
**PLUMAS COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION**
Minutes of the Meeting of February 18, 2010

The Plumas County Planning Commission (the *Commission*) convenes in a Meeting on February 18, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. in the Planning and Building Services Conference Room, Quincy, CA; Chair Mark Dotta presiding. Members appointed are as follows:

1. Mark Dotta, Chair (District 1);
2. Elizabeth "Betsy" Schramel, Vice Chair (District 2);
3. Richard Rydell, Commissioner (District 3);
4. Larry Williams, Commissioner (District 4); and
5. John Olofson, Commissioner (District 5).

Staff in Attendance: Randy Wilson, Planning Director
Rebecca Herrin, Senior Planner
Nancy Fluke, Recording Secretary

Supervisors in Attendance: Lori Simpson, Terry Swofford

I. **CALL TO ORDER** - By Chair Dotta

II. **SALUTE TO THE FLAG** – By Planning Commission and Attendees

III. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Betsy Schramel, John Olofson, Larry Williams, Mark Dotta
Absent: Rich Rydell

IV. **CONSENT ITEMS:**

A. **ITEMS TO BE CONTINUED OR WITHDRAWN FROM THE AGENDA**

Dotta asks that Item V-A is removed from the agenda for discussion at a later time. Dotta asks the Commissioners if there are any other items to be continued or withdrawn from the agenda. Hearing none, Dotta calls for a motion to approve the agenda as it stands. Williams makes the motion, Schramel seconds the motion, and a unanimous affirmative voice vote is recorded.

B. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – *No minutes are available for approval*

V. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS / COMMENTS**

A. **ABSENTEEISM – POSSIBLE TOPIC TO ADD TO THE RULES OF CONDUCT**
This item is removed from the agenda – see Item IV-A

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

Dotta opens the Public Comment Opportunity. Hearing none, Dotta closes the Public Comment Opportunity.

VII. GENERAL PLAN UPDATE PROCESS

A. CONSULTANT TEAM'S REPORT

1. STATUS ON CONSULTANT PRODUCTS

The Consultant is not in attendance at this meeting; however, Randy Wilson, Planning Director, states that the Consultant is still working on the Briefing Report. Wilson also calls attention to the handout agenda for the February Working Groups (Attached).

B. PUBLIC INPUT OPPORTUNITY – *No comments*

VIII. PRESENTATION: PLANNING FOR FOOD SECURITY IN PLUMAS COUNTY - *Kristi Jamason and Elizabeth Powell*

Kristi Jamason and Elizabeth Powell of the Community Food Council cite the Dawn Institute and Sierra Valley Gardens as two of the first groups in our area to raise food to fight hunger. Jamason and Powell then begin their Power Point presentation that follows the outline provided. The key headings covered in the presentation are as follows:

- Planning for Food Security in Plumas County
- Our Goals for Today
- Household Food Security
- Community Food Security
- Is there a problem in Plumas County?
- Mountain Food Security Project
- Low-income survey results
- Food Security Assessment Report – Top 3 Priorities
- Mountain Bounty
- Food Policy Councils
- Food Security is important for a number of reasons
- And so, the Nexus with Planning
- Ideas for the standard elements
- Opportunities in Agriculture and Economic Development
- Promising Practices
- Our Vision
- Challenges

Details on each of these items can be found in the attached outline of the presentation.

Following the Power Point Presentation, there is general discussion among Commissioners, Staff, presenters and attendees and the following points are raised:

- Post this presentation on the Website;

- Planning Commission be pro-active on food related issues;
- Ways to spread the word how important this topic is (i.e., Website, Supervisors attending Planning Commission meetings);
- Explore options for extending the growing season in Plumas County;
- Explore opportunities for subsidies for small farmers;
- Generational sharing of information;
- Working with educational institutions (lower education and college);
- Focus on community wellness;
- Plan to set policy for years to come;
- Make sure food is a topic covered by the Working Groups;
- Create a list of foods and varieties that can be grown in Plumas County;
- Look at the San Francisco program that links recycling to agriculture;
- Get larger markets to carry locally grown products;

IX. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. PLANNING DEPARTMENT WEBSITE UPDATE

Dennis Miller, GIS Coordinator, begins a visual presentation of the Website and points out that the newly approved Housing Element has been added.

The following suggestions are made to Miller:

- Identify the corresponding locale with the District numbers (i.e., District 1 – Portola/Sierra Valley).
- Place an ad in newspapers about Website.

Miller says he is also working on updating the calendar.

2. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REPORT

Wilson reports that that County Budget woes were discussed at the most recent Board of Supervisors meeting. Wilson also mentions that Brian Morris from the Plumas County Flood Control & Water Conservation District gave a presentation regarding *Water Rights and Use in Plumas County* and the *Groundwater Program* to the Board of Supervisors. Wilson provides two handouts from that presentation.

3. REVIEW OF THE EXISTING PLUMAS COUNTY GENERAL PLAN - *Continued*

4. ON-GOING PROJECT UPDATES – *No report*

Olofson states he attended a recent Zoning Administrator Hearing and was favorably impressed with the way Wilson conducted the business of that meeting.

