



Warm Springs Citizen Advisory Board

Approval of these draft minutes, or any changes to the draft minutes, will be reflected in writing in the next meeting minutes and/or in the minutes of any future meeting where changes to these minutes are approved by the CAB. Minutes of the regular meeting of the Warm Springs Rural Citizen Advisory Board held on November 9, 2022, at Regional Shooting Facility, 21555 Pyramid Highway, Palomino Valley

1. CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM [Non-Action Item] – Kevin Cook, Hugh Ezell, Marshall Todd, Susan Ambrose, Pam Roberts (alternate), Larry Chesney (alternate). Absent: Karenne Smith.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Pledge was recited.

3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT –

Pam Roberts said she is on the Washoe County Senior Advisory Board. She brought flyers. She said there are upcoming resources fair events at the Sparks Library branch. She said RTC sends special trips out to Palomino Valley. Meals on Wheels services Palomino Valley. There are aging program and activities. There is a lot more that they offer than we realize.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF [SEPTEMBER 14, 2022](#) [For Possible Action]

MOTION: Marshall Todd noted minor changes. Hugh Ezell and Larry Chesney were in attendance at the meeting. Marshall Todd moved to approve the meeting minutes of September 14, 2022, as corrected. Hugh Ezell seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

5. WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE – General Community Update. [Non-Action Item] No Sheriff's representative was in attendance.

6. TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT – General Community Update. [Non-Action Item]

Division Chief Schum provided an update. For October, there were nine incidences; medical call, service call, and call for fire.

Pile burning will open December 1-31 and March 1-30 (weather dependent). It requires a new permit. You can get a permit online. Monitor social media because opening burning could change. He said winds and temperatures could change the open burning.

He reminded everyone to change the batteries of the smoke detectors.

Wood-burning fire stoves need to be cleaned and swept.

Mr. Cook asked the cause of the fire. Chief Schum said it was an accident. Chief Schum spoke about the response to the house and loss. Chief Schum said we are still investigating the brush fire on Pyramid.

7. BRIEF UPDATE ON PALOMINO FARMS FEASIBILITY STUDY – Maeve Ambrose, CAB vice-chair. [Non-Action Item]

Ms. Ambrose provided an update and read an email from TMWA's John Enloe. It's on hold until the other

A public member asked about having a community water system instead of drawing on individual wells. Ms. Ambrose said she couldn't answer that, but we hope to have links and handouts for the feasibility study and John's contact information.

Mr. Benjamin, who is Palomino Farms, shared the website palomino-farms.com. He said the report and maps is on that site. He addressed the public member's question about a community water system. He said it's not feasible.

Mr. Ezell asked if there were formulas yet for the water coming into Palomino Valley, pumped out of the valley, and reclaimed water. Mr. Benjamin said the feasibility study is on the website. He said he is a farmer, not an engineer.

8. BRIEF UPDATE ON MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT - Candee Ramos, Community Outreach Coordinator, Washoe County, will read a statement from Eric Young, Senior Planner, Washoe County, regarding the status of the master plan amendment and development code amendment. [Non-Action Item]

Ms. Ramos provided a written update from Eric Young, Senior Planner. She said she would put this update on the Warm Springs CAB webpage.

Mr. Ezell said December 6 is less than a month to go to the Planning Commission. Ms. Ramos said it was a draft. He will provide an update. Mr. Ezell asked if the draft would be discussed in the CAB meeting. There will be more opportunities for input in the new year. Mr. Young could come back with the draft language.

9. RURAL BROADBAND EXPANSION PROGRAM & CELLULAR SERVICE – Behzad Zamanian, Chief Information Officer, Washoe County. [Non-Action Item]

Mr. Zamanian provided a PowerPoint slideshow.

Pam Roberts said the County could work with the private sector on the cell service. There is a section of Pyramid Highway near Axe Handle Road where there is no service for several miles. There have been accidents and the recent fire there too. She said she was almost involved in a crash because people were passing illegally. Someone needs a way to make an emergency phone call. Mr. Zamanian said in the next few weeks; he will contact cell phone companies with incentives. He will make sure to include that in his next presentation. He said he would attend next month with an update.

Mr. Ezell said during the presentation Mr. Zamanian spoke about the partnership with the tribes. He asked if this was written somewhere to reference this presentation. Ms. Ramos said yes, she could put this presentation on the website. Mr. Zamanian spoke about the partnership with Paiute Tribe to install fiber connectivity. DTS company will be providing a high-speed network next year. Mr. Ezell said the private company would own and sell the service. Maintaining the fiber is costly. The County and State didn't want to own the fiber line. He said it was an incentive for companies to come and provide service. We were limited in the companies we could work with.

Mr. Cook asked if there is Federal Rural connectivity funding to help connectivity to rural areas. He asked if there are rules. Mr. Zamanian said the government said there isn't a requirement. The companies are about the bottom line. There were three proposals in response to the RFP. We selected the company who is working with the tribe. He said it's state funding. 70% is being used at the libraries and getting an educational discount. A Federal program is covering it through the State. The State is covering the remaining 30%.

Mr. Cook said he thought he read that the companies, if they received federal money, had an obligation, regardless of profits, to provide a certain level of connectivity to rural areas. He said that was his understanding. Mr. Zamanian said this was the best deal for the company with the government installing the fiber, and then the company would own it in the end. They could use the fiber to provide high speed and charge the company. The big players, such as AT&T, didn't see it worth their investment. They weren't interested. He said he could follow up with the State with those questions.

