

State of California, County of Siskiyou

Board of Supervisors Minutes, July 13, 2021

The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Siskiyou County, California, met in regular session this 13th day of July 2021; there being present Supervisors Brandon Criss, Michael N. Kobseff, Ray A. Haupt and Nancy Ogren, County Administrator Angela Davis, County Counsel Edward J. Kiernan, and County Clerk and ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Laura Bynum by Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham. Supervisor Ed Valenzuela was absent.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Haupt. Pursuant to AB23, the Clerk announced that the Board members receive no additional compensation for sitting as members of the Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. Supervisor Ogren led in the salute to the flag of the United States of America.

Invocation - Siskiyou County Sheriff Chaplain Keith Bradley provided an invocation.

Off-agenda item – County Counsel – Board discussion, direction and possible action regarding Cal Trans closure of the I-5 Azalea Overpass until October 2021. Added to the agenda; Discussion only.

County Counsel Edward J. Kiernan provided a brief overview of the request to add an item, not on the posted agenda, regarding Cal Trans' closure of the I-5 Azalea Overpass until October 2021 due to ongoing road work.

It was moved by Supervisor Haupt, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Criss, Kobseff, Ogren and Haupt voting YES and Supervisor Valenzuela ABSENT, to consider an item not on the posted agenda regarding Cal Trans closure of the I-5 Azalea Overpass until October 2021.

Later in the meeting, lengthy discussion followed between members of the Board and County Administrator Angela Davis regarding citizen concerns regarding CalTrans' closure of the Azalea Overpass due to a highway construction project. Ms. Davis advised that the concerns were related to the potential inability of citizens to evacuate should a wildfire happen in the local area, the current high fire danger and associated extreme drought conditions, the need for coordination between the State agency and the County in order to safeguard residents, the efforts being made to develop a plan for such emergency (i.e. wildfire), CalTrans' efforts to minimize traffic congestion near the construction project and the County's plans to meet with CalTrans to discuss future projects in order to be prepared for possible emergencies.

Further discussion followed regarding the timing associated with CalTrans' highway projects, the need to include local fire and other agencies and legislators in the coordination efforts, potential negative impact to nearby County roads (used by motorists to avoid traffic backups) and the ongoing closure of Greyback Road, near Happy Camp.

Pursuant to California Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-08-21, June 11, 2021, participation in this agenda item by various members of the public was provided via teleconference phone.

US Senator Diane Feinstein's Field Representative Joanne Delgado advised of efforts being made to assist the County as needed with regard to local wildfires and the illegal cannabis grows.

Presentations from the Public

Pursuant to California Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-08-21, June 11, 2021, participation in presentations from the public by various members of the public was provided via teleconference phone.

Local Firesafe Council representative Gisele Nova advised of an opportunity to apply for grant funding for a Fire Coordinator and requested that the Board consider drafting a letter of support for a grant application.

Continued...

Presentations from the Public – (continued)

Local resident Nick Joslin requested an update with regard to the firefighting helicopter that crash landed in Lake Siskiyou.

Local resident Jennifer Dickinson spoke in support of the County's efforts to combat illegal cannabis grows at various locations in the County, sharing concerns regarding the negative impacts associated with those grow operations.

South County resident Therese Swenson appeared before the Board and shared concerns regarding potential issues for Mt. Shasta residents to evacuate should a wildfire or other emergency happen, due to outdoor seating arrangements (in the roadway) that local restaurants have set up.

County Administrator Angela Davis introduced recently appointed Public Works Director Thomas Deany. Members of the Board welcomed Mr. Deany to the County.

Consent Agenda – Approved.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Haupt and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Criss, Kobseff, Ogren and Haupt voting YES and Supervisor Valenzuela ABSENT, that the following consent agenda is approved, and the Chair and/or clerk authorized to execute/record any necessary documents:

Agriculture

Approve Modification to participating agreement 17-PA-11050500-016, between US Forest Service and Siskiyou County Department of Agriculture for noxious weed control work, adding funds in the amount of \$10,000 bringing the total contract amount to \$57,000. Authorize the CAO to execute the agreement.

County Administration

That the County Administrator, or her designee, is authorized to execute the Sales Agreement with Mr. Andrew Stallions, and (2) complete any other applications, escrow instructions or other agreements necessary to complete the contemplated transaction.

County Administration - Personnel

Adopt Resolution 21-98 amending the Siskiyou County salary schedule to add Nutrition Support Assistant – effective December 27, 2020, add Nutrition Support Assistant May 2, 2021, add Attorney I – Confidential – effective July 11, 2021, and add Attorney II – Confidential effective July 11, 2021, delete Director of Public Works effective July 11, 2021 and change the title from Director of Public Works (Non-Contract) to Director of Public Works effective July 11, 2021.

