



Government Affairs

Minutes

DRAFT

Minutes: January 5, 2012 Meeting

Call to Order: Gary Cursio called the meeting to order at 8:31 at The Clement on Cannery Row

Present: Sam Teel, John Turner, Rene Boskoff, Debbie Hale, Noelle White, Rick Aldinger, Carol Chorbajian, Gary Cursio, Steve McNally, Lawson Little, Rick Heuer, Hank Armstrong, John Narigi, Hans Poschman, Tom Rowley, Barbara Meister, Bonnie Adams, Dale Ellis

Minutes of December 1, 2011: Approved as submitted.

Executive Committee Referral: None

Member Issues: None

Additions to the Agenda: None

Presentation by Mark Stone: Mark Stone is a member of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors and represents the central coast on the California Coastal Commission. He has served on the Santa Cruz County Board for 7 years and has one year remaining on his current term. Mr. Stone has one year left to serve on the Commission. He is also a candidate for the Assembly seat being vacated by Mr. Monning. His primary focus will be education and the environment and concerned about continuing state mandates without funding.

The meeting was opened for questions. Rene Boskoff led off by stating the key issue for the Peninsula and the hospitality industry is water. He asked Mr. Stone to give his view of the issues. Stone responded that as the Coastal Commission considers permits that it is important to have direct contact with Commissioners before the hearings. He felt that the CCC did not have a real issue with the slant well but was "skittish" about approving a permit given the controversy and that it was probably premature in August given the status of the water rights issues. He did not believe anything was filed for a February hearing. Stone did recommend that when a permit does come before the CCC that the emphasis be on the timeline and the need to act so as to stay ahead of the CDO deadline. He did say that the CCC does have a tendency to "wait and see" when they can.

Narigi explained about the role of MCHA and the Coalition. He asked if the CCC had seen anything resembling a critical path or timeline for approval and construction of the RWP to meet the CDO deadline. Stone said they had not.

Narigi asked if Judge Villareal's intended ruling on the EIR would affect the CCC action. Stone said he did not know. The CCC does not do a CEQA review. They conduct a separate review.

Narigi asked if Stone about the CCC's current position regarding deep water desal and direct ocean intake. Stone said he did not know of a change in thinking,. He did comment that 100' was "not very deep." Narigi said he was planning to meet with CCC staff in the near future to discuss those issues. Stone asked Narigi to contact him after the meeting.

Narigi summed up the hospitality industry's concern. If there is not a solution to the water supply problem in and the CDO takes effect, hospitality cannot survive. There will be a drastic economic impact including jobs and tax revenue. Stone said that was a "great message" to continue to present to the CCC. He also advised that when the test well application comes back to the CCC that the focus be on that issue and try to keep the other issues out of discussion.

Hale discussed the ongoing meetings between the CCC staff and TAMC regarding 156 and that she felt the meetings were positive, productive and moving in the right direction.

Mr. Stone left the meeting.

Action Items: None

Task Force Updates:

Coalition of Peninsula Businesses: Narigi reported on the report of the intended decision by Judge Villareal on the RWP EIR and its potential impact on the timing of the RWP. Until the decision is released and reviewed by the multiple agency attorneys it remains an unknown as to the next steps. Coalition members have met with both Carmelita Garcia and Dave Potter on the water issues. More meetings are planned.

Boskoff discussed the need for the Coalition to be a primary source for public information on the water issues.

Highway 156: Hale reported there will be meetings in February regarding the toll road concept. There will need to be a significant public education/outreach effort on the toll road issues. Boskoff asked if the existing 156 would remain for use by local residents. Hale indicated it would.

Downtown/Conference Center: Narigi said the GAC should invite Bob Cowdry to a future meeting for an update on all of the Conference Center issues. Chicourrat reported that the funding study is complete and the city is looking at options. Narigi asked if it would be possible that the City's NIP would support/contribute to the improvements. Heuer said no based on the current number of NIP projects and proposals.

Regional Taxi Authority: Narigi reported that all of the cab companies serving the member agencies were to under permit by 12/31/2011. It was his understanding that all but Yellow Cab were permitted or had applied for permits.

The RTA Board will consider a administrative enforcement ordinance January 23.

Regional Water Project: Covered in the Coalition report.

Bryl Smith Campaign Update: Hospitality plans to hold a \$99 fundraiser at the Hyatt on January 19th.

MCCVB: Chorbajian reported that the MCCVB has hired Tammy Blount as the new President/ CEO. She will begin work February 1, 2012. Director of Sales interviews were ongoing with two face to face interviews scheduled for later today.

Stormwater Permit: No report.

Monterey County General Plan Implementation: Ellis reported the County approved the EMC contract to work on the implementation program. The Refinement Group is continuing to meet on a monthly basis to monitor the implementation program. Ellis is attending RG meetings on behalf of MCHA.

Announcements: Guest speakers for February will be Carmelita Garcia and Byrl Smith. Poschman announced Senator Blakeslee will not be running for reelection in the realigned district. Boskoff announced there had been a court decision regarding the payment of TOTs by On Line Travel Agencies. The OLTAs may be required to pay depending on the taxing authorities regulations.

ADJOURNED at 9:57 am to February 9, 2012.

Prepared by Dale Ellis, Government Affairs Director
Monterey County Hospitality Association