



## GUALALA MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

POST OFFICE BOX 67, GUALALA, CALIFORNIA 95445

### Minutes for 2 April 2015

04/08/2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Gualala Municipal Advisory Council (GMAC) was held on Thursday, 2 April 2015 at the Gualala Community Center (GCC) in downtown Gualala, California. Council Members present were: Ron Eckert, Charles Ivor, Robert Juengling, Eric Mills, and Jeff Watts. Council Member Barry DuCharme was absent. Administrator Mary Mobert and seven members of the public were also present (see sign-in sheet and speaker's cards). Council Chair Watts convened the meeting at 18:53.

1. **Introductions and Announcements:** Council Members introduced themselves. **Council Member Ivor** announced the Arena Theater will present the documentary film *The Russian River, All Rivers* on Tuesday 14 April covering the history and present state of the Russian River; he highly recommends it. (see Archives: Independent Coast Observer (ICO) article).
2. **Consent Agenda: Minutes of 5 March 2015 and Correspondence:**
  - a. it was moved by **Council Member Mills**, seconded by **Council Member Ivor**, and unanimously carried that the 5 March 2015 Minutes be approved as presented.

b. **Correspondence:** None:

3. **Approval of the Agenda (see attached):**  
It was moved by **Council Member Ivor**, seconded by **Council Member Mills**, and unanimously carried that the agenda be approved as presented.

4. **Public Input on Non-agenda Items:**

a. **Julie Verran**, Gualala resident, stated this week's ICO had an article on Sonoma County's appeal against the California Department of Parks and Recreation, which will be heard on 15 April by the California Coastal Commission (CCC) at the Marin County Civic Center in San Rafael, California (see Archives). Sonoma County denied the Park and Recreation Department's mandated on installation of signs and self-pay collection boxes at fourteen locations on the Sonoma County Coast.

Ms. Verran felt the State's charging an entrance fee for each beach visited on a given date, rather than a day fee usable for all beaches, was "silly;" especially since these beaches used to be free of fees. She felt the CCC would probably support Sonoma County's appeal but she urged people to attend the meeting and be heard on the issue.

5. **Monthly Report: Mendocino County Law and Code Enforcement:** See Sheriff's Forum Minutes for this date in the Archives.

6. **Drought: State of Emergency and Status of the Gualala Water Moratorium:**

**Council Member Ivor** noted this was the fourth year of drought; he was concerned about the north fork, as well as the whole of the Gualala River. Logging and other pressures affect the fish, the watershed, and wild life around the river, and have depleted salmon and steelhead populations. He asked if Mr. Bower had any ideas, other than what was required to do by the State Water Board.

**John Bower**, retired President of the North Gualala Water Company (NGWC), has not heard from the Water Board since the 5 March GMAC Meeting (see Archives). He has notice over the years that drought benefits the river by giving room for alder and willow to take root in gravel bars, thus supplying shade and shelter for fish in the coming years.

He saw this happening during the drought of the 1970s. When the trees grew to a good height, their roots moved water in circles that dig holes in the gravel providing deep pools and root masses as habitats that fish didn't have before. "As a youngster in the 60s," he saw very little of this type of habitat but now there are groves all along the North and South Forks of the river.

**Council Member Ivor** agreed that within the riparian corridors, "things have been left alone" but outside those bounds "it's a different story." Logging continues; erosion from it ruins the watershed. In years past, loggers would clean their tractor blades by running them down the river bed. This doesn't happen anymore, practices have been changed but logging still damages the ecosystem. Marijuana is being grown, which takes a lot of water from the river system. All these issues, especially the human impacts on the ecosystem everywhere, need oversight and monitoring of the river is to be healthy in the future. "That river is in the public trust and it's in all our interests to keep it going."

**Council Chair Watts** cited an ICO article saying the State was considering the proposition that, even if a property owner had a hook-up permit, they would not be allowed to do so during this emergency. **Mr. Bower** confirmed the Fish and Wildlife Department office in Fort Bragg told County Planning and Building not to pass any CDP, with or without a hook-up permit in Gualala.

Fish and Wildlife still has to submit their findings before the proposal is publically discussed and implemented. It may cause loss of more diversions from NGWC's guaranteed by-pass sources even though this may break the NGWC and Water Board's mutual settlement agreement on those sources. Fish and Wildlife lost a court battle on the Central Valley which pertained to including by-pass sources into Rule 1602 covering stream diversions. Decisions of this kind fall to the Water Board, which monitors all water issues in the state, not Fish and Wildlife. This would be the same type of case.

