

# Winchester-Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

## MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 8, 2024

Place: Winchester Community Center, 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester

### Attendees:

Winchester-Homeland MAC: Andy Domenigoni, Chairman; James Horecka, Secretary; Thomas Laury; Jimmy Sheldrake.  
Members of the Public.

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

Flag Salute. Introductions.

**Approval of the Agenda**, amended to place Item 7, Presentation, before Item 6, Staff Reports:

Motion AD; seconded JS: Unanimous.

**Approval of the Minutes** from January 11, 2023, amended to change *RCTC* to *County Roads*:

Motion JH; seconded TL: Unanimous.

### New Business:

- A. Guest Presentation: Easter Municipal Water District updates for the Winchester-Homeland Area, by Joe Mouawad, general manager.
  - Phil Paule took the stage, noting that EMWD is sixth largest in California; he's been with the 17 years.
  - Phil Paule introduced Mr. Joe Mouawad, PE, who then delivered a PowerPoint presentation.
  - Overview: EMWD was established in 1950. EMWD is both a retailer & wholesaler of water, waste treatment & recycled water. Serving a million residents, over ~600 square miles.
  - Their service area is only about 43% built-out. They must plan ahead to accommodate growth.
  - EMWD is one of 26 members of MWD, a major wholesaler. EMWD has over 600 employees, and an annual budget of \$557 million. They invest heavily in infrastructure projects, and seek grant funding aggressively. They have over 200 active projects.
  - Recently, Fallbrook (about 50 sq miles) became part of EMWD. Rainbow is considering joining as well.
  - Core services include domestic water, waste treatment and recycled water. ~166,000 accounts.
  - ~82,000 acre-feet of drinking water; half imported, half local. Sources include wells, desalted local water, etc.
  - EMWD has ~273,000 accounts for wastewater treatment. Four treatment facilities process 50M GPD.
  - 90% of water is recycled. ~65% of that goes to agricultural uses. Also to golf courses, HOAs, etc.
  - Shared a Map of the State Water Project from the North. Also Colorado River Aqueduct, & surface water.
  - 26 member agencies in MWD. EMWD gets 44% of water from MWD; State Water Project & Colorado River.
  - In EMWD's service area, since 2000, population has risen 97%. Yet water use is down 44%, from 215 GPD/P to 125. Desalination is up. Recycled water use is up 54%.
  - The City of Perris asked that EMWD take over their water & sewer. They hope to support that.
  - EMWD is working to enhance the recreational use of Diamond Valley Lake, advocating improvements. That reservoir holds 810,000 acre-feet of water, and is ~97% full at present.
  - Mouawad showed a Map of Winchester. Green-shaded areas represented active projects (many tracts, e.g.).
  - EMWD brought up Special Benefit Areas (SBAs). These may help kick-start infrastructure. For example, and SBA help fund the sewer main in Olive Avenue.
  - EMWD's strategies ensure long-range efficiencies in infrastructure. For example, right-sizing a certain sewer main: Developer only needed a 12" line, but EMWD studied scene and increase line size, ready for future use.
  - EMWD is keeping up with the proposed land use changes in Winchester, updating their focused master plan. They have done hydraulic modeling; certain lines will have to be upsized, and they'll increase tank sizes. They expect 170% increase in sewer flow. Mouawad noted various pipelines & systems as examples.
  - A longer-term project, The Lake Skinner Water Transmission System & EM II Connection. 140 CFS ultimate. For this, they hope to take an innovative approach of lining and using existing pipelines (from the 40s & 50s) in existing easements. This could result in much savings, and less impact.
  - Q: What percent of Diamond Valley Lake is full? A: 95%; they stopped filling January 1. Only State Water.

- Q: Why is the number of sewer customers much less than # for water? A: EMWD is sole provider of sewer.
- Q re water storage. A: Water Banking is an agreement in wherein 7,500 acre-ft of imported water is put into the ground, recharging local aquifers. A \$27.5 M grant from the Bureau of Reclamation further increased EMWD's ability to bank groundwater.
- Mr. Mouawad fielded various questions.
- All thanked the presenter for his informative presentation and lively discourse.

