

**Fish Camp Planning Advisory Council
Draft Minutes
9:30 a.m., Saturday, April 27, 2024**

Call to Order at 9:31 a.m.

Chair Baxter

1. Roll Call

Secretary Rolfe

Members Present: Brett Archer, Robert Bassett, Greg Baxter, James Christian, Greg Farley, William Reinhart, Margaret Rolfe and Greg Royse
Members Absent: Jeff Cerioni, excused.

2. Welcome Guests

Chair Baxter

Guests introduced themselves.

3. Approval of Draft Minutes

Minutes of the October 28, 2023 meeting. Bassett moved approval and Reinhart seconded. Motion passed.

4. Persons wishing to speak on a matter not on the agenda, but within the jurisdiction of the council: Glendenning vote for your favorite recreational activity, you can vote for Narrow Gauge Railroad, vote for Sugar Pine.

5. Discussion and Approval of Final FCPAC 2023 Annual Report to Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors requested an annual report be presented. The annual report doesn't need such detail as the minutes. A draft was prepared by Polina and provided with the meeting packet. If additional information is requested, or changes to be made, council members will provide to Secretary Rolfe.

6. Silvertip Project Update

Polina Pivak

Tree work commences on April 29, 2024 for approximately one week. After that, excavation work on Fish Camp Lane, and the bridge within one week. Traffic control is now in place with Caltrans permit.

7. Short Term Rental Discussion

Polina Pivak

Study completed and presented to Board, they voted to wait to see what would happen in fall to watch what happens with reservation system in park. Supervisor Smallcombe recommended reviewing David Holland Moritz's report due to its detail. The study acts like a direct relationship between short term rental and housing availability - turns out there's not a correlation. Art Baggett and others in planning commission promoting Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU). The County wants to find ways to support people and ADU; staff worked on ADU workbook, which outlines what is needed to construct and

plan an ADU unit. The focus is on making plans available on a prepaid basis. The County would like to have a limited number of plans, between 5-10, so a property owner doesn't need to pay an architect or engineer, just get the plan and start the permitting to go forward. One may review www.Motherlodeadu.org or go to Mariposa County Planning Department's website, navigate through community design and development for the link.

Resident asked if County had reviewed all lots as part of their housing element update, as some had been removed from past studies. The County stated they are working on the update, which is due by the end of June. However, they will be asking for an extension from the State to either July or August. The public comment period starts late May 2024.

8. Discussion & Potential Action to Request Re-Paving of Fish Camp County Maintained Roads (Potholes) Polina Pivak

Supervisor Smallcombe: This has been on her radar since she took office. Shannon Hanson has been working diligently on this matter. They've hired a new road manager, Joe Williams, who is also a retired Sheriff. They have put together a list of all County maintained roads and assigning priority. "Major and minor collectors." Last budget round, requested and approved an additional \$2 million for County maintained roads. The road list for the County is one that was originally presented to State 30-40 years ago, and that's the basis they receive funding from the State for maintaining roads. Shannon Hanson will ask for additional \$10 million this next year. They are going into budget conversations next week. Over \$20 million discrepancy between revenue and requested budgets between the various government departments. She acknowledges they need to make the roads priority. Public Works is looking for our input. If Fish Camp residents see issues with roads, we've been requested to stop our car, take picture and send to Public Works. The geo location information will help them have a better sense of what is going on. Which roads gets the most traffic and what is the condition. Mariposa county has 560+ miles of roads. The County wants to make them more drive able then bring up to higher standard. Shannon and Joe are being very methodical and looking for public input.

The State Legislature tends to look to support services to reduce the deficit. They'll pull from potholes and not related to infrastructure.

SB1 provided additional road maintenance and repair funding, passed in 2017. In 2018, a Pavement Condition Index was created by the County. That's the baseline against which Public Works is working.

Resident asked if the Department of Education would help pay for road since Camp Green Meadows is at the end of the road. Answer appears to be no. Another resident question: Has the argument been presented to State: They want more houses, which beats up the roads with construction vehicles, but they won't add more roads or maintenance funding.

Baxter's opinion: Need to fix the worst of the roads before they are too far gone.

Additional resident question: Some roads are not County Roads, how do we get them over to County control? Public Works is meeting with each County Supervisor regarding roads in their district. Part of the question: Of the 560 miles of current inventory, there are some they know they need to walk away from, i.e., El Portal community, 2 of 3 bridges were completely destroyed in El Portal fire in 2014. Others, they will need to put on inventory. I.e., Yosemite West 3/4 mile between Wawona Road and the community is not County since the community inception. A year or so ago, Park said it's not part of Park mission to take care of it, but they will have to pick it up. Where there's not a "convincing" argument, suggestion people explore a road maintenance association for the maintenance of the roads. Supervisor Smallcombe stated she would present information on how to get a road on County list.

