

Winchester/Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 11, 2014

Place: Winchester Community Center, 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester

Attendees:

Winchester MAC:

Andy Domenigoni, Chairman
Dirk Meredith, Vice-Chairman
James Horecka, Secretary
Jimmy Sheldrake
Jeff Logan

Ex Officio:

Opal Hellweg, Legislative Assistant for Supervisor Jeff Stone
Members of the Public

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

Flag Salute. Introductions.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve: Meredith; Second: Sheldrake. Approved, unanimously.

Approval of August Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve: Sheldrake; Second: Logan. Approved, unanimously. (Reminder: July was dark.)

Guest:

EMWD: Presentation on Water Supply, Regulations & Fines Structure.

Phil Paule of EMWD, assisted by Kevin Pearson, delivered a Powerpoint presentation about the current state of the drought in southern California. The show covered, briefly:

- Overview of EMWD; history, population and area served, governance structure. Potable water accounts, wastewater accounts, recycled water accounts, & agricultural/irrigation accounts. Noted that EMWD is one of the largest water recyclers in California. Depicted sources of our water. Gave overview of history and status of the drought. We are under the lowest allocation of State Water Project water in the 54-year history of SWP. Covered status of reservoirs statewide (very low). Told of impacts to EMWD customers.
- Overview of The Regulations: State Water Resources Control Board regulations, effective July 28, 2014. Including: Eliminating irrigation runoff, hosing driveways/sidewalks, refilling fountains. Agencies can issue up to \$500 fines (or alternative structure). Agencies must activate their Water Shortage Contingency Plan to a stage with mandatory restrictions.
- On August 20, EMWD will enact Stage 3a of their Plan:
 - Mandatory reductions. No variances for filling swimming pools or establishing new landscaping. Leaks must be repaired within 48 hours. Penalties for wasting water may be applied. One warning letter will be issued. A second violation will result in fines: \$25 for residential, \$100 for commercial. EMWD staff must witness a violation or issue a fine. EMWD will offer mandatory training classes in-lieu of paying fines; a 'traffic school' approach. Structure provides for customers with financial hardship.
- Told of other things that EMWD is doing:
 - Water use efficiency programs, including rebates, workshops, turf buy-back, other regulations, more. Emphasized that EMWD is NOT a land use agency. No authority to manage or control growth. Their long range water planning is based on city & county general plans. Noted new development is extremely efficient: Updated building & plumbing codes, landscape ordinances. Stated that EMWD & MWD have made extensive investments in supply reliability, such as con-

struction of Diamond Valley Lake reservoir, constructing infrastructure to maximize use of recycled water, etc. Noted that since 2006-07 MWD's imported water reduced by 15% despite 500,000 population increase.

- Told of ways the public can help, including:
 - Proper outdoor irrigation (water at night, short intervals, reduce number of days). Monitor irrigation systems (stop runoff, fix broken sprinklers, don't water hardscape, etc.). Install drought-tolerant landscaping. Take advantage of rebates. Attend free workshops.
- Closed with contact information & website: www.emwd.org. Opened to questions from the floor:
 - Q: What about all these new tracts? A: EMWD is not a land use agency; no jurisdiction.
 - Q: Is recycled water available for golf courses? A: Ag use is the priority at this time.
 - Q: Is EMWD part of the State solution? A: The State is vast & varied.
 - Q: Why so little effort to capture rain? A: Political opinions vary.
 - Noted that a State Water Bond will be up before voters in November; includes water storage.
 - Q: Where are the Workshops? A: At EMWD HQ on Trumble Road; also at Home Depot stores.
 - Q: What percentage of DVL is for 'local' use? A: Value not known offhand; but a very low figure.
 - Q: Andy D. asked that Phil return at another time to discuss future infrastructure of EMWD.
 - Phil Paule noted that Andy Record is now Chairman of MWD.

New Business:

1. City of Menifee:
 - A. Petition for the Annexation of 1,920 acres from Briggs Rd to Scott Rd, Leon Rd to Newport Rd.
 - B. Proposed City of Menifee Sphere of Influence Map: Encroaches into Winchester boundaries.
 - C. LAFCO Hearing: Riverside County General Plan Amendment No 960:
 - For items A, B & C above: Cindy Domenigoni advised us of these affairs. Showed maps. Sphere would expand to consume about a third of the WHMAC boundaries. Cindy passed around a Petition to be read & signed by citizens who wish to protect our boundaries. She noted that the time frame is very short.
 - Cindy stated that the LAFCO Hearing is scheduled for Thursday, September 25th, at 9:30 AM. Andy Domenigoni & the WTA President (Gregg Cowdery) plan to attend the hearing. The Sphere of Influence issue will be heard. The annexation of the 1,920 acres will NOT be on the agenda for that hearing. Cindy and others noted that these large bites would likely adversely affect the chances of Winchester forming a city someday. George Spiliotis is Chair of LAFCO.
2. Other New Business:
 - A. The City of Hemet is doing another annexation, of areas already within their existing sphere of influence. East of California Street, from Domenigoni Parkway to nearly Highway 74; south of the Four Seasons development.