Health and Human Services - Behavioral Health Division

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Contract for Services between Siskiyou County Health & Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Division, and Steven Star, PA.

Natural Resources

Approve staff to draft the letter to the State Water Resources Control Board for Board Chair signature.

Probation

Approve contract with Shasta County for juvenile placement at \$115 per day, not to exceed \$170,000 through June 30, 2022.

Probation

Approve Fifth Contract Addendum with J. Reid McKellar, Ph.D. to provide psychological evaluations for minors for the term of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Continued...

Public Requests - Cleland Consulting, LLC / Supervisor Brandon Criss - Discussion and possible direction re presentation concerning the Rural Recreation and Tourism Program grant funding opportunities, including request to utilize Siskiyou County as the submitting agency to apply for grant funding. No action was taken with regard to this item.

Supervisor Criss provided a brief overview of the request, advising of a possible funding opportunity that the Board may wish to pursue.

Cleland Consulting, LLC representative Anna Cleland provided an overview regarding grant opportunities available through the Rural Recreation and Tourism Program, advising that a city or county was necessary to apply for grant funding (as a submitting agency). Ms. Cleland distributed a packet of information and presented a powerpoint summarizing eligible rural county projects that the grant funding could be utilized. Ms. Cleland further provided an overview of a potential project to create a year-round recreational complex near the community of Tennant. Ms. Cleland introduced Raymond Strack and Dick Cowardin to answer questions regarding the possible grant and recreational project.

Discussion followed between members of the Board and Ms. Cleland regarding the Proposition 68 grant application timelines and selection criteria, the anticipated engagement of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), partnership with the Klamath National Forest (KNF) and Ms. Cleland's offer to do the grant writing for no charge.

Mr. Strack spoke in support of the proposed recreation project in the Alder Creek Divide (near Tennant, CA), advising that the project was feasible and in need of a feasibility study.

Further discussion followed, including Mr. Cowardin, regarding efforts made in the early 1990s to develop a ski park in the area, including the feasibility study that was completed at the time, the need to determine impacts to other ski parks in the vicinity, the anticipated processes related to grant administration and the anticipated process, once a grant is secured, to move forward to attract investors to complete the ski park project.

Mr. Cowardin spoke in support of the proposed project, advising that an environmental study done in the 1990s identified the Alder Creek Divide as a potential area to develop a winter/ski recreation area.

Discussion followed regarding the proposed year-round recreation project, the project location on public lands, concerns regarding the entity that would perform the feasibility study, the anticipated responsibility/liability that the County would undertake as the grant partner and the need to receive input from the Siskiyou Economic Development Council.

Pursuant to California Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-08-21, June 11, 2021, participation in this agenda item by various members of the public was provided via teleconference phone.

Siskiyou Economic Development Council (EDC) Executive Director Tonya Dowse advised that she would meet and discuss the proposed project with Ms. Cleland.

Supervisor Kobseff shared concerns regarding the need for additional research into the project and grant funding opportunity.

In response to Chair Haupt, County Administrator Angela Davis briefly summarized the anticipated process, should the Board approve, for the County to participate in the grant application to support a feasibility study for the proposed project, including the anticipated County staff time to provide support and oversight.

Supervisor Haupt shared concerns regarding the proposal to partner with the Forest Service, the potential for environmental opposition, potential issues/setbacks related to the NEPA process, possible negative impacts to timber production and the roads in the area, and various endangered/threatened species in the area.

Continued...

Public Requests - Cleland Consulting, LLC / Supervisor Brandon Criss – (continued)

Further discussion followed regarding the possible staff time necessary to administer a grant award, should one be awarded, possible direction to staff to define the County's and partners' roles and potential liabilities with regard to the proposal and the County's limited staffing levels.

Chair Haupt suggested that the group work with County Administration with regard to the project's future.

Natural Resources - Update on the progress of developing a groundwater sustainability plan for the Tulelake Groundwater Basin. Presentation and discussion only.

Natural Resource Policy Specialist Matt Parker provided an overview of the request, advising that the Tulelake Irrigation District, Siskiyou and Modoc counties and the City of Tulelake make up the Tulelake Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). Mr. Parker introduced MBK Engineers representative Angela Bezzone who was participating via ZOOM teleconference to present a powerpoint presentation.

Pursuant to California Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-08-21, June 11, 2021, participation in this agenda item by various members of the public was provided via teleconference phone.

