

DRAFT MINUTES MCC Meeting June 23, 2004

Attendance:

Present: Kathryn Slater-Carter

Sara Bassler

Gael Erickson

Howard Lieberman

Charlie Gardner (left meeting prior to Mosquito Abatement District presentation)

Meeting called to order

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions

Public Comment:

Bill Hill: He is involved in the upgrade of Moss Beach park – upcoming event this Sat 10-3pm with music and fun stuff. They are 40% of way to \$120,000 for first phase of project. You can help – they are selling bricks upon which your name can be put; tiles that kids can paint; or direct contributions. All funding from is from the community. See their web site Mossbeachpark.com, and this will explain how you can make donations.

Leonard Woren – First spoke as VP of Sanitary District. They appointed Ric Lohman to fill vacancy. Second, as member of community: things going on with our two fire districts., too complicated to go into. The Review and SM Co Times are not properly covering it. The investigator's report has been completed and it's not going to be made available because of lawsuit by former fireman, Lane Lees. Point Montara Fire Dist is headed toward serious financial problems: will be increasing fees to \$250.00 per parcel. People need to pay attention and get the directors to settle this. The contract between HMB and Montara will terminate next year.

Kathryn Slater-Carter: MSWD and light house hostel will be holding a 1-5pm July 4th potluck. RSVP to MWSD. On Aug 1st we will be celebrating our first year as running water company. Surfrider opened a new water testing lab to test water on beaches-doing on a volunteer level. MROSD LAFCO protest count is in progress and should be done in 3-4 days.

Review of Agenda: added item #11. "Re-cap of Action Items from current meeting."

Consent agenda – cancelled because no one received minutes from June 9, 2004.

Board of Supervisors Report – Supervisor Gordon:

County Budget – need a balanced budget by June 30th, so starting Mon they will be at hearings reviewing all county dept. Budget of 1.2 billion dollars. We are in financial difficulties as all local governments are; not as bad as in Jan, but still some severe reduction in service and support. Proposals: reduction in sheriff's office with elimination of resource officer program for school - \$400,000 worth of cuts; in Parks Dept – elimination of 4 park ranger positions-currently not filled, but requires that 4 county

parks be closed 3 days/week; new and additional fees in P&Z; juvenile probation – 30 bed unit for alternative placement will be closed and juveniles will be placed elsewhere. Another unit in CYA will be closed. Nearly 90 positions will be eliminated in county government-only 2 people will be laid off because unable to place. Budget balanced by using \$20 million in reserves. Board of Supervisors may dip further into reserves to fund more services. Budget hearings are open to the public. Modest amount of money provided to the MCC has not been cut. The county manager presents two ideas for raising funds. One, impose a surcharge on telephone bills, a fee that would go to 911 services. This comes from the general fund so this would free up money for other things. Two, generate interest in allowing local governments to put a tax on off-sale liquor – money would go to support drug and ETOH programs. Over 60% of people in jail have substance abuse problems, disproportionate number of homeless and indigent also have substance abuse problems – but this would require a change in state law.

Planning and Building Fees are going up – this has already occurred, will take effect August 1st. Originally proposed 55% increase, this on top of last year increase of 55%. It was decided that the fees need to pay for the services provided by planning and zoning. Getting to the point where the planning & zoning dept. will be supported by fees people pay. Concerns were raised by several communities regarding the increase in fees. If fees are too high, then people will skirt paying the fees, and so in consideration of that Rich suggested a couple changes: Rather than trying to collect costs of current and long-range planning, long-range should be a general fund expenditure and not be born by current projects. So the board decided to increase fees by 33% by Aug. 1st. Priority of Rich's – authorized formation of a task force to look at functioning of the planning and building dept and examine fees, operation, and length of time for project to be finalized. Most projects take 8 months. Rich will keep us informed and hopes we work with him on this issue.

Priority of Rich's: Affordable housing – continual problem with not enough housing in this county. Wants to increase density along transportation corridor.

Priority of Rich's: Passage of Measure A – transportation ½ cent sales tax.

