



SISKIYOU LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

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Siskiyou County Local Agency Formation Commission Regular Meeting March 14, 2023

The Siskiyou County Local Agency Formation Commission meeting of March 14, 2023, was called to order by Vice Chair Bryan at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Chambers, 311 Fourth Street, Yreka, California.

Present: Commissioners Harkness, Baker, Ogren, Valenzuela, and Bryan

Absent:

Also Present: Hailey Lang, Executive Officer; Rachel Jereb, Deputy Executive Officer; Richard J. Dean, Director, Community Development Department; Janine Rowe, Commission Clerk

Oath of Office for New Commissioners: The Commission Clerk administered the Oath of Office for new Commissioners Colleen Baker and Mark Mazzoni.

Election of Officers:

Chair: It was moved by Commissioner Valenzuela, seconded by Commissioner Ogren to appoint Commissioner Bryan as Chair for 2023.

Voted upon and the Chair declared them motion carried unanimously by those Commissioners present.

Vice Chair: It was moved by Commissioner Valenzuela, seconded by Commissioner Baker to appoint Commissioner Ogren as Vice Chair for 2023.

Voted upon and the Chair declared the motion carried unanimously by those Commissioners present.

Minutes: It was moved by Commissioner Valenzuela, seconded by Commissioner Ogren, to approve the Minutes from the October 11, 2022, LAFCO meeting as presented.

Voted upon and the Vice Chair declared the motion carried unanimously by the following roll call vote by those Commissioners present:

Ayes: Commissioners Harkness, Ogren, and Valenzuela

Noes:

Absent:

MARCH 14, 2023

Abstain: Commissioners Bryan and Baker

Unscheduled Appearances: None

Conflict of Interest Declaration: None

Presentation of Documents: None

Changes to Agenda: None

Old Business:

Agenda Item 1: Appointment of Alternate Member-at-Large Commissioner (Potential Action)

Staff Report:

Ms. Lang reminded the Commission that at the last meeting in October, there was a split 2-2 vote on the appointment of Ms. Angelina Cook. Staff brought it back today for another vote.

Commission Questions / Discussion: None

Motion: Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Valenzuela, seconded by Commissioner Bryan, to approve the appointment of Angelina Cook as the Alternate Member-at-Large Commissioner.

Before the Motion was voted on, Ms. Cook arrived at the meeting. She thanked the Commission for considering her application and said she was happy to answer any questions.

Voted upon and the Chair declared the motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Harkness, Baker, Valenzuela, and Bryan

Noes: Commissioner Ogren

Absent:

Abstain:

New Business:

Agenda Item 1: Consider Change to Start Time of Regular Meetings

Commission Questions / Discussion: There were no objections by the Commission to change the start time of regular meetings to 9:00 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month.

Agenda Item 1: Presentation for New Commissioners

Staff Report:

Ms. Lang provided a PowerPoint presentation that covered the reason LAFCo was created, its purposes, and legislative history. The presentation also covered the commissioners' roles, the composition of LAFCo (two county supervisors, two city council members, and one public

MARCH 14, 2023

member, as well as an alternate for each category), and the types of decisions made by the Commission. Ms. Lang said the local agencies regulated by LAFCo are counties, cities, and most special districts.

Additional topics covered were the primary function of LAFCo, LAFCo's legal role, funding, staff, and current challenges.

Commission Questions / Discussion:

Chair Bryan asked what Siskiyou LAFCo has done in the last few years. Ms. Jereb said most work is done at the staff level which are out-of-area service agreements. She said municipal service reviews of all the cities and special districts are supposed to be conducted every five years, but they are behind on the special districts. Currently staff is working with a contractor on the MSR/SOI update for the county fire districts and departments, and Ms. Jereb said she would give an update during Staff Comments.

Items for Discussion/Direction: None

Miscellaneous:

- 1. Future Meetings:** The next regular meeting of Siskiyou LAFCO is scheduled for Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.
- 2. Correspondence: None**
- 3. Staff Comments:**

Ms. Jereb provided an update on the Fire Protection Districts' Municipal Service Review/Sphere of Influence update. She said the contractors working on the project have had a difficult time getting responses from the fire districts, but after a lot pushing for responses the contractor was able to get in touch with everyone to schedule meetings. Ms. Jereb said Jason Vela, Chief of the Montague Fire Department, has been instrumental in contacting the other local fire chiefs and explaining to them how important the process is.

Ms. Jereb also said that she is in an email thread for local LAFCos and one of the commissioners is going to a meeting with the statewide fire protection districts organization and asked for input on what other LAFCos are doing locally through the state to change the districts. Ms. Jereb said the general trend is going towards consolidation and reduction of all the little fire districts. A big part of that is because a little district is required to have all the same requirements as those of the big districts, and it's taking a huge amount of their budget to meet these requirements. Most of the little districts aren't meeting their requirements because they can't afford to, so by consolidating they are able to reduce costs spent on administrative fees and spend more towards equipment and training that would help their areas. Ms. Jereb said she asked the contractor working on the Fire Protection Districts' MSR/SOI to look at the possibility of consolidation.

MARCH 14, 2023

Commissioner Valenzuela said when he was on the Mount Shasta City Council in 2006, they were talking about consolidation back then. He said it was unfortunate that the fire departments aren't responding to a simple phone call. He said it won't be long until we're back into fire season, and it's to their benefit to consolidate.

Chair Bryan said he thought an important aspect in encouraging them to consolidate would be finding homes for the volunteer fire departments which is a good institution.

Commissioner Valenzuela said it has been difficult to find people to volunteer to be on the board as well as in the fire department.

Mr. Dean said the Community Development Department has been in discussions with Sousa Ready Mix near Mount Shasta and there has been some conversation of potentially annexing the Crystal Geyser orchard area. Sousa Ready Mix is in the jurisdiction of the city of Mount Shasta and they have acquired 160 acres that they want to incorporate into their mining operation. One possibility would be to annex it into the city of Mount Shasta and they would have jurisdiction. Mr. Dean said there is currently a split jurisdiction for SMARA regulations, and he said CDD staff would be meeting with Sousa Ready Mix to discuss a path forward.

- 4. Commission Comments:** Commissioner Ogren said there is a good possibility that she won't be attending the April 11, 2023, LAFCo meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was concluded at approximately 9:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on File

Hailey Lang, Secretary

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