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**TOWN OF PARADISE/BUTTE COUNTY RIDGE AREA AD HOC COMMITTEE**

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**MEMORANDUM  
Brief Re-Cap of Meeting**

**Meeting Date: Thursday, November 2, 2006**

**Meeting Time: 3:00PM**

**Location: Town of Paradise – Conference Room 4**

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**Committee Members Present:**

Kim Yamaguchi, District 5 Supervisor – Chair  
Robin Huffman, Paradise Town Council – Vice-Chair  
Paul McIntosh - County Administrator  
Steve "Woody" Culleton - Town Council Member  
Al McGreehan, Community Development/Planning Director  
Dennis Schmidt, Public Works Director /Town Engineer  
Charles L. Rough, Jr., Town Manager  
Jane Dolan, Butte County Supervisor  
Bill Mannel, Solid Waste Manager  
Pete Colarco, Asst. Director of Development Services

**Guests:**

John Hoffman, Historic Sawmill Trail Citizen's Group  
George Martin, Historic Sawmill Trail Citizen's Group  
Mike Trinca, Paradise Recreation & Park District

**1. Call to Order**

3:08PM. by Kim Yamaguchi

**2. Introduction of Committee Members present**

**3. Comparison of Town and County Development Standards**

Dennis Schmidt distributed the Draft Roadway Standards - Paradise Sphere of Influence and discussion followed. He stated that this was a work in progress. This latest draft was recently distributed, so no comments have been received back. After reading it over, please feel free to contact me with input. He said that we are trying to merge standards into one document that everyone agrees upon.

There is a revised set of Road Standards in place for the County and the Town would like to see them.

Al McGreehan discussed the Special Districts Meeting and that the Board just recently adopted an agenda item that a new standards policy within the sphere of boundaries is officially underway.

Paul McIntosh said that they had adopted modified standards and given direction to staff.

Dennis Schmidt said we need to take a look at Pentz Road's ultimate traffic volume.

Paul McIntosh asked if Pentz would be widened for a bike path and Dennis Schmidt said that we will take it one step at a time. We have a long term timeframe and at the very least, we need to set our ultimate goal.

Robin Huffman stated that discussed in the recent Pedestrian Safety Committee Meeting that if an underground drainage was created, the open ditch on Pentz could be graveled and made into a separated bike/pedestrian trail. It could be a 10 ft. path with underground storm drains.

Dennis Schmidt wants to meet with Mike Crump to go over in detail so that there are no surprises in the document. We need to do research and projections on road problems on the Upper Ridge.

Dennis Schmidt asked where the break in volume of traffic down to a 2-3 lane highway is.

Chuck Rough said that the next meeting it will come back to the committee so we can make our recommendations.

Clark to Pearson Road's wish list is from American Way, a truck climbing lane going up - 3 lanes from Golf Course into Pearson Road. This is not the ultimate, but it will handle the traffic in a 20 year time frame.

#### **4. Regional Master Bike Plane Update**

##### **a. Progress on updating regional plans with BCAG**

Robin Huffman stated the Paradise Town Council has adopted the updated Master Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan with BCAG approval. Now Butte County will, hopefully, be interested in including the Paradise Regional Context section into their Master Bike Plan.

Kim Yamaguchi asked the timeframe to the BCAG Board and Jane Dolan replied that it goes to the local agencies and then BCAG ratifies it.

Butte County is in the process of updating their plan. Jane Dolan said the Town's part has been updated and now we need to deal with the others.

Robin Huffman stated that there is an effort being to secure transportation grants.

##### **b. Historic Sawmill Trail - report by Magalia resident John Hoffman regarding support from PID, PRPD and BLM**

The Historic Sawmill Trail is one that this group decided upon when the group formed about 4 years ago.

John Hoffman discussed their approach in August to PID with this project in asking for an endorsement. They passed a Resolution in October to support in converting the old railroad.

Robin Huffman discussed the maps that she had distributed with the Agendas and briefly what they encompassed.

Kim Yamaguchi asked if any of the railroad land went through the BLM land and John Hoffman replied that it goes through federal land.

