

Sonoma County Coast Municipal Advisory Council Minutes

November 20, 2019

5:30-8:00pm

McCaughey Hall

17240 Bodega Highway, Bodega Ca

Meeting called to order by Chair Che Casul at 5:30pm

**Roll Call**

Present: Che Casul, Cal Ares, Cathy Beck, Marti Campbell, Scott Farmer, Abreanna Gomes, Wanda Swenson, Brooks Rooney, Paul Plakos

Absent: Dibby Tyler

**Approval of Minutes from September 18, 2019**

Corrections to minutes-none

Motion to approve meeting minutes of September 18th made by Paul Plakos. The motion was seconded by Marti Campbell. Minutes approved 9-0-0.

**Conflict of Interest Statement-** none

**Correspondence-** Letter from Toni L. Beal regarding bus situation reviewed by the board. Board will wait to hear next steps.

**Consent Calendar-**

**Informational Items/Presentations:**

Highlights of the town of Bodega presented by Che Casul-

The town of Bodega was known historically as Bodega Corners or Bodega Roads, to distinguish it from the Port of Bodega or Bodega Bay, as it is known today, which is about four miles from Bodega. Bodega and Bodega Bay are named for discoverer of the bay, Juan Francisco Bodega y Caudra, who first sailed into the harbor in 1775.<sup>[4]</sup>

The Watson School, once served as Bodega's school, and is located in a Sonoma County Regional Parks Department historic park about 2 miles east of Bodega which was the longest operating school. St. Theresa Avilla church opened in 1859 and is open today made famous by an Ansel Adams photo.

In 1963, much of Bodega was used for filming in Alfred Hitchcock's film, *The Birds*,<sup>[10]</sup> Bodega's Potter School, now a private residence, was used as the Bodega Bay School in the movie; and Bodega's general store also appeared "as itself". Also, the

town of Bodega was filmed in a movie called Phenomenon. Bodega has the only active commune in California called the Bodega Pastures.

220 people live in Bodega at last census. Please come and enjoy the services here in Bodega and support our town.

## **Kincade Fire Debrief**

### California Highway Patrol Quentin Shawk-

- Evacuation went relatively smoothly
- Patrolled empty neighborhoods with no real looting
- Very pleased with response
- Repopulation went smoothly
- Only four officers in this area so resources are limited
- Will need generator for office area
- Worked very collaboratively with Sheriffs

Community Comment:

Difficult to tell which roads were open or closed so need to look at mechanism to alert folks in coastal areas where traffic should be directed. People had difficulty in knowing how to get from point A to B.

Board Comment:

Cal Ares- Communication is a major stressor with no phones, no cell. There is a real need to develop hot spots

### Cal Fire Chief Marshall Tuberville-

- High fire severity becoming the norm
- Firestorms create house to house ignition
- You must be prepared at all times it is a shared responsibility
- It is all about neighbors helping neighbors
- Prevention and preparedness are going to be key going forward
- Power outages have been happening in Southern California since 2003. PG&E now being more proactive
- Land that has burned is less vulnerable. West County has a lot fuel build up

Community comment: none

Board Comment:

Che Casul -asked Marshall to comment on what would have happened if fire had jumped 101. Marshall responded that there would have been no way to stop the fire. A

lot of fuel in west county from years of no fires. If you stay put you put firefighters in danger as they have to rescue you instead of fighting fire.

Che also questioned the use of grazing for large areas. Marshall responded that Stephanie Larson has just received a grant to study large land owners and grazing.

Cal Ares- commented on the reduction of moisture content in fuel. Marshall responded that the last big fires were in 1964 and 1965. Armstrong Valley burned in 1965 The Last fire in west county was in 1978. He could not make any comments on climate change

Wanda Swenson- commented that people stayed east of 101. Marshall replied yes.

Scott Farmer- Commented on the wonderful job all agencies did during the fire. He also commented that the Government should be looking at more prescribed burning but as of yet no plan.

