

MARK WEST CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes, May 12, 2021, 6:00 pm
Zoom Meeting
Video available. Send request to MarkWestCAC@gmail.com

A) Call to Order: Chairperson Fies called to order, the regular meeting of Mark West Citizens Advisory Council (MWCAC) 6:02 pm.

1. Roll Call:

Members present: Chairperson Karen Fies, Vice Chairperson Brad Sherwood,

Council Members: Roni Berg, Willie Lamberson, Pete Lescure

Others: Jen Mendoza, Field Representative Representing Supervisor James Gore, 4th District, County of Sonoma, Aggie Maggio, MWCAC Secretary

2. Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Lescure, second by Berg, the minutes of the regular MWCA meeting, April 14, 2021, were approved. The motion carried on a voice vote. (4-0) Sherwood abstained, as he was not present at the last meeting.

B) Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items: None

C) Presentations: Information Only None

Procedure: 1. Presentation 2. Questions by council members 3. Questions/comments from the public

Adjustment to Agenda:

C) 1. Lisa Hulette (Permit Sonoma) presentation moved to a later time in the meeting.

D) Presentations of Referrals from Permit Sonoma: ACTION ITEM

Consideration of proposed projects will proceed as follows: 1. Presentation by project applicant 2. Questions by Councilmembers 3. Questions and comments from the public 4. Response by applicant, if required 5. Comments by Council members 6. Resolution, ACTION, if indicated. None

E) Subcommittee Reports & Discussions: ACTION ITEM

1. Neighborhood Improvement Funding Program (NIFP): (Berg/Lescure)

a) Sidewalks on Mark West Springs Road: There was a delay due to company challenges. A new design company was hired and has signed off to do the survey for the sidewalks on Mark West Springs Rd. Transportation & Public Works (TPW) can now process the funds owed to the Larkfield Resiliency Fund.

Fies reported that she confirmed that, with Johannes Hovertsz at TPW. Passarino is the new company and the bid is \$11,000. The Council had approved up to \$14,000. Expectancy is that the design will be done within four months to meet the RFP deadline to use the County share of this year's allotment of money.

b) NIFP Fund Balance: There is no money left in the current fiscal year's budget because any balance will go to the Larkfield Resiliency Fund to get them paid in full, as soon as possible. We don't yet have the information for next year's budget, which starts July 1, 2021. Hopefully we'll have that in June.

2. Rebuild/Fire Mitigation Subcommittee (Sherwood/Fies)

Sherwood: The County of Sonoma is offering, from the PG&E settlement, funding for immediate vegetation management for local communities. He heard that some Mark West, Wikiup and Larkfield groups are organizing to submit an application for a grant.

He and Fies reached out to Ann DuBay, who represents the Wallace neighborhood in the Mark West Hills. She and her neighbors are putting in a grant application, collaborating with their water district board. She will present to a MWCAC meeting sharing what and how they are putting together the application.

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The goal is to start a dialog as to how local communities can collaborate to create synergies.

TPW is ready to ask the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to approve the contracts for re-paving neighborhood roads in Mark West and Larkfield. Looking to begin construction in August.

Suggestions: Put grant information on the website and Facebook

3. Community Services District (CSD) (Lescure/Lamberson)

This should have read as (Sherwood/Lamberson) and will be corrected on future minutes and agendas.

Lamberson: The discussions show the need for a CSD, a kind of formal body to ask for funding. Need to gather members for the committee; if interested, contact Lescure.

4. Wikiup Open Space (Lamberson/Berg)

Lamberson: The subcommittee has a new member: Dave Hansen, 30-year veteran of County politics and Ag Open Space.

There are good discussions with the survey. A lot of changes were made, since the Jackson Family's first proposals. We are taking the temperature of the community and beginning to engage with the Jackson folks.

5. Sonoma County General Plan for Mark West Area (Lescure/Lamberson)

Suggestion: Lescure: Move the link for "Subcommittees" to the top of the website. Possibly get more community involvement.

Lamberson said that he had mentioned a few meetings ago that the County is looking for folks from this area to sit on various planning committees to go around and get public input. He is looking for ways to get the word out.

