

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Approved MINUTES

Monday, March 4, 2019

County Administration Center, Board of Supervisors Chambers

ADDITIONAL AUDIOCONFERENCE LOCATION:

Caltrans District 1, 1656 Union St., Eureka

ADDITIONAL MEDIA:

Find YouTube link at <http://www.mendocinocog.org> under Meetings or search Mendocino County Video at www.youtube.com

The Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) meets as the Board of Directors of:

Mendocino Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) and
Mendocino County Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE)

1. Call to Order / Roll Call. The meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m. with Directors Jim O. Brown, Larry Stranske, Richey Wasserman, Tess Albin-Smith, Michael Carter/Alt., John Haschak, Rex Jackman (Caltrans/PAC), and Dan Gjerde present; Chair Gjerde presiding.

Staff present: Nephele Barrett, Executive Director; Janet Orth, Deputy Director/CFO; Loretta Ellard, Deputy Planner, and Marta Ford, Administrative Assistant.

2. Presentation and Discussion Board Orientation & Overview of MCOG Programs.

Executive Director Nephele Barrett conducted an updated Board orientation due to the three new Board members, and as a refresher for the others. Ms. Barrett's presentation included:

- MCOG Background, Mission, Board composition, Officers and Committees
- Mendocino SAFE Motorist Aid Call Box program
- MCOG Staffing, Responsibilities, Funding, Programs and Plans

Questions and discussions on the Orientation included:

- Does MCOG have a role with school transportation and the process that was used to use the Ukiah Unified School District busses during the fire evacuations? (*Albin-Smith*) – *Ms. Orth confirmed that school transportation is not under MCOG's responsibilities. Director Carter explained how the busses were requested by the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services.*
- Does MCOG contribute funding for pedestrian passage along the highways, including gravel down for drainage? (*Albin-Smith*) – *Ms. Barrett explained it would not be within the Regional/State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP); however, there are other funding sources for specific projects that include improving pedestrian safety. Chair Gjerde explained funding for the pedestrian bridge in Laytonville on Branscomb Road and the Safe Routes to School program.*
- What restrictions are in place for funding-by-formula to the County and cities? (*Haschak*) – *Ms. Barrett explained Article 19 dictates the usage of the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds. Ms. Orth explained the allowable uses are broad and could be for projects/items that other funds do not allow. She described how recently the City of Willits used their funding to purchase a street sweeper, while others often use it to pave and fill potholes.*
- Clarification for the process of the applications from the Cities and County for grants? (*Albin-Smith*) – *Ms. Ellard explained that MCOG staff issues a call-for-projects to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which includes local city and County public works staff and some planning staff.*

- Request for further details on how projects are prioritized for a competitive grant. (*Haschak*) – *Ms. Barrett explained that projects are prioritized by projected timeframe of the projects, studies and data such as fatalities or accidents within the project area, and other criteria.*

After the orientation presentation, staff took group pictures of the board members to post on the website.

3. Convene as SAFE

4. Report: Upcoming Cellular Network Changes and Impacts to Call Box System. Ms. Barrett introduced Alexis Pedrotti, SAFE Coordinator, to discuss Mendocino County's 3-G Verizon network issues. There are 141 call boxes installed; 45 are satellite operated and 96 are standard cellular. Verizon wireless is terminating 3-G cellular service, which will affect an unknown number of the 96 Mendocino SAFE call boxes. Additional planning will be needed before implementing changes to the current system. Usage of Mendocino call boxes average one or more per day. Ms. Pedrotti will work with the network providers to determine the best approach to recommend to the Mendocino County SAFE.

5. Recess as SAFE – Reconvene as RTPA

6. Recess as RTPA – Reconvene as Policy Advisory Committee

7. Public Expression. None.

8. Regular Calendar.

8. Executive Committee Recommendations of February 20, 2019

- a. Draft FY 2019/20 Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) Budget. Ms. Orth reported on the proposed draft budget. Total revenues are estimated at over \$8 million, 28% above this time last year. The Local Transportation Fund (LTF) estimate of local sales tax revenue shows a significant increase, above the CPI rate of inflation. Additionally, there is a high balance of LTF actual revenues carried over from FY 2017/18, at about \$375,000. After reserves according to policy, total LTF revenues are \$4.3 million. Senate Bill 1 adds adds new revenue for transit, up 30%.

Allocation from other sources for the Transportation Planning Overall Work Program (OWP) are as recommended by staff and Technical Advisory Committee. Allocations from the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) are according to policies, based on Caltrans' estimates. All MCOG program allocations are recommended at \$1.5 million. The total balance available for public transit comes to \$5,765,420.

The May meeting will include the Budget presentation and the final budget will be prepared for adoption at the June meeting. This was for information purposes only; no action required at this time.