Justin Fox, Steve Herzberg- Asst. Chief and Operations Chief of Bodega Bay Fire

- The community was well protected during fire. Additional staff were brought in
- Call volume quadrupled- welfare calls
- Both talked of the seriousness of evacuation and that this event was planned well
- Encouraged everyone to watch the movie "Paradise"
- They agreed with Marshall that the fuel load has less moisture on the coast
- Over 100 CERT volunteers
- Working on a better plan for HAM radio operators
- Never think of riding a firestorm out at the beach. Flying embers can burn
- The Fire Department keeps track of home bound people or those that have electricity needs but neighbors helping neighbors are going to be key

Community Comment:

Visitors Center if notified can help with calling vacation rentals. Also developing a flyer to put in all vacation rentals. They can help spread the word.

A community member commented that she had T-Mobile and it worked through the entire crisis.

Board Comment:

Wanda Sorenson- Asked what the stance is on marking a home once evacuated. The fire service would like a home open and the Sheriffs would like it locked due to looting so there is no consensus yet.

Kathy Beck-reports on fact that water can last for two days but sewage will be problematic

Sonoma Coast Fire Protection District- Asst Chief Chris Aitcheson, Paul Plakos Engineer and Frank Bell-

- There was an influx of population as evacuees traveled south and north to Gualala
- Sea Ranch has to plan on how to manage increased population
- Looking at how to keep restaurants and gas stations open
- Sent two engines to the fire itself
- Sea Ranch had internet and cell service
- Cazadero had more problems as time went on as phones failed and cell started to fail
- They see the need for an entity to take over the non-fire related issues

Community comment:

None

Board Comment:

Marti Campbell- Acknowledge all the hard work of Frank Bell as he really became the central communicator and he did an excellent job. It would be nice to have one call now for calling community. Sam will address in his section. Also, the hi-lo noise for evacuation.

Sam Wallis, Director of Emergency Management-

Sam covered public info, alert and warning, Evacuation and Care and Shelter for evacuees

- The Sherriff decides on Evacuation in coordination with CHP and Cal Fire
- The EOC designates the shelters for evacuees
- Communication errors can happen as the EOC tries to get information out quickly before all systems go down
- The Sheriffs are working on dividing the county into manageable blocks and the will be special plans for each block
- Fire Chiefs can call EOC for updated information
- Multiple redundant systems for notification are needed as each one is only about 30% effective. That is why you get so many notifications.
- SOCO will automatically call landlines
- WEAS-Wireless Emergency Alert System will notify cell phones if not down. It only has a 90-character communication tool
- NOAH Weather will also put out alerts and will start to be used more and more but it only has one tower here
- Hi-LO is the system of notification now. Sirens are very expensive and also annual upkeep. An 800k grant will buy 20 sirens to be placed in key areas. This is not a final solution though as more sirens would be needed
- Neighbors are a vital link to keep each other informed and watch for neighbors who are immobile

- Pulse Point App works only on the internet- was initially used to identify CPR and BLS skilled providers and location of AED devices
- Vacation rental people can be notified through WEAS but only 30% effective
- There is work to identify a secure network for all public safety personnel to use in the event of a disaster
- Call volume went from 300-400 per day to 1500 working with Cal Fire to educate people to use 211 and not jam emergency numbers for welfare calls
- The issue with 5G technology is that the bandwidth is narrower so more batteries will be required to keep it going

Community Comment: none

Board Comment:

Che Casul commented on the planning needed for HAM radio operators so that they can identify locations and direct calls appropriately

**Regular Calendar Items-**

Agenda items for next meeting to be held in Timber Cove January 2021

Cannabis phase 2

LCP- discussion regarding whether or not LCP should be included in next agenda as it takes up a large amount of time. Scott Farmer and Marti Campbell to meet and give recommendations for alternatives to Chair Che Casul

**Proclamations-** none

**Board Reports-**

Scott Farmer gave the following TIF report:

See attachment

**Council Reports-**

Che Casul- Meeting cancelled due to Fire

Brooks Ronney- The community is looking to the MAC for guidance on the LCP. Brooks suggested an AdHoc be formed to review. The board unanimously agreed and members will be Che Casul, Brooks Rooney, Marti Campbell, Cal Ares. Leo to work with group to set up meeting

Cal Ares- met with Calvin Sandine and discussed other ways to bring broadband to the coast

**Public Comments-** none

**Adjournment:** Che Casul made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:06pm. The motion was seconded by Cathy Beck. The motion carried 9-0-0.