9a. Assembly Member Leland Yee, 12th Assembly District, Speaker pro Tempore, discussing coastal protection and the state budget. Thanks for the invitation. Part of his roll is speaker pro tem – responsible for a number of elections. Tries to hear our concerns. The budget – very committed to having a budget on time. It takes so long because no one wants to blink first. How do individuals in assembly and senate work more cooperatively with governor. Sticky points: higher education – Because of budget problems we are denying people the higher education i.e. 6,000 who qualified for UC were diverted to community college. Many of them opted to go out of state. Community colleges are also stretched for funds – so not enough resources for them to handle the 6,000 more kids. We are really at a critical stage – the system is not able to handle these kids. Democrats believe there are additional funds. Maybe more from Indian Gaming, tax amnesty program. Another issue is how do we protect local government? The state goes in and takes local money when state has a

shortfall. There is a ballot measure in Nov. that will require a vote of people to allow state to take money from local government.
It's coming together.

Bills AB504 – allows open space jurisdiction to increase fines, so can protect open space.

AB454-ban smoking along state beaches-trying to eliminate cigarette butts on the beach.
Currently stuck in senate committee.

Critical that you continue to communicate with us. Each succeeding year for next couple years are going to be tough. Borrowing money is no longer an option because of recent bill passed. Need to communicate where the cuts should come from.

Questions from audience:

Leonard Woren: Wants to see the coastal commission's funding protected or even restored because they have had severe cuts. For ex, by Kathryn: used to be 3 staff and now 1 for the San Mateo coast.

Response by Leland Yee: There was an attempt to wipe out all the commissions. That bill didn't pass. He cares very deeply about the coast. Need to preserve our coastal line. He will try and ensure that the commission will not be further cut.

April Vargas: Agrees coastal commission is very important; state parks too- a public policy study came out and said that people really value the coast and state parks. Ask that no further cuts be made to these depts.

Leland Yee: When in SF he opened the water shed in Crystal Spring – now it is part of the Bay Trail. Will do what he can to enhance the parks and coastal open space.

Unfortunately at state level, we've been hurt pretty badly- having difficulty holding the line.

Mike Ferrare: councilman and mayor of HMB. Coastal commission is really a part of fabric re development on the coast. County is doing a lot of work on LCP, but no idea what will happen to that body of work when coastal commission has one staff member to review it. Any thought of coastal development fees changes to provide more funding to commission.

Leland Yee: an ad hoc caucus is trying to deal with coastline in a collaborative way.

David, his district director will engage in discussions with Rich Gordon and us on how can bolster the coastal commission. Anyone who has seen Hawaii can begin to appreciate how important it is to protect our coastline. Committed to doing what he can to protect the coastline.

Charlie Gardner: bill about no smoking on the beach, how would tobacco lobby approach this? Collaboration on budget?

Leland: The recall was a wake up call for everybody because exit polls showed people frustrated that nothing gets done in Sacramento.

Sara: What is the status of the prison guard contract?

Leland: The governor has issued out request to meet with prison guard union, but the union has made it clear that they are not prepared to simply role over. They are willing to work out a compromise. Unknown if will occur before budge deadline.

Sara: comments on prison guards and cuts to social services and how we are setting people to go to prison rather than prevention.

Leland: working on it

Kathryn: She is hopeful that he will support freezing the amount of money that will be taken from local governments. One of the bills that is really high – is the cost of local emergency services. Example: large number of response vehicles to one accident.

Leland: How many vehicles respond to an accident, is a local decision, but you raise a good point – for a long time local and state government have been in an adversarial position – the state takes what it wants. He is very conscious of the fact that we cannot just undermine local government. This is one of the reasons why other legislators are supportive of ballot measure to require a local vote. Need to work very closely with county because they are in the process of working with governor regarding the allocation of dollars. State recognizes the difficulty it has placed the local governments in.

Kathryn: Question about small businesses – workers comp costs have skyrocketed. In order to have a healthy economy, it's important to have jobs. State legislature needs to be cognizant of the fact that local businesses will leave state, and some construction companies doing more business under the table. What is going on to support business here?

Leland: There has been a singular voice within the business community re worker's comp. In Jan. 04 they did pass a bill in the assembly, they limited injured workers access to services hoping that costs would decrease. Didn't happen, so passed a bill that would force the insurance co. to drop their prices, but governor and republicans did not support; so bill is in abeyance, but if by July the insurance co. haven't dropped the prices, then will send bill to senate.

Leland: willing to give market forces one more chance, but if don't follow through with decrease, then will push the issue.

Charlie: His company has a good safety record and so then they have reduced worker's comp expenses. Could there be incentives for businesses to establish safer work-places?

Leland: I did introduce a bill along these lines, but it did not pass. But in Washington and Oregon that is exactly what happens. Companies who set up these committees reduce their rate by 5%.

Kathryn: Would like to continue to dialog with you or through David. If any letters needed then would like to help any way we can.

