

## MINUTES

### MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*Meeting Held Remotely via Zoom Meeting/Teleconference*

February 16, 2022

#### **Members Present**

Dusty Duley, City of Willits  
Jason Benson, City of Ukiah  
Mark Cliser, Co. DPBS  
Jacob King, MTA  
Paul Andersen, City of Point Arena  
Tasha Ahlstrand, Caltrans  
Jason Wise, County DOT  
Chantell O'Neal, City of Fort Bragg

#### **Members Absent**

Mitch Stogner, NCRA (*Non-Voting*)  
Barbara Moed, AQMD

#### **Staff & Others Present**

Nephele Barrett, MCOG Administration  
Loretta Ellard, MCOG Planning  
James Sookne, MCOG Planning  
Charlene Parker, MCOG Planning  
Lisa Davey-Bates, MCOG Planning  
Alexis Pedrotti, MCOG Planning  
Danielle Casey, MCOG Administration  
Tim Eriksen, City of Ukiah  
Dean Meester, Caltrans  
Kyle Finger, Caltrans  
Tina Tyler-O'Shea, Blue Zones  
Lucy Bartholomew, Blue Zones  
Jeremy Ronco, City of Willits  
Javier Silva, Manchester – Point Arena Band of Pomo Indians  
Patricia Rabano, Round Valley Indian Tribes  
Jessica Stull-Otto

1. **Call to Order/Introductions** – Nephele called the meeting to order at approximately 10:02 a.m. Individuals present were identified.
2. **Public Expression** – None
3. **Input from Native American Tribal Governments' Representatives** – Javier Silva, Manchester-Point Arena Band of Pomo Indians, said he planned to attend TAC meetings more regularly. Patricia Rabano, Round Valley Indian Tribes, commented that she had not heard back about progress of the Covelo Trail. Nephele apologized and explained she had sent an email which bounced back, but she now has the correct information. She then gave a brief update, reporting that due to a lot of hard work by project partners, the Right of Way certification was completed in time for the January California Transportation Commission meeting, and construction funds for the trail were allocated. She said she hopes the project will go to bid this spring, and offered to provide a report at an upcoming tribal council meeting. Patricia asked who to contact with questions, and Nephele said she, James Sookne, or Pete Field (Right of Way consultant) could be contacted.
4. **Approval of Minutes of 1/19/22** – Loretta noted two typographical errors: page 3, third from last paragraph, last sentence – change “review” to “reviewed”, and page 4, first sentence – change “SB 43” to “SB 743”. **Motion by Paul Andersen, seconded by Jacob King, and carried unanimously**

**on roll call vote (8 ayes – Ahlstrand, Andersen, King, Cliser, Duley, Wise, O’Neal, Benson) to approve the minutes of 1/19/22, as corrected.**

**5. Blue Zones Project – Report on Potential Resources for Local Projects** – Blue Zones Executive Director Tina Tyler-O’Shea introduced Lucy Bartholomew, the public policy advocate for the Mendocino Blue Zones Project. Lucy explained that Blue Zones works to make lasting changes and promote systems that give access to healthy choices, including active transportation, healthy food options, and promoting place-making and street connectivity in the built environment. She shared a slide presentation on work the group has been doing, including a review of the summit report’s strategies and advocacy work done on local projects. She noted the blueprint is almost done and the strategic plan will guide the work over the next five years.

Lucy said she would like to give updates at each TAC meeting, and explained Blue Zones is requesting that the TAC officially serve as their policy committee. She shared a slide illustrating work to be done by the Blue Zones team (e.g. advocacy work, coalition building, education and training, grant and planning support, local research, etc.) and work envisioned for the TAC (e.g. checkpoint for Blue Zones work, guidance, contacts, resources, collaboration, and expertise).

Tina advised the Blue Zones project is countywide, and a series of kick-off events are planned. The first event is scheduled for March 19 in Ukiah at the Alex Rorabaugh Center, with an event planned in Fort Bragg in May. They are also looking to schedule a north county event in Willits in June. In response to comments from Paul, Tina said they will look into planning an event on the south coast.

Nephele noted the request for TAC involvement is not on today’s agenda, so staff will follow up and bring this back to the next meeting. She invited TAC feedback on that request, and added that she would be interested in collaborating with Blue Zones on the housing needs summit as it’s listed in MCOG’s grant with the CA Dept. of Housing and Community Development (HCD). Jessica Stull-Otto asked that Covelo be included in the regional housing needs summit, and commented that the diverse TAC make-up would be a great fit as a policy committee for Blue Zones. Tina commented on the expertise of the TAC, noting many projects and plans run through this group. She thought this would be a good place to identify resources and discuss “who does what.”

Lucy and Tina reviewed current Blue Zones projects, and responded to questions. Nephele thanked them for the presentation, and said staff will follow up and bring this back to the next TAC meeting.

**6. Draft FY 2022/23 Overall Work Program (Review/Recommendation)** – Lexi reviewed her staff report and recapped the discussion of the draft OWP that began at last month’s TAC meeting. She explained the four applications received from local agencies were distributed with last month’s agenda packet and reviewed at that meeting, along with a discussion of funding needs and revenues.