- b. Amendment of FY 2018/19 RTPA Budget – DBC Planning Services Contract for SAFE Planning & Operations. Ms. Barrett explained that the planning budget for the RTPA and SAFE are separate functions. The Executive Committee recommended approval of an amendment to Exhibit D of Resolution #M2018-03, adding funds for SAFE Planning not to exceed \$17,000. Staff refined the amount consistent with the contract limits, for a recommendation of \$16,262 to cover actual hours worked.

Upon motion by Carter, second by Haschak, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (8 Ayes – *Brown, Stranske, Wasserman, Carter/Alt., Albin-Smith., Haschak, Jackman, and Gjerde*; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 0 Absent): IT IS ORDERED that the FY 2018/19 RTPA

Budget is amended to include funding for SAFE Planning & Operations in Exhibit D of Budget Resolution #M2019-03 in the amount of \$16,262.

- c. Approval of Selected Option for Comprehensive Staffing Services Starting October 1, 2019. Ms. Barrett explained that Dow & Associates and Davey-Bates Consulting contracts with MCOG are for a five-year period; the current contracts will expire on September 30, 2019. Three contracting options may determine how to proceed from the end of the contract term:
- Extend the existing contracts, which are allowed annually for up to five years
 - Prepare Requests for Proposals for new proposals for the services
 - Discontinue utilizing outside contracts and hire public employees.

The committee recommended extension of the contracts for one year and to appoint an ad hoc committee for negotiations. Ms. Barrett requested that the Board select an approach, but cautioned the Board not to discuss negotiations with MCOG contractors' involvement.

Upon motion by Brown, second by Carter, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (8 Ayes – Brown, Stranske, Wasserman, Carter/Alt., Albin-Smith., Haschak, Jackman, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 0 Absent): IT IS ORDERED to extend the existing contracts for MCOG Administration & Fiscal Services and MCOG Planning Services for one year.

Upon motion by Brown, second by Carter, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (8 Ayes – Brown, Stranske, Wasserman, Carter/Alt., Albin-Smith., Haschak, Jackman, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 0 Absent): IT IS ORDERED that an Ad Hoc committee is appointed to work with the contractors and negotiate contract extensions, to include Directors Haschak, Brown, and Chair Gjerde.

9. Consent Calendar. Upon motion by Brown, second by Haschak, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (8 Ayes – Brown, Stranske, Wasserman, Carter/Alt., Albin-Smith., Haschak, Jackman, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 0 Absent): IT IS ORDERED that the consent item is approved:

9. Approval of February 4, 2019 Minutes. Chair Gjerde made a correction to the minutes on the second page, second paragraph, to omit “by Caltrans” – *as amended*

10. Recess as Policy Advisory Committee - Reconvene as RTPA - Ratify Action of Policy Advisory Committee. Upon motion by Carter, second by Haschak, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (7 Ayes – Brown, Stranske, Wasserman, Carter/Alt., Albin-Smith., Haschak, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 0 Absent): IT IS ORDERED that the actions taken by the Policy Advisory Committee are ratified by the MCOG Board of Directors.

11. Reports - Information

- a. Mendocino Transit Authority. None.
- b. North Coast Railroad Authority. None.
- c. MCOG Staff - Summary of Meetings. Ms. Barrett referred to the written staff report.
- d. MCOG Administration Staff.
 1. *California Transportation Foundation (CTF) Forum, February 13, 2019 in Sacramento.* Ms. Orth referred to her written report, noting a big-picture view of transportation goals, progress and innovations. Chair Gjerde mentioned Mr. Heinz Heckerth, CTF Board Member and former Caltrans executive, has family connections to Mendocino. Ms. Orth explained the information on current transportation modes that have not become available to Mendocino, such as shared electric mopeds in San Francisco that reported over 3,000 rides a day. Other subjects included statewide status of Caltrans and a commitment to

protect SB 1, the Road Repair & Accountability Act of 2017. This was the 20th annual forum by the foundation.

2. *Miscellaneous*. Ms. Barrett reported she received a request from Del Norte County Transportation Commission for MCOG to submit a letter of support for a project they are partnering with Caltrans to apply for funding through California Transportation Commission (CTC). They are applying for \$40 million on the Last Chance Grade, a stretch of highway that spans from Klamath to Crescent City. The road is consistently closed due to slides and is in jeopardy of permanently closing. Closure of this road creates a 329-mile detour. Over the last nine years, the cost in emergency federal funding was around \$56 million.

Director Jackman will look into additional information on Caltrans plans to improve a problem slip-out north of Leggett; he plans to follow up with Ms. Barrett and the next MCOG meeting.

- e. MCOG Planning Staff. None.
- f. MCOG Directors. None.
- g. California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) Delegates. Director Albin-Smith announced the CALCOG's 2019 Yosemite Leadership & Policy Conference later this month; Ms. Orth and Ms. Davey-Bates both plan on attending as well.

12. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Submitted: NEPHELE BARRETT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Marta Ford, Administrative Assistant