

MARK WEST CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL  
Meeting Minutes, APRIL 13, 2022, 6:00 pm  
Zoom Meeting  
Video Available Send request to [MarkWestCAC@gmail.com](mailto:MarkWestCAC@gmail.com)

**A) Call to Order:** Chair Fies called to order, the regular meeting of Mark West Citizens Advisory Council at 6:00 pm.

1. Roll Call

Members present: Chair Karen Fies, Willie Lamberson, Heidi Would, Stephanie Bisordi

Members absent: Brad Sherwood

Others present: Aggie Maggio, Secretary, Mark West Citizens Advisory Council (MWCAC)

2. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Would, second by Lamberson, the minutes of the regular MWCAC meeting, March 9, 2022, were approved. The motion carried on a voice vote. (3-0-2) Council member Bisordi arrived after the minutes were approved due to inability to connect via Zoom.

**B) Presentations:** Action Items

Procedure: 1. Presentation 2. Questions by council members 3. Questions/comments from the public

1. Presentation – Cal Am Water, Drought, Rate Change - Nichole Baxter, External Affairs Manager  
Cal Am Water, Larkfield is served by wells and purchased ground water from Sonoma County Water Agency. It is treated for naturally occurring arsenic, iron and manganese, as well as chlorination for disinfection.

Rates

- As of March 4, 2022, previously mandated rate changes were implemented. Four tiers remain, however the amounts of each breakpoint changed:
  - On average, residential customers have a 10.26% decrease and commercial, 14.37%. (Almost \$10.00)
  - \$4 million in reconstruction costs after the fires has been recovered. It was spread out state wide.
  - Residential fire protection service rates are increasing.

Water Conservation

- Stage 2 in water conservation, requiring common sense water rules is in place. Larkfield is doing great (12.6% reduction in water use).
- See attached presentation for rules, watering schedule, water saving devices and ways Cal Am can help.

Answers to Q&A

- Will the seminar address below ground irrigation? Response: Both classes focus on drought resiliency. They are put on by experts. Nicole will look further and respond to those who email her.
- Cal Am is always seeking funding and always working on infrastructure. Nicole will look into specifics for this area and present again.
- Cal Am is looking at using smart meters. There will always be an option to opt out.
- Water between 8:00 pm and 10:00 am? Response Yes.
- Email: [Nichole.Baxter@AmWater.com](mailto:Nichole.Baxter@AmWater.com)

2. Conversation Continue-Blue Book: Neighborhood Improvement Funding Program (NIFP) - Chair Karen Fies

Notable Changes:

- The NIFP is funded with the Cal Am fees. Groups can ask for funding for projects in the Cal Am area.
- Change name to Mark West Area Municipal Advisory Council (per our last meeting)
- See attached edit notes for all proposed edits.

Note: All applications are reviewed, based on meeting the Fund criteria, not first come first served.

Council Member Lamberson proposed that after updating the Blue Book, the Council look at AT&T and Verizon, who also have franchise fees on their bills. It might be possible to go after those fees.

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Answers to Q&A

- Are prepayments possible? Response: Possible but not usual.
- The application states that they should be sent to Aggie Maggio, the secretary. Response: They should be sent to a Council address. Chair Fies will look into that.
- Is there a limit to how many times a group can put in an application within a year? Response: Not at this point. There has never been an issue so far.

On a motion by Lamberson, second by Would, the Council voted to approve the changes outlined in the edits to the Blue Book in the NIFP section, to be presented to the BOS. The motion carried on a voice vote. (4-0-1)

**C) Presentations of Referrals from Permit Sonoma: ACTION ITEM None**

Consideration of proposed projects will proceed as follows: 1. Presentation by project applicant 2. Questions by Councilmembers 3. Questions and comments from the public 4. Response by applicant, if required 5. Comments by Council members 6. Resolution, ACTION, if indicated.

**D) Council Member Announcements/Information/Discussions/Disclosures: Information only, unless stated**

1. Council Member Lamberson: The Mark West Chamber is hosting a  
Supervisor Gore and Andy Springer are on the ballot. It is to be held  
at the Mark West School on Lavell Rd. in the multi-purpose room, on Thursday, April 28, 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

2. Chair Fies shared information from Jen Mendoza, Field Representative, Representing Supervisor James Gore, 4th District, County of Sonoma:

- There is a General Plan workshop at the BOS meeting, Tuesday April 19, 8:30 am.
- Hawk light was scheduled to begin work two weeks ago. Still waiting on the materials.

3. Tom Schopflin Fields. Chair Fies walked the perimeter with Bert Whitaker, Sonoma County Parks.  
His Comments:

- A perimeter path around the field will happen. Not if, but when.
- The expiring use agreement should not have any bearing on the potential for a path.
- They are waiting for the last field to be developed.
- There should not be regulation issues.
- Timeline depends on a few things, including funding.
- It would cost a couple hundred thousand dollars.
- Bert is very open to community input.

Answers to Q&A

- How about easement restrictions? Response: No, he didn't think it would be a problem.
- Bob Cipolla: Agreed a path is good. His concern is for the park in the general plan as well. The uses of the park may need to be updated for the community, as it is now.