X. CORRESPONDENCE – *None*

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Bill Wickman – Economic Recovery (March)
- Williamson Act
- History of Gold Mountain
- Mimi Hall – Public Health Department
- Mining issues (private & public land)

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Dotta adjourns the meeting of February 18, 2010, at 12:11 p.m. The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting is March 4, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., in the Planning & Building Department Conference Room.



Nancy Fluke, Recording Secretary



Mark Dotta, Chair
Plumas County Planning Commission

Plumas County General Plan Update February 22, 23, and 24 (Mon., Tues., & Wed.)

WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

A G E N D A

Dist #1 Sierra Valley
Feb. 22, 1:00 to 4:00
Portola Library

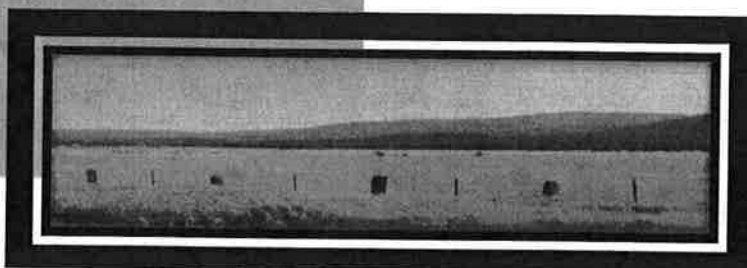
Dist #5 Mohawk Valley
Feb. 22, 6:00 to 9:00 pm
Graeagle Com. Church

Dist#3 Chester Almanor
Feb. 23, 9:00 to Noon
Veteran's Hall

Dist#2 Indian Valley
Feb. 23, 6:00 to 9:00 pm
Indian Valley CSD Office

Dist#4 Quincy-American Valley
Feb. 24, 9:00 to Noon
Planning Commission Chambers

- ▣ Introductions
 - Review Agenda, Objectives and Group Norms
- ▣ Review Past Community Visioning Results
 - Adjustments and confirmations
- ▣ Presentation of General Plan Best Practices
- ▣ SWOT Activity
 - Small Group Discussions of the Current GP's **S**trength, **W**eaknesses, **O**pportunities and **T**hreats
- ▣ Homework for April Working Group Meetings (April 5, 6, & 7)
- ▣ Schedule and Next Steps



Planning for Food Security in Plumas County

February 18, 2010

COMMUNITY FOOD COUNCIL

Presenters:

Elizabeth Powell and Kristi Jamison



Our Goals for Today...

- Establish the framework for the discussion
What's the need and the desire?
- Explore the nexus between Food Security and Planning
What does the general plan have to do with food?
- Inspire you with our vision for a local, sustainable food system
Local produce, organic, dairy and meat from healthy farms!

Household Food Security

- **Food Secure** – access to enough food for an active, healthy life
- **Low Food Security** – limited or uncertain access to enough food for an active, healthy life
- **Very Low Food Security** – food insecurity with hunger, skipped meals, reduced/disrupted food intake

By 2006, 1 in 8 (12.5%) Californians was food insecure. Out of 16 (19%) California children were food insecure (2005-7). The situation is certainly much worse now.

Low-income survey results

- 30% of adults didn't eat for a whole day
- 14% of families with children said their kids didn't eat for a whole day
- 68% sometimes or often could not afford to buy fresh fruits and vegetables every week
- 53% said they almost always or quite often shop in cities outside of the county

This happened once per month on average

Food Security Assessment Report — Top 3 Priorities

- Increase Accessibility and Affordability of food for low-income families
- Education for community members about food production, collection, preparation and preservation
- Local Agricultural Viability



Mountain Bounty



- Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)
- Workshop series
- Think Local First campaign
- Community Food Council

"I think we need to recognize that cheap food has a very high cost, in terms of health and the environment. That cost is getting paid by other people, by the public health system... I think that's where there's a disconnect, between what you pay for a cheap, fast-food meal, and the ultimate price of eating that way."

- Michael Pollan, author of *The Omnivore's Dilemma*

And so, the Nexus with Planning

- Farmland preservation
- Fostering sustainable agriculture practices, including market supports (e.g., linking farms with school and institutional cafeterias)
- Food enterprise/processor and retail development
- Transportation planning for increased food access within neighborhoods (esp. low-income)
- Linking farms and gardens with food assistance programs
- "Buy Local" programs
- Provisions for agriculture/food production within town limits
- Composting and gray water supports



Ideas for the standard elements

- Land Use - Ag land designations, locating farm stands and markets, community gardens, store locations, fast food allowed?
- Open Space - Urban agriculture, farmland preservation
- Housing - community gardens
- Circulation - pedestrian-centered commercial corridors, bike paths/sidewalk access to healthy food sources, public transportation
- Conservation - gray water, composting
- (Public Health and) Safety - food access and production support for resident self-sufficiency & resiliency, emergency plan for food access

Challenges

- Start-up costs and other barriers to entry for beginning farmers
- Challenges of high-elevation growing
- Onerous regulations
- Lack of established local markets
- The details...



"Ere long the most valuable of all arts will be the art of deriving a comfortable subsistence from the smallest area of soil. No community where every member possesses the art can ever be the victim of oppression in any of its forms." —Abraham Lincoln

Thank you for your time

Do you have questions for us?