

**Fish Camp Planning Advisory Council Final
Minutes (Approved as Amended 7/26/25)
9:30 a.m., Saturday, May 3, 2025**

A. Call to Order and Roll Call **Chair Brett Archer**

Members Present: Brett Archer, Robert Bassett, Jeff Cerioni, James Christian, Greg Farley, and Margaret Rolfe

Members Absent: Greg Baxter, William Reinhart, and Greg Royse

B. Welcome Guests **Acting Chair Archer**

Guests introduced themselves.

C. Approval of Draft Minutes

Minutes of the draft minutes of the January 25, 2025, were approved. Move: Rolfe moved, Bassett second. Archer and Farley abstained.

D. Persons wishing to speak on a matter not on the agenda, but within the jurisdiction of the council: None.

E. Committee Business

- 1. Discussion and Potential Action to Recommend Committee Dissolution to the Board of Supervisors.** Smallcombe: Conversation started with Wayne Forsyth 55 appointed boards, commissions and committees for 17k residents. Some are required by state law, some are discretionary. County required to create a general plan, part of general plan, there are 16 planning advisory committees and have been identified for 40 years. The 16 never made sense, for example, Jerseydale doesn't have an advisory committee and they have 450 residents, while Fish Camp does, and has fewer residents. The current general plan was created in 2006, at which time Fish Camp was added. There have been other communities that would like a council but none have been approved by the Board of Supervisors (ex. Yosemite West). Now, at the 20 year update of general plan, the County is reviewing the committees. Original purpose: Create a community plan. This has continued to occur with the various communities. Mid Pines, they voted to dissolve as a board appointed committee, but will continue to meet amongst themselves to identify projects to continue to better the community. The disadvantage of a board appointed committee, you must comply with the Brown Act; i.e., must have quorum; have to post the agenda at least 72 hours ahead of time; take minutes; post the minutes. If you don't have a quorum, everyone must leave in 10 minutes - you can't stay and talk amongst yourselves. Those

requirements go away if the council breaks away from the County's appointment. You can then make your own rules and bylaws. For Fish Camp, the community plan was adopted June 7, 1983, with the last change May 7, 2019. On the other hand, there's a lot of County staff support that goes into getting the meeting together. What benefit does the County as a whole get from having each council. Right now, it's just exchanging information and concerns, but that's not the purpose of the Board appointed council. Therefore, Supervisor Smallcombe is encouraging we vote to dissolve the advisory council and how to go forward to keep.

Christian: If we dissolve, do we diminish our voice? Answer: No, you can lean into your voice more without concern about complying with Brown Act. The Board still must understand and respond to our issues. Supervisor Smallcombe has some ability to influence other agencies. Currently, you can't send a letter to other agencies, or demand a person attend, instead, you have to ask the Board to send the letter, or ask the person to attend, i.e., letter to Caltrans or have Representative McClintock attend a meeting. If we were no longer a council, we could send a letter to the various agencies, or directly ask the person to attend. Christian feels we have a larger voice as a council and has concern that we only become individuals if we disband.

Guest: Concern we don't get many benefits from the County and disbanding will reduce what little we do get.

Question: Would it help to reduce number of meetings a year? The County doesn't have a full dollar value, but clerical \$1,000, plus the weekend time, etc. for each attendee.

Other options: Ask to have an informal meeting and discuss anything they wish, not following an agenda.

David Holland Moritz - concern: Don't disband until we have a suitable replacement option. Supervisor Smallcombe: Purpose of planning committee or council, it's their job to understand the issues being raised in preparing a town plan; ideal world, speak for all others in the community. At this point, the council and County are not doing that work. It's really just list of updates from various entities. For example, we'll get an update on Silvertip today, but we can't take any action on anything because it's not on the agenda.

Current issue with Wawona: Park was to provide potable water to Wawona; but now they cannot commit because they are constrained by the state water resource board. Recommendation now: Form a committee to find alternate sources of water. They can do this since they are not a Board appointed advisory council. For

Fish Camp, if a specific issue comes to mind, we can form an issue committee to bring to Board.

Guest: We need a structure to keep community informed. Concern about being heard. Supervisor Smallcombe: We can have whatever formality or frequency we want. If you have a quorum at someone's house, you cannot discuss business because it violates the Brown Act. If County has townhall meeting, we can show up or write a letter to the Board of Supervisors and voice the issues of the community. Have more of a voice if not a council.

Community Member: He believes the only time his voice would be heard is to appear in person at a council meeting. What's the guarantee the members will be listened to when they cannot vote for the member because their residence is elsewhere. Supervisor Smallcombe: Her job is to take care of persons with interests and concerns in her district.

Brett Archer, as president of the Yosemite Gateway Partners: Not part of Brown Act, they meet monthly and have their voices are heard.

Discussion was had re: Zoom meetings to garner more attendance. Clerk of Board: County has taken the position there is not adequate close captioning for video, that's why they have phone conference.

Bassett: What is the time line? Who would help create the bylaws? Likes the idea of video meetings. High appraisal of Supervisor Smallcombe's responsiveness to his concerns. Rolfe: Is this a mandate to dissolve? Supervisor Smallcombe: There's a shortfall in the budget, larger than typical, so they are looking at ways to cut the budget and are they utilizing their resources in the best manner? Some boards, committees, council, are statutorily required. Beyond those, it becomes a question re: agreement of at least 3 of them (Smallcombe and 2 others) have to agree the County should play a role and extend staff resources to work with that community. In this instance, Supervisor Smallcombe candidly cannot argue that a meeting filled with updates from other departments is a good use of County funds. However, she would like to work with us to continue to develop alternatives for our community. She can report to the Board the council voted to dissolve with the caveat that the County support/assist in the transformation of the council into a group that better suits the community.