We would like a map of what is Forest Service and PID land, so we can differentiate along with the route itself. Kim said that he knew that Sierra Pacific Industry does not want a bike path through their property and he'd like to see what we can do.

John Hoffman agreed with Kim that Sierra Pacific does not look favorably on the path. We would like to receive support from PID and the Paradise Parks and Recreation District.

Chuck Rough stated that the PPRD does not own land along the right-of-way. PID has holdings along the route to Paradise Lane and ties into the trail around Paradise Lake.

John Hoffman hopes that the PRPD will approve a similar Resolution. The letter from the Forest Service is, basically, like an invitation for a sit-down meeting. A representative from PID and PRPD be in on the meeting to find out what it would take to get an easement through that public land. Then if the land is sold, the new owner would be beholding to the easement agreement already in place.

Kim Yamaguchi stated that the next step is to define exactly what the goal is. When this is determined, we can go directly to the affected property owners. We can do an inventory of the properties that stand in the way of our goal. We need to narrow our focus and have an immediate goal of trail going from Paradise to Paradise Lake. It would be quite a feat, if we obtained that initial goal.

John Hoffman gave a list of the affected property owners, directly and indirectly, to Chuck Rough.

Chuck Rough asked if any property owners have been approached.

John Hoffman said that there had been some informal discussions in the past. He said that we want to get the public's support in place before formally approaching the property owners. We want the property owners to understand that there will be controls in place like no dirt bikes, loud motorcycles, cars and that it will be maintained for cleanliness.

Woody Culleton asked what an option would be if some of the property owners were negative.

John Hoffman stated that they will define their desired railroad route and if there is a problem, at that time, would address a detour from that and what options we can propose.

Dennis Schmidt discussed official sanctioning of this volunteer group in order to give them credibility, possibly in the form of a resolution. If this group had sanctioning from the Board of Supervisors, then it would give the group more horsepower when requesting help.

Jane Dolan stated that the group does not need to be sanctioned in order to receive help.

Al McGreehan said that the fact that the County/Town Ad Hoc Committee is working with this citizen's group might be effective enough not to need official sanctioning.

Woody Culleton said that since we know where the old railroad path is, to apply some design standard to

that.

Al McGreehan mentioned that it was more than just that. John Hoffman's group is trying to build a base of interest from recognized entities. We need to put an actual plan together and solicit input from them before we seriously lock in just the one route. We need to work a plan.

Chuck Rough suggested that perhaps the property owners might be invited into the committee process to garner participation and support.

Woody Culleton suggested they be brought into a working session.

Both John Hoffman and George Martin wanted to be sure that they had the right to speak on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee on this project. Their citizen's group wants to be an "action arm" to the Ad Hoc Committee on this project and wants to represent the Committee properly.

Kim Yamaguchi suggested monitoring the railways along the Sierra Nevadas, note when they are along public lands and to take a more active role in the future. Maybe someday there might be a link all the way through the state of California.

Mike Trinca asked if the Board of the PRPD should pass a Resolution in support of this project, or is it too premature.

Jane Dolan thought it would be a good idea to pass a Resolution for the trail itself.

Dennis Schmidt asked if the County would take over the maintenance of this.

Kim Yamaguchi stated that the problem is that they do not have a park district. "We would go through LAFco as to how we would do this. Regarding the Lookout Point; my vision would be that the lead agency would be the Park District. I am questioning the process of doing that."

Robin Huffman stated that on the railroad trails all the way through the Town have volunteers picking up. Contracted waste haulers could take the trash off.

Dennis Schmidt made the point that the maintenance and enforcement of the Trailway is very important in Town due to the cost factor.

Jane Dolan stated that since most of the trail was an "active" area where property owners were living and agriculture areas close by, that maintenance might be quite benign.

John Hoffman reminded us that the trail around the lake is just a dirt gravel trail and very remote and secluded.

Robin Huffman suggested that property owners be invited to the next Ad Hoc Meeting?

