

THE MARIN WILDFIRE PREVENTION AUTHORITY
CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
5:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 24, 2021
Via teleconference due to Coronavirus (COVID-19)
MINUTES

1. Call to Order- Chair Minikes called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Committee members – In Attendance: Kingston Cole, Larry Minikes, Stephen Keese, Lucy Dilworth, Rebecca Suggs, Pat Randolph, Larry Chu, Max Perrey, Carolyn Longstreth
Staff in Attendance: Executive Officer Mark Brown

3. Agenda Adjustments

Committee member Keese noted a typographical error on the agenda under the Open Time for Expression item.

4. Open Time for public expression

There were no comments.

5. Executive Officer's Report

Executive Officer Brown presented a report that included the following: 1) Board of Directors meeting included refining draft Vision and Mission Statements, discussion about Values, Goals, and Objectives; 2) Request for Proposals (RFP) for environmental consulting firm; 3) Recruitment for Planning and Program Manager is closed; 4) Utilization of Grizzly Corps fellow for wildfire resiliency work; 5) Finance Committee meeting included development of budget framework; 6) Operations (OPS) Committee formed Ad Hoc Finance Subcommittee; 7) Advisory/Technical Committee plan of attack for the 2021/2022 Work Plan.

Committee member Cole had a question about the projected surplus and whether or not to apply an escalator.

Committee member Dilworth had a question about what the Grizzly Corp fellow would be doing. Executive Officer Brown discussed the three tasks.

Committee member Chu had questions about the Reserve Account, cash flow, and the need to have projects implemented as soon as possible. Executive Officer Brown stated they have adequate liquidity to move forward. Committee member Chu asked if the authority is allowed to take out debt if necessary. Executive Officer Brown stated there was a debt limit of 10%.

6. Consent Calendar

a. Approve minutes from the January 26, 2021 Citizens' Oversight Committee meeting

Committee member Chu asked for more content in the minutes.

M/s, Keese/Cole, to approve the January 26, 2021 minutes as corrected.

Ayes: All

7. Create an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to inquire into ESP and other environmental groups dealing with the MWPA; develop findings and recommendations

Committee member Cole volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

Committee member Longstreth stated excluding a committee member who belongs to one of the environmental groups seems adversarial. Committee member Cole stated it would be a conflict of interest. The intent is not to be adversarial.

Committee member Rudolph agreed this could be a conflict of interest. Chair Minikes disagreed.

Committee member Perrey had a question about a possible Brown Act violation.

Committee member Longstreth stated they need to be more precise in defining what will be looked into. Committee member Cole stated the subcommittee would work that out.

Committee members Keese and Dilworth volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

M/s, Keese/Randolph, motion to create an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to inquire into ESP and other environmental groups dealing with the MWPA composed of Committee members Cole, Dilworth, and Keese.

Ayes: All

8. Monitoring Assignments for Partner Agencies and Entities

Executive Officer Brown stated this was the time for committee members to report out on committees being monitored.

Committee member Longstreth stated she attended the Board meeting and they discussed how Marin Map might be useful to the MWPA. There is a Story Map posted on the MWPA Website under "programs". The Board also discussed issues with the CEQA attorney regarding exemptions.

9. Discuss Change of Day and Time of Citizens' Oversight Committee Meetings

Chair Minikes stated the suggestion is to change the meeting day to a Wednesday.

Committee member Rudolph stated she did not object to a Wednesday but noted it could remain a Tuesday but not the last Tuesday of the month.

Committee member Perrey stated the fourth Wednesday seems to work best for everybody. Chair Minikes agreed.

Committee member Longstreth stated she would like the meeting to start at 7:00 p.m.

M/s, Perrey/Keese, to move the Citizens' Advisory Committee (COC) meetings to the fourth Wednesday of the month starting at 5:30 p.m. and to bring this item back for review in June.
Ayes: All

10. Proposed Citizens' Oversight Committee Bylaws

Executive Officer Brown presented a staff report. He discussed his desire to have a proactive COC. He supports the monitoring assignments but is not in favor of non-voting membership. He discussed accountability, lines of communication, process, making mistakes, and brainstorming. The insertion point for the COC is at the Board level.

Committee member Perrey stated the recommendation is for a final vote at the next meeting. He discussed Article 4, #5, and the two alternatives. The key change is removing the "voice but not voting" phrase. There are other minor changes.

Committee members discussed his or her preference with respect to the use of the word "monitor" as opposed to "attend".

Committee member Perrey noted there were six member in favor of the word "monitor" and three in favor of the word "attend".

Committee member Dilworth moved on to the rest of the document and discussed some reordering, minor alterations in some of the language, and possible deletions.

Chair Minikes had a question about the rotation of COC members. Committee member Perrey stated the subcommittee would come up with two alternatives for future discussion.

Committee member Longstreth had comments about Article 4, Section 5, "Partnership Entities", Article 5, and Article 7. Committee member Perrey responded.

Committee member Perrey stated a final proposal will be brought back at the next meeting for a final vote.

11. Informational Items

There were no items.

12. Board Members Request Future Agenda Items

Committee member Rudolph stated the reports from the monitored committees should be a standard part of every agenda. Executive Officer Brown stated these would be verbal reports for the time being.

13. Adjourn- Chair Minikes adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni DeFrancis,
Recording Secretary