

WEST WASHOE VALLEY CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD



DRAFT

Minutes of the regular meeting of the West Washoe Valley Citizen Advisory Board held April 6, 2009 at Bowers Volunteer Fire Department, 3905 Old 395, Washoe Valley, Nevada.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairperson Countryman called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
 2. **ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** – Roll call was heard and a quorum of four members was determined.
MEMBERS PRESENT – Jane Countryman (Chairperson), William Elliott, Rod Smith, Bob Rusk (alternate)
MEMBERS ABSENT – Debbie Sheltra
 3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF APRIL 6, 2009** – Rod Smith moved to approve the April 6, 2009 meeting agenda. Bob Rusk seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
 4. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 2, 2009** – Chairperson Countryman commented that she recently attended a leadership training meeting where legal counsel stated that CAB members can vote on approval of minutes even if the member was not in attendance at the meeting. The following correction was noted: on page 3, item 11, item (a) should read “South Valleys Area Plan”. Rod Smith moved to approve the March 2, 2009 minutes as amended. Bob Rusk seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
 5. **UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE** – Chairperson Countryman announced the following:
 - ❖ Ginger Pierce coordinated a meeting with Washoe County Sheriff’s Office regarding the creation of a Neighborhood Watch. If anyone is interest in participating, you can speak with Ginger Pierce following the meeting as she is present tonight.
 - ❖ There is no decision at this time regarding the CABs. It will be discussed at the April 28, 2009 Commissioners meeting which begins at 6:00 p.m. A staff report should be available on or around April 17, 2009. Board member Rusk commented that there is discussion regarding the possible dissolution of the Galena/Steamboat CAB. They would be absorbed into three other CABs.
 - ❖ Reno Women will be holding a bicycle race in this area on April 14, 2009 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and another event for the area is scheduled for August 18, 2009 at around the same time.
 6. **ACTIVITY AND INCIDENT REPORTS BY REGIONAL/COUNTY DEPARTMENTS**
 - A. **Washoe County Sheriff’s Office Items** – Captain Wayne Yarbrough, South District Commander, introduced himself. He reviewed the allocation of personnel as a result of the split into the north and south regions, and commented that he now has more resources available to him. He reported that the Sheriff’s Department needs to reduce expenses by \$5.5 million, and the Sheriff will be presenting the proposed reductions at the end of this month. He stated that personnel in this area will not be reduced. He reviewed the importance of reporting crimes. Lt. O’Connor concurred, and noted that non-urgent items can be reported online at washoesheriff.com. He reported that a press release has recently been sent out reminding everyone to lock their vehicles. Captain Yarbrough agreed and reminded those present to keep your homes locked, and valuables out of sight in vehicles. Chairperson Countryman commented that Sheriff’s personnel have also encouraged residents to call them if something looks suspicious. A brief discussion was held regarding door-to-door sales people. Chairperson Countryman asked Captain Yarbrough if there was a cost incurred in having a Sheriff’s Department representative in attendance at the CAB meeting. Captain Yarbrough replied that he believes that it is important to have a representative at the meeting unless the department personnel are involved in a major incident at that time.
 - B. **Fire Safety Issues** – A representative from the Sierra Fire Protection District reported that there were twenty-three calls for service last month, and the majority of them were for medical service. Open burning began in the District, and a permit can be obtained by calling 849-1108, Ext. 5. The season will be open until the District declares fire season.
- Concerns/Comments**
- Cliff Low asked if there was a timeframe for receipt of a progress report from Chief Greene on the consultant study underway regarding the best way to deal with boundary issues. An example is where one side of the street is in Sierra Fire Protection District and the other side is in the Truckee Meadows District. Chairperson Countryman commented that this may be an agenda item for the May, 2009 meeting. Sarah Tone noted that she may have more information after an upcoming meeting she is attending, but it might be two months before it will be ready to present to the CAB.
- It was reported that the Sierra Fire Protection District has reduced their budget for next fiscal year by \$350,000, and ways to provide the needed services at the least cost are always being reviewed. Curbside chipping will begin next month. One hundred and forty-two hours of training were done last month. On April 18, 2009, the old Slide Lodge will be burned as a training exercise.
7. **UPDATES AND LIAISON REPORTS**
 - A. **Liaison Report** – Ann York reported that at the last East Washoe Valley CAB meeting a representative from Nevada Energy was supposed to be present to address power outages, but it was continued until this month. Also, a

resident on Ormsby Lane wanted to know more about a loud external humming noise that she is hearing. A question was raised regarding the status of the Lowden property on East Lake. Sarah Tone reported that if more than one lot was sold, the owners would need to submit a tentative subdivision map. This had not been done. Dave Harrison reported on the Scenic Byways Committee, which has been tentatively approved but probably won't be finalized for a year or two. NDOT was not present, but had informed Dave Harrison they were going to do a burn in Scripps but they couldn't get the dozers in time, so it may be done this month.