Leland: Can begin to work on coastal commission budget.

Supervisor Rich Gordon returns to take questions on his presentation:

Kathryn: Funding for EG mobile home park is in trouble.

Rich: meeting with environmental services to try and resolve this. Trying to put together the pieces of the puzzle. Told Lisa that his office will continue to work closely on this – a very high priority.

Charlie: What is the threshold for affordable housing – what constitutes affordable housing?

Deborah: It is updated yearly; it's a sliding scale depending on the size of the household.

Rich: The challenge is that he's not sure the word "affordable" has any meaning. In state and federal law there are very specific definitions. Some don't apply here because of higher cost of housing. Less than 15% of people who live here can afford to buy a house here.

Howard: 1.2 Billion dollar budget this year and 1.1 billion last year, how did this increase require all these budget cuts?

Rich: Two areas – county employees and benefits – in county government we are very people intensive; 70% of costs goes to personnel. All these costs have risen to a level, such that fixed costs have gone up, so have to raise more money and cut services.

Howard: Task force for planning & building dept, the relationship between DR and planning and zoning is not working well – will local people be included in task force?

Rich: DR on coastside and other parts of coast. Can the process be streamlined?

Currently it's first come, first serve regardless of size of the project. There isn't a flow chart of how this works-where does the planning & zoning and DR all work together so that they allow the appropriate review at the local level and yet not take an inordinate amount of time. All to be explored. Not sure what local input will be.

Howard: Passage of measure A, the whole coordination of the transportation issues, how can we play a role in this?

Rich: Transit authority has been talking with Caltrans about coordinating things. Most of Devil's Slide won't have an impact on local transportation. If any of the projects for highway 92 move forward, none have CDP, there would have to be coordination with tunnel construction.

Gael: One of the biggest problems is traffic – not only the amount of traffic, but also safety issues. What is the county's role in this? Kathryn: At planning & zoning, for example, we are reviewing a fruit stand that will be located off highway 1 where people are paying attention to an upcoming street light. There seems to be no attention given to this kind of safety issue..

Rich: Coordination between county and Caltrans is minimal, and over next 2 years probably will be even more of an issue because of cuts to Caltrans. Have had good discussions with district director, good coordination on a specific project, but on the broad safety analysis, Caltrans does that occasionally, but limited ability to respond to that.

Gael: Any thoughts of limiting building on highway1?

Rich: We will now, haven't prior to this.

Gael: Looking at bigger picture rather than one house at a time.

Sara: Budget cuts to the Sheriff's resource officers?

Rich: We are receiving a lot of letters about this. It's a priority to preserve this. Keep letters coming.

Computer locked so missed some discussion

Leonard: LCP revisions for 4 years, how long until completed?

Rich: A long time, long-range planning staff used up in LCP Review and housing authority requirements. DR on the bay side not looked at in ten years, so a lot of concern with remodels, so a commitment to put together an ordinance to protect watershed on the bay side. Particularly impaired watershed that borders SM and SJ, will have to deal with those before can complete the LCP. Argument that Rich made for not tying long-range planning to current fees because then can limit the amount of staff that can work on it. During good times can invest more people in this. Hopes that when the economy turns around that we can boost long-term planning.

Kathryn: Asks that the BofS support the Planning Commission's decisions on the LCP update projects.

9b. San Mateo county Mosquito Abatement District Presentation, Chindi Peevey
Ballot measure expanded their district to our area. Started in 1915 and formerly covered only to Skyline. Monitoring and control of mosquitoes. Can put mosquito fish in home ponds, also yellow jacket nest destruction; monitor vector-borne diseases. Major concern is West Nile virus – arrived in So Cal last year in Aug. Symptoms= stiff neck, high fever, flu-like symptoms which can progress to encephalitis and seizures. Some can get permanent muscle weakness and some can die. 1/3rd of horses who get it die – urge people to vaccinate their horses.

In Aug. '03 there were 3 cases in humans in SoCal. It's a summer mosquito that carries the disease. Almost 400 cases in birds in L.A. and 7 human cases.

20 different species of mosquito on coast. We focus on larvae stage – check water sources, will use fogging if have to; don't like to because hits other organisms like bees. How find sources: send staff out and keep an on-going data base. El Granada trailer park; regular inspections every 30-60 days. Normally open water is not a problem because mosquito larvae will be killed by heavy water, but in dense tully areas the larvae can really grow because protected. Some salt marsh districts, 4000 acres – mosquitoes are very aggressive, so put a lot on emphasis on these areas. Discussed other areas where they treat for mosquitoes such as catch basins and drainage ditches, tires, neglected fountains.

