



HOPLAND

MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Hopland Municipal Advisory Council Minutes

Regular Meeting – Hybrid

August 21, 2024 at 5:30 pm

Hopland Fire Protection District Community Room
21 Feliz Creek Road, Hopland, California

The Hopland Municipal Advisory Council (HMAC) meetings are held in-person and virtually via Zoom Video Communications. Meeting access information is available on the Agenda for this meeting

Members: Julie Golden, Jane Cupples, Dale Andrew

Alternate: Bernadette Byrne

Administrative Support: Melissa Frausto - LACO Associates

1. Call to order & roll call

The meeting was called to order at 5:36pm. Julie Golden, Jane Cupples, and Dale Andrew were present. No members attended virtually.

2. Public comment & announcements on non-agenda items

No discussion/ comment

3. Consent Calendar

The following consent items are expected to be routine and non-controversial, and will be acted on by the HMAC in a single action without discussion, unless a request is made by a Council Member or a member of the public for discussion or separate action.

a. Approval of the July 17, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

Dale motioned to approve the consent calendar, with a second from Jane. Dale and Jane voted in favor, while Julie abstained.

4. Discussion and possible action on community updates and issues

a. Mendocino County Sheriff's Office: *General updates from Sheriff Kendall*
No update/ discussion

b. Hopland Fire Protection District: *General updates from Chief Franklin*
No update/ discussion

c. Board of Supervisors: *General updates from Supervisor Glenn McGourty*
No update/ discussion

d. Hopland Public Utility District: *General updates*
Julie attended a Hopland Public Utility District (HPUD) board meeting last Thursday. When she inquired about obtaining sewer and water services, she was informed that her farm is outside the current service boundary. However, the HPUD can provide water services

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if she is willing to pay for the installation of water lines to her property. Julie also learned that only 22 additional service hookups are available within the HPUD service area. When considering preparation of a future Hopland Community Plan, it will be crucial to consider water availability and the limited number of available water hookups.

- e. Hopland Cemetery District: *General updates*
No update/ discussion

- f. Shanél Valley Academy: *General updates from Amy Frost*

Amy shared that the voting results for the 2024 Kubota Hometown Proud grant program will be announced in two (2) days. If the Shanél Valley Academy (SVA) wins this round, they will become the West Coast regional winners and advance to compete against nine (9) other regions for a \$50,000 grant. The SVA is also awaiting the outcome of another grant application. The funding from both grants would be used to further enhance the school's agricultural program, which emphasizes hands-on learning. On the first day of school, students harvested fresh tomatoes, corn, and watermelon that were then served for lunch. The SVA is also anticipating the release of last year's standardized test scores, which will determine if SVA can expand its grade levels to include 7th and 8th. Lastly, the SVA is collaborating with the local 4H program to provide the school's facilities as a venue for their activities. This is the first full year of the program, and participation is not limited to SVA students. A community meeting will also be held at SVA next Monday at 6 PM.

- g. Hopland Research and Extension Center: *General updates from Hannah Bird*

Hannah shared that the Hopland Research and Extension Center (HREC) now has cattle on the property that can be seen from University Road. Also, a controlled burn is planned in conjunction with CALFIRE in October but will only proceed if weather conditions are favorable.

- h. Hopland Farmers Market: *General update*

No update/ discussion

5. Discussion and possible action on Mendocino Drought Resilience Plan

Dr. Laura Elisa Garza Diaz [UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE), *Area Water Quality, Quantity, and Climate Change Advisor*] gave an overview of Mendocino County's water supplies and water-related initiatives. She shared that while droughts in Mendocino County can typically last around three (3) years, wet seasons tend to be shorter, lasting about two (2) years. The past severe droughts in California prompted the State to enact new legislation, such as the Senate Bill (SB) 552, passed in 2021, mandating that counties prepare a Drought Resilience Plan (DRP) in case of a water shortage event for small water systems, rural communities, and domestic well owners. Dr. Garza highlighted the launch of the Mendocino County DRP (County DRP) and Drought Task Force, a collaborative effort between the County of Mendocino (County), the UCCE, and the community to develop a comprehensive County DRP through workshops and seminars. The UCCE will help conduct outreach events, assessments, and development mitigation strategies. Two (2) types of meetings are planned for the County DRP: community meetings and task force meetings,

