

Winchester/Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 13, 2014

Place: Winchester Community Center, 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester

Attendees:

Winchester MAC:

Dirk Meredith, Vice-Chairman

James Horecka, Secretary

Jimmy Sheldrake

Jeff Logan

Absent: Andy Domenigoni, Chairman

Ex Officio:

Opal Hellweg, Legislative Assistant for Supervisor Jeff Stone

Members of the Public

Call to Order: Call to Order by Dirk Meredith at 6:30 PM.

Flag Salute. Introductions.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve: Horecka; Second: Logan. Approved, unanimously.

Approval of January Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes as amended: Horecka; Second: Logan. Approved, unanimously.

Skipped to New Business first, while waiting for EMWD to finish setting up:

1. From previous meeting: CDBG Fund for road repair in Winchester & Homeland: Opal announced that funding has been OK'd for the projects in Winchester, for approval in April. A Grant for \$200K, for two miles of road repairs. Funding for work in Homeland has not yet received a green light.

Guest:

Charlie Bachman from with EMWD on Sewer & Water.

Bachman presented a slideshow, and left a printed deck of the PPT slides with the MAC. Phil Paule of EMWD arrived as the show started. He covered water supply, from MWD, via the Lake Skinner Filtration Plant. Also sewer mains, which come from south Hemet, through Winchester, on to the treatment plant in Perris. Recycled Water was also discussed, including the recent tank on the hill to pressurize the system. Discussed future facilities, which are expected to be massive to serve proposed development over the long term, including new tracts, etc. EMWD has engaged West Yost as a consultant to assist in planning for expected growth. Q & A:

Q by Suh: Timing? A: Depends on demand. Olive already underway, & tracts along Domenigoni Pky.

Q: Is water treatment capacity sufficient? A: Yes; currently unused capacity in the system.

Q by DM: What drives expansion & size of sewers, like Olive? A: Need & funding; EMWD doesn't prebuild.

Q, by Cowdery: Are there still Federal Grants available? A: Pretty much gone away; some, but difficult to do.

Q, by Waller: How far south will Olive sewer cover? A: Don't know yet.

Q: What is the future of facilities for the Wild West Arena, how far off? A: A long way off.

Q, by DM: Drought situation? A: Drought is an issue in SoCal, but even more so in NoCal. We have planned and built more storage. Discussed voluntary reduction in usage, recycled water, awareness outreach, more.

Q: What about those fish and pot plants up north? A: Water rights are complex and highly politicized.

Q, by Opal: Suggested EMWD do a presentation on water conservation. A: Already great events slated.

Q, by Gregg: Gray Water Systems? A: See County regulations, which are in place; rules available.

Q, by DM: Will there come a time when EMWD won't be able to "serve"? A: SB221610, Supply Assessment, procedures in place and working.

Q: Water catching? A: See EMWD website for links with suggestions, rebates, rain barrels, etc.

Q, Charlie: Is CA the largest user of water from the Colorado River? A: Yes; of 7.5M acre feet, CA gets 4.4.

Q: Are there 'water police'? A: Self-policing, more or less. If you have a concern, "Call Kevin;" will listen.

Q: Will EMWD be affected by release of water into the Gulf? A: No.

Back to New Business:

2. Gregg Cowdery gave a brief presentation: A developer prepared a Conceptual Plan for the Downtown. This draft is moving through the WTA. This was just an introduction; Gregg did not take questions at this point, instead urging all those in Winchester to attend the WTA meetings for details & to participate!
3. Other new business: None

Old Business:

- A. Update –Opal Hellweg, 3rd District Legislative Assistant advised us of the following:
 - Supervisor Stone worked out favorable deals with law firms providing services for Indigent Defense.
 - Opal toured the new Drop Zone water park in Perris. She gave it high accolades. Opening May 24th.
 - Andy had contacted Opal for assistance with arranging a presenter for the April MAC meeting.
 - Q: re Hemet's ideas on Multi-Species Preservation Plan: A: Stone will protect Winchester; he sits on LAFCO. WMAC will monitor Hemet's activities in an effort to protect our community's interests.
- B. Sheriff Dept; Lt. Charles Guillen spoke:
 - Guillen reported news regarding graffiti at Winchester Store: Suspect ID'd; warrant out for his arrest.
 - Recent incident in Homeland, victim shot in face; found suspect, arrested same. Likely gang related.
 - Guillen introduced our brand new Ag Deputy A. Santiago. Will cover agricultural concerns in the Perris area, part time. Metal theft is a big issue. He will also attend monthly Farm Bureau meetings.
- C. EMWD Updates:
 - The Bid Walk for the Olive Sewer was last Tuesday; start of construction slated May 15th.
 - Water Conservation Festival April 9-12. Big League Dreams, Curious George, more. EMWD partnering with Home Depot for Water Wise events, presentations, and discounts on drought-tolerant plants.
- D. Highway 79 - Update on widening.
 - Ribbon Cutting slated for May 15th, 10:00-11:00, at Zeni's place (Swap Meet at Newport Road & 79).
- E. MWD Proposed Solar Farm: No news.
- F. Land Use: Gregg covered this item with his presentation of the draft Conceptual Plan (see above).
- G. Gangs in Winchester: See Sheriff report above.
- H. City of Hemet: Jeff Logan visited Hemet. Reported that the City Council resolved to adopt a new General Plan 2030, which projected Metrolink running to Hemet. Also showed their sphere of influence to SH 79. Logan attended, and collected data to study.
- I. Citizens Patrol: Bob Gibbons was not present.
- J. Marijuana Dispensaries in Winchester: No news.
- K. Other Old Business: None.

Open Forum:

1. Brief mention of Transit Oriented Communities: The MAC acknowledged that this is on our radar.

Next WMAC Meeting:

The next WMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 10th, 2014, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center.

Adjournment:

The WMAC adjourned 8:02 PM.