Wanda Wright said our taxpayer dollars paid to have the fiber installed, and then our taxpayer dollars paid to have the company make money from it. Mr. Zamanian said we want to provide high-speed service to the community. He said several options include having the County install the fiber and then maintain it – it's a municipal connection. It's competing with the private sector. We did a public/private partnership – we work with a private company to install and maintain equipment and are responsible for equipment cost. Their investment is construction over 18 months. Based on the rules around funding sources, when we get money from State or FCC has certain rules. Grants have restrictions. One of the things, when we do this, we don't own the fiber. We manage the project but cannot own the end project, which was the funding source rules dictated by the State.

Marshall Todd said there is sufficient interest in this topic. He invited him to attend in person in the new year. Mr. Zamanian said he is planning on attending. He asked to gather information regarding the dead zones in the area. The CAB members said they can provide GPS coordinates from the community.

10. 2023 CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD SCHEDULE – Discuss and vote to approve the frequency of 2023 Citizen Advisory Board Meetings to remain bi-monthly or monthly. [For Possible Action]

The CAB members held a discussion regarding the frequency based on input from the surveys and based on current topics and interests. Ms. Roberts and Mr. Chesney spoke about the challenge with topics for monthly meetings and keeping the schedule to bi-monthly. Daily light savings time doesn't help with attendance. Mr. Cook asked if we could hold a special meeting if we decide to keep the bi-monthly meeting. Mr. Chesney said the valley is growing. Mr. Ezell said when he joined the CAB in 2000 when it was held at another location, and there was a lot of interest and attendance. People were discussing issues in the community more than they are now. Mr. Ezell said he is a proponent of involving the younger generations. He said he believes the CAB could be expanded in scope. He said he believes one issue is the location to spur community engagement. He said he is a proponent of monthly meetings. We know people around the valley. We need to invite them to attend to make the meetings more significant. He said community issues belong at this meeting. We could do more with the CAB. He said Bonnie Weber took these CABs away from us when the recession hit. Jeanne and Susan pushed these CABs through to get these meetings back. We need to bring the community together. Mr. Cook said another more centralized location could help draw more attendance.

Ms. Ambrose said the other firehouse was too small and couldn't accommodate a large number. The equestrian center is larger, and we have used it in the past. Unfortunately, there is no handicap accessibility, and they have their events. The GID wanted to try to build a multipurpose building in the past. There is state funding money available for a community site out here. We could look into options. Mr. Ezell said we took a huge step towards accessibility by having zoom. Mr. Chesney said we need an in-person presentation if we cannot get the technology to work. More participation would happen if this got set up correctly. Mr. Todd said he would love to see more people attend. The total population is 2,500-4,000, approximately. We are a small community, and unless we have interesting topics that people are concerned about, we should keep it bi-monthly. Mr. Chesney said his neighbors are in their 30s and work remotely from home. He said we wouldn't rebuild the old CAB. He said public comment at the Planning Commission tripled when the meeting included zoom capabilities. Technology has a lot

to do with growing an audience.

Sharon said she would like to see more people show up. She said she doesn't like to drive at night, and that's why she signed-on with zoom. She said she agreed with the bi-monthly meeting schedule. She said she agreed with the comment about engaging younger people.

Ms. Ramos said we could do a special meeting.

Mr. Ezell recommended advertising how to attend via zoom and putting a sign on the road advertising a CAB meeting.

Commissioner Herman said it's easier to cancel a CAB meeting instead of creating a special meeting. She recommended having a cooperative extension representative give a presentation on the programs they provide. When you are trying to grow a CAB, it needs to be a regular meeting that happens on the same date of the month with a sign on the road.

Mr. Todd said when we have monthly meetings, we need to notify the Chief and representatives are canceled and not to drive out. Ms. Ramos said the notification of cancellation is the same as the notification of the regular or special meetings.

A public member said you need a good internet connection to attend via zoom.

MOTION: Marshall Todd moved to maintain the same schedule. Susan Ambrose seconded the motion. The motion carried 3 in favor with one abstention by Mr. Ezell.

11. CAB MEMBER AND/OR COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS & REQUESTS — This item is limited to announcements and/or requests for future agenda items by CAB members and/or the Washoe County Commissioner for District 5. [Non-Action Item]

Commissioner Herman was in attendance to answer questions. She had no update.

12. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT –

Wanda Wright suggested a community potluck or BBQ to bring everyone together to get to know their neighbors. Mr. Todd noted we could add that to the agenda in the spring.

Russ said he attended to hear about County's topics. It's nice to have community involvement and is in favor of potluck; however, these meetings are social clubs. He also suggested staying on topic. Mr. Ezell said to get business done first, so those could head home.

Mr. Ezell spoke about the signs on the roads advertising monthly meetings. He said we need more signage advertising CAB meetings with Zoom capabilities on the roadways. We need to let them know it's happening. Ms. Ambrose said we could advertise on the GID signs. She asked if the agendas could be published sooner. Mr. Ezell said we need more email addresses on the list. Ms. Ramos said we do send this email out to District 5.

A public member asked about the process of how a topic could be added to an agenda. Ms. Ramos advised her to speak with a CAB member.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

CAB Program
[CAB@WashoeCounty.g](mailto:CAB@WashoeCounty.gov)
[ov](#)

DRAFT