

Almanor Basin Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting

Rose Quartz Inn - Best Western

Wednesday, August 9, 2006

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

1) Call to Order. 6:03 PM

Present: Dick Daniel, Carl Felts, Peggy Fulder, Lorena Gorbet, Mike Mitzel, Rick Rydell, Aaron Seandel, Sherrie Thrall, and Ken Wilson. Staff present: Jonathan Kusel & Jessica Albietz.

2) Review & approval of agenda.

Chair approved agenda.

3) Approval of meeting minutes- July 26, 2006.

Sherrie Thrall moved to approve minutes. Carl Felt seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

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

4 members of the public present, but none had comments.

5) Individual committee member reports. (5 min)

Carl Felts reported a sighting of a Willow Flycatcher on his property. Dick Daniel reported that the California Department of Fish and Game (CA DFG) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are concerned about active Bald Eagle nests on the property of the proposed Lake Front at Walker Ranch development. CA DFG had to settle out of court with the Bailey Creek development to mitigate their impacts on the Eastern Tehama Deer Herd. Aaron Seandel encouraged the members of the public present at the meeting to attend the Almanor Regional Transportation Assessment (ARTA) public meeting on Thursday, August 24 where the results of the impact fee study will be discussed.

6) Subcommittee reports. (20 min)

Lorena Gorbet reported on the Wildlife Subcommittee meeting held on August 1, where the effect of development on the Eastern Tehama Deer Herd was discussed. The Subcommittee proposed to have a public workshop and invite state-level CA DFG authorities on the Deer Herd to learn about and discuss the status and management of the Deer Herd. Dick Daniel offered to contact Dave Walker and Jeff Finn from CA DFG. Dave Walker is a Wildlife Biologist working on the Eastern Tehama Deer Herd out of Red Bluff, and Jeff Finn is a Wildlife Biologist from of Grass Valley who could provide comments on the effects of development on the Deer Herd. Aaron Seandel announced that the Wildlife Subcommittee had implied approval from ABWAC to go forward with the workshop on the agreed date of Monday, September 11 from 6-8 PM. The next Wildlife Subcommittee meeting will be held on August 15. Sherrie Thrall reported that the Land Use Subcommittee discussed and worked on drafting a letter to the Plumas County Board of Supervisors to slow the exceptions being made to the Plumas County General Plan.

7) Staff Report (15 min)

Jessica Albietz reported that KASL Engineering will present stormwater and wastewater management options for the Lake Front at Walker Ranch development after the Draft EIR is completed (in the Fall). Jonathan Kusel recommended that this discussion should take place sooner rather than later. Dick Daniel mentioned that it was less expensive to deal with wildlife issues and mitigation before plans progressed to a final stage migration. The discussion will provide an opportunity for clarification and to give input.

Jonathan said that we should have proposal for putting data into a web-accessible database with detailed mapwork submitted to the county in the next 3-4 weeks. Staff recommended that subcommittees start noticing meetings and take notes. Subcommittee meetings should be open and accessible, and regularly noticed with respect to subject matter being discussed. Subcommittees are going to comply with brown act.

8) Discussion of formation of additional subcommittees. Discussion and Action Item. (15 min)

Committee decided that the number of subcommittees was satisfactory and that no action needs to be taken. The Land Use Subcommittee reported that they could handle the recreation issues along with land use issues.

9) Discussion – Letter to Plumas County Board of Supervisors on issues of concern addressed in the Watershed Assessment. Discussion and Action item. (20 min)

The Committee discussed the language that should be used in the letter to the Board of Supervisors concerning zoning changes or variances to the General Plan. The letter provided the Board of Supervisors with a list of seven items that should be taken into consideration when reviewing proposed zoning changes. Sherrie Thrall recommended sending out emails in language that is easily understandable to everyone in the Basin, saying when and where the zoning changes are proposed and where and when a hearing is going to be held.

Committee unanimously decided to adopt final edits to the letter to the Board of Supervisors and submit it to the Chair for final signature. Carl Felts motioned to approve the letter and have the Chair sign it in a form that is substantially the same as a combined draft of the two draft letters that had been brought forward at the meeting. Sherrie Thrall seconded the motion to approve the letter. The letter and its final edits were unanimously approved.

10) Update on new developments proposed for Lake Almanor Basin. Discussion item. (20 min)

Jim Graham at the Plumas County Planning & Building Department provided the following list of developments proposed for the Lake Almanor Basin:

- Trailhead Tentative Map - 83 lots (Walker Ranch) on either side of Big Cove Road
- Foxwood Tentative Map - 119 lots (Walker Ranch) adjacent to their current development
- Topol Development Tentative Map - 2 parcels, East Shore
- Feather River Pines Tentative Map - 49 units, north of Chester by the Church on Feather River Drive
- Lakefront - 1400 to 1600 units, Lake Almanor Peninsula – maximum amount proposed

- Vandenberg General Plan Amendment - 1.5 acres from Recreation Commercial to Multiple Family Residential, Lake Almanor Peninsula
- Finkbiener General Plan Amendment - <1 acre from Suburban to Recreation Commercial, East Shore

Peggy Fulder mentioned her concerns about the impact of the Dyer Mountain development on air quality in the Basin due wood stoves. The Dyer Mountain EIR did not mention an odor problem for Westwood, though a sewage treatment plant is planned adjacent to Westwood. Aaron Seandel recommended that more action be taken on the Supervisorial level concerning the impacts of the Dyer Mountain development, perhaps with a joint coordination effort between Supervisor Pyle and Meacher.

11) Next meeting time: September 13, 2006 from 6:00-8:00 pm at Rose Quartz Inn

1) Agenda items for the next meeting.

It was suggested that the Committee invites Supervisors from both Lassen and Plumas counties to talk about the Dyer Mountain development. Committee members also recommended having a follow up discussion or action item that addressed the Committee's need to have better access to zoning change proposals and better information to understand the proposed changes. It was also recommended that a new GIS layer is developed with information about proposed amendments to the General Plan .

12) Adjournment. 8:00 PM

Chair adjourned the meeting.