Old Business:

- A. Update – Opal Hellweg, 3rd District Legislative Assistant (Harvest Valley Community & Green Acres).
Opal:
 - Riverside Hospital is doing better.
 - The Board of Supervisors was dark most of August.
 - On September 16th, there will be a special Joint Meeting of Riverside County & San Bernardino Co.
 - The Hemet Fire contract may come up at 2:00 PM at that meeting, Executive Session (open to public).
 - The Community Resource Festival is coming up, during which the Bookmobile in Winchester will be unveiled. September 27, 10 AM to 2 PM. Opal had flyers.
 - Opal noted that the Temecula College Fair will be Sept. 20th.
 - The Board of Supervisor's Meeting will be Sept. 23rd. At that meeting, the Board will consider amending Ordinance 348, which covers land use, in regard to marijuana groves. Issues arising at present appear to be renting of land for groves to other parties, possible cartel involvement, etc. Public encouraged to attend.
 - Roads! Selected dirt roads in Winchester have now been enhanced with graded gravel. Kudos to all involved, especially the core team, of course Opal & the EDA! Andy Domenigoni & Dirk Meredith walked every road, passing out flyers in English & Spanish; well-received. ~\$200k was spent. Gregg

Cowdery suggested posting 25 MPH speed limit signs & stop signs. Others responded that that will not likely happen, due to process req'd. Homeland will hopefully come next, provided eligible roads can be identified. Must fit within parameters.

B. Sheriff Dept:

- Lt. Charles Guillen spoke. He noted rising problems with marijuana groves. Signs of groves include screen cloth around properties, or plywood, greenhouses, unusual activities. A task force is engaged. He also mentioned the Board Meeting on Sept. 23rd, where changes to Ordinance 348 will be considered. Crime-wise, he noted that strong-arm robberies have been trending up in our area.

C. MWD Updates:

- See Guest above.

D. Highway 79 - Update on widening.

- Minor work continues. Traffic signals at Keller Road & Newport Road have been activated.

E. MWD Proposed Solar Farm:

No news. Andy asked the EMWD folks if they may have some insight into status.

F. Land Use:

1. Downtown Core: Reiterated that the contract planner has been engaged, and a decent amount of money raised. The effort is now more than 50% funded: \$45k of projected \$70k, for the planner during the first phase. Gary Thornhill was the original planner. The current planner is Joel Morse, with T&B Planning.
2. Solar Project proposed for Grand Avenue (10 acres). Ecos Energy, of Minneapolis. Proponent Brad Wilson is continuing to work through the process. We of the WHMAC reiterated to the Proponent that we will pass on to Supervisor Stone the decision of the WTA to not oppose the Project, with a short list of concerns. Andy Domenigoni said he would handle that paperwork. The project will be up before the Planning Commission next week. The proponent filed building plans for plan check, an "at risk" review, in an effort to have a chance at meeting the required schedule. The Conditions of Approval and a Development Agreement have been finalized. SCE is required to do a certain number of distribution-level generating plants; this will be one of them. This is the only plant that this developer has planned. The equipment has a life of 40 years; the contract with SCE is 20 years; the development agreement with the county is for 30 years.

G. Gangs in Winchester: Sheriff stated that there is no significant news.

H. City of Hemet: No news that affects the WHMAC.

I. Citizens Patrol: Bob Gibbons was not present.

J. Marijuana Dispensaries in Winchester: Sheriff covered; see above.

K. Other Old Business: None.

Open Forum:

1. Gregg Cowdery announced that the WTA has placed the order for a new audio system for the Community Center.
2. A citizen asked why there is no signal at Haddock Street, and also where there are no street lamps. (Lack of funding.)
3. Future speakers suggested: CalTrans. County Assessor.

Next WMAC Meeting:

The next WMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 9th, 2014, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center.
Adjournment: The WMAC adjourned 8:18 PM.