

# MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Approved MINUTES

Monday, October 1, 2012

Board of Supervisors Chambers  
501 Low Gap Rd., Room 1070, Ukiah

ADDITIONAL AUDIOCONFERENCE LOCATION:

Caltrans District 1, 2430 6<sup>th</sup> St., Eureka

**The Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) meets as the Board of Directors of:**  
Mendocino Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) and  
Mendocino County Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE)

**1. Call to Order / Roll Call.** The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. with Directors Terry Hughey, Mari Rodin, Susan Ranochak, Carre Brown, and Dan Gjerde present; Chair Gjerde presiding. Holly Madrigal and John Pinches were excused. Director Rex Jackman (Caltrans/PAC) joined by conference phone.

Staff present: Phil Dow, Executive Director; Janet Orth, Deputy Director for Administration; and Loretta Ellard, Assistant Executive Director.

**2. Convene as RTPA**

**3. Recess as RTPA - Reconvene as Policy Advisory Committee.**

**Public Expression.** None

**4. Regular Calendar.**

**4. Discussion of Gualala and Point Arena Area Transportation Planning Projects, Related Matters and Rescheduling of Tour.** Mr. Dow outlined the purpose of the planned transportation tour and reported that the tour scheduled for today had been postponed due to lack of a quorum, especially considering that most of the inland members were unable to attend the all-day event. Director Brown expressed her apologies and suggested rescheduling. Potential dates in November were discussed. Director Hughey suggested visiting the area next spring, as there would be more progress on local projects by that time. Chair Gjerde noted the Council's goal of both spring and fall excursions. With a consensus to attempt a fall tour, Mr. Dow agreed to investigate feasibility of rescheduling for November and to contact the members at least ten days in advance.

**5 - 6. Consent Calendar.** Upon motion by Rodin, second by Ranochak, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (6 Ayes – Jackman/PAC, Hughey, Rodin, Ranochak, Brown, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 2 Absent – Madrigal and Pinches): IT IS ORDERED that consent items are approved:

**5. Approval of August 20, 2012 Minutes – as written**

**6. Technical Advisory Committee Recommendation of September 19, 2012:**

**Second Amendment to Fiscal Year 2012/13 Planning Overall Work Program (OWP):**

- *Reprograms unexpended carryover Rural Planning Assistance (RPA) and Planning, Programming & Monitoring (PPM) funds, some of which expire on June 30, 2013;*
- *Eliminates one new work element: WE 4 – Orchard Avenue Extension Feasibility Study;*
- *Reprograms the \$18,000 local match for WE 4 that was not awarded grant funds; and*
- *Increases Total OWP funding from \$1,538,146 to \$1,565,843.*

**7. Recess as Policy Advisory Committee - Reconvene as RTPA - Ratify Action of Policy Advisory Committee.** Upon motion by Rodin, second by Ranochak, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (5 Ayes – Hughey, Rodin, Ranochak, Brown, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 2 Absent – Madrigal and Pinches): IT IS ORDERED that the actions taken by the Policy Advisory Committee are ratified by the MCOG Board of Directors.

## **8. Reports - Information**

- a. Mendocino Transit Authority. Bruce Richard, MTA General Manager, reported the new maintenance facility has been in service since before the recent grand opening, and currently just a few procedural items remain to complete this major capital project. MTA has started the next phase, a solar canopy project to cover the bus parking area, for weather protection as well as power generation, with a budget of approximately \$522,000. A consultant design team has been selected of all local contractors.

Several low-floor busses are now in operation, a vast improvement for passengers with mobility challenges. A further order is pending the California Transportation Commission's allocation approval in October of \$1.2 million in State Transportation Improvement Program funds that MCOG had programmed in 2008. Another bus order is planned for the Willits senior center, anticipated by fiscal year end.

MTA has budgeted funds to meet some of the Unmet Transit Needs identified for FY 2012/13. First is a full reconfiguration of the Willits service, in response to three needs. Secondly, service to Mendocino College in Ukiah is extended to Saturdays. Thirdly, a Ukiah route is adjusted to transport riders to Plowshares at lunchtime.

Mr. Richard announced his retirement in December. MTA's succession plan will be developed by a committee consisting of MCOG and MTA representative John Pinches and MTA Chairman Jim Mastin. He has recommended interim appointment of Transportation Manager Dan Baxter, who intends to apply for the permanent position.

