

THE MARIN WILDFIRE PREVENTION AUTHORITY  
CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING  
5:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 13, 2021  
Special Bylaws Meeting  
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

There were no adjustments.

4. Open Time for public expression

Mr. Bruce Bartel thanked the COC for making their meetings available for public viewing. He sent some information to Executive Officer Brown for distribution to the COC.

5. Proposed Citizens' Oversight Committee Bylaws Review

Committee member Perrey presented a report. The subcommittee met and reviewed all correspondences. He discussed Articles 1 through 3.

The COC had questions about Articles 1 through 3.

Chair Minikes opened the meeting to public comments.

Mr. Bruce Bartel stated the Section related to Purpose of the Organization got diverted to the Responsibilities of the Members. These two need to be congruous. The previous language was fine but two items need to be reversed (change the order of #2 and #3). The purpose of the COC is to oversee the work of the MWPA. Some expansion might be in order. He referred to the Term of Office Section and felt the initial terms were very long. It appears that an individual could be on the COC for seven and one-half years.

Mr. Ron Arlas, former Mayor of Larkspur, proposed that they modify the sentence in the Purpose Section as follows: "Oversee the work of the MWPA as further explained in, but not limited to, Responsibilities stated in Article 4, below". This places the emphasis on the oversight for all the citizens of Marin County which is critical for the MWPA. He stated there was a ten year timeframe for the JPA and an individual should not serve for seven plus years.

The initial terms could be reduced by six months. He supported greater turnover since it allows for better advocacy for the JPA.

Executive Officer Brown stated he received an email from Mr. Bartel asking if timelines for public comments and responses from the governing body apply only to items that are not on the agenda. He stated committee feedback to questions from a member of the public should be limited- a back and forth dialogue is not encouraged and there is no obligation for an answer.

Mr. Bruce Bartel stated this section emphasizes that the COC has access to subcommittee meetings that are not being recorded or available for public inspection. This is essential.

Chair Minikes closed the meeting to public comments.

The COC made comments about Articles 1 through 3.

Chair Minikes stated the meeting has come to the two hour mark and he suggested the subcommittee review the comments made today. The COC will review Articles 4 through 10 at the next meeting.

M/s, Chu/Cole, to continue this item to the next COC Meeting.  
Ayes: All

#### 6. Informational Items

Executive Officer Brown stated the next MWPA Board meeting is scheduled for January 21<sup>st</sup>, which will include the Board Retreat.

Chair Minikes stated the Biomass Group, Carbon Resource Group, and MCL Parks and Open Space will be meeting tomorrow. Ecologically Sound Practices (ESP) will hold a Vegetation Management meeting on Friday.

#### 7. Citizens' Oversight Committee Member Request Future Agenda Items

Committee member Dilworth stated she would like to start working on Policies, Procedures, and a Code of Conduct.

#### 8. Adjourn- Chair Minikes adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni DeFrancis,  
Recording Secretary