



**Sonoma County Coast Municipal Advisory Council
Minutes**

Regular Meeting

September 21, 2023 05:30 PM

Bodega Bay Elementary School, 1200 Canon Street Bodega Bay, CA 94923

<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/sccmac>

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at by Chair - Bodega Bay Representative Brian Leubitz.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Lead by Chair - Bodega Bay Representative Brian Leubitz

B. Roll Call

Present: Chair - Bodega Bay Representative Brian Leubitz, Vice Chair - Bodega / Valley Ford Representative Beth Bruzzone, Fort Ross / West Cazadero Representative Caroline Madden, Timber Cove Representative Scott Farmer, Jenner Representative Jill Lippitt, The Sea Ranch / Annapolis Representative Marti Campbell, Bodega Bay Representative Ginny Nichols, The Sea Ranch / Annapolis Representative Drew McCalley

Absent: Kashia Band of Pomo Indians Representative Abreanna Gomes

Staff Present: Debbie Ramirez, Lupe Catalan, Tracy Lyons (remote)

2. Approval of Agenda, Chair Brian Leubitz The Sea Ranch / Annapolis Representative Marti Campbell motioned to approve. A second was made by Vice Chair - Bodega / Valley Ford Representative Beth Bruzzone. The roll call vote:

Aye Chair - Bodega Bay Representative Brian Leubitz Aye Vice Chair - Bodega / Valley Ford Representative Beth Bruzzone Aye Fort Ross / West Cazadero Representative Caroline Madden Aye Timber Cove Representative Scott Farmer Aye Jenner Representative Jill Lippitt Aye The Sea Ranch / Annapolis Representative Marti Campbell Aye Bodega Bay Representative Ginny Nichols Aye The Sea Ranch / Annapolis Representative Drew McCalley Absent Kashia Band of Pomo Indians Representative Abreanna Gomes

3. Consent Agenda

A. August 24, 2023 Joint River & Coast Minutes

Scott Farmer asked for there to be more granularity in the minutes, including who asked which questions

Timber Cove Representative Scott Farmer motioned to approve. A second was made by The Sea Ranch / Annapolis Representative Marti Campbell. The roll call vote:

Aye Chair - Bodega Bay Representative Brian Leubitz Aye Vice Chair - Bodega / Valley Ford Representative Beth Bruzzone Absent Kashia Band of Pomo Indians Representative Abreanna Gomes

4. Statement(s) of conflict of interest: if any, from Council members

There were no statements of conflict of interest.

5. Chair and Council Member Reports

Chair Leubitz reported on the recent meeting of an ad hoc committee focused on the recruitment of members and community engagement, involving Caroline, Scott, Beth, and himself. This productive conversation aimed to plan a future program focusing on increasing meaningful engagement. A more detailed discussion on this topic will be forthcoming, including ideas for boosting both virtual and in-person attendance and making the most of the resources available.

Additionally, the committee discussed proposed bylaw changes concerning term limits, which will be presented for a vote at the next meeting. These proposed changes slightly alter the revisions made in August. The current status of the term limits, which were voted on two years ago, was also reviewed. The bylaws have been amended four times, with the most recent change not yet receiving final approval. Currently, term limits are enforced, with the last modification occurring a year ago in August.

Chair Leubitz invited input on recruitment and engagement strategies. Two primary ideas for term limit changes were proposed: removing them entirely or implementing more nuanced restrictions, such as considering if more than two terms are feasible depending on other candidates running or the status of the individual as an alternate versus a voting representative. A more complete proposal will be presented within a month or so.

Scott Farmer mentioned that there is a proposed power storage system near Fort Ross and the current status of its federal approval process. Discussions included how to follow the project's progression and whether to form an ad hoc to study the issue. Caroline Madden said that for now she will track it.

Beth Bruzzone announced community events: a polenta and stew feed fundraiser by the Bodega Volunteer Fire Department on October 7th.

Chair Leubitz reported that there will be a Bodega Bay Town Hall meeting on October 4th to discuss fishing issues and other community matters. The status of the Grange's availability for these events, post-renovation, was also mentioned.

6. California Coastal Commission K-12 Art and Poetry Contest

Lauren Dung, the Education Program Associate with the California Coastal Commission, presented details about the 2023 K-12 Student Art & Poetry Contest. The contest is open to all K-12 students in California, with submissions due by January 31st, 2024, at 5 PM Pacific Time. Entries can be submitted through an online form. The contest will select five art winners and five poetry winners, along with honorable mentions. Results will be announced by April of the following year.

Prizes for the winners include a \$100 gift certificate to Blick Art Materials for each art winner, a \$100 gift card to a bookstore of their choice for each poetry winner, and board tickets to the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach. Additionally, each winning student's teacher will receive a \$50 gift certificate to Acorn Naturalist.

The contest also features a traveling exhibit of the winning and honorable mention works, which are displayed at various visitor centers throughout California. Currently, the previous year's art and poetry are on display at the Peter and Mary Muth Interpretive Center in Newport Beach, and later at the Bear Valley Visitor Center at Point Reyes in Marin County, from November to December.