Ms. Bezzone presented the powerpoint, including the location/boundaries of the Tulelake Subbasin, the timeline associated with the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development process and a summary of the various sections contained in the GSP. In addition, Ms. Bezzone provided an overview of the anticipated public release and adoption timeline and summarized the hydro-geologic conceptual model and the process for measuring representative wells to establish sustainability criteria.

Discussion followed between members of the Board and Ms. Bezzone regarding the water budget development process, water budget models, the anticipated process to factor in the impacts associated with the current drought and domestic wells going dry in the GSP process, future plans to reevaluate water plans over time, the impact of surface water on groundwater recharge and the need to consider historical water management in the Klamath Basin.

Board of Supervisors' Requests - Board of Supervisors - Review status of local emergency related to drought as declared by Resolution 21-48, adopted on April 6, 2021; action to extend or terminate local emergency. Local emergency extended.

It was moved by Supervisor Criss and seconded by Supervisor Kobseff to extend the local emergency related to drought as declared by Resolution 21-48.

In response to Supervisor Haupt, County Administrator Angela Davis advised that Tulelake had not reach the threshold in order to proclaim a drought emergency at this time.

Following discussion regarding the Tulelake Irrigation District's data collection with regard to drought statistics, the impact of the drought on the wildlife refuge and the need to discuss a drought declaration for Tulelake at a future Board meeting, the Chair called for the question. Following a roll call vote with Supervisors Criss, Kobseff, Ogren and Haupt voting YES and Supervisor Valenzuela ABSENT, the motion to extend the local emergency carried.

Board of Supervisors' Requests - Board of Supervisors - Review status of local emergency related to the threat of catastrophic wildfire as declared by Resolution 21-77, adopted on June 1, 2021; action to extend or terminate local emergency. Local emergency extended.

It was moved by Supervisor Haupt, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Criss, Kobseff, Ogren and Haupt voting YES and Supervisor Valenzuela ABSENT, to extend the local emergency related to the threat of catastrophic wildfire as declared by Resolution 21-77.

Appointments - County Clerk - Appointment of one member to the unscheduled vacancy on the Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District, for a term ending November 26, 2022. Continued to a later date.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham provided an overview of the request, advising that the Clerk's Office had not received any letters of interest in serving on the District Board. Continued...

Appointments – County Clerk - (continued)

Chair Haupt advised that the item was continued to a later date.

Public Hearings - General Services / County Counsel - Continued public hearing for first reading of an ordinance granting an electric utility franchise to Pacificorp with regard to electrical distribution and transmission lines and related appurtenances for a 15-year term. Public hearing for the first reading continued to August 3, 2021 at staff’s request.

This was the time set for a continued public hearing Haupt open hearing for first reading of an ordinance granting an electric utility franchise to Pacificorp with regard to electrical distribution and transmission lines and related appurtenances for a 15-year term, having been continued from June 15, 2021.

It was moved by Supervisor Haupt, seconded by Ogren and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Criss, Kobseff, Ogren and Haupt voting YES and Supervisor Valenzuela ABSENT, to continue the public hearing for the first reading of the ordinance to August 3, 2021 at staff’s request.

Board and Staff Reports

Supervisor Haupt shared concerns that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife was putting pressure on Scott Valley irrigators to provide additional water flows in the Scott River. Supervisor Haupt advised of the need for the Department to make efforts toward repairing/maintaining tributaries and fish spawning grounds to benefit fish flows.

Supervisor Kobseff reported on meeting with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, advising that the Department was in support of applying for Proposition 1 monies to maintain upper mountain lakes to benefit fish flows.

Supervisor Ogren advised that she had been attending various meetings, including local Firesafe Council meetings.

Supervisor Criss reported on the impacts of Mud Creek on a subdivision near the community of McCloud, advised of his attendance/participation in a call for the State Water Board meeting and the Shasta and Scott Rivers, advised that the Montague Resilience Plan would be presented to the Board of Supervisors at a future meeting and reported on discussions with the County Fire Warden with regard to combining fire departments.

Closed Session - Conference with legal counsel, existing litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(a), three cases, conference with legal counsel, anticipated litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9, initiation of litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(4), one case, Personnel pursuant to Government Code §54957, commenced at 12:15p.m., concluded at 2:28p.m., with no action taken.

Report On Closed Session

County Counsel Edward J. Kiernan announced that closed session concluded at 2:28p.m., with no reportable action taken.

Adjournment - There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:
Laura Bynum, County Clerk

Ray A. Haupt, Chair

By: _____
Deputy