Example: Desire for widening the bridge over Mark West Creek. TPW was not aware of bridge. That's why people need to speak up loudly and join meetings on the general plan. Last information is that the general plan is delayed till next year. Maybe get the Chamber involved. Beth Henry is hired to get the word out. This is a perfect example of how to use a public relations coordinator, press releases, etc.

He recognized Hiedi Would for leading formation of a Neighborhood Watch for the Wikiup area. Mark West Estates and Larkfield Estates also have community groups working together.

Suggestion: Flyers at check-out stands in customer bags works.

F) Pending Items: Updates when available.

1. Wikiup Commons: **None**
2. Utilities & Water: Margaret DiGenova, California American Water (Cal Am)

Reservoirs are very low. Voluntary conservation will be mandatory within a few weeks. Geyserville a little more affected than Larkfield. Sonoma Water will be putting in mandatory restrictions. Cal Am will be handing out conservation devices. With mandatory conservation there are potential fines. Cal Am prefers to warn first and work with customers. They will investigate reports of water waste. Basically, watch your sprinklers. Set them ten minutes two or three times a week. Mandatory may be two times per week.

There were reports of colored water in the system in limited areas. The issue has been resolved. The system is being flushed.

Questions/Comments:

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Comparing consumption to previous years: Some years it's 2013 other say compared to 2020. They are not looking at individual consumption. They are looking at the system as a whole. Irrigation is the most waste.

Any indication that Geyserville or Larkfield will see any notice of unavailability from the State Water Board? They are not expecting that.

In Larkfield, the water supply is in a deep aquifer; want to reduce the amount purchased from Sonoma Water.

Sherwood stated that 20% less water is going into pipes. Scientists say this is a historic mega drought. We may be in the second year of a five-year drought. He implores mandatory conservation now.

Margaret DiGenova. The timeline is voluntary now. Cal Am will send notice and will have a public meeting to go mandatory. It is a 30-day delay.

Sherwood: On behalf of Mark West Union School District (MWUSD), he will be asking the Larkfield/Airport Sanitation District to explore supplying recycled water for irrigation. The district has already cut back its water use by 60%, on outdoor irrigation. It impacts community sports fields. Only need a simple extension and the Governor is supporting \$5 million for water conservation. Fies suggested it would be nice if Cal Am might put out communications as to what people can do.

DiGenova responded that there were rebates on rain barrels in the past. That may be instituted again. And she is always open for suggestions.

Adjustment to Agenda: Back to C) 1.

Lisa Hulette, Permit Sonoma, Grant Manager: Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Funding Program

Before the presentation, Hulette encouraged people to look at Clean Water Code, Section 1707, which is the transfer of water rights. There are really interesting case studies in places that are experiencing long term droughts.

This presentation (and story maps) will be posted on the webpage, along with the minutes.

Last talk was on fire mitigation grant funding and the structural home hardening program and defensible space. This talk is about the planning mechanism that underpins how counties and towns can access federal money.

Lisa's slide show is made part of these minutes. They are posted on the Sonoma County Webpage, along with the minutes. It is a quick overview of a very complex planning process.

FEMA is looking to the county to lead the way with wild fires. She believes it can lead the way in droughts.

Sonoma County Hazard Mitigation Website:

<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/PRMD/Long-Range-Plans/Hazard-Mitigation-Update/>

Email: PRMD-HazardMitigation@sonoma-county.org

Questions/Comments:

What can Mark West do? Participate in learning, like now. This is just the first step. Ask questions. Find helpful actions and help get the word out. Supporting this presentation is terrific.

PGE deadline: Hulette does not know if there will be another opportunity after the deadline. She hopes so.

Her greatest wish from community members: Look at the hazards and see that local governments are doing what they can to get money on the ground. Just participating. Having a voice is good. Look at the story maps.

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Back to Agenda: F) Pending Items:

3. Speed limits on Mark West Springs Road and Old Redwood Hwy. (See G2, Correspondence)
4. "HAWK" light in front of Larkfield Shopping Center (See G2, Correspondence)
5. Sonoma County General Plan for Mark West Area: Council Member Lescure **None**
6. List of unmet needs projects for Larkfield/Mark West/Wikiup:

Lamberson: Thank Brad Sherwood for creating a great list. Add to it:

- Widen the bridge over Mark West Creek on Old Redwood Hwy.
- Install sidewalks on north side of Wikiup side between Old Redwood Hwy. and Carriage Lane.
- Sherwood added a third item: Install a trail around Schopflin Park. It is an Ag and Open Space, with easement so we should be able to apply for a grant from their program (pathways, walkways in easement properties)

Jen Mendoza reported that a new cycle for that department will be opening soon. Her office will be meeting with them. Sherwood will email the request to Mendoza.

