

# WEST WASHOE VALLEY CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD



## DRAFT

Minutes of the regular meeting of the West Washoe Valley Citizen Advisory Board held January 7, 2008 at Bowers Volunteer Fire Department, 3905 Old 395, Washoe Valley, Nevada.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairperson Struffert called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m., with a quorum of five members present. Bob Rusk, alternate, was also present in the audience.
2. **MEMBERS PRESENT** – Hans Struffert (Chairperson), Jane Countryman, Rod Smith, Debbie Sheltra, William Elliott  
**MEMBERS ABSENT** – none
3. **CERTIFICATION OF POSTING OF AGENDA FOR JANUARY 7, 2008 MEETING** – Chairperson Struffert certified that the agendas for the January 7, 2008 WWV CAB meeting were posted at the designated locations by 9:00 a.m. three working days prior to the meeting date in accordance with the requirements of the Nevada Open Meeting Law.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF JANUARY 7, 2008** – Debbie Sheltra moved to approve the agenda for the January 7, 2008 meeting. William Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
5. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 3, 2008** - Jane Countryman moved to defer the approval of the December 3, 2007 meeting minutes to the next meeting. Debbie Sheltra seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
6. **UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE** – Board member Countryman expressed her appreciation for having the Sierra Fire Protection District's training class and practice evacuation dates listed on the agenda. Board member Sheltra reported she spoke to a representative from the State Water Engineer's Office regarding her water rights and explained that individuals need to file mitigation protests before the purchase period ends.
7. **ACTIVITY AND INCIDENT REPORTS BY REGIONAL/COUNTY DEPARTMENTS** - These reports are based on need as determined by the departments as well as the availability of presenters.
  - A. **Washoe County Sheriff's Office Items** – There was no one in attendance to present a report; Sarah Tone explained that Washoe County Sheriff Lieutenants would be in attendance at future CAB meetings, but would have to forgo meetings if they needed to respond to emergency calls.

### Concerns/Comments

- Cliff Low asked about property on east 395 relating to damaged fencing and vehicles parked off the road. It was clarified this was a duck hunting area.

**B. Regional Dispatch Report** – There was no one in attendance to present a report.

### **C. Fire Safety Issues**

**1. Reno Fire Department** – There was no one in attendance to present a report.

**2. Sierra Fire Protection District** - Chief Mike Green was in attendance and reported he had a meeting this Wednesday with the Department of Health, REMSA, and with legal counsel in order to discuss why the Sierra Fire Protection District could not transport patients from Carson City and also provide patient care along the Mount Rose Corridor. He asked to agendize an overview of the financial planning process for next month's meeting. The first public meeting on the subject would be next Friday at 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Regional Training Center. Chief Green reviewed how the planning process would be implemented including reviewing the amount resources and the alternatives. He encouraged the public to attend. Chief Green also reported they were working on a training class and evacuation plan and reviewed those agencies that would be in attendance at the training class to present information on how citizens would be notified during an emergency and how and where an evacuation would be held. The plan would also be critiqued at the next CAB meeting including the use of reverse 911. They would be doing drive-by inspections in the spring to identify hazard areas and will write letters to residents identifying the problem and requesting correction of the problem. He reviewed the follow-up action that would be taken if the problem was not corrected. The Fire Safe Council will be utilized when possible.

### Concerns/Comments

- Board member Sheltra requested to know how much it would cost to equip a rolling unit. Chief Green reported they have most of the equipment, but a new unit would cost from \$104,000 to \$110,000. Board member Sheltra asked if a new unit was needed. Chief Green replied that a new unit would not be needed. Discussion followed.
- Board member Sheltra commented that financial experts assured the community and the County Commissioners that there would be funding if the Sierra Fire Protection District was formed and expressed her disapproval with becoming a part of Truckee Meadows. Chairperson Struffert explained that the process was the starting point which may or may not include becoming a part of Truckee Meadows. Chief Green provided a brief review of Sierra Fire Districts and explained that County Commissioners govern both Truckee Meadows and the Sierra Fire Protection District and that becoming a part of Truckee Meadows was just an option for the public to consider.

- Bob Rusk asked if the budget would be broken down. Chief Green provided a brief review of the tax basis and reported that the County Commissioners have requested that recommendations be provided by March 2008 with the possibility of implementation by July 2008.
- Cliff Low asked if there was a functioning mutual aid agreement in place with Carson City and if additional improvements were being sought. Chief Green replied there was an agreement in place and that additional improvements were being sought.
- Board member Sheltra asked about the boundaries relating to service. A detailed explanation of general service response was provided.
- Cliff Low asked where the closest southernmost REMSA station was out of the valley. Chief Green replied that the closest REMSA station was at Patriot Boulevard and 395. Mr. Low requested to know how a destination for transport was decided. Chief Green explained it was patient's choice first unless the patient was under trauma criteria.

