



Minutes for 4 February 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Gualala Municipal Advisory Council (GMAC) was held on Thursday, 4 February 2021 via Zoom.us. Council Members present were: Melissa Finley, Donald Hess, Robert Juengling, and Tom Murphy. CHP Coast Commander Sargent Aaron Finnegan; Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall; Sheriff's Coast Commander Lieutenant Joseph (DJ) Comer; Administrative Secretary Mary Mober, and; three members of the public were also present. **Council Chair Juengling** convened the meeting at 18:01.

1. **Introductions and Announcements:**

Council Members introduced themselves. **Juengling** ask if members had received their Mendocino County Form 700 *Statement of Economic Interest*; all had received it.

2. **Consent Agenda:**

a. **Minutes:** 6 January 2021

It was moved by Murphy, seconded by Hess, and carried 3 YES (Hess, Juengling, and Murphy), 0 NO, 1 ABSTENTION (Finley) that the Minutes be approve as presented.

b. **Correspondence:** Acknowledged as received.

i. **CDP 2021-*0001 (Bryson/AT&T Mobility) Location: North Side of Big Gulch Rd.; APN 145-070-01**

ii. **California Coastal Commission Meeting: Amendments to Mendocino County's Land Use Plan and Implementation Program re. Accessory Dwelling and Junior Accessory Dwelling Units.**

c. **Approval of Agenda:**

It was moved by Murphy, seconded by Hess, and unanimously carried that the Agenda be approved as amended by correcting the spelling of GAMC to GMAC in Item 2.a. Correspondence, i. Notice to GMAC of Endorsement of CalTrans Alt. 4A from Save Gualala.

ci. **Public Input on Non-agenda Items: None**

cii. **Report: Mendocino County Law/Code Enforcement:** Mendocino Sheriff Matt Kendall, Sheriff's Coastal Commander Lt. Joseph (DJ) Comer, and CHP Coastal Commander Aaron Finnegan report-ed.

Kendall noted January had been a really busy month with two search and rescue deaths and 50 deaths countywide—there were usually only 26 deaths a month—many were suicides and over doses due to COVID isolation and despair. Retired people are suffering more from depression and isolation than the young. He urged everyone to stay in connect with their neighbors. There was a burglary in Gualala and, with assistance from the community his officers were able to quickly make an arrest. Due to serious concern for the community, the judge sat bail at \$50,000.

Comer stated there had been an increase in thefts of tools in Gualala. This one was a business located next to the Gualala Ridge Airport. The man had a firearm and a large amount of drugs on his person when arrested and is a suspect in other burglaries in the area being investigated.

Finnegan has increased CHP patrols in Gualala. Today's rear-ender accident on Highway One, north of Ocean Drive, heading south, downhill had one person flown to hospital. He urged everyone to keep communicating with law enforcement; he appreciated all GMAC did.

Theft of vehicle parts and mental-health counseling were discussed.

ciii. **Report: Mary Anne Petrillo, CEO, West Business Development Center and Una Wirkebau, regarding MOVE2030:**

GMAC's archives may be viewed at this website: www.gualalamac.org, and/or by contacting Administrator Mober: (707)884-3006.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors established the Gualala Municipal Advisory Council (GMAC) to advise them on planning issues that affect or have the potential to affect the Gualala area. The GMAC's role is advisory only.

Public Attendance and Participation is Encouraged at GMAC Meetings.

Petrillo and Wirkebau have gathered data for a year and will report to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors (MCBOS).

Petrillo stated her group is looking for common threads in all communities countywide. The County received \$587 million in grant funding from the federal *Economic Development Administration* to aid economic recovery after the 2017 fires. Then came the 2020 COVID pandemic, changing everything across the board. They studied at all aspects of the County's business community from urban to rural and contacted all the MACs for information. Due to the pandemic, outdoor dining, that is forbidden by County and city statutes, has now become viable and accepted by the community. This is the time to take advantage of opportunities to develop a vibrant economy for the County. Go to www.MOVE2030.org to view the *Community Economic Action Plan*. They have created recommendations for the supervisors and will set to work implementing them by growing commerce, starting work-skills/skill-sets classes, and creating economic centers to develop a strong business community countywide. The report is scheduled to be heard by the MCBOS Monday, 22 March.

Murphy asked what would happen if the program isn't extended by the supervisors. He listed points that should be stressed in GMAC's letter to Supervisor Williams:

- a. preserve Gualala's rural feel and charm;
- b. Jobs here should assure our children stay in the community and have a future here;
- c. worker's housing is being curtailed by the water moratorium;
- d. the GCAP project's completion is vital to business and the beautification of Gualala;
- e. help with the hospitality community, a growing and vital part of Gualala's economy, and;
- f. job training programs covering all aspects/sectors of business.

Petrillo noted that, when the funds are gone, she doesn't know if the program will continue. She urged people to write letters to their supervisor to ask the project be continued.

Hess felt a letter was necessary emphasizing the importance of climate-change impact on all aspects of life and business. It was vital to discuss all the environmental regulations that are important for the protection and restoration of this area. Streamlining the permitting process shouldn't sideline environmental issues. The next ten years were important to the future of life on the planet and economic development toward a global, zero-carbon footprint.

Mary Mobert, Gualala-area resident, hoped the Hispanic and Native populations were included in this project. **Petrillo** was aware of the difficulty of including all factions of the community but has been able to do so.

