7 or items. Asking County to take responsibility for the trees in park and medians, attend Firesafe council, pursue funding to remove eucalyptus and re-vegetate. Work with Calfire and County to revise ordinances relating to the fire codes and environmental issues on tree removal. Would also like the council to reach out to state legislators.

Gregg wants permit fees for cutting eucalyptus removed and simplify the permitting. Use community resources. Gate at top of EG Blvd. Medians and some other issues he'll discuss under the LHMP agenda item. Would like MCC to choose a person to attend Firesafe meetings. Thinks we should get ordinances changed to consider eucalyptus as weeds, maybe Monterey cypress also. Also thinks we should write state senators.

Michelle called for a volunteer to attend the Firesafe council and called for the group to write a letter to support simplifying and reducing the cost of removing eucalyptus on private property. Gregg, Claire, and Dan.

**4b. (9:18) Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.**

Gregg gave a presentation on the LHMP, summarizing goals and timelines; goal is to have initial submittal to state OES in August, and approval by December 2021. It was added to the MCC website during the meeting. Concerned that Caltrans isn't part of the LHMP. Projects for funding to committee by May 21, 2021.

Claire requested better Desired Goals in agenda, so councilmembers can be prepared. She asked Gregg who would be developing projects. Gregg replied it's the people working on the LHMP, but would like MCC to push specific ideas for projects.

Michelle W. followed up on that, confusing who would be doing what. Gregg said he had been talking to Jim Porter at DPW. She's not sure how much we could do by May 21.

Michelle Dragony spoke on LHMP being an aid to getting FEMA money, which has quite a bit to hand out.

Dave spoke and said that he was not OK with Gregg acting on this issue as an MCC councilmember, unless the council approved that. It's fine to act as an individual. Dave feels that we are wasting our time trying to discuss this in detail and come up with projects or select from projects, when the agenda gave no indication that would happen, and the presentation wasn't done until after the meeting started.

Dolores Silva asked who does represent the Midcoast in things like this.

Gregg spoke on some of the reasons the Coastside agencies weren't involved earlier (some confusion about county notifications in 2020, and pandemic sidetracked responses).

Lucy Wicks spoke saying that the county LHMP website seemed to show a longer timeline than Gregg was presenting. She's familiar with Panorama Environmental, and they are a good team.

Michelle said that the methods of how the MCC participates are unclear, and that focus seems to be on wildfire safety. Asking GCSD to include the El Granada medians in the LHMP would be a good start.

Gregg said that he thinks that somebody from the MCC should work with the county or Supervisor Horsley to take responsibility to submit plans for Quarry Park as part of the LHMP.

*Dave moved* that Michelle, Gregg, and Len be formed as an ad hoc committee to pursue next steps on specific projects for the LHMP with the County, GCSD, HMB, etc.

**(9:55) 4c New officers**

Dave resigns as Treasurer.

Len resigns as Secretary

*Len nominates Dave as Secretary, Gregg 2nd, passes 7-0.*

*Dave nominates Len as Treasurer, Claire 2nd, passes 7-0.*

**(9:58) Minutes of April 14, 2021** (pulled from Consent)

Jill requested a minor amendment to correct her wording on one statement.

*Moved Dave, 2nd Michelle passes 7-0.*

**5. (10:04) Council Activity**

Dan reported on conversations about Fire Station 41 lights issue.

Claire attended a two-part session on community mental health issues and policing on the Coastside (mostly mental health professionals) as a private individual.

Major thrust was to help HMB in deciding how to handle their policing contract with the Sheriff. Sheriff's department was explicitly excluded.

**6. (10:08) Future Agendas**

May 12th Renew Zoom license, LHMP letter, SAM issues letter, Fire Station 41 lighting

May 26th Virtual meetings, Reimagine Samtrans

**Adjournment (10:20)**

*Moved Dave, 2nd Gregg passed 7-0*