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both aimed at gathering community involvement and insights. The community meetings are tentatively scheduled for September 2024 and February 2025 while the task force meetings are tentatively scheduled for September 2024, and January, March, and May of 2025. These meetings will serve as a starting point for developing a well-informed County DRP.

Julie inquired about the types of input that would be valuable for the County DRP. Dr. Garza explained that the Drought Task Force is seeking information from individual residents regarding their wells, including the number of wells that have gone dry, specific examples of dry wells, personal experiences with dry wells, water loss estimates, and economic losses incurred, if any.

6. Discussion and possible action Firewise Communities Program

Eva King [Mendocino County Fire Safe Council (MCFSC), *Outreach Coordinator*] presented a comprehensive overview of programs at the MCFSC and Firewise Communities. Eva highlighted several MCFSC programs available to residents, including Chipper Days for removing woody debris, Home Assessments for fire readiness recommendations, and free defensible space creation services for eligible individuals. She also introduced the concept of Firewise Communities: collaborative neighborhoods that promote fire safety initiatives and take proactive steps to reduce wildfire risk. These communities benefit from access to MCFSC resources, potential national certification, possible insurance discounts, enhanced community organization, and increased neighborhood safety. Eva outlined the 6 steps required to establish a Firewise Community: 1) form a board with at least eight (8) single-family home representatives; 2) perform a wildfire risk assessment of the neighborhood to identify risk reduction priorities; 3) develop a prioritized risk reduction action plan for a 3-year timeframe; 4) conduct annual wildfire risk education events; 5) contribute 1 volunteer hour or the equivalent monetary value per household; and 6) submit an application to the MCFSC. The MCFSC can assist with application preparation. This is a free program open to all residents. For more information contact Eva King at king@firesafemendocino.org.

Amy Frost (*Public Comment*): Amy shared that the MCFSC has given a Fire Preparedness class at the SVA and has helped empower the students to become active participants in their community's fire safety efforts.

Dale asked if Firewise Communities are only focused on residential areas. Eva clarified that Firewise Community boundary areas are defined by the residences and that a typical Firewise Community has between 100 and 300 homes.

Julie shared that the County offers Agricultural Passes for use during emergencies. These passes allow residents to access their properties during wildfires, even when roads are closed, in order to check on their animals. Applications for Agricultural Passes must be renewed annually.

7. Discussion and possible action on Fire Preparedness Community Meeting

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Hannah Bird (*Public Comment*): Hannah shared that the tentative date for the Fire Preparedness Community meeting is set for October 27th.

No additional discussion occurred.

8. Discussion and possible action on County of Mendocino Financial Reporting Process

No update/ discussion

9. Discussion and possible action on Caltrans Hopland Highway 101 ADA Project

Julie mentioned that Caltrans plans to complete the project within a single construction season. She will inquire about a new project schedule.

10. Discussion and possible action on Hopland Rest Stop Project and GRTA Master Plan

No update/ discussion

11. Discussion and possible action on Downtown Hopland Pedestrian Lighting

No update/ discussion

12. Discussion and possible action on Hopland Community Plan

No update/ discussion

13. Council Members' and staff reports regarding assigned tasks, committee meetings, and other items of general interest

a. HMAC Vacancies

No update/ discussion

14. Discussion on agenda items for September 18, 2024 HMAC meeting

Julie suggested inviting Jared Walker to discuss his vision for the future of Hopland's water supply and Joan Norry to provide a general update on the HPUD and the status of remaining water hookup in Hopland.

15. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:02pm.