

Winchester/Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 10, 2016

Place: Winchester Community Center, 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester

Attendees:

Winchester MAC:

Andy Domenigoni, Chairman; James Horecka, Secretary; Jeff Logan.

Absent: Dirk Meredith, Vice-Chairman; Jimmy Sheldrake.

Ex Officio:

Opal Hellweg, Legislative Assistant for Third District Supervisor

Members of the Public

Call to Order: Call to Order by Andy Domenigoni at 6:30 PM.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve: Motion by Horecka; second by Logan. Approved by AD, JH, JL

Approval of September Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve: Defer review/action to the next meeting.

Guest Speaker: David Ahles, P.E. of EMWD, discussing the recovery wells being drilled at the Recycled Water Ponds in Winchester. Ahles described the project: Basically the drilling of a series of water wells to recover water that escapes through the bottoms of the lakes that hold recycled water. The project is essentially an engineering matter. The floor was opened for questions:

- Q: What is the bottom of the ponds made of? A: Natural earth. Not concrete, nor plastic.
- Q: Who uses recycled water? A: Agricultural uses, landscaping in public ways, golf courses, schools...
- Q (from Phil Paule of EMWD): Will these new wells affect local groundwater? A: Modeling took into account the existing wells in the area.
- Q: Why didn't EMWD alert us (WHMAC) to the project and possible effects on local nearby wells early on in the process? A: Paule responded that they will endeavor to improve on such communication.
- Q: Why weren't the ponds lined, & what keeps seepage water from spreading beyond the immediate zone, especially considering that recycled water is known to be high in sodium? A: The cost of lining the ponds was estimated to be extreme. Also, EMWD uses the 'mass' of underground water below the ponds as, effectively, additional water storage. EMWD has broader models also, in addition to local models. There are monitoring wells around the ponds, since the beginning. The TDS at the west side is 550-600; local groundwater here in Winchester tests out at ~2000. That is: The pond water has less sodium than the local groundwater!
- Q: Per Charlie, recycled water was to have been injected into the ground to recharge aquifers. That's not being done today. A: Actually, the wells at Newport Rd at Meniffee Rd were test wells for a proposed desalting plant in Sun City. Brackish water from wells along the 215, north of EMWD HQ, is sent to a desalting plant.

New Business.

- A. Highway 79 Realignment – CalTrans Public Notice, Final EIR. Comment period set to expire 12/4/2016. It was noted that no one advised the WHMAC of this. Reportedly, the notice was published in the paper.
- B. Riverside County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan – Hemet Ryan Airport
 - Cindy Domenigoni reported that flight path zones and noise zones have been mapped for Hemet Ryan Airport, into the future. This affects a small number of parcels that are current zoned as Residential. She noted, however, that we were already actually proposing more Light Industrial zones and the like in the areas affected. There are various zones: Zone E, D & C. Our planner consultant, Gary Thornhill, took into account the expansion of the airport in his layouts.
 - Q: Were we aware that it is expected that the runways will be expanded? A: Of course.
 - Q: Will Hemet annex this area? A: That's not proposed at this time.

- C: Jeff Logan noted that this study is now on the Internet, for those who are interested in learning more.

Old Business:

