

Winchester-Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

Date: October 10, 2019

Place: Winchester Community Center, 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester

Attendees:

Winchester MAC:

Andy Domenigoni, Chairman; Dirk Meredith, Vice-Chairman; James Horecka, Secretary

Absent: Jeff Logan & Jimmy Sheldrake. Quorum met.

Ex Officio:

Opal Hellweg, 3rd District Legislative Assistant

Members of the Public

Call to Order: Call to Order by Andy Domenigoni at 6:31 PM.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve agenda: Motion by Meredith; second by Horecka. Approved unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve August Meeting Minutes: Motion by Meredith; 2nd by Horecka. Approved U.

Motion to approve September Meeting Minutes: Motion by Meredith; 2nd by Horecka. Approved U.

Guest Speaker: Corinne Awad, Government Affairs Officer for Riverside County Department of Waste Resources.

- Ms. Awad introduced herself, then delivered her presentation. She brought handouts, in the back.
- Riverside County Department of Waste Resources handles the landfill system throughout the County. They used to be part of the Road Department. In 1986, they were Riverside County Waste management. They filed a Form II to change the name to Dept of Waste Resources, in an effort to help avoid name confusion. The department is an enterprise funded with money from tipping fees.
- The Dept is responsible for 38 landfills. Most are now closed, but still must be maintained. There are six active landfills, including Badlands and Lamb Canyon. On October 12th, Mecca II will close. The first was in Redley, in 1932; an old burn site. Since then, landfills became cut-&-fill. Since 1993, they must be lined.
- The Dept handles ~2.5 million tons of waste annually. Double Butte Landfill, ~580 acres overall, 112 acres for the landfill, operated from 1973 through September 1994. It is monitored, with gas collection and water monitoring.
- Ms. Awad advised us of various legislation to reduce waste, including: AB 939, waste separation; AB 349, mandatory commercial recycling; AB 1826, mandatory organics recycling (50% diversion targeted). Although the laws typically don't have much in the way of real 'teeth.'
- Regulated by Environmental Health, they are striving to reduce organics, which will produce less gas. By 2020, SB 1383 mandates 50% reduction in organics & 20% food recovery for human consumption; by 2023, 75% reduction.
- For landfills, space is precious. So they conduct community outreach, like this presentation. They work on education of the public. What to do with mattresses, household hazardous wastes, etc. Also teaching about home composting, vermiculture, etc. They are setting up "Drop & Shop" for HHW, where paints and chemicals with leftovers may be dropped, with the aim of them being found useful still be others in the community, to use up all the material in the containers.
- She noted the graffiti paint-overs, part of the Graffiti Hotline. There are Community Cleanup events of large items, Neighborhood Cleanups (working with local MACs or other groups to target a specif-

ic problem area). Plus, our local waste hauler must provide large item pickup service, upon request (which they do).

- At our last Winchester Cleanup Day, on March 9th, there were 228 participants, 257 tons of waste, 82 tires. For Homeland, there were 304 participants, 383 tons of waste, 69 tires. Impressive!
- The next Homeland Cleanup is scheduled for October 26th, at the Grand Avenue site.
- Other issues: Illegal dumping. Homeless encampments. Cleanup efforts by the department yielded the following results in 2019 so far: Homeland: 72 areas, 114 tires, 39 mattresses, 33.2 tons of waste. Winchester: 122 areas, 38 tires, 16.9 tons of waste.
- There is an App for smart phones to report illegal dumping, as well as graffiti and certain road hazards. This was covered in depth at a previous MAC meeting.
- The department is also reaching out to the public via social media: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter.
- November 6th will be the second Riverside County Recycle Day.
- Ms. Amad fielded various questions from the audience.
- Q: Fees went up? A: That's your hauler, not the Department.
- Q: Why not incinerate the waste and produce energy? A: SCAQMD regulations prohibit this.
- Q: China not accepting plastics? A: They no longer take 'any' plastic. Only certain clean plastics. Our landfills do not separate waste, and they do not recycle (except for certain metals, Freon, gold). Note that the Redemption Centers that used to be in shopping center parking lots all around are gone. Grocery markets are supposed to take the 5 cents for bottles and such; we do NOT have the infrastructure to recycle so much material!
- Q: Any new sites for landfills on the horizon? A: No.
- Q: What life remains in the Lamb Canyon Landfill? A: About 30 years. They have the ability to expand there, but the process of gaining approvals is very complex and slow.
- Q: Double Butte is mostly open land, owned by Parks. Use it? A: Others would have to champion.

Old Business:

A. General County update; Opal Hellweg, 3rd District Legislative Assistant:

- Opal has returned. News includes:
- The Board of Supervisors approved repairs to two roads: A portion of E. Grand in Winchester, by the Patterson House, and a portion of Green Avenue in Homeland. For limits, refer to doc's. This was due to Supervisor Washington having \$38,000 in CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funds at last the Board of Supervisor's meeting. Citizens expressed gratitude!
- At the Board of Supe's meeting: Policies regarding regulation of hemp were approved.
- She noted that new info on illegal cannabis groves is available. She left fliers in the back.
- Opal announced that the French Valley Air Show will be held November 9th, from 9:00-3:00. She noted that there will be an A-10 from March ARB, the Bookmobile, virtual VR flying machines for kids, a wine & brew fest, static exhibits and flying planes. Last time the event drew 30,000 people. Cost is \$30 in advance. She left fliers for the event in back. She also mentioned that French Valley Airport got some federal funding to create a manned control tower.
- Opal announced that the new French Valley Library is scheduled to break ground on January 10, 2020, at 1:00 PM. This amazing 25,000 s.f. facility will be at Sky View & Winchester Rd.
- Pearls Program: A mental health program, where people visit those alone or isolated 6-8 times, helping them to get out. Free, in-home. Also: Perris has a 24/7 mental health clinic.

B. Sheriff Department update: Not present.

- No report.

C. EMWD Updates; Director Phil Paule; Kevin Pearson:

- Mr. Paule noted that the power outage issues are a concern for EMWD as well. They are trying to get more generators up and running. The older generators may no longer be run, under SCAQMD regulations.