A brief discussion followed on the new building's merits and the opening ceremony.

- b. North Coast Railroad Authority. Ms. Ellard reported NCRA's upcoming October meeting in Healdsburg; she planned to attend. A discussion ensued with Director Rodin relative to the rail-with-trail project in Ukiah.

c. MCOG Administration & Planning Staff

1. *Summary of Meetings.* Mr. Dow referred to his written staff report.
2. *U.S. 101 Bypass of Willits Groundbreaking Ceremony.* Mr. Dow reported Caltrans is planning an event on October 31, coordinating with Rep. Mike Thompson's schedule.
3. *MAP-21 Implementation.* Mr. Dow reported the new transportation authorization law officially takes effect today, the first day of the federal fiscal year. Still unresolved is a State implementation bill working its way through the Legislature. California's entire emphasis, working with all stakeholders, is to keep in place most of the status quo, at least for the first of two years, consistent with agreements made a year ago.

Director Brown reported on a MAP21 conference call convened by CALCOG. (See also Agenda #8e) A statewide working group has been formed, with 11 of the 17 members nominated by CALCOG. Executive Director Bill Higgins had commented that implementation will be a big challenge and it may not work out well for the smaller, more rural entities. Mr. Dow stated his hope and concerns. Task forces and subcommittees are working on the matter and he is confident they will represent MCOG's interests.

4. *Options for MCOG Board Meeting Venue.* Ms. Orth reported staff's research into alternative meeting spaces following City of Ukiah's recent notice of their new policy that a fee would be charged to MCOG for use of the City's council chambers, MCOG's long-standing board meeting location. Today's meeting was located at the County of Mendocino as an opportunity to try out the Supervisors' chambers, as offered by Director Pinches and made available by the executive office. She noted pros and cons of each identified venue, including Ukiah City Council chambers, Board of Supervisors' chambers, and several conference rooms suitable for occasional use as needed.

A discussion ensued. A majority of directors present preferred a cost-free option. Director Rodin explained the City's action and did not have a preference of location. Ms. Orth reported the scheduling process with the County and will pursue reservations of the County's chambers at no charge. Also there would be minor cost savings on video production due to technical equipment available on site.

5. *Miscellaneous.* Ms. Orth reported actions in followup to the Council's direction to seek local candidates for potential Governor's appointment to the California Transportation Commission. Staff had prepared informational material and links, now posted on MCOG's home page at [www.mendocinocog.org](http://www.mendocinocog.org). There was a brief discussion.

Mr. Dow will agendize a SAFE meeting next month. He reported Mendocino SAFE's recent installation of the first satellite motorist aid call box in the United States. The box is being tested at a location north of Willits, so far successfully. This can resolve cellular reception problems in some of the most remote locations, such as Route 162 to Covelo where the highest need exists for these new devices. He reiterated the continued need for call boxes in the region and noted issues being addressed under the adopted plan. For the legal record, he will request the Council's approval of a resolution updating and amending policy of commitment to install telecommunications device for hearing impaired motorists on call boxes, known as "TTY" keyboards, since the new satellite boxes cannot use the devices. He will recommend specifically how the Council can maintain Mendocino SAFE's commitment while limiting the new satellite technology to locations where the service would not otherwise be provided.

Ms. Ellard reported that Quincy Engineering will present a rubberized asphalt training to MCOG's Technical Advisory Committee at its October 17 meeting.

Director Rodin was excused from the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

- d. MCOG Directors. Chair Gjerde reported road work in progress on State Route 20 between Fort Bragg and Willits, notably improving turnouts to alleviate hazards. MCOG had requested that Caltrans pave the turnouts when resurfacing the highway. Director Brown thanked Director Hughey for attending this meeting in Ukiah on such short notice and looked forward to visiting his city of Point Arena soon.
- e. California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) Delegates. Director Brown continued her report (*refer to #8c3*) of her first CALCOG meeting, joined by conference call. She noted highlights, including a case involving the first review of a Sustainable Community Plan, cap-and-trade coalition positions, and election of Second Vice President. The CALCOG board meets next on November 14, in coordination with the Self-Help Counties Coalition's annual Focus on the Future conference.

**9. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Submitted: PHILLIP J. DOW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Janet Orth, Deputy Director for Administration