B. County Commissioner/Community Liaison Updates – Sarah Tone, Community Outreach Coordinator, reported:

- ❖ The budget updates will be on Mondays, starting the second, third and fourth week in April, 2009. The meetings will be on the website, and you can watch them as they are happening. There will be changes in services, particularly in the area of Parks & Recreation. She noted that the Sun Valley and Bowers Mansion pools will not be open this summer.

Concerns/Comments

- Chairperson Countryman asked if Ms. Tone was able to determine if the Cliff Brothers Ranch Road was removed from the Parks and Open Space Plan. Ms. Tone responded that she has spoken with the Parks Department. They are working with Community Development on this as that is where the discrepancy is.
- Chairperson Countryman asked if it has been clarified whether or not Washoe County would lose federal funding assistance if the CABs were not in place. Ms. Tone replied that the federal funding assistance is on a grant-per-grant basis. The grant that was referred to by Board member Sheltra is over. She noted that a public input process, if required, needs to be delineated in the grant application.

C. I-580 Project – Board member Rusk reported that he spoke with Tom Montgomery, and the wind study is underway. They're tending towards no high profile vehicles allowed under certain circumstances. The contractor is undecided regarding the detour.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Cliff Low, Board Member of Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, introduced himself and gave a brief summary of the organization. The Great Truckee Meadows Community Clean-up will be held next month. The Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful has been selected by Macy's for their program called One Good Turn Leads To Another. Passes are on sale for \$5.00 each. The \$5.00 goes to Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful. With this pass, you get \$5.00 off at Macy's with a \$15.00 purchase. This will take place starting April 25, 2009 for two weeks. There are also passes available that are good for 20% off most items in the store, and 10% off for furniture. These passes are good for April 25, 2009 only. If anyone is interested, speak with him after the meeting.

B. Ginger Pierce commented on the break-up of the Galena/Steamboat CAB. She noted that this is the only CAB that is in four different sections: Pleasant Valley and Steamboat are in the South Valleys Area Plan; Toll Road is in the Southeast Area Plan; around the high school is in the Southwest Area Plan; and, the forest area is by itself. It has been decided that residents in each area plan will go with whom they've been working. The Southwest area CAB voted last month to accept the forest area residents. The Pleasant Valley and Steamboat residents will come before the East Washoe Valley CAB to request that they be joined with them.

C. Bob Rusk read an excerpt from the Nevada Land Conservancy's newsletter which reported on the grant from Nevada Energy that will partially fund Nevada Land Conservancy's work to protect the rural character of the remaining three hundred and twenty acres on the Winter's Ranch which is directly across from Bowers Mansion. Donations are being sought for the three thousand dollars that are still needed to complete work on this project.

D. Chairperson Countryman noted that until May 1, 2009 applications are being sought for anyone wishing to volunteer to sit on the Citizens Advisory Board.

9. OLD BUSINESS

A. Controlled Burns Within The Scripps Wildlife Management Area - The WWWCAB will discuss information provided during the March 2, 2009 WWWCAB meeting by a Nevada Department of Wildlife representative regarding future controlled burns within the Scripps Wildlife Management Area located at the north end of Washoe Lake. The controlled burns will be undertaken in an effort to eradicate noxious weeds. The burns will be coordinated with the Nevada Division of Forestry and appropriate burn permits from Washoe County and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection will be obtained. This item is for information only and the CAB will take no action.

Chairperson Countryman reported that she has received an e-mail from Pat Kelly and read the following: "It appears that this burn will probably not occur until Fall of 2009. We have not had an adequate opportunity to notify surrounding neighbors near the wildlife area, and it appears that our window of opportunity to burn has pretty much come to an end. It was my intention to get the burn done before the end of March, but, unfortunately, there have been issues that could not be avoided. Geese and ducks are now being paired up and looking for nesting sites within the area, and I'm afraid of damage caused to wildlife from a fast moving fire in the area. I plan to get equipment out on the area as early as today (March 12, 2009). Fire breaks will begin to be installed in the area and some mowing will also occur. I would expect that we will also begin applying a fair amount of herbicides to the area this Spring, and those areas we can access by a tractor. I will be at the April 21st meeting to explain (he's talking about the East Washoe Valley meeting) and reiterate our plans for the Scripps Wildlife Management Area. If you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me."

B. Update on South Valleys Area Plan (SVAP) – Jane Countryman will provide an update on the South Valleys Area Plan status, upcoming review dates or relevant information regarding the finalization process. This item is informational only; no action will be taken.

Chairperson Countryman reported that the next time the plan will be discussed is at the Regional Planning Commission on April 8, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. She pointed out that legal counsel for the Westins are trying to stop the Plan from being approved. She requested that anyone that is planning to attend this meeting to speak on the issue be up to date with their information. She noted that Bob Rusk has been working with the Regional Planning Commissioners. He will also be attending the East Washoe Valley CAB meeting tomorrow night in order to formulate the best way to present their and this CAB's position in the briefest possible way in order to stay within the time limits that are in place.

