

TOWN OF PARADISE/BUTTE COUNTY RIDGE AREA AD HOC COMMITTEE

BRIEF RECAP OF MEETING

Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 19, 2007 at 3:00 p.m.
Meeting Time: 3:00 p.m.
Location: Town of Paradise Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Chairman Yamaguchi

2. Committee Members Present

Kim Yamaguchi, District 5 Supervisor – Chair
Charles L. Rough, Jr., Town Manager – Vice Chair
Robin Huffman, Paradise Town Council
Frankie Rutledge, Town Council
Paul McIntosh, County Administrator
Al McGreehan, Community Development/Planning Director
Dennis Schmidt, Public Works Director /Town Engineer
Mike Crump, Butte County Public Works Director
Star Brown, Interim County Administrative Officer

Guests

Deborah Lucera

3. Town/County discussion concerning Town suggested priorities for the Ad-Hoc Committee to consider establishing for the Committee.

The Committee agreed to concentrate on those areas in which they have a shared interest and that are attainable within their jurisdictions. They discussed a preliminary, flexible list of priorities.

a. Common development standards including development impact fees and policies for the Town's sphere of influence area – Comments:

1. Mike Crump: Mr. Crump stated that a proposed resolution hasn't been presented to the Board of Supervisors yet. Within Butte County there will be improvement standards for different areas. The Upper Ridge will probably use the same standards as the Town of Paradise. Staff will focus first on road standards to reach a commonality with the Town of Paradise. Future projects under consideration include the traffic signals at Skyway and Honeyrun and also Durham-Pentz Road at Butte College. Costs are up

and it will take more impact funds than expected. In addition, a joint project at the Skyway/Pentz intersection will use impact fees for design and work, with BCAG to acquire CMAC money.

2. Dennis Schmidt: Mr. Schmidt added that this work effort will be completed during the next budget year. We will share this in draft form with the community, Planning Commission, and Town Council before adoption. The Town and Butte County do not have similar cul de sac regulations. This issue will be revisited to merge ideas where feasible.

3. Kim Yamaguchi. Mr. Yamaguchi stated that he would support a revision of development impact fees to establish continuity between jurisdictions with an ongoing source of revenues. The development impact fees are kept separate, but when the Town annexes property, the Town inherits the fees.

4. Star Brown. Ms. Brown stated that the Board will hear the final development impact fees for the jail on July 10. Once they are adopted, letters will be sent to each city and county to discuss the impact fees. The fees will be effective 60 days after adoption.

b. Development of a public works mutual aid agreement particularly dealing with emergency situations such as snow storms on the Ridge, and the need for a coordinated effort to keep the Magalia Dam crossing open

Kim Yamaguchi met with the Emergency Service Council today. Public Works is working on signage for that area. It is a matter of early communication and timing to address issues to prevent more problems. The County has a location to store its graders and they are looking at areas on the north side of the dam to store deicing materials, also.

Dennis Schmidt stated that he would like to see a formalized mutual aid agreement, which would help with FEMA reimbursement. The storage of vehicles and deicing materials on the north side of the dam would speed up the County's response time to snow storms. The materials could be covered with a tarp, but a storage building would be better. The use of deicing materials instead of sand would be more cost effective as it relates to overtime, materials costs, and efficiency. Mike Crump stated that storage is the main problem, and he will look into such storage at the Sheriff Substation or possibly the Cal Fire complex. Currently, it takes too much time to pick up more deicing materials at the Town's Corp Yard on American Way. Al McGreehan suggested that the school district in Magalia may have a small shelter for storage and perhaps a reciprocal property use agreement with the Magalia Church or PG&E De Sabla campground can be researched.

c. Outdoor burning in the Town and Upper Ridge

Chuck Rough stated that five years ago a citizen committee on outdoor burning was formed, and the Town subsequently changed its outdoor burn regulations. With the