Kim Yamaguchi stated that a more defined route needed to be determined first before we invite all the property owners.

Woody Culleton stated that if we take the exact railroad route, we would know exactly what properties are

impacted. It is important to have the public be involved in the development stage and allow them to be a part will have a positive result.

Kim Yamaguchi said let's firm it up and let the email chatter begin. Mailing List, Public Notice in Newspaper and mail to every affected parcel.

It was determined that the timing of this meeting should possibly be in late January or February, 2007/

Some suggestions for the "public" meeting were that of the Magalia Church or the POA.

**c. Informational item: Pam Figge's Spring Site Planning Class (GEOG428) will be studying the extension of the Paradise Memorial Trailway to Chico.**

Pam Figge was not able to attend the meeting, but did write a Memo to the Committee Members for their perusal and it was discussed.

Paradise Memorial Trailway vs. Historic Sawmill Trailway; Al McGreehan said that a standing committee that was involved during the conception of the Trailway had recommended the first name to the Town Council. The railroad was actually called the Stirling Branch.

**5. Skyway Scenic Corridor Standards**

**a. County's response to Paradise's letter and discussion of establishing easements and development standards**

Pete Colarco said that they support that approach and in terms of a next step, our office will write a letter to Al McGreehan's department. We have the materials to make a comprehensive evaluation of the view shed thresholds. He stated it would be part of the General Plan. We need more direction as to different ways of looking at corridor. We need to know areas that are at risk and this is very important to the Board. It needs to fit in with the General Plan update.

Chuck Rough said that the General Plan updating process would happen next year and that there would be overlapping of coordination.

Pete Colarco reiterated that a recommendation letter would be sent to Al McGreehan's office next week.

Robin Huffman said that she thought some of Pam Figge's comments are worth visiting. Robin would like to upgrade the standards of the corridor now and is not happy about waiting for the General Plan update as it is too far in the future. Property owners can build now and things that we need are not in place.

Jane Dolan made a point regarding the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance, that it would be extremely helpful if the Town of Paradise could give very specific information as to what is at risk. What is the scope of your view shed? The whole plan will take three years, but a considerable amount of time will be in the writing of the document. If the Town would communicate in early 2007 with specific concerns, it would be appreciated.

Chuck Rough commented that we were in the process of setting up a 2007 Town Council and Planning Commission meeting for planning issues and this topic will be on the agenda.

Kim Yamaguchi has another vision, as an example, look at the Donner area of the lake or whatever you are trying to protect. There is a 2-story building exemption if you just have to have one, and the footprint is consolidated to protect the lake side view. Height limitations, placement on the lot itself, and on the other side of the street, they allow 2 story, etc., so there is a protection of view on both the high and low sides. They still allow public property rights for people to develop their own properties without compromising the views.

The last time a moratorium was put in place, it was not accepted by the public. Al McGreehan mentioned that the Town has successfully enforced a moratorium without political fall-out.

Jane Dolan added that the building materials should be specified as well. The Town might want to give us input as to what they consider appropriate vegetation as well, i.e. oleanders, etc.

Robin Huffman said that the County might have a list of what they believe is appropriate.

## **6. Other Issues**

Paul McIntosh said that the policies and procedures regarding Mello-Roos will be on their Agenda on December 21st.

Chuck Rough stated that a consultant will be hired at the next Town Council meeting to consult on the formation of Mello-Roos Districts.

Since part of the Solid Waste Committee is here, would it be appropriate to brainstorm when a potential joint meeting would happen and coordinate it with the County before the Thanksgiving Holiday as to what day and time?

Chuck Rough said that he will touch base with Paul McIntosh to coordinate the meeting date.

## **7. Public Comment**

None

## **8. Adjournment**

4:25PM by Kim Yamaguchi

**It was discussed and noted that the next meeting of the Town/County Ad Hoc Meeting will be in Paradise on:**

**Wednesday, January 10, 2007 at 3:00PM**

***(Note: This meeting date and time was changed to Thursday, February 1st, 2007 at 3:30PM at Paradise Town Hall, Conference Room #4)***