It was moved by Murphy, seconded by Juengling and unanimously carried that a letter be written to 5th District Supervisor Williams urging the MCBOS to keep the Move2030 project going forward.

Murphy will write the letter and send copies to Members. Petrillo and Wirkebau were thanked for their attendance and report.

civ. Council Matters:

- a. **Old Business: None**
- b. **Report: GCAP Ad Hoc Committee:** Updates on *CalTrans*, and Committee Update (Juengling & Murphy)
Juengling said the committee is waiting for *CalTrans* to report on the grant, maybe by March.
- c. **Report: Housing & Economic Development Standing Committee:** (Murphy)
 - i. **Move 2030 – Council to Consider Authorizing Murphy to Write Letter:** See Item 5 (above).
- d. **Report: Public Electric Vehicle Charging Station in Gualala Report:** (Hess)
Hess reported Janet Orth of *Mendocino Council of Governments* (MCOG) suggested writing a letter to Mendocino County 5th District Supervisor Williams and Howard Deshell, *Director of the Mendocino County Department of Transportation* regarding the County acquiring a portion of land at the *CalTrans* pullout just south of the *Vu Restaurant* for installing an electric-vehicle charging station. The County's *Zero-Emissions Vehicle Report*, updated 2019, stated a station should be installed in Gualala.

GMAC's archives may be viewed at this website: www.gualalamac.org, and/or by contacting Administrator Mobert: (707)884-3006.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors established the Gualala Municipal Advisory Council (GMAC) to advise them on planning issues that affect or have the potential to affect the Gualala area. The GMAC's role is advisory only.

Public Attendance and Participation is Encouraged at GMAC Meetings.

In CalTran's GCAP plans Alternatives 4A and 4B, there are plans for a station at that location. He spoke with a CalTrans manager a year ago about installing charging stations there. CalTrans cedes land to the County all the time and will handle the costs of construction. Deshell suggested Orth and MCOG handle the situation. The new federal administration says they want the country to move off fossil fuels and may have grant funding; Gualala could be one of 500,000 slated to be built by countrywide.

Finley felt it might obstruct the river and ocean view there. Murphy showed photos of the area.

Juengling noted the letter kept the idea in the forefront with CalTrans and County.

e. **Telecommunications Committee:** (Hess & Murphy)

Murphy reported YouTube views for the meeting of 01/07 were 462 plus, because of the GCAP report. There are now eighteen followers who receive notices on new postings. All Members felt continuing to post meetings reached more residents and interested parties than in-person meetings at the Gualala Community Center. The County and State will need to decide what rules will be written regarding mandated public meetings of governmental bodies.

f. **Discussion: Water Ad Hoc Committee.**

Juengling said the committee didn't meet this month. Inviting someone from the *Gualala Community Service District (GCSD)* to speak on their proposed pond; a timber company representative; David Bower of *North Gualala Water Company (NGWC)*; a water engineer from NGWC and/or the GCSD; representatives of *Friends of the Gualala River, Redwood Coast Land Conservancy (RCLC)*, *Mendocino County Planning Department*, local business owners, and/or the *Regional Water Quality Control Board* was discussed. Presenting a half-day Forum lasting 4-6 hours with all stakeholders included, rather than a long report at regular meeting, would be very informative and inclusive.

Hess felt the forum should focus only on local water issues. He and Juengling will discuss the aspects of presenting a forum.

g. **Discussion: South Coast Volunteer Fire Department's (SCVFD) New Boundary Map:**
(Juengling)

Juengling said he didn't meet with SCVFD Chief Warner, so he doesn't know if a new map has been issued. He will try to meet with him Friday, 5 February.

cv. **Administrator Mobert's Report:** Administrator Mobert reported working 20.8 hours; with paying the P.O. Box rent of \$28 for 6 months, materials were \$29.54, for a total of \$341.54.

cvi. **Vice-Chairman Murphy's Report:**

Murphy reported he and his wife received their COVID vaccination today. He urged everyone to get their shot as soon as possible to knock out the virus quickly, and continue to wear masks and practice social distancing. Mobert received her shot Sunday, 17 January. She said *Redwood Coast Medical Center's* vaccination clinics were very professional and caring to all concerned.

cvi. **Chairman Juengling's Report:**

Juengling announced RCLC has purchased the Gualala River Mill Bend property (see ICO article, attached). GMAC has good energy going into 2021 and is working for the betterment of the community.

cvi. **Assign Walk/See: UM 2021-0001 (Bryson & AT&T Mobility):**

Juengling and Hess will walk the property; Finley may also see it since she walked it for the 7 November 2019 meeting. The tower may be taller than was stated in the earlier, 2019 permit.

cix. **Agenda: 4 February 2021:**

UM 2021-0001 (Bryson & AT&T Mobility)

cx. **Adjournment:**

It was moved by Murphy, seconded by Finley, and unanimously carried to adjourn at 20:01.

DRAFT Minutes prepared by Administrator Mobert

GMAC's archives may be viewed at this website: www.gualalamac.org, and/or by contacting Administrator Mobert: (707)884-3006.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors established the Gualala Municipal Advisory Council (GMAC) to advise them on planning issues that affect or have the potential to affect the Gualala area. The GMAC's role is advisory only.

Public Attendance and Participation is Encouraged at GMAC Meetings.