She reviewed the proposed draft, including financial spreadsheets, work elements, direct costs, a transit project reserve, local agency projects, and expected carryover projects. As proposed, the draft totals \$766,798. She noted the draft includes a significant increase in LTF funds (\$150,000 +/-), but the proposed \$150,000 transit reserve (for an MTA Transit Hub Study or Transit Development Plan) would benefit from that increase. She said the draft OWP is due to Caltrans by March 1.

Discussion ensued with Lexi responding to questions. Tim mentioned that Ukiah agreed to waive one of their requested projects (*School Street Multimodal Transportation and Beautification Study*) noting MCOG staff's offer to assist with a Caltrans Sustainable Planning grant application for that project.

**Motion by Jason Benson, seconded by Tasha Ahlstrand, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (8 ayes – Ahlstrand, Andersen, King, Cliser, Duley, Wise, O'Neal, Benson) to approve the Draft FY 2022/23 Overall Work Program, for submittal to Caltrans by March 1, 2022.**

**7. Staff Reports**

7a. 2022 Regional Transportation Plan/Active Transportation Plan – Loretta reported that the MCOG Board adopted the 2022 RTP/ATP at their February 7, 2022 meeting. The final plan as adopted will soon be posted to MCOG's website and submitted to Caltrans.

7b. Rural Regional Energy Network (REN) – Report re Memorandum of Understanding – Nephele explained the Rural REN is an opportunity staff became aware of when looking into a regional role for MCOG on energy efficiency and reducing climate impacts. Staff discovered that Humboldt County and other agencies were in the process of developing a rural REN to deliver energy efficiency programs, and since they were well underway, MCOG would be able to participate through a subcontract with the Redwood Coast Energy Authority (an energy agency in Humboldt County which administers this multi-county REN). She said the MCOG Board approved an MOU with RCEA and the next step is for RCEA to submit a business plan to the Public Utilities Commission. The approval process is lengthy and the outcome is not expected until October. Once approved, the first year will include working with partners to develop a process to deliver various programs in Mendocino County. She said she would email the presentation given at the MCOG meeting to TAC members.

Nephele said MCOG is fortunate to work with RCEA which has experience with these programs. She noted RCEA is recommending that eventually two new MCOG staff members will be needed. Jacob asked if letters of support were still needed, and Nephele said she would check and follow-up.

7c. Local Road Safety Plans (LRSP) – Loretta encouraged all local agency staff to respond to TJKM's email asking for feedback on the LRSP safety projects memorandum, advising that this project is due to wrap up soon with deliverables due by the end of April. Nephele noted the individual plans will need to be adopted or accepted by each council/board, and encouraged members to closely review the recommended projects to make sure their desired projects are included. A brief discussion ensued, and Loretta said she would ask TJKM to coordinate with local agency staff as soon as possible to get the local agency presentations scheduled. Danielle said she will be reaching out to local agencies to offer assistance with LRSP invoicing if needed.

7d. Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Grants - James reported he is still waiting for the call for projects for REAP 2.0 to come out. He will forward the framework to local agency staff to provide information on what the application is looking for, and available funding. He will also reach out to local agency staff to provide an update on REAP 1.0 and see if reimbursements can get started.

Nephele noted that during the monthly statewide REAP meetings a consistent problem is the concern about inadequate progress of spending down the funds. She referenced the August 2023 expenditure deadline, and wants to make sure agencies (as well as MCOG) make progress in spending the funds. She said one of MCOG's identified task is to facilitate a housing summit and asked Mark about the County's plans for a similar housing summit. Mark thought it was in the works, but offered to follow up with the new County planner that's focusing on housing.

7e. Feasibility Study – Mobility Solutions for Rural Communities of Inland Mendocino Co. - Loretta said MCOG staff recently completed a procurement process for this Caltrans-funded grant project, which unfortunately was unsuccessful. She said two proposals were received in response to the RFP, both of which were rejected for various reasons. Staff intends to soon re-advertise the project, and she requested contacts for consultant firms that might be appropriate for this type of study.

7f. Urban Greening Grant Program – Loretta noted the 3/28/22 application deadline for this program, and said MCOG staff was available to assist with applications, if needed. An excerpt from the program guidelines on eligible project was included in the agenda packet.

**8. Miscellaneous**

Caltrans – (1) Tasha introduced and welcomed new Caltrans employee Dean Meester who will be participating in TAC meetings; (2) she reported on the Lake and Mendocino County Travel Demand Model update, noting the network has been updated and census data has been obtained to do the calibration. Work is ongoing and she will report back in a few months; (3) she reported the Hopland ADA meeting which had been scheduled for tonight is being rescheduled due to the environmental document not yet being approved. Caltrans is looking to reschedule in March, and will work with MCOG and the Hopland MAC; (4) she reported that Clean CA local grant applications were evaluated last week, and they are on schedule to make grant announcements on March 1.

City of Ukiah – Tim advised that the City's Trench Cut Fee is on tonight's City Council meeting at 6pm. He noted the Trench Cut Fee Study was partially funded by MCOG.

RAISE Grants – Loretta mentioned the RAISE grant funding notice that she recently forwarded to the TAC. Although this is a very competitive federal program, it could be a possible funding source for large projects that don't have many funding sources (i.e. Orchard Avenue extension, etc.). Applications are due 4/14/22. Nephele invited agencies to reach out to MCOG staff for assistance.

8a. Next Meeting – 3/16/22, if needed.

**9. Adjournment – 11:29 a.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Loretta Ellard  
Deputy Planner