Town's new curbside collection recycling program this issue will come back as to whether we need outdoor burning except for large scale properties with a permit and under the supervision of the Fire Department. The Town would like to pursue a unified approach with Butte County for outdoor burning for the Upper Ridge and Paradise areas. The Butte County Air Quality Management District's current position is that it is not feasible and the numbers were not there in regards to having burn zones similar to Paradise. The Town intends to revisit this issue and consider formally asking the County to restrict outdoor burning on the Upper Ridge. Kim Yamaguchi suggested that the Air Quality Management District staff be invited to discuss this issue with the Ad Hoc Committee to implement a burning program for the Upper Ridge.

d. Onsite Waste Management program for all residents of the Upper Ridge

Robin Huffman discussed wastewater treatment systems. The County has recently modeled some studies after Paradise. Mike Crump stated that Environmental Health is creating proposed new standards for County wastewater systems. Public Works is looking at a special district when systems are installed to perform oversight, replacement, repair and a funding mechanism to ensure that the systems run as designed. In seven (7) to eight (8) years the Neal Road Landfill will expand into the area of the current septic ponds. Alternative locations will be researched with the Solid Waste Committee, Oroville SC-OR, Chico SC-OR and possibly the Town. Although a central location would save transportation costs, there will be large start-up costs and more research is needed.

e. Joint Town/County effort to secure greater support and funding for an alternative improved evacuation route for the Upper Ridge north to Highway 32

Kim Yamaguchi stated that the County has 12.5 million dollars, and another 3.5 million dollars are needed. The County is currently working on the right of way process. The Committee discussed a route along Highway 171 through Butte Meadows. BCAG is discussing with the Federal Government the postponing of the 20% funding match that is required to free up the federal funds. Mr. Yamaguchi stated that the County asked for additional funding from the State Transportation Commission, but was turned down because it is not a state highway.

Robin Huffman suggested that at the next meeting the Committee update other escape routes through Nimshew, Powellton to Highway 32 and Jordan Hill. Kim Yamaguchi stated that a feasibility study was done in the mid-90's by BCAG and the number one escape route was determined to be Skyway through Butte Meadows. The cost for alternative routes was prohibitive and the topography difficult. During an emergency services meeting five (5) years ago no road was eliminated, as all roads are considered an escape route. If Powellton and Jordan Hill were brought up to Butte County standards, they could be considered. He stated that we should ask Congressman Herger's office for some assistance. These are county maintained roads, but the bridges are not maintained by the county.

4. Status report on Town/County common road development standards & their being submitted through the two agency's approval processes

The committee discussed revisiting the issue of the logging truck industry and its impact on county and city roads. It is a state-wide issue and Kim Yamaguchi suggested that the League of California Cities, as well as CSAC (State Association of Counties) are the appropriate forums for promoting new state legislation. He suggested that the Committee discuss this issue with their respective boards and councils to request support.

Other issues

Robin Huffman introduced Deborah Lucero who presented ideas on how the agencies can cooperate to encourage tourism on the Ridge. Such action(s) could include bike trails and walking trails, whether historical or heritage, and development of the flume area. There are natural rights of way that are not on private property such as railways and waterways already in existence. Innskip is another area for potential development. Bird watching is a natural attraction for the Ridge. The agencies need to package ideas and look for grants to support them. The County is currently updating its Master Bike Plan and we should keep in mind a plan for these trails.

Al McGreehan stated that both the County and Paradise are updating their general plans, and as tourism is one of our concerns, the legal policy foundation for this subject can be established within the pending updated general plans for future implementation, etc.; and a committee appointed for the proper scheduling, coordinating and joint planning on specific areas to develop.

After further discussion, it was moved by Frankie Rutledge, seconded by Robin Huffman and unanimously carried by those present to adopt the list of priorities discussed by the Committee.

5. Public Comments

A citizen asked whether the County will follow Paradise with recycling and green waste curbside collection services, and if so, when will it start. Kim Yamaguchi responded that this issue was discussed by the Board of Supervisors 1-1/2 months ago. Some of the Board members are concerned about implementation of this program, and requested more information to define the areas to be addressed. It may be a stepped program over a few years. As part of their consideration, the County would like to give the current haulers an opportunity to offer the service and/or to encourage the hauler for the Town of Paradise to expand their service to the Upper Ridge.

6. Adjournment – The meeting as adjourned at 4:25 p.m.