Lauren expressed how inspiring it is to see the art and poetry from students of all ages, interpreting their experiences with the ocean and coast. Galleries of past winners and honorable mentions can be viewed on the California Coastal Commission website. The contest webpage and online entry form are available in Spanish as well. Lauren also mentioned that flyers about the contest are available at the registration table for more information.

7. BiblioBus Presentation from Sonoma County Library Director Erika Thibault

Erika Thibault, the Library Director of Sonoma County, along with her colleague Barbara Maes, Division Manager, Public Services, discussed the BiblioBus program. The BiblioBus initiative is part of the library's broader strategy to expand access to library services, especially in remote or underserved areas. This strategy emerged from the library's 2019 strategic planning process and facilities master plan.

Thibault explained that the BiblioBus, along with other innovative solutions like book lockers and vending kiosks, aims to increase library access. The BiblioBus, which was acquired the previous year, has been actively serving communities like Cazadero, Monorillo, Bodega Bay, and Geyserville.

Maes detailed the BiblioBus services, stating it visits Bodega Bay twice a month. The bus carries 600 items, including books and DVDs in English and Spanish. Brianna, the bilingual bus driver, helps facilitate access to the library's resources in these languages. The BiblioBus serves schools, low-income housing, remote communities, senior centers, and apartments, with 26 community stops on a six-month rotating schedule. The bus also offers free black and white printing, with a limit of 33 pages per day.

They discussed the potential expansion of services, like holding and delivering books to remote locations, enhancing Wi-Fi capabilities using Starlink, and exploring mail-based book delivery. The BiblioBus also participates in community events and offers educational programming. Users can sign up for library cards, check out state park passes, and learn to use digital resources like ebooks and audiobooks.

Questions covered various topics, including expansion possibilities, differences between the BiblioBus and traditional bookmobiles, unaccompanied minors accessing the bus, and the logistics of the service, like internet access and tracking users from different areas. The presenters emphasized their openness to community feedback and suggestions for improving and expanding the BiblioBus service.

8. County update from Supervisor Lynda Hopkins / Staff

Debbie Ramirez provided a county update including:

Coastal Zone Vacation Rental Ordinance: This ordinance requires vacation rentals in the coastal zone to obtain a license, similar to the existing requirements in non-coastal areas. It was introduced in August 2022 and is scheduled for discussion by the Board of Supervisors next week.

Chancellor Ranch Acquisition: The Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District is set to acquire Chancellor Ranch this fall. Following acquisition, Regional Park Works will operate the ranch, maintaining current practices like day use of trails and equestrian concessions. Within a year, the property will transfer to Sonoma County Regional Parks, which will then engage in community master planning and other future activities.

Carrington Coast Ranch Regional Park and Open Space Preserve: Regional Parks will present master plan alternatives for this area to the public this fall. They aim to start an environmental review by spring 2024, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act. Limited parking availability at the site requires reservations for access.

Potential Trail across Highway One: There's consideration for a new trail connecting to Sonoma Coast State Park. This requires traffic and ecological studies, and securing an encroachment permit from Caltrans is anticipated to be a significant challenge.

Coordination with State Parks: There is a recognized need for improved coordination between county and state parks, especially in addressing funding and resource allocation issues. A program involving regional parks was suggested for community engagement and to address these ongoing concerns.

Meeting with Senator McGuire: A scheduled visit by Senator McGuire and other officials is anticipated to address park-related issues. The exact timeline for this visit is yet to be determined, as it requires coordination with multiple parties.

9. Public Comments

Carolyn Connors, a member of the Bodega Bay School PTA, welcomed attendees to Bodega Bay school, highlighting her long-standing involvement with the PTA since 1987 and her role as president of the Waves of Compassion Foundation. She described the foundation's support for the school, including providing classroom supplies and contributing to the after-school and nutrition programs. Additionally, she mentioned a partnership with the Bodega Harbor Homeowners Association to offer free swimming lessons to local children, a program now in its 21st year.

Connors emphasized the school's central role in the Bodega Bay community, noting that it is part of the Shoreline Unified School District, which spans from Bodega Bay to Inverness. She mentioned the challenges and benefits of being administered through Marin County, especially regarding funding.

Marti Campbell made an announcement about a forum on wildfire risk and the insurance industry, scheduled for the coming Saturday at Del Mar Hall at Sea Ranch. The forum aimed to explain insurance companies' evaluation protocols that affect insurance rates and market presence. The session was set to be recorded and available on Zoom.

Jill Lippitt commented about the nomination of a new member to the Planning Commission by Supervisor Hopkins. The nominee was perceived as lacking the necessary background for the Planning Commission, which deals with complex issues, including those related to wineries and event centers in the county.

Finally, attendees were encouraged to suggest agenda items for future meetings and to consider serving on the Municipal Advisory Council (MAC), with vacancies being open for application.

10. Adjournment

On a motion from Drew McCalley and second from Jill Lippitt the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 PM