Board member Rusk reported that this past Saturday he was able to take two of the members that voted against this CAB's position around Washoe Valley. He stated that he believes he was able to present information to them that they weren't aware of, and believes that they will be more open-minded in future discussions. He commented that legal counsel for the Westin people are taking excerpts out of the Plan and using them to their advantage, such as the nitrate issue.

Chairperson Countryman thanked Mr. Rusk for his work on this issue. She reported that the Westin lawsuit has not moved, and there has been no request for a brief.

Concerns/Comments

- Cliff Low commented that at one point in this process there was a level of compromise offered to the Westin representatives by the CAB, and this should be kept in mind.
- Board member Elliott noted that as a result of a previous discussion, it was requested that a pharmaceutical trace be conducted to see where the nitrate contamination was coming from to determine if it was coming from the septic systems. He commented that he did not know if this was ever done. An audience member reported that about twenty years ago, a study was done by DRI Testing and only pockets of nitrates were found on the east side. He believed the study concluded that it was naturally occurring in the soil and rocks on the east side of the valley.

C. Update on Road Closures in West Washoe Valley – Jane Countryman will provide an update on wind monitors proposed for the West Washoe Valley area during high wind events. Discussion will also include issuing a thank-you letter to Thor Dyson regarding his efforts towards this matter.

Chairperson Countryman reported that she did talk to Thor Dyson, and he did issue the order that until the new monitors were installed they would close Old 395 if the wind monitor on US 395 showed that it was not safe. He was over-ridden by his supervisor. She gave an update on getting the wind monitors installed. All of the conduits for the telephone and power have been placed, and the concrete foundations for the cabinets are set. Work will be done on Old 395 this week, weather permitting. The monitors should be installed by the end of the week, or the beginning of next week. If anyone has questions, contact NDOT, Jaye Pullman at 834-8309.

Comments/Concerns

- Board member Smith asked for the locations of the monitors. Chairperson Countryman stated that she wasn't sure of the locations, but she knows that one is near William Brent Road.
- Cliff Low commented that he would like a better understanding regarding what steps are taken to halt or turn around traffic that's headed for Washoe Valley from Carson City. He noted that the verbiage isn't too informative.

Chairperson Countryman asked for input regarding requesting that Commissioner Humke write a thank-you letter to Thor Dyson on the CAB's behalf for his work on the road closure issue. It was suggested that the letter be written to Mr. Dyson's supervisor, Rick Nelson. It was moved by Rod Smith that Commissioner Humke be requested to write a thank you letter regarding Thor Dyson's work on the CAB's behalf to Rick Nelson. William Elliott seconded the Motion. Motion carried unanimously.

10. NEW BUSINESS – Time for each item's presentation is limited to no more than fifteen minutes to provide sufficient time for questions and comments; an extension may be granted by the Chair.

A. Assembly Bill 54 Regarding Wells And Septic Systems – The WWWCAB will discuss information provided during the March 2, 2009 meeting regarding Assembly Bill (AB) 54 related to well and septic system hook-ups to public facilities. This item is information only and the CAB will take no action.

Chairperson Countryman reported that the intent of the bill is to give the county more tools to help homeowners make the conversion off of private wells and septic systems more affordable. The conversion need not be mandatory, but there is a concern that this bill could be a tool that could be used against homeowners to force them to convert.

Comments/Concerns

- Jerry Ross stated that his concern is the language in the bill that removes the requirement that a resident be forced onto a sewer or water system by the Environmental Protection Division at the state level and puts that authority down at the county level under the County Commissioners.
- Cliff Low pointed out that there is language in the bill that states that it could be required by a state or local agency to make this conversion. He noted that this is not consistent with the information in the press release that states that the conversion would not be mandatory. Jerry Ross agreed that the language of the bill states

that this can be required. Sarah Tone commented that the bill has undergone several revisions as concerns regarding the interpretation of the language in it are brought up. She noted that update information on legislative bills can be read on the county's website. Chairperson Countryman commented that update information can also be read on the legislative website.

B. Assembly Bill 119 Regarding Implementation of WC# State Statutes – The WWWCAB will discuss the status of AB119 and the opposition by developers that was discussed during legislative hearings. This item is information only; no action will be taken.

Chairperson Countryman reported that this bill has to do with requiring, in certain counties, the Comprehensive Regional Plan to include provisions concerning the identification and sustainability of certain supplies of water. This has to do with the Washoe County No. 3 question that was on the ballot last Fall. She commented that developers are trying to stop the bill.

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

- **Future agenda items include:** **(a)** May or June, 2009 - Consultant report regarding Sierra Fire Protection District and Truckee Meadows Fire District issues; **(b)** Ty Cobb, legislative representative, will be present at the May, 2009 meeting to hear legislative concerns; **(c)** South Valleys Area Plan; **(d)** Wind monitors on Old 395

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m. Rod Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. William Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.