

Almanor Basin Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting

Rose Quartz Inn - Best Western

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

1) Call to Order. 6:03 PM

Present: Sherrie Thrall, Mike Mitzel, Carl Felts, Peggy Fulder, Rich Rydell, Lorena Gorbet, Aaron Seandel; Absent: Ken Wilson; Staff: Jessica Albietz & Jonathan Kusel

2) Review & approval of agenda.

Sherri Thrall moved to approve the agenda. Rich Rydell seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

3) Approval of meeting minutes- July 12, 2006.

Rich Rydell made a correction: that the Planning Commission meets on 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month, not Wednesday. Lorena Gorbet moved to approve the amended minutes. Mike seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

4) Public comment period (each member of the public will have a max of 3 min).

No comments were made from the public. There were 13 members of the public present, including the 3 applicants for the vacant Committee member position.

5) Individual committee member reports. (5 min)

Staff was encouraged to get more information about the structure of subcommittees and the requirements of the Brown Act for public participation, while taking into consideration that no final decisions are made at the subcommittee level – just recommendations. The Committee expressed the importance of ensuring maximum public exposure and involvement.

6) Subcommittee reports. (Please limit reports so item 9 will have full time allocation)

The Land Use, Timber and Agriculture Subcommittee, composed of ABWAC members Mike Mitzel, Ken Wilson, Sherrie Thrall and Rich Rydell, had not met since the last ABWAC meeting. Lorena, Chair of the Fish, Wildlife & Critical Habitat Subcommittee, reported on the meeting that was held last week with Peggy, Carl, and Lorena present. The subcommittee reviewed Chapter 5 of the Watershed Assessment and formed questions for Maurice to address at the next ABWAC meeting. Aaron described the mission of the Water Quality Subcommittee.

7) Staff Report

Staff reported that they are moving forward with Maurice on the water quality monitoring plan and waiting for final approval on the body of text for the educational brochures. Staff encouraged the public to visit the ABWAC website for reports, old minutes, etc.

8) Selection of Member-at-Large position on the Committee (25 min) Action Item.

- 1) Committee will hear from applicants interested in serving on the Advisory Committee for the position of Member-at-Large. Applicants are limited to 2 minute responses for each of 5 questions asked by the Committee. (No more than 10 min per applicant)

George Protsman respectfully withdrew his application for the Member-at-Large position. George expressed his intent to continue working with ABWAC and his interest in land use planning. Jonathan publicly expressed thanks to George for his donation to the Sierra Institute that enabled ABWAC to purchase a newspaper advertisement for the current meeting.

Bob Sloan answered questions from the Committee, including his interests in serving on the Committee. His responses of key issues for the basin included balancing environmental concerns and future growth issues for the basin. Next, Dick Daniel responded to Committee questions, such as what he sees as key basin issues: potential complacency on part of stakeholders, mercury, invasive species, and interest in building ownership in the watershed management process.

- 2) Selection of replacement member to recommend to the Board of Supervisors. (5 min)
Carl, Mike, Rich Rydell, Aaron, Lorena & Sherrie Thrall vote: Dick Daniel receives 6 first place votes, Bob Sloan receives 1 first place vote.

9) Presentation & Discussion- Lake Almanor Basin Watershed Assessment & moving forward with recommendations and action plan, Maurice Hall, Earthworks (formerly lead consultant from CH2MHILL). Information and Discussion item. (1.25 hours)

The presentation covered a review of the previous presentation, a summary of key issues, a discussion of ways to move toward an action plan, and conceptual ideas of Committee actions and recommendations. At the end, members of the public and the Committee asked Maurice a number of questions. For example, concern was expressed about large developments progressing through the planning and approval process while the Committee is trying to educate the public and obtain more information about watershed management issues. In other words, what can the Committee do to better protect the Basin? (The slides from the presentation can be found on the ABWAC website:

www.sierrainstitute.us/ABWAC)

10) Next meeting time: August 9, 2006 from 6:00-8:00 pm at Rose Quartz Inn

- 1) Agenda items for the next meeting.

Committee asked if Staff can contact consultants for the Lake Front at Walker Ranch project to come give a presentation and hold a discussion about their development plans at a regularly scheduled meeting. The Chair requested that the Committee looks at developing a letter to the Plumas County Board of Supervisors concerning the process of granting exemptions for zoning and water quality regulations. The Committee asked for Staff to seek more clarification on public access of subcommittees.

11) Adjournment. 8:12.

Chair adjourns meeting.

Questions

From Sherrie Thrall: concern about large developments progressing through planning and approval process; while we are trying to educate, get more information, developments will be in place before we can put regulatory issues in place; what would Maurice see that a group like this could do in the interim.

Rich Rydell: county general plan framework by the end of the year, Almanor plan 6-7 months out; we can have some teeth

Jonathan: Committee could request that no waivers or exception of current plan until there is completion of this so that things can proceed in orderly manner.

Subcommittees to make priority to create documentation to make request (we see problems with storm water drainage, etc.)

Entities are in place but they do not have authority
Board can put request together

Fastest: operate at subcommittee level
Try to slow down processes Pending General Plan Ammendments

Invite representative from Lakefront at Walker Ranch to present waste water system & stormwater plan

Make recommendation to BOS, planning department,

Regulatory, institutional requirements are in place: encourage that current permitting systems are implemented and monitored appropriately

Wildlife subcommittee may want to convene workshop

Develop separate action plan for federal timber programs