



Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council
Regular Meeting

April 13, 2023 05:30 PM

Fife Creek Commons Community Center, 16376 5th St, Guerneville, CA 95446. Meeting will also be live streamed at:

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/94505721704?pwd=WHkxU0RsbG5ZZjNRWGI2aVRGUTZJZz09>
<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/administrative-support-and-fiscal-services/board-of-supervisors/board-s-commissions-committees-and-task-forces/list-of-boards-commissions-committees-and-task-forces/lower-russian-river-municipal-advisory>

Chair - Rio Nido Representative Pip Marquez de la Plata • Vice Chair - Forestville Representative Lisa Nahmanson • Guerneville Representative Joe Rogoff • Guerneville Representative Nic Pereira • Pocket Canyon & Greater So Guerneville Representative Betsy Van Dyke • Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative Cynthia Strecker • Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative Mike Nicholls • Hacienda Representative Vicki Clewes • Forestville Representative Vesta Copestakes • Monte Rio / Villa Grande Alternate Patty Thayer

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

The Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council will make reasonable accommodations for persons having special needs due to disabilities. Please contact the Fifth District Field Representative at 707-565-2866 during regular business hours at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to ensure necessary accommodations are made.

1. Call to Order

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Roll Call

2. Approval of Agenda, Chair Pip Marquez de la Plata

- Discussion
- Possible Action

3. Statement of Conflict of Interest

- Discussion

This is the time for the Chair, Vice Chair and Council Members to indicate any statements of conflict of interest for any item listed on this agenda.

4. Correspondence

- Discussion
- Possible Action

5. Consent Agenda

- Discussion
- Possible Action

These items are expected to be routine and non-controversial. The LRRMAC will act upon them at one time without discussion. Any Representatives, staff member or interested party may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda for discussion.

- A. March 22, 2023 Minutes

6. Council Member Comment: on Matters not listed on the agenda

- Discussion

Comments are restricted to matters within the Board's jurisdiction. Please be brief and limit spoken comments to one minute.

7. Public Comments

Discussion

On Matters not listed on the agenda: Comments are restricted to matters within the Board's jurisdiction. Please be brief and limit spoken comments to two minutes.

8. Supervisor Lynda Hopkins

Discussion

9. Resource Guide for Municipal Issues: Who to Call for Assistance

Discussion

Staff presentation regarding the development of a comprehensive resource guide that outlines who to call for assistance with various municipal issues.

10. Committee and Staff Reports

Discussion Possible Action

- A. Possible formation of Ad Hoc Committee to work on the development of a River MAC Land Acknowledgment which would return to the full council for discussion and possible adoption.
- B. Possible formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to research and advise on the renaming of the "Pocket Canyon" River MAC district to more accurately portray the region represented.
- C. Community Clean Up Ad Hoc, Report from Chair Lisa Nahmanson
- D. Communications Ad Hoc, Report from Chair Joe Rogoff
- E. Staff report from Elise Weiland, including updates on Russian River Confluence and Governance Study

11. Consideration of Resolution in Appreciation of Sonoma County Public Infrastructure

Discussion Possible Action

12. Future Agenda Items

Discussion

Presentation from the Independent Office of Law Enforcement Review and Outreach (IOLERO)

13. Adjournment



Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council
Minutes
Regular Meeting

March 22, 2023 05:30 PM

El Molino Library, 7050 Covey Road Forestville, CA 95436

<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/administrative-support-and-fiscal-services/board-of-supervisors/board-commissions-committees-and-task-forces/list-of-boards-commissions-committees-and-task-forces/lower-russian-river-municipal-advisory>

Chair - Rio Nido Representative Pip Marquez de la Plata • Vice Chair - Forestville Representative Lisa Nahmanson • Guerneville Representative Joe Rogoff • Guerneville Representative Nic Pereira • Pocket Canyon & Greater So Guerneville Representative Betsy Van Dyke • Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative Cynthia Strecker • Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative Mike Nicholls • Hacienda Representative Vicki Clewes • Forestville Representative Vesta Copestakes • Monte Rio / Villa Grande Alternate Patty Thayer • Forestville Alternate Lucy Hardcastle