9. Ex Officio Reports:

a. USFS, District Ranger

Jennifer Christie, absent

b. CAL FIRE & Engine Co. 33

Steve Ward, absent

Reinhart provided update: Mariposa County Fire confirms there is a full implementation of Tenaya Fire Brigade, the number of 911 calls for County Services and Escalation have been significantly impacted in a positive manner. The calls have been cut to about half for the volunteers, so they've been able to do timing and training runs as far out as Yosemite West. They also confirm Tenaya can cover Fish Camp while they are on their training runs.

The level of basic life support available in Fish Camp is available 24/7. Sierra Ambulance is major life support.

Brett Archer reported that the Tenaya has added 8 new team members to the brigade, and they've been able to reduce the hours of those who are working.

c. Sheriff's Department

**Sheriff Jeremy Briese-
Absent**

SCOPE: Reinhart: This year's snow season was light. Between Caltrans, YMR and no closures, they were able to keep snow play open. SCOPE routinely checks on the cabins in the community. They skipped one house check cycle; however, they were able to send pictures after the snow storm to owners. They had to stake the area at Hwy 41 and Chowchilla Mountain Road with no trespassing signs.

d. NPS District Ranger

Chad Andrews - absent

No report.

e. Caltrans-Hwy 41 Supervisor

Adam Wimberley - absent

Adam has been promoted. New supervisor is Brian ____.

f. District I Supervisor

Rosemarie Smallcombe

Supervisor Smallcombe reports: Wildfire risk insurance is receiving a lot more attention than previous years. Our State Insurance Commissioner is promoting idea of more productive conversations with insurance industry. Can we agree on standards that apply to risk reduction. We understand defensible space and home hardening. We are lucky, we have a connection that other communities don't have so well established. John Morgan reports to State Fire Marshall, he oversees wildfire risk reduction and a resident of Ponderosa Basin. Dirt is defensible space and your wall is home hardening. The zero zone is the 5 foot perimeter. Critical area to reduce risk to your structure. The Board of Forestry sets the standards. How many plants can you place in the zero zone?

County has been pushing to have an insurance working group. There are a lot more entities engaged in the discussion regarding the insurance industry as a whole.

Steve Ward: Everyone needs to think of ember cast, not just their defensible space. Ember cast where the ember can get in, i.e., gable, screen, under porch, etc.

Insurance Institute for Home Safety - they are a research organization; they do modeling of what works and what doesn't; they also conduct test fires.

California Fire Insurance Consortium - a lot of work on fire risk and development of standards. Video. Lessons of the Coffee Fire (Sonoma 2018). Homes burned from inside out.

California Department of Insurance: Safer From Wildfires. Supervisor Smallcombe will send links. There is a questionnaire and ideas for homeowners to consider actions to make home more fire safe. Safer From Wildfires Plus.

Barry Green: Questioned decking. He hasn't found good solution re: decks; is there any stain or wood treatment that would hold fire off deck. Steve Ward: Isn't aware of anything that will stand the test of time. If there's a product to apply, it washes off within a week, etc.

g. District I Planning Commissioner Art Bagget

Supervisor Smallcombe reports that Art Bagget has taken some time off; he's been appointed to Regional Water Quality Control Board and has been tied up quite a bit.

h. Department of Public Works, Director Shannon Hansen

Supervisor Smallcombe reports: Early March, they had a presentation from Department of Public Works re: study of landfill. Robust conversation re: alternatives. May be recommendation that they increase the tipping rates at the solid waste facilities. Currently, County has to fund landfill, but it should be self sustaining. Also have issues with leachate seeping out, concerns of contamination to well water.

10. Fish Camp Annual meeting, Potluck

This will occur after the quarterly Fish Camp Council meeting on July 27, 2024 to encourage attendance.

- 11. Firewise Report.** Tim McGinty reported: Last fall, late summer, they evaluated at least 80% of Fish Camp properties. They will finish next month or June the final percentage. Gretchen Hewitt has created a spreadsheet to present an action plan to the government. Supervisor Smallcombe recommends we contact someone from the Forest Service to see what they want from us and what they are going to do to reduce the risk in the forest around us. Forest Service has a budget to work on a plan in Fish Camp. Steve Ward: Confirmed we should coordinate with the Forest Service. Contact John Patton jpatton@mariposacounty.org (wild fire mitigation coordinator for the County. John Patton will be our Firewise coordinator, he'll help with anything we need getting our application approved. John can set us up with someone at our local Cal Fire. Wawona is not yet Firewise.

Steve Ward, Donn and Gretchen, along with someone from the Forrest Service had early conversations re: risk.

Dan Tune new Forest Supervisor for Bass Lake Ranger District. Supervisor Smallcombe will ask Dan to attend next meeting.

12. Snow Removal Update

None provided.

13. Future agenda items.

- A. Discussion of non County Roads to turn over to County and/or Road Maintenance Districts. Supervisor Smallcombe will ask Joe Williams or Shannon to attend meeting.

14. Next scheduled meetings:

July 27, 2024

October 26, 2024

15. Adjournment. 10:56 a.m.