- A. General County update; Opal Hellweg, 3rd District Legislative Assistant:
 - Opal noted that 5-1/2 years have passed since we originally formed out WMAC. Huzzah! She suggested that this would be a good time to take stock of where we are, where we've been, and to set some long-term goals.
 - Opal noted that a grant was awarded for a 'whole person care' pilot project: Recognizing that the public cannot 'jail people out of crime.' Also a grant for mental health and homelessness. \$300,000 grant for helping veterans coping with PTSD, etc., in regard to drugs and alcohol.
 - Award: Function Zero Homeless program: 1,100 veterans have been housed by the program.
 - Opal announced that Metrolink is offering train runs to the Mission Inn Festival of Lights. Flyers avail.
 - Opal stated there will be a Point-in-Time Count (PiTC) January 28th. The last PiTC count of the homeless was ~1,500. The PiTC is necessary to comply with HUD, grants, etc.
- B. Sheriff Department update; Deputy Joseph Puente reporting:
 - Puente gave updates on crime stats: Sept: 205 calls for service, 4 arrests; Oct: 215 calls, 9 arrests.
 - Puente noted that when you call 911 from a cell phone, that call is routed directly to the CHP; when you call 911 from a land line, the call is routed to the 911 call center.
 - Supervisor Washington & Jefferies voted for more funding for the Sheriff Dept; however, that angle was defeated 3/2.
 - Q: Is there a curfew? A: No, there is no curfew. But noise can be an infraction, if excessive & disruptive. The deputy suggested that citizens use their judgment.
 - Q: Are there shooting ranges in our neighborhood? A: No official target ranges. People may shoot on private property, consistent with applicable laws for same.
 - Q: What about motorcycles & dirt bikes? A: They're allowed to ride on their properties.
 - Q: How late can they do that? A: There's no curfew for any activity.
- C. EMWD Updates:
 - Kevin Pearson not present.
 - A guest speaker is planned for the November WHMAC meeting, to update us on the Pond recovery.
- D. Highway 79 Realignment update:
 - No update.
- E. Land Use update:
 - San Pedro Farms TTM 36467 – Winchester Hills – Sent cover letter along with the Winchester/Homeland Town Association letter, as agreed last month.
 - Cindy Domenigoni presented. The WTA presented us the letter and cover letter from the WTA Land Use Committee, which we subsequently forwarded to the County Planning Dept. This Tract is now on the agenda for next Tuesday. Cindy will follow-up with Planning on Monday.
 - GPA 1120 Housing Element and Downtown Winchester – TPC 10/5/2916:
 - Awaiting the Board of Supervisors' Hearing.
 - The Housing Element was approved by the Committee at County. There are some concerns for the downtown core. The WTA Land Use Committee will meet with County Planners. Since the MAC will be dark in December, those with an interest in keeping up with this matter are advised to attend the WTA meeting in December.
 - Winchester/Homeland General Plan Amendment #1207:
 - The Housing Element for the General Plan Amendment passed unanimously in the General Plan Advisory Committee, with good support. This is continuing to move ahead through the County.
 - Proposed K-1 Speed CUP 03733:
 - No news.
- F. City of Hemet update; Jeff Logan reporting:
 - No news directly related to our area. Measure U passed (1% sales tax increase for public safety).
- G. City of Menifee update; Domenigoni reporting:
 - The current mayor lost his bid for reelection. We will regroup after the new mayor settles in.
- H. Other Old Business:
 1. A citizen expressed concern about a 'rehab house' that is near his home.

2. Valley Wide Parks & Recreation: Dean Wetter, General Manager, thanked us for our support and use of parks, etc. An update on the proposed Detachment in the City of Menifee: The city has made their application. An independent firm will do an analysis on financials. A LAFCO meeting is upcoming on Jan 26th; the Detachment may be on the agenda (not known at this time). Witter fielded some questions:
 - Q: What's there to do for kids? A: VWR&P is always on the lookout for fresh ideas; along with funding for same, of course! That may include private moneys and grants. There are VWP&R Board Meetings on the 3rd Monday of every month, with some exceptions; usually in San Jacinto, though sometimes at other sites. See their website for details and the agenda for the meeting: gorecreation.org Board members were recently re-elected.
3. Community First Church of God in Homeland: Leona Tarver announced their upcoming Golf Outing, a fund raising event. To be held at Golden Are Golf Club. Benefitting a children's playground for their church, which burned down.

Open Forum:

1. Mary Plum: Announced the Santa Comes to the Valley event, at the Marion Ashley Center, Dec. 10th.
2. There will be a Community Giveaway, open to anyone, Nov. 19th; Marion Ashley Center.
3. There will be a Food Bank at the Church of God in Homeland. Nov. 11-14, 9-noon.
4. Jeff Logan noted that medians are being proposed along Highway 74, from 215 to Meyers, by CalTrans. The WHMAC has not been made aware of this effort to date. Opal said she will look into this.

Next WMAC Meeting:

The next WHMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 12, 2017, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center. The WHMAC will be dark in December.

Adjournment: The WHMAC adjourned at 8:10 PM.