**Council Member Juengling** asked about the Water Bond Act loan for which NGWC applied two years ago. He cited Governor Brown's order of a 25% increase in water conservation statewide. **Mr. Bower** noted the state has delayed funds and will not say when a decision will be made. He mentioned this week's ICO article on desalination and how high water rates are going (see attached).

**Council Chair Watts** asked Mr. Bower how high he thought water rates would go. **Mr. Bower** had no idea because every year things changed. If there hadn't been the drought, the Governor wouldn't have implemented the new conservation rule. The state has also opened new funds for loans in all areas of water issues. He doesn't know how any of this will affect NGWC.

#### 7. Council Chair Watts' Report:

**Council Chair Watts** announced he may not be able to attend the 7 May meeting; Council Member Juengling will chair the meeting.

#### 8. Council Matters:

##### a. Gualala Community Action Project (GCAP Streetscaping) and Discussion of Downtown Gualala Parking Issues:

**Diane Agee** Director of Redwood Coast Medical Services (RCMS), distributed the proposed plans for their new health center and parking facilities saying the plans were just conceptual at this time (see attached). There will be another 60 parking spaces added to the present parking lot, bringing the total to 153. They discussed needing only 83 spaces but designed for the larger number instead. There could be some public parking available when needed. Considering the available acreage, there could be more added in the future.

She voiced concern that, if RCMS built the new facility, would they be able to connect to NGWC. **Mr. Bower** didn't know. **Council Member Juengling** suggested they may have to drill a well and asked how large the health center was. **Ms. Agee** said around 10,000 square feet but "we keep adding things to it." They intend to do a more thorough layout this summer. **Council Chair Watts** noted this was a good example of an organization responding to what Phil Dow, Executive Director of Mendocino Council of Governments stated at GMAC's 3 March

meeting, that businesses needed to contribute for the parking situation to work.

**Mr. Bower** said that, though Steve May, co-owner of the Surf Market, said he would head the ad hoc GCAP/Parking Committee, Mr. May has not told anyone of his plans or future meetings.

**b. Various CalTrans & County Issues:**

**Venders on CalTrans' Right-of-way:**

**Council Chair Watts** noticed that venders were parked in the CalTrans right-of-way across the highway from the Gualala Community Center (GCC) when he arrived for the meeting this evening. He asked Council Member Ivor if he had received a response from CalTrans to his letter asking for NO VENDING signs in the area. **Council Member Ivor** read the reply from Phil Frisbie, Jr., Public Information Officer for CalTrans District I (see attached).

**Council Member Juengling** stated when he had taken photos of the venders occupying the right-of-way, they threatened him with law enforcement and a restraining order. The same had been said to **Mr. Bower**. He told them when the GCAP is complete, there will be no place for them to sell their goods; if they were concerned about continued vending in Gualala, they should attend a GMAC meeting and join the discussion. He didn't know if there was an ordinance on vending or if CalTrans had the right to have them removed.

**Council Member Juengling** has spoken to Donna Bishop, head of the Farmer's Market. She is concerned that, when the Market opens in May or June, there will be no parking for shoppers going to Pay 'N Take or the Market on the Saturdays when they are held.

**Council Chair Watts** requested Council Member Ivor write another letter to CalTrans about the continuing vending, ask if they were going to act on GMAC's signage request and, if they aren't, why not. **Council Member Ivor** said he would.

**CalTrans Retaining Wall, CDP #19-2014:**

**Mr. Bower** spoke with CalTrans engineers who were working at the CDP #19-2014 site south of Ole's Flat on Highway One. The project will be a soldier wall with no tiebacks and will begin in September 2015. The area is not just a debris flow off the side of the cliff but an earthquake fault that goes far below the ocean floor; the fault area was not considered during CalTrans's design Phase. The location of NGWC's water lines there is still in question and NGWC was not consulted before the design was completed.

**Council Chair Watts** asked if NGWC's water line would run on the road side of the wall. **Mr. Bower** said no, it would not. CalTrans has not indicated where they wanted the line to run. **Council Chair Watts** read the 2 October 2014 Minutes regarding the water line and GMAC's recommendation about its placement (see Minutes Archives).

**Mr. Bower** said his engineer has yet to design where the line will go; he may have to consult CalTrans in Eureka about the issue. All that area has been moving lately and if they don't deal with it, the wall will slowly slip away. CalTrans's borings didn't include the area where the piles will be placed. The water line will probably lie to the west of the wall. If CalTrans could guarantee the wall wouldn't settle or slip away, he would put the line to the east. The piles won't be tied together and the cliff can't be compacted to resist the fault's movement. Since the fault hasn't been considered by CalTrans, they can't say the wall won't slip in the future.