Biological control with fish. Chloramine doesn't kill mosquitoes, but it kills fish. Materials they use.

Disease surveillance measures: dead birds, flocks of sentinel chickens, and county depts of health. If you find a dead crow or raven, you can call a number and they will pick it up and test it. Can test mosquitoes directly – 30 traps on coast and 30 on bay side. Traps use dry ice which gives off carbon monoxide, mosquitoes follow this because looking for host.

Test ticks for lime disease, so if you find a tick on yourself, you can bring the tick in and they will test it.

Test mice for 3 diseases

Really appreciate people calling in with potential problems also they will do insect identification.

Yellow Jacket program – basket ball in trees – they eat only insects. The two species that nest in ground- trash eating – they will come out and destroy these nests.

Eliminate water sources, catch mosquitoes that try and bite you and call them to pick up because helps them; call them if any issues with standing water. Their phone number: 344-8592.

Howard: What is the status on the coast?

Response: Only out here since June – marsh area in Princeton, a lot of storm drain systems in this area; 2 people over here almost full-time running around and doing things.

Howard: You do feel you have adequate resources?

Response: He's a working supervisor who works in the field. Not up to where we want to be, but hoping that by Jan. will be.

Gael: Examples of abandoned tires and standing water – due to humans' involvement. What do you do?

Response: For example, if a stack of tires dumped on property, they contact public works – treat and then get public works to remove. On private property – the person has to fix the problem.

Sara: Do you work on Post land?

Response: Will be working with Post on their property

Howard: What about creeks running to ocean?

Response: We don't treat all creeks; it depends on the species in the creek, what predators are in the water, and what the impact will be on the public. Have done parts of Frenchman's Creek; in Miramar we have done some creeks and water btw houses.

Leonard: What is your policy in terms of entering private property?

Response: Will leave a note, but if see containers that harbor mosquitoes, then we can enter the property

Leonard: Treatment for west Nile?

Response: supportive care only.

Leonard: In the vacant property behind my house, 20 acres of sensitive habitat, two weeks after the last rain there was 2 weeks of standing water, how do you deal with that?

Response: Several species that breed in winter, aware of sensitive habitats – walk them off with hand cans – what we use is safe for frogs and snakes-specifically targets the mosquitoes. Also work with the property owners on the different options available.

Leonard: Suggests that we set up a liaison because locals may have more specific knowledge of sensitive habitats.

Kathryn: We could give you a recent map of the sensitive habitats.

Response: We are putting out dry ice traps and where finding mosquitoes discuss with property owners, state parks etc.

Gael: Said could bring in insects for identification: 1351 Rollins Rd, Burlingame.

Howard: Would you recommend putting screens up on windows?

Response: Yes.

Kathryn: Make your own dry-ice traps?

Response: Unclear if they really work. Piece of PVC pipe with small motor and a paint bag at bottom to collect mosquitoes.

Kathryn: Paper yellow jackets?

Response: Paper nests in eaves – those are really wasps – and they are beneficial because they eat only insects. Yellow jackets – nest on the ground – they are garbage eaters. For last 25 years we have been working with fish and game, so very cognizant of sensitive habitats – using safe and target specific substances.

Kathryn: Coastside Water District and MWSD neither use chloramines. May want to check with the CCWD to confirm this.

Response: Glad to hear that because they were losing a lot of fish to chloramines.

Howard: Do you recommend any mosquitoes repellent?

Response: 20-30% Deet; Skin so Soft. Put Deet on hats and collars for kids.

Kathryn: Lyme Disease?

Response: 1-5% of ticks infected in this area. More awareness.

Kathryn: Recommend any repellent for ticks?

Response: Wear long pants – tuck into socks, and long-sleeve shirt.

Leonard: Will leave flyers at Granada Sanitary district and MWSD office.

9c. Council Discussion: LCP Review - postpone discussion of LCP review to next meeting.

Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report-none because Charles left meeting.

Parks & Recs - decision was made to have meetings the first Monday of each month, any agenda items send to Gael.

P&Z-brief project review

Update on continuing Council projects: letter re sheriff resource officers; 12 townhomes in EG

Future Agenda: outreach to the community - something at the July 4th potluck. Retreat items in general on the next agenda. Invite School Board and Montara and HMB Fire Districts, lighthouse hostel, Harbor District to future meetings.

Adjourn- motion by Sara; Howard-seconds, unanimous consent.