**Staff Reports:**

- A. Supervisor Chuck Washington's Office; Andrea Mares, Legislative Assistant:
- County Roads is looking into a left-turn lane on Simpson at Columbia. Feasibility, cost.
  - Awaiting response for CalTrans regarding the last ETS along Highway 79 between Dom. Pkwy & SH 74.
  - Supervisor Washington is happy to set up quarterly meetings, if we wish. Two rep's only may attend.
  - RCTC supported Supervisor Washington's position to direct RCTC staff to work with CalTrans to transition the project from a state highway to a count expressway, and for RCTC to become the CEQA lead agency. Also us more local control over the project; could reduce costs. RCTC staff was also directed to begin work on design and ROW acquisition at the southern end of the project (Newport Rd to Simpson Rd.).
  - Reminder: Funds for home repair are available for those in need who qualify. Flyers in the back!
  - Winchester Neighborhood Clean-Up: Slated for March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, 8am-noon, corner of Finch & Winchester.
  - French Valley Community Fair: March 2<sup>nd</sup>; 10am-2pm.
  - Q: Status of signs for Homeland? A: Staff is working on a design similar to our Winchester signs. Laury asked for 3 signs. Andy Domenigoni noted that Hwy 74 is a CalTrans ROW, so they'd need to approve a sign on that approach. The notion was brought up of having the sign include "Homeland; a Community of Winchester." To be discussed further.
  - Q: What to do about unpaved roads? A: Generally this is the responsibility of a developer or property owners. Various means exist to help fund. But County does not just pave roads.
  - C: A citizen brought a signed petition to Mares, requesting maintenance on a road in town.
- B. Sheriff Department update; Captain Kevin Lamb:
- Winchester Stats: Januar: 304 calls, 8 arrests. For Homeland: 251 calls.
  - Q Any news on the vandalism at the Post Office? A: No. That would be a matter for the Post Office.
- C. California Highway Patrol; Steven Rusk, Lieutenant:
- Stats for 2023: 15,000 tickets. 2022 was 13,000. Crashes in Winchester have increased: 77, up from 65 in '23.
  - Januar: 150 tickets; 65 in Winchester.
  - His focus will be on visibility. Education, enforcement, engineering.
- D. Cal Fire Winchester Station #34; Dan Olson:
- Stats, Station 34: 79 calls; (50 medical, 9 traffic, 4 fires).
  - Regarding data related to service calls, particularly Traffic-related calls: If requested to do so, Fire can provide data. Andy Domenigoni stated that such data would indeed be of use to us in understanding the effects of increasing traffic in our area.
  - Fire is striving o forecast growth in our area. Station 34 is the only HazMat team in Riverside County.
- E. EMWD Updates; Alma Ramirez:
- Pass today, as our Guest Speaker covered much.
- F. Code Enforcement; Matt Piper:
- No stats.
  - The Winchester Inn is slated to be demolished soon.
  - Winchester Clean Up is scheduled of March 2<sup>nd</sup>! Arrive early! Follow the rules!
- G. Emergency Management Department; Camille Collins, Emergency Services Coordinator:
- EMD is in the process of updating and revising their Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).
  - CERT classes are coming up soon. See her.
  - They can assist with: Sandbags, warming centers. She left info with us.
  - Sign up for WEA: The Wireless Emergency Alert system! See also: RivCo Ready.
  - There were no significant life-safety events from the recent rains.
- H. 36th District Assembly member Eduardo Garcia: No representative present; no report.
- Flyers on status left in back for those with an interest in the latest news.
- I. Senator Kelly Seyarto's Office; Amanda Fisher:

- Ms. Fisher brought us up to date on various bills introduced, and positions assigned to Seyarto.
- Ms. Fisher fielded several general questions.
- J. Valley Wide Park & Recreation District; represented by Craig Shultz:
  - The French Valley Fair is slated for March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - He covered various events, including two new parks opening! See Valley Wide.
- K. Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians: No representative present; no report.
- L. Winchester Land Use Committee update; Cindy Domenigoni:
  - See the Land Use Committee Meeting Report, on file.
  - The next meeting will be February 20<sup>th</sup>, Cindy's office, 3:30 PM.
  - T& B Planning wants to present to the MAC at an upcoming meeting.
- M. City of Menifee update; Doug Darnell, Planner; not present; no report.
- N. City of Hemet: No representative present; no report.
- O. Department of Animal Services: No representative present; no report.
- P. Other Departments and Public Agencies: NONE.

**Public Comments:**

- None.

**Councilmember Reports and Comments:**

- Thomas Laury inquired regarding the Signs for Homeland.
- Laury thanked Andy Domenigoni for connecting him with a representative of Riverside County Flood Control.

**Agenda Items for next meeting:**

- Suggestions for future topics: Land Use Committee update.

**Adjourn Meeting:**

- The next WHMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 14, 2024, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center.
- The WHMAC adjourned at 8:27 PM. M:JS / S:TL