**Mr. Bower** wants the lines way to the east of the highway beyond the fault slippage. He has watched the highway in that area since CalTrans built it. They have returned at least ten times to patch little crack after little crack thinking it would hold. In 2010, a 60 feet wide strip of cliff tipped and fell into the water. All that land has been eroded by waves and currents and is gone.

#### 9. Treasurer Eckert's Report:

**Treasurer Eckert** reported GMAC's account balance, including payment of Administrator Mobert's March Invoice, is \$5,180.36. GMAC finally received funding from the County last month, \$5,000.

He distributed draft copies of the *Administrative Monthly Priority List*, *Proposed GMAC Budget 2015*, and *Proposed GMAC Budget % Graph* he had prepared (see attached). He estimated administrative costs equaled 81%, at a maximum of \$4,200; internet costs of 6.7%, at \$224; Gualala Community Center building rent of 5.4%, at \$180, and; miscellaneous costs, i.e., web designer salary/help, of around 6.1%, to be decided.

The County deposits funds into GMAC's account about every 16 months. With the funds on hand, expenditures average around \$323.77 a month until June 2016. He didn't know if the County would deposit any money into the account at that time or how much. CDP monies are spotty at best, can't be relied upon on a monthly basis, and therefore are not a part of the draft budget presented.

Since he wants to create a spread sheet, he asked Administrator Mobert to submit the *Administrative Monthly Priority List* with her monthly Invoice. Monthly administrative costs over the last 16 months have averaged \$330.18. All administrative costs over the next 16 months should be capped at \$350 a month, inclusive of time and materials. Administrator Mobert will notify Treasurer Eckert when her invoice is around that limit. The other expenses were discussed.

**It was moved by Council Member Eckert, seconded by Council Member Juengling, and unanimously carried that the sixteen month, GMAC Budget 2015 and Administrative Monthly Priority List be adopted and, to review the decision in six (6) months, i.e., 3 September 2015.**

**Council Member Juengling** asked, when a CDP arrives at the end of the month and administrative expenses are around their limit, if Administrator Mobert should work on the CDP and raise expenses above the limit or contact Treasurer Eckert first for permission to do so. **Administrator Mobert** asked if she needed permission to work on a CDP at the beginning of the month when expenditures were low. **Treasurer Eckert** said she should notify Council Members a CDP was received but, since a CDP is paid in advance, she may work on it even if that work raises her invoice above the limit.

#### 10. Webmaster's Report:

**Webmaster Mills** said GMAC's website was old and needed updating. He showed how the front page of the website was displayed now and what it would look like when updated. A professional CSS web programmer was consulted and will update the site and help Webmaster Mills with his entries for \$50 an hour. Color and easier access to the present information and documentation files will be integrated into the site. **Treasurer Eckert** estimates this will take between six to ten hours or \$300 to \$500 total. The item was discussed.

**It was moved by Council Member Eckert, seconded by Council Member Juengling, and unanimously carried that a professional CSS web programmer be retained to update GMAC's website and work with Webmaster Mills for a maximum of eight (8) hours, a total of \$400.**

**Administrator Mobert** asked about Council Member DuCharme's volunteering for the position at the 5 March meeting. Council Member Juengling stated that, since Members had heard nothing from Council Member DuCharme throughout the month and Webmaster Mills feels confident about doing the job with the tutorials from the web programmer, Council Member Mills will retain in the position.

#### 11. Administrator Mobert's Report:

**Administrator Mobert** reported she worked a total of 27.09 hours for \$406.35; with \$10.20 in materials; the March invoice totals \$416.55.

#### 12. July's GMAC Meeting Date:

**It was moved by Council Member Mills, seconded by Council Chair Watts, and unanimously**

carried that the July GMAC meeting be held on 9 July to coincide with the Sheriff's Forum and begin at 18:00.

**13. Agenda for the next meeting Thursday, 7 May 2014:**

- i. CDPs received before the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month
- ii. Various CalTrans and County Issues (Council Member Juengling)
- iii. Water Issues and the California Drought (Council Members Ivor and Juengling)
- iv. Gualala Community Action Plan (GCAP) Update (Council Member Juengling)
- v. Gualala Parking Issues (Council Members Juengling and Watts)
- vi. Council Chair Watts' Report
- vii. Treasurer Eckert's Report
- viii. Web Master Mill's Report

**14. Adjournment:** It was unanimously agreed the meeting adjourn at 20:15.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Mobert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Mobert, GMAC Administrator