



County of Santa Cruz

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 330, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

(831) 454-2210 Fax: (831) 454-2710 Tdd: (831) 454-2123

MINUTES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Board of Supervisors Chambers – 701 Ocean Street

Time: 5:00 p.m.

I. ROLL/CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Johnson at 5:02 p.m.

Present: Virginia Johnson, Betsy Herbert; Dan Haifley, Sharon Sarris, Laura Kasa, Tom Rosewall, Robert Stokes, Ken Adelman and Alan Schlenger.

Absent: Len Beyea

Staff: Nancy Gordon, Director, General Services Department

Other staff: Melodye Serino; John Ricker; Mark Deming; and Josh Reilly.

II. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA

Order of presentations reversed between Dr. Herbert and AMBAG presenter Randy DeShazo.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Review minutes of March 25, 2009. Stokes moved, Schlenger seconded, to approve the minutes from the March 25, 2009 meeting. Approved unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC INPUT/ORAL COMMUNICATION

None.

V. BUSINESS MATTERS

A. Correspondence - Board of Supervisors correspondence regarding reappointment of commissioners; email from Molly Ober withdrawing prior request for COE endorsement of Waste Free Schools funding request to Board of Supervisors; invitational flyer on Planning and Conservation League Foundation/Coastal Watershed Council April 30 roundtable; press release regarding Ludwick Family Foundation solar grant award to O'Neill Sea Odyssey building.

B. Ongoing Discovery Process

1. Climate Change and Water Impacts presentation by Commissioner Dr. Betsy Herbert. Presentation gave overview of mitigation and adoption strategies. Objectives discussed included addressing impacts of climate change on global and local hydrologic cycles, how to plan locally and reduce carbon footprint, identification of local water system vulnerabilities, need to plan for extreme shifts in weather, future water supply planning issues, watershed management plans, demand

management, integrated water management, carbon sequestration and limiting local logging protocols. John Ricker provided information on local water agency management plan and cooperative exchange and collaborative opportunities. He advised that his department would be going to the Board of Supervisors in the next few months to update the County's Water Conservation Ordinance and will advise the Commissioners if involvement and/or support is needed. Short discussion among members ensued, and thanks extended to Herbert.

2. Presentation on Transportation and Land Use Planning regional blueprint planning process – presenters Randy DeShazo of AMBAG, Katie Acts and George Dondero of the Regional Transportation Commission. Presentation provided information on SB375 process and the Blueprint Planning Process for the Monterey Bay Region which links transportation, housing, jobs and environmental elements, focusing on smart growth strategies. Discussion followed on benefits of blueprint process, status of California Air Resources Board work and impact on regulatory efforts. Santa Cruz County is not represented on CARB, due to CARB's decision to emphasize large MPOs. AMBAG staff is following CARB work and reporting back to members. In response to what can be done locally as a region, presenters advised to address RTAC directly, speak to the California Associated Council of Governments about process issues and recommend to Board of Supervisors in coordinated message with AMBAG to express concerns directly to legislation at a future point in process. Under discussion, the consensus was that the process now in place is not conducive to local control and management in the future, and that the region needs to position itself strategically, with enforcement element in the legislation. Further discussion ensued.

C. Election of Officer (Chair and Vice Chair)

Upon nomination of Haifley, second by Sarris, Johnson was nominated for Chair. Upon nomination of Rosewall, second by Sarris, Schlenger was nominated for Vice Chair. Both Johnson and Schlenger were elected unanimously, with thanks and appreciation offered for good work by other commissioners.

D. Approval of proposed 2009 Commission Work Plan

Johnson reviewed revised item, adding water conservation and landscape ordinance (p.8 at bottom) and language that avoidable/unavoidable adaptation replaces mitigation. Upon motion of Sarris, second by Stokes, work plan approved unanimously.

E. Status of Committee activities

1. Green Building Task Force –Johnson asked for input from COE on materials provided with agenda, Sarris provided information on stepup2green award program. Brief discussion ensued.
2. Climate Action Compact Working Group – meeting schedule for tomorrow, let Johnson know if attending for Brown Act purposes