

Winchester/Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 13, 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 6:31 PM.

Flag Salute. Introductions.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of August Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve: N/A; deferred to next meeting.

Guest:

Louis Davis, speaking on the SCE Valley South Subtransmission Project.

(Note: This item took place after New Business Item 1, as Mr. Davis arrived late.) Mr. Davis again brought us up to date on the status of this project. Mr. Davis stated that "Edison is preparing for the day when Winchester comes on line." They are planning and creating necessary infrastructure. He briefed us on the Process: SCE must submit a preferred route & an alternate route. All is in existing rights of way. Some existing lines are currently underloaded, so they may accept more capacity by merely adding wires. The lower lines are distribution lines, to power homes and such. The higher lines are transmission lines. The substation is 500,000 volts. Generally, the systems run 115kV, then 12kV, then 6900V. Davis noted that the power plant to the west (near Perris) does not belong to SCE; it is owned by GE; SCE must provide access to the grid. Davis showed slides of several side-by-side comparisons of existing & simulated conditions for various power line improvements. For example, some runs will still have wooden poles, but they will be taller than those existing; minimal impact. Metal poles where be employed where necessary; at corners for strength, for example (minimized). He presented such comparisons for Briggs Road near Heritage High, MacLaughlin Road, Leon south of Scott, Domenigoni at Leon (seen both ways). Davis then fielded questions: Q: Will there be light on the poles for aviation? A: No; not required. Must meet FAA req's.

Q: What is the process & schedule from here? A: SCE is finalizing the application. They are hoping to file near the end of the year or beginning of 2015. Process takes 18-24 months. Perhaps start by end of 2017. Construction would take about two years. So roughly the end of 2019.

Q: What happened to the Sunland project? A: That 500kV system that was proposed through the valley was denied. That was a much larger project, for a different purpose.

Q: Does this work account for future development; wider roads, for example? A: Davis noted that the current system proposed if planned with future development in mind. For example, the positions of the poles will be near the edges of the built-out ROW, to take into account future development.

Q: Why do doglegs appear on the plan along Leon south of the hills? A: Due to the swoop in the ROW. Citizen then noted that Webb is working on a development and has a different alignment in mind. Davis countered that, while that may be, there is no approved map that reflects that.

Q: Why not take a route to the far west? A: There are environmental issues; MSHCP & RCCA. Davis noted that there were some 30 experts in the room regarding environmental, etc. He also noted that the CPUC will review all.

Q: Which side of the ROW will the lines be on? A: The east side; in most cases following existing.

Q: Why not run the lines underground? A: SCE is an "overhead utility." It is prohibitively expensive and complex. Heat is also an issue, which adversely affect impedance; heat cannot dissipate as quickly, not as efficient.

Davis noted that SCE is an investor-owned public regulated company. The CPUC determines Projects and also Rates, with appropriate allowances for profit, capital, operation and maintenance.

Davis announced a series of upcoming events around the area, to further inform the public. As the process unfolds, there will be more meetings, covering the EIR, CPUC process, etc.

Mr. Davis' presentation & responses were well received by those in attendance, who thanked him.

New Business:

1. EMWD update of sewer projects. *(Note: This item took place before the Guest arrived.)*
 - Charlie Bachmann brought us up to date on this project. He brought detailed maps. The Olive Avenue project is underway (Lansing). A sewer project on Salt Creek is coming, in support of a Rancon project. This regional sewer improvement will support developers on the south side of Salt Creek. Bachmann briefly discussed future projects, including a new water line. Noted the pump station at Simpson & Patterson, down to Rice Road, to the south side of the creek. He then fielded questions:
 - Q: Why water tank? A: Water tank will be for future development.
 - Q: What is purpose of the new water line? A: To provide capacity to the 1720 foot hydraulic grade; currently there is only capacity to the 1627 foot pressure grade. Currently they use pumps to bump up.
 - Q: Are these improvements for Menifee? A: No, these are area in the MAC boundary.
 - Q: Is the Olive Ave sewer sized for future development to the east? A: Yes; sizing is calculated, but no alignment has been determined (being premature to do so).
2. Other New Business: None.

Old Business:

- A. Update – Opal Hellweg, 3rd District Legislative Assistant
 - Opal announced that Supervisor Jeff Stone has been elected to the State Senate. There will be a new Supervisor to represent our district, who will be appointed by the Governor.
 - Opal noted that on November 25th, the Board of Supervisors will set a date for a hearing on proposed changes to Riverside County Ordinance 348.
 - A citizen queried whether Opal and other staff would continue now that Stone will no longer be Supervisor; Opal said that the new Supervisor would determine staff and such.
- B. Sheriff Dept:
 - Sergeant R. Novak Guillen spoke, bringing us up to date on local issues. Available for Q's, if any.
- C. EMWD Updates:
 - Phil Paule spoke. He announced that the State Water Bond measure on the ballot passed. He noted that this will bring new opportunities for water resources and management. He also briefly discussed more about desalination, and how desalters help the ground water situation.
- D. Highway 79 - Update on widening.
 - Minor work continues; generally punch-list type work. Maybe complete in 30 days?
- E. MWD Proposed Solar Farm:
 - No news.
- F. Land Use:
 1. Downtown Core: The Winchester Town Association heard back from the contract Planner regarding transit-oriented development involving the site of the former railroad station in town. It was noted that a future railroad station is on the radar for the future for RCTC & MTA. A citizen suggested that the Planner also contact the Southern California Rail Authority.
- G. Gangs in Winchester update: No significant activity noted.
- H. City of Hemet update: Jeff Logan reported no significant activity.
- I. City of Menifee
 - Andy Domenigoni stated that he will set up a meeting in December with Rob John, the City Manager.
- J. Citizens Patrol - Bob Gibbons: Not present; no news.
 - Other Old Business:

A citizen noted that the local roads that were enhanced with gravel via the Block Grant monies are nice, but shifting; queried if we might be able to apply some sort of stabilizer to the gravel. Petroleum-based products could not be used, but others may be allowed. However, any efforts depend upon whether there is any money remaining of the Block Grant.

Open Forum:

1. Mary Plumb announced a Zoombathon event, and the event “Santa Comes to the Valley.” This is a call for volunteers and donations of gifts for this effort, to be held at the Marion Ashley Center.
2. Mail issues were noted. A citizen suggested that we ask the Post Master to be our guest at a meeting.

Next WMAC Meeting:

The next WMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 08, 2015 13th, 2014, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center. This will be a joint meeting with the Winchester Town Association.

Adjournment: The WMAC adjourned 7:35 PM.