



Westport Municipal Advisory Council

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MINUTES OF THE WMAC MEETING

Thursday May 2, 2024

Westport Community Center, 24900 Abalone Street, Westport

- 1) **Begin Meeting/Roll Call: order at 7:03 pm** (in attendance were: Directors Robert Scott, Bill Knapp, Gary Quinton, Thad Van Bueren and Sally Grigg. Director Beck Regalia was absent. From the public was: Gary Markley, Ann Woodhead, Robert Finnell, Cy Wilcox, and Carla Thomas.
- 2) **Consent Items: a) Approve** April 4, 2024 draft minutes; Approved by unanimous consent **b) Approve** annual Church Meeting Hall rental (Invoice of 4-14-2024); discussion was undertaken regarding the payment of use of the meeting room when MAC meetings are canceled. A majority thought the MAC should pay because used or not the hall was reserved. Approved with one no vote by Gary Quinton **c) Approve** reimbursement of Director Knapp for mcn web hosting cost for County FY 2023 approved by unanimous consent.
- 3) **Public Expression: (Discussion Only-No Action)** Director Quinton noted a proposed timber harvest is in the planning stage on Bruhel Point Road with the concern being the impact the harvest will have on Highway One above Chadbourne Creek. After a brief discussion by the Council, it was decided to place the item on the next agenda for further discussion and input and meanwhile some investigation would be undertaken in preparation of the next WMAC meeting. Carla Thomas spoke of brush clearing work going on this summer under a grant to the Westport Fire Safe Council on private roads in the Westport Beach Subdivision. Since it has been approximately three years, Mr. Finnell suggested the WMAC may find it useful to contact State Senator Mike McGuire's office and the Native Tribes involved and arrange for a joint update to the WMAC on the status and any developments regarding the transfer of Chadbourne Gulch Beach (a.k.a. Blues Beach) to a tribal nonprofit pursuant to SB-231 which was passed into law during 2021. This will be placed on the next meeting agenda.
- 4) **NEW BUSINESS (Discussion and Possible Action)**
 - a) **Installation of PG&E power cutoff switches:** Placed on the agenda at the request of Alternate Director Grigg who stated her concern regarding the lack of power cutoffs at the road from the Highway 1 to the East. Director Quinton offered to inquire the subject towards PG&E and report at the next WMAC meeting.
 - b) **Omega Street Bank Erosion:** Consider possible action regarding yard waste disposal at North curve of road and the problem it poses. The discussion ended with the opinion that there was not much the WMAC could do that was not already being done and the subject was closed with no further action by the WMAC at this time.
 - c) **CDP_2024-0011 Save the Redwoods:** Demolition of 5 structures at 49511 N. Highway 1 near Usal Road intersection. It was discussed that the old historical buildings should be identified and the impacts of the proposed project on them should be evaluated by a qualified historic resource professional with Director Van Bueren agreeing to compose

Further Information about WMAC Meetings

Copies of agendas are posted on the WMAC website (<https://www.wmac95488.org/>), Westport Store bulletin board, and emailed to interested people at least 3 days prior to each meeting. The public may request placement of a topic on the agenda by sending a message by US mail or an email to the Secretary at info@wmac95488.org.

and circulate a draft letter to WMAC Directors for review and approval before it is sent to the Mendocino County PBS requesting a archeological/architectural study which would include the associated cemetery across the street.

5) OLD BUSINESS (Discussion and Possible Action)

- a) **Federal Community Development Financial Institutions Fund:** Follow up on how this federal program can help Westport individuals and businesses. Director Scott explained the fund and its possible use in the Westport Area. No further action by the WMAC was identified.
 - b) **Homeowners Insurance Cost Escalation:** After much discussion it was concluded that the problem was statewide not just the local area with some Directors stating they would be contacting several politicians for more input.
 - c) **Appeal for Road Improvements in the Village of Westport:** After discussion and consideration of two proposed draft letter to County DOT by Director's Scott and Van Bueren, the Directors unanimously approved sending the one drafted by Director Van Bueren.
 - d) **Cahto Road:** Consider possible action based on Gary Markley's input at prior meeting. Mr. Markedly informed the Council that recent action by the MBOS that Cahto Road was abandoned. After discussion of this long used local road it was agreed that Chair Van Bueren would compose a letter to the MCBOS stating the local concerns that such an abandonment would impact the local population on several types of emergencies with a request to reconsider the abandonment.
- 6) ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE:** Director Van Bueren announced he will not be reapplying for his position on the WMAC when his term expires in May 2024.
- 7) Preliminary agenda for next Meeting:** (June 6, 2024) New item: Chadbourne THP. Old business: PG&E cutoff switches update; Blues Beach land transfer update; Westport village road improvements update; Cahto Road update.
- 8) Adjourn: 9:00 pm**