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Chair - Rio Nido Representative Pip Marquez de la Plata.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Lead by Forestville Representative Vesta Copestakes

B. Roll Call

Present: Chair - Rio Nido Representative Pip Marquez de la Plata, Guerneville Representative Joe Rogoff, Guerneville Representative Nic Pereira, Pocket Canyon & Greater So Guerneville Representative Betsy Van Dyke, Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative Mike Nicholls, Hacienda Representative Vicki Clewes, Forestville Representative Vesta Copestakes, Monte Rio / Villa Grande Alternate Patty Thayer, Forestville Alternate Lucy Hardcastle

Absent: Vice Chair - Forestville Representative Lisa Nahmanson, Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative Cynthia Strecker

Staff Present:

Debbie Ramirez, Amy Cohen, Elise Weiland, Leo Chyi, Lynda Hopkins, Gary Helfrich, Bradley Dunn, Lauren Cartwright, Jennifer Larocque

2. **Approval of Agenda, Chair Pip Marquez de la Plata** Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative Mike Nicholls motioned to approve. A second was made by Hacienda Representative Vicki Clewes.

The motion passed with the following vote:

9 In Favor 0 Opposed
 Abstained Absent

3. **Statement of Conflict of Interest**

none

4. **Correspondence**

none

5. **Consent Agenda**

A. February 16, 2023 Minutes

Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative Mike Nicholls motioned to approve. A second was made by Hacienda Representative Vicki Clewes.

The motion passed with the following vote:

 9 In Favor 0 Opposed
 Abstained Absent

6. Council Member Comment: on Matters not listed on the agenda

Vesta Copestakes noted that Forestville is having a Town Hall on April 20th.

Nic Pereira proposed forming a subcommittee to follow progress being made surrounding the Sheriff substation project.

7. Public Comments

Public comment was made on the importance of public involvement in meetings, and calling for the need to use hybrid technology to increase accessibility.

Public comment was also made by residents of Flamingo Hill expressing concern over an illegal encampment near the area that posed environmental concerns and the poor state of the roads in that area. Residents noted a frustration in feeling that the County is not following through and stated a need for more transparent communication.

Public comment was also made more broadly on the poor state of roads and walkways in the County and the need to address drainage to fix this issue.

8. Supervisor Lynda Hopkins

Supervisor Hopkins noted that the current housing element proposal was not a done deal, and that she had provided feedback and raised concerns to Permit Sonoma, which she offered to share with the MAC. She also noted that a copy of the roads plan was available at the meeting, but that the County is generally dealing with a major lack of funding in this area. Supervisor Hopkins also expressed support for seeing an ad hoc formed on the MAC surrounding the Sheriff Substation, highlighting the critical state it is in. She also noted that AB 2449 is the reason that MAC meetings are in person, and that the District is not yet set up for hybrid meetings, but is working on it, and encouraged legislative advocacy to improve the current legislation. Supervisor Hopkins also provided an update on emergency financial assistance following the January storms, and offered to go out and visit the homeless encampment on Flamingo Hill and see where communication with the County has fallen through. She also provided updates on initiatives the County is taking surrounding homelessness and encampments, as well as the unincorporated governance study.

Supervisor Hopkins answered questions from the MAC and the public, and discussed the possibility of bringing state legislatures to a joint MAC meeting to address funding concerns surrounding roads.

9. Vacation Rental Ordinance Update, Recap & Next Steps

Gary Helfrich gave a presentation, the slides to which are available online. Gary Helfrich and Bradley Dunn answered council and public questions.

They clarified that the zoning permit serves as a land use entitlement, but business permits are still needed to operate. There will be meetings in late July-August that will serve to get more input on caps and inclusion zones. Concerns were raised over the accessibility of the late July/August meeting due to the business of businesses during this timeframe. Bradley Dunn answered that they would be open to feedback on slowing the timeframe down or finding ways to increase the accessibility on the current timeline.

Public comment was made expressing concern over grandfathering in existing rentals due to already existing issues with some. Public comment was also made highlighting the importance of tourism to the Lower Russian River economy. Additional public comment was made on the importance of neighborhood character in this discussion, and on the importance of noise ordinances.

10. Rural Broadband Update

Slides for the presentation are available online with the meeting agenda and packet.

Mike Nicholls asked that local residents be consulted for input. He also asked how we could encourage cities and other county organizations to apply for funding for rural broadband. Presenters responded that

assistance will hopefully be given to help cities submit applications in the future.

Vesta Copestakes asked how public communication could be increased.

A comment was also made about the need for a long-term commitment and goal to provide this access to the entire County.

11. Committee and Staff Reports

A. Staff report from Elise Weiland, including updates on Roads and Governance Study

B. Community Clean Up Ad Hoc, Report from Chair Lisa Nahmanson

Vicki Clewes provided an update on the success of “dump days” the Committee had organized, and noted that they had created video documentation on how to host these events elsewhere. The committee’s current goal is to find ways to spread this model to other areas, and find community groups (that are 501 C3s) to engage with and partner on this. Vesta Copestakes also expressed interest in planning some smaller-scale cleanups. Public comment was made expressing support for this initiative and expressing interest in having smaller non-501 C3 organizations partner with 501 C3s in order to make participation more accessible for smaller groups.

C. Communications Ad Hoc, Report from Chair Joe Rogoff

Joe Rogoff gave an update on the Ad Hoc Committee’s goals. The primary goals are facilitating access to MAC meetings, increasing awareness of the MAC in Lower Russian River communities, developing more ways to encourage and facilitate community involvement, and developing systems and templates for all Lower Russian River MAC members to use in disseminating information from the county to residents and organizations. He highlighted existing initiatives that include the River Talk Radio Show, and the creation of a list of community organizations in the area to reach out to. They’re also planning to have MAC booths at the Farmer’s Markets in Guerneville and Forestville when they begin in June and tabling at community events. The committee will be providing the following proposals for consideration by the MAC at the next meeting: a MAC outreach month when all reps will dedicate time to engaging their community, additions to MAC roles and responsibilities to include information dispersal and gathering, and circulation of signup sheets for MAC reps and alternates to take shifts doing outreach at community events. A need for expedited solutions for hybrid meetings was also brought up in order to increase meeting accessibility. Facebook was noted to be a good place to stay up to date on information. Public comment was made on the importance of intentional outreach to homeowners who don’t live in the area.

12. Future Agenda Items

13. Adjournment

Mike Nicholls motioned to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Joe Rogoff. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

DRAFT Resource Sheet

SoCo Connect - <https://sonomacountyca.citysourced.com/> or download app

- **Code Enforcement**
 - Abandoned vehicle
 - Code compliance
- **Roadway**
 - Guard rail damage
 - Hazardous tree
 - Litter / roadside debris
 - Plugged culvert
 - Pothole
- Sign visibility
- Slide
- Vegetation overgrowth
- **Signs, Signals & Lights**
 - Sign down
 - Street light problem
 - Traffic signal not working properly

Illegal Encampments

(707) 565-1302

SolveHomelessness@sonoma-county.org

24/7 Vacation Rental Complaint Hotline

(707) 875-6619

- Last fall, Permit Sonoma launched a 24 hours a day, seven days a week hotline to improve service to those who report vacation rental ordinance violations.
- Restrictions on when noise can be made, prohibitions of amplified sound and fire pit size limits are some examples of regulation violations that can be reported with the new hotline.
- If the designated property manager does not resolve the issue within one hour or 30 minutes during quiet time (currently 10 p.m. to 7 a.m., but may be modified to 9 pm - 7 am with a business license program to be heard by the BOS in Spring 2023), a complaint may be submitted by calling the vacation rental hotline again.

When to call the Sheriff? When to call CHP?

Emergency 9-1-1

Dispatch (non-emergency) (707) 565-2121

Business Line (non-emergency) Patrol requests, general questions

River Substation (707) 996-9495

CHP Dispatch (accident reports, stolen vehicles) (707) 551-4100

CHP 24 hour info line 1-800-TELL-CHP

Animal Control (707) 565-7100

Report Scams to District Attorney's Office of Sonoma County

(707) 565-5317

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE PROPOSALS FOR APRIL 13 LRRMAC MEETING

Proposal 1 “We propose that this summer (June-August) be designated ‘LRRMAC Awareness Summer’. Each representative will devote time to reaching members of their community and introducing MAC to them. This can be done in any way the rep chooses, but some options are going door-to-door, appearances at events, holding informal drop-in meeting opportunities and/or organizing a town hall.”

Proposal 2: “The Communications Committee has committed to LRRMAC participation at the Guerneville and Forestville Farmers Markets, and is accumulating other community event opportunities. We propose circulating a sign-up sheet among LLMAC reps and alternates from the relevant and adjacent communities for staffing of those tables.”

Proposal 3: “To amend Section 2 of the ‘Purpose’ of the MAC, which currently states

1. Hold regular open and public meeting
2. Study and analyze the Advisory Topics
3. Keep the District Supervisor informed of any issues related to Advisory Topics within the community
4. Provide advisory recommendations on the Advisory Topics and annual reports to the Board
5. Copy with Sonoma County Municipal Advisory Council Policies and Procedures

to include a 6th point: “Conduct outreach in the community, as broadly as possible, to inform about the existence and role of the MAC, to invite input about all issues that affect the community, and to disseminate information about county issues, meetings and decisions.””



Certificate of Appreciation

For Winter Storm Response in West County, District 5
To First Responders and SoCo Public Infrastructure

The first three months of 2023 brought an unprecedented series of storms through Sonoma County for a prolonged period. Atmospheric rainfall events one on top of the other, hurricane force winds, and saturated soils resulted in hillside slides, entire culverts destroyed, road slip outs, and dangerous downed trees with power lines wrapped around them.

Through these storm conditions our first responders crews – fire, sheriff, PG&E crews, and SoCo Public Infrastructure (SoCo Pi, formerly known as TPW) - were out making sure our communities were safe. Through the rain and wind and dark of night, these heroic crews were out

- Removing power lines and making them safe
- Installing an entire bailey bridge over Salmon Creek during the storms within days to provide access to an entire community
- Removing downed trees, re-opening roads,
- Closing flooded roads – then rescuing motorists who went through and got stuck anyway
- Put up detours and shored up roads that have slip outs

While the first responders have been able to move forward, SoCo Pi is still inundated with major roads, culvert, and bridge repairs. Director Johannes Hoevertsz has been working around the clock with his team and Supervisor Hopkins to create innovative approaches with FEMA and related agencies to ensure permitting and funding for critical repairs. New problems continue to pop up as road slip outs and downed trees continue to occur due to saturated soils, leading just this week to the support failure at the Main Street bridge in Monte Rio and a new slip out on Fort Ross Road. Disaster fatigue is a real for crews and community as storm repairs continue to appear.

Within the first three months of the year, SoCo Pi has received over 2,000 road repair issues. To put this in context, this is more than they usually receive in a year. While the condition of our roads has long been a concern in West County and there is much to be done, this is the time to take a moment and acknowledge the hard work, grit, and dedication of these disaster crews. As repairs and work with agencies grind on throughout this year we, the Representatives of the Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council, wish to acknowledge the toll this series of winter storms take on these crews and express our appreciation.

Signed:

Pip Marquez de la Plata, Chair

Lisa Nahmanson, Vice Chair

Date

Date