Glendenning: Referenced a report from 2022 that had our sunset date in August 2025. Smallcombe: That was part of a report back in the day that reviewed all 55 to bring order to all commissions, boards, and councils to review over a period of a time. It was not to dissolve, but to review and work with clerk to get a better

understanding as to who was actually operating and working. Current: How effective is each to justify the allocation of resources?

Motion was made (see below) and further discussion was had before vote:

J. Franklin: Wishes Mid Pines further in process so we could see how it's working for them. If we vote to dissolve, can we reinstate? Supervisor Smallcombe: Yes, you come to back to Board to be reinstated. However, well before we come to Board angry, please come to her and she will work to see what can be done.

Discussion was had about creating bylaws for an informal council. Response: Cannot have conversation about proposed bylaws if still a council because it violates the Brown Act.

K. Green: There used to be a Fish Camp Homeowner's Association: Did they have bylaws?

T. McGinty: Is there a time line? Supervisor Smallcombe: Commits to providing bylaws within a month if the council is dissolved.

B. Green: YCSD Yosemite Alpine Community Service District. They are an official Board, have always wanted to grow, it would be much stronger if there were more. But, they are limited by the Brown Act.

Bill Keller: Can we table vote to July? Smallcombe: How do we have the broad community buy in? If we are not dissolved, then communications need to be one on one; but dissolved, they can be group emails. If not happy by July, then we can decide which direction we need to go at that time.

Moritz-Holland: Asks that current council remains to spearhead the bylaw drafting.

Farley: Retired water resources engineer. Thought purpose was to work back and forth with County to work on specific and general plans. Thinks more discussion needs to be had before we vote to dissolve. Supervisor Smallcombe: The thing that drives the various communities are different. For some, it's the update of the Development Code which will then drive the General Plan; which will be updated and completed by end of June. They need to have discussions with the various communities and the Board needs to determine how to best have the discussion. However, there's no need for a formal council to have that discussion. Farley: Isn't this the forum? Smallcombe: Need more engagements and the Brown Act limits people's participation.

Bassett, moved to dissolve council with caveat that the County work with us to develop bylaws (which will include allowance of video meeting and voting electronically), meeting frequency, and structure. Motion seconded by Rolfe. After lengthy discussion: Vote: Yes by Rolfe, Bassett, and Archer; No by Farley, Christian, and Cerioni. Tied, failed to pass. Will return on next meeting's agenda.

2. Discussion and Potential Action to Approve the 2024 Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors. Rolfe moved, Bassett second, all approved.

- F. Silvertip Project Update.** Brian update on project: Highway 41 expansion to include turn lanes into project from each direction, Caltrans approval and starts this Monday. Single lane closure Monday through Friday 8-5 for 2-3 months. However, they have to reapply weekly. Small amount of work into the Post Office, and some private work - parking lot of old gas station and entrance of general store moved to Deli sign because current entrance is Caltrans. In summer or fall, additional grading will occur on the property.

Glendenning: Don't block access to post office. Old prospectus is still the plan. Any porta potty plans? That issue hasn't been brought up. He'll look into that.

G. Ex-Officio Reports

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| 1. USFS | District Ranger Daniel Tune, absent |
| 2. CAL FIRE & Engine Co. 33 | Chris Bernard, absent |
| 3. Sheriff's Department | Sheriff Jeremy Briese, absent |
| 4. NPS District Ranger | Heidi Edgecomb |
- a. Discussion on How Emergency Response by YNP Could Impact Fish Camp Resident Safety. Every day and response is different, so any traffic issues outside of the Park, etc. Community would like the Park to get the traffic in faster and off community streets. Heidi cannot respond to this, but reach out to the Park Superintendent. They recently received one hour notice of reservation system and had no input on the system. Everything is significantly delayed. Generally, seasonal employees start in April, but as of today, there is no start date. Supervisor Smallcombe has medical response data: 2020 and 2021 1 each and none in 22-24. County is responsible for emergency medical, they have contract with Sierra Medical in Oakhurst for ambulance and Tenaya can also respond. If Sierra is not available, YNP may respond.
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| 5. Caltrans-Hwy 41 | Supervisor Bart Zahourek, absent |
| 6. Department of Public Works | Director Shannon Hansen, absent |

7. District I Supervisor

Rosemarie Smallcombe

County is going through their budgeting process and she believes it will be their toughest one yet due to various factors. Road funding is a very large part of the discussion, \$6.8 million per year to maintain status quo, but they haven't been doing that; she also believes that Caltrans would say it's more likely double that amount. By law, they need to complete their budget by end of June.

8. District I Planning Commissioner Art Baggett, absent

H. Firewise Report McGinty

Application is 98% completed; Gretchen Hewlett transferred application to Tim to finish and submit. He needs to add the boundary map to the application and a few other items. He'd like to have Supervisor Smallcombe look at it before they submit it to ensure it's as complete as necessary before it's sent to the appropriate entity. He'd like to get it submitted with 1 month.

I. Future Agenda Items

1. Discussion and Potential Action to Recommend Committee Dissolution to the Board of Supervisors.
2. Discussion on changing our entity meeting to 3 times a year rather than 4.

J. Next Scheduled Meetings

July 26, 2025

K. Adjournment

12:15 p.m.