**A. Sierra Fire District Strategic Plan Update Presentation** - Michael Green will present information on the strategic plan update for Sierra Fire Protection District and will seek input and recommendations from the Board and Public - This item was tabled for a future meeting.

**3. Washoe County Fire Service** - There was no one in attendance to present a report.

## 8. UPDATES AND LIAISON REPORTS

**A. Liaison Report** – There was no one in attendance to present a report.

**B. County Commissioner/Community Liaison Updates** – Sarah Tone, Washoe County Community Outreach Coordinator, was in attendance and commented on children making a game of running in front of snow plows and asked that the public caution children of that danger. School districts were also being advised to caution their students of that danger. The Christmas tree recycling program was still in effect at Rancho San Rafael and Bartley Ranch, but will end on Sunday. Janet Buckley wrote an item on wakeupreno.org about the Leadership Academy which provided information on the class. Channel 17 interviewed the County Assessor and the interview will run within the next couple of weeks on Channel 17 and at washoecounty.us. Ms. Tone also reported the Southwest Truckee Meadows Plan will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on January 8, 2008.

**C. Nuisance Ordinance (Proposed)** - Board member Countryman reported the Committee was reviewing the Nuisance Ordinance and that the main issue discussed at last Thursday's meeting was the issue of noise from off-road vehicles and how to control it. The Committee was still considering off-road vehicle distance from a residence, but the issue of decibel levels was also discussed. Lyon County and Douglas County were also coming up with ordinances regarding the right to ranch and that was an ordinance the Committee was also considering.

### Concerns/Comments

- Chairperson Struffert commented that noise from factory off-road vehicles was not the problem, but noise from modified vehicles and that it may not be enforceable.

**D. I-580 Project** - Upcoming articles regarding I-580 were discussed.

### Concerns/Comments

- Board member Sheltra requested to know if crisscrossing roads and unstabilized hills would remain in that state. Bob Rusk reported the roads and hills would be stabilized.

**E. South Valleys Area Plan** - Chairperson Struffert reported the Regional Planning Commission will be presented with the amended South Valleys Area Plan regarding conformist with the Regional Plan on January 9, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. Bob Rusk mentioned that another plan was scheduled to be presented to the Regional Governing Board, but specific details were not available. Board member Countryman reported the working group was meeting with the County on January 10, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the East Lake building to discuss commercial uses and land use tables and on January 24, 2008 regarding Liston's property and the TMSA at 7:00 p.m. in the East Lake building.

**F. Update on Rerouting of Traffic During High-Wind Conditions, Installation of Light Barriers, and Mitigation of Traffic Hazard for Left Turns from Joy Lake Road onto US 395** - Thor Dyson, NDOT, was in attendance and reported on the road conditions related to the recent winter storm. The roads in Washoe County and Mount Rose were not closed. Traffic was held on Friday on Mount Rose Highway for approximately an hour and a half for avalanche control and on Saturday at another location for approximately thirty minutes.

### Concerns/Comments

- Cliff Low commented on the amount of ice on streets and lanes. Mr. Dyson reviewed the anti-icing program, but stated the program was not implemented during the recent storm due to the amount of rain it produced. The streets have been sanded and full shifts are still in operation.
- Board member Elliott commented on the different conditions on roads. It was explained wind conditions were the cause. Board member Elliott commented on the difficulty of maneuvering around snow piles twelve feet high and three feet under. Mr. Dyson explained part of their total storm management was to return and clear approaches and driveways.
- A comment was made regarding water running over the road at Pleasant Valley Drive and 395. Mr. Dyson stated NDOT would look into the matter.
- Board member Sheltra commented on snow drifts and ice on old 395 in the south bound lane.

Mr. Dyson reported wind measurements were conducted in November with old 395 in comparison to 395. He reviewed comparisons which were obtained over several days at different times and explained that signage comes on prohibiting campers, trailers, and trucks when the wind instrument averages fifteen miles per hour, but wind gusts are at thirty miles per hour and that all traffic was not allowed when the wind instrument averages thirty miles per hour, but wind gusts are at fifty miles per hour. There is some variability depending on wind direction. The Board expressed concern that there may be some situations where truck traffic should be held in both directions.

#### **Concerns/Comments**

- Board member Sheltra requested to know what can be done to prohibit trucks on old 395 during unsafe wind speeds. Discussion followed explaining that it was the responsibility of the truck driver to know when they can drive safely in those conditions. Mr. Dyson stated one thing that could be done was to identify the windiest stretch of road and installing an official NDOT weather site at that location which would close old 395 and 395 when that site dictates that the winds are blowing at dangerous conditions.
- Discussion followed regarding what would be required to close both roads. Chairperson Struffert asked that this issue and the issue of safety for 395 be agendaized for the next meeting.