Add a discussion about the Unmet Needs List to a future agenda.

G) Correspondence: Information Only

1. Two separate, identical emails were received from community members of the Wikiup Open Space Subcommittee, Lori Barber and Lisa Frazee, stating "I do not represent anyone or any group but myself as a long-term resident of the Wikiup area." Both requested that their statements be reflected in the minutes. Full email was read at meeting. Available upon request to secretary.

2. Traffic Problems: Old Redwood Hwy. in front of Sutter ~A voice mail was sent to County stating concerns about repeated accidents in front of Sutter Hospital, at River Rd./Lavell Rd. intersection. Jen Mendoza told the Council about it and recommended the Council include this situation when reviewing/planning solutions to speeding and traffic calming/control, in the area. She can't promise anything now. She is also bringing it to Supervisor Gore's attention.

Adjustment to Agenda: F) 4.

Hawk Light: Mendoza also reported that TPW approved entering into a contract to put it in the easement in front of Molsberry's Market. Only need to install it; maybe this summer.

H) Council Member Announcements and Disclosures: Information Only

1. Returning to in-person meetings: Hybrid is currently not available in the Learning Center. There is WiFi so Jen Mendoza can Zoom from her computer. Aggie Maggio, Secretary reported that there were very few responses to the email inquiry asking for preferences. A few more (of those) were for Zoom, vs in-person meetings. One suggestion was to wait till County gets to the yellow zone. Another: What is the county doing?

Jen Mendoza said that basically the BOS always streams their meetings. She will check if they can take public comments. As of June 15, they will be having in-person meetings. She is assuming they will also be on Zoom. Not verified. This is all a work in progress.

Council Members agreed that the June meeting will be via Zoom. The in-person meetings will resume in July with Mendoza Zooming from her computer, pending no changes to expectations.

2. Notifications of burn permits: Jen Mendoza inquired of the fire people at the county and their

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suggestion is to use Pulse Point app to get notifications about non-official burns. Air District is not issuing any more burn permits for the summer.

3. Council Member Berg: Acknowledged Beth Henry for refining the logo and requested she create something council can put on all communications/correspondence.

Council Chair Fies suggested she design a background for zoom meetings.

4. Lamberson: Airport Commission is looking for volunteers. If anyone wants to be on that commission, they should inquire with Supervisor Hopkins. The Airport is in our back yard.

Jen Mendoza: Clarification: There's the Airport Commission that deals with all things having to do with the airport and the Airport Land Use Commission which handles things like the Specific Plan around the airport development area. It looks like Supervisor Hopkins has put forward her picks for the Land Use Commission. She believes that the Airport Commission is still looking for some folks.

For the airport/aviation commission: <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Aviation-Commission/>

5. Sherwood. School District update: MWUSD is one of the first to open up five days per week. There are two summer school programs for all students. Parents from other districts commented on how well the district was able communicate and work with everyone.

I) Agenda Items: Potential projects for future meetings and suggestions for the next MWCAC meeting

1. Susan Sloan, COPE program in Wikiup (TBD)
2. Chamber presentation (TBD)
3. Presentation of Council Budget, Fies (TBD)
4. Possible speaker on home hardening and vegetation management (TBD)
5. Unmet Needs Project Discussion (TBD)
6. Ann DuBay, Wallace Neighborhood: Putting together a neighborhood grant application (TBD)

J) Adjourn to Closed Session: ACTION ITEM

There being no other business to discuss, on a motion by Council Member Berg, seconded by Council Member Lamberson, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Approved Date:

Chair

MWCAC MEETINGS: 6:00 PM—SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
Hybrid Meetings Until Further Notice
Be sure to check the MWCAC website for meeting agenda, location & time
sonomacounty.ca.gov/Mark-West-Citizens-Advisory-Council
markwestcac@gmail.com