Note: The comments below (Numbers 4 and 5 in this section) came at the end of the meeting, prior to adjournment.

4. Lamberson:

- Need 1100+ feet of sidewalk on Wikiup Drive.
  - Counted cars (about 2000 per month) and pedestrians (about 50 to 75 per day).
  - Sent letter off to Johannes Hoevertsz, Transportation and Public Works, and Supervisor Gore, asking for a meeting on the site.
- He also wants to widen the bridge over Mark West Creek.
- About expanding the area of influence for the Council:
  - We are a census designated area.

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- It goes from Santa Rosa to Windsor, past Slusser Rd. up Calistoga Rd.
- Probably have to bring it down to Franz Valley Road.
- He has info on how many households.
- 4658 registered voters

5. Council Member Bisordi:

Mendoza mentioned the porta potties at our last meeting, that there were multiple complaints in Fulton regarding the day laborers on Fulton Road urinating, among other things, in public.

- Bisordi contacted three local companies. The lowest was \$1,900 for the year.
- Day laborers will have the option of using the day labor work center. It will be open sometime in May. They are hiring someone to be at that facility from 7:00 am-noon, Monday through Friday. She is not confident that they will use those facilities.
- Bisordi is working on getting some businesses to consider placing a porta potty on their locations. There was a concern about evening hours. They may be locked up at night.
- Bisordi is meeting with Homes for the Homeless next week about what they do in Fulton. She may be able to get a toilet on their property for the day laborers. It is a work in progress.
- This project will probably need money. She will apply for a grant. Maybe through the Neighborhood Improvement Funding Program

**E) Subcommittee Reports & Discussions: ACTION ITEM**

1. Neighborhood Improvement Funding Program (NIFP) Subcommittee (Fies/Sherwood) **None**

2. Rebuild/Fire Mitigation Subcommittee (Sherwood/Fies)

After discussions with Valerie Minto Quinto, Assistant Director of the Sonoma Resource Conservation District (RCD), they concluded this was not the time to request the assistance grant. It would be premature on some of the grant proposal components, such as the golf course flood plain because of sewer issues associated with the erosion. They would have to be resolved first. Also, ownership of the property should be transferred first. More funding may be available in the future and RCD will coordinate with others to resolve the current issues.

3. Wikiup Open Space (Lamberson/Would) Lamberson reported that they were "sitting and waiting."

4. Sonoma County General Plan for Mark West Area (Lamberson/Would)

The meeting on 4/19 is the first presentation the BOS has scheduled about setting up a whole schedule of town hall meetings to discuss the General Plan.

5. Community Services District (CSD) Subcommittee (Sherwood/Lamberson)

Supervisor Gore is in support of a CSD. There is a committee of eight people. Lamberson is considering asking Walter Keiser to be an advisor and then hire some sort of public relations company. It will take a lot to get the message out to the district.

**F) Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items:**

The comments below (in this section) came at the end of the meeting, prior to adjournment.

1. Catherine Dodd, on the Chat:

- She pointed out the need to level the grade on Carriage Lane, between Pheasant in Baile de Ciervos.
  - There is no sidewalk and very poor lighting.
  - A walker can't tell where the street ends and the dirt begins. It's a four-inch step.
  - There are falls about twice a month. Yesterday another person fell and left in an ambulance. She would like a repair or a sidewalk.
- Were we going to talk about a COPE? She is interested in helping. Response: It is one of the Future Agenda Items.

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**G) Pending Items:** Updates when available

1. Utilities & Water Margaret DiGenova.
  - Nicole Baxter did a great job.
  - Anyone can always call her at her office.
  - New operations specialists are helping out on customer operations.
2. "HAWK" light in front of Larkfield Shopping Center (See above under D) 2.

**H) Correspondence:** Information Only **None**

**I) Future Agenda Items:** Potential projects and/or suggestions for future MWCAC meetings

1. Possibility of an update on the COPE program in Wikiup (TBD)
2. Possible speaker on home hardening and vegetation management (TBD)
3. Possible community clean up? Maybe in partnership with the Chamber. (TBD)
4. List of unmet needs projects for Larkfield/Mark West/Wikiup (Presentation: Sherwood/Lamberson) (TBD)
5. Conversation Continue-Blue Book: CAC boundaries (May)
6. Discussion re the impact of the possibility of a Casino on Shiloh Rd. on Mark West area (TBD)

**J) Adjournment:** ACTION ITEM

There being no other business to discuss, on a motion by Bisordi seconded by Would, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm. (4-0-1)

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Approved Date:

Chair

**MWCAC MEETINGS: 6:00 PM—SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH  
Hybrid Meetings until further notice**

**Mark West School District Office, The Learning Center, 305 Mark West Springs Road, Santa Rosa  
(NOTE: Location or time may change due to anticipated greater community participation.)**

**Be sure to check the MWCAC website for meeting agenda, location & time**

[sonomacounty.ca.gov/Mark-West-Citizens-Advisory-Council](https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Mark-West-Citizens-Advisory-Council)  
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