Mr. Dyson also reported that, after reviewing the glare fencing issue, it was determined to implement a Traffic and Safety contract process. Discussion followed regarding how snow drifts would be created by the proposed fence. Mr. Dyson explained that, if the fence had to be constructed higher due to roadway change south of the proposed location, snow drifts would occur on 395 southbound. They will ask Traffic and Safety if a fence could be constructed that would not cause snow drift on 395 southbound. The project will be reviewed in September if approved.

#### **Concerns/Comments**

- Board member Sheltra requested to know why the project was not completed last summer when discussed. Mr. Dyson explained that a last-minute decision was reached to reconsider the project. Board member Sheltra expressed concern with the hazardous conditions in that area at the present time.
- Board member Countryman asked if the fence could be lowered. Mr. Dyson explained they reviewed constructing a higher fence per the request of the Board at the last meeting. Discussion followed.

Mr. Dyson reported more work needs to be done on the freeway project which includes the Parker Ranch area and reviewed future changes to the area.

#### **Concerns/Comments**

- Board member Sheltra explained that the Board was requesting left-hand turn mitigation be incorporated into the freeway project plan while the freeway project was under construction. Mr. Dyson stated he would have the resident engineer inquire into the current mitigation setup for that area.
- Chairperson Struffert asked how much freeway reduction would there be on old 395 when freeway construction was complete. Mr. Dyson replied that it was fair to assume it would be reduced by thirty percent.
- Cliff Low requested to know the speed limit on southbound old 395 when approaching East Lake Boulevard and if signage could be posted warning individuals that high speed cross-traffic does not stop. It was stated the speed limit was fifty miles per hour and Mr. Dyson stated he could inquire into that issue, but it was typically an enforcement issue. Mr. Low also requested signage to encourage individuals to accelerate when exiting old 429 and entering the freeway. Mr. Dyson explained signage needed to meet minimum requirements of Interstate standards.
- Chairperson Struffert mentioned the water flow issue in the area. Discussion followed.

At 9:05 p.m., Chairperson Struffert announced there would be a 10-minute break. He reconvened the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

### **9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**A.** Ginger Pierce provided information regarding well mitigation and reported Washoe County was proposing five production wells. She encouraged the Board to participate in a well-monitoring system that would monitor and register well depletion with Washoe County and provided contact information to request such a system.

**B.** Cliff Low suggested agendaizing the issue of unreliability of electrical power to the area and for the CAB to invite a representative from Sierra Pacific Power Company to address the issue. Board member Elliott explained that Washoe Valley has a power limb and not a power grid.

### **10. OLD BUSINESS** - There was no old business presented for review.

### **11. NEW BUSINESS** – Time for each item's presentation is limited to no more than ten minutes, unless an extension is requested and granted by the Chair.

**A. Draft Amendments to the Standard CAB Bylaws** - The CAB will review, discuss and provide recommendations to the Washoe County Commission on draft amendments to the standard CAB bylaws. The draft amendments update the current bylaws, and incorporate both County Code and CAB administrative procedure changes since 2004.

Sarah Tone, Outreach Coordinator, requested input and recommendations from the Board. Board member Countryman disagreed with Article One which states that CAB members were not residents or property owners in the district and explained the benefits with having CAB members residing in the districts they represent. Board member Smith and Board member Sheltra agreed with Board member Countryman's comments. Board member Countryman explained the conflict of Article Two with Article One which states that Board members and alternates must reside

within the geographical area of the responsibility of their Advisory Board. She also suggested that more clarification was needed for who was responsible for meeting minutes in the areas that discuss meeting minutes. Sarah Tone stated she would re-read Article One and make the necessary changes for more clarification. Jane Countryman moved to ask that the Bylaws stated in Article One that a member of a CAB needs to be a resident homeowner within the jurisdiction of the CAB and that Article Two, number one, be left as is that the Board members or alternates must reside in the geographical area of responsibility of their advisory board and clarify the secretarial duties as long as the County is able to provide those services. Debbie Sheltra seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**12. CHAIRMAN/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS** – (This item limited to announcements of topics/issues posed for future workshops/agendas.)

- **Next Agenda Items** – (a) Discussion of power outages with Sierra Pacific Power Company; (b) Sierra Fire District Strategic Plan Update Presentation; (c) Traffic Safety on 395 during winter conditions;

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m. Jane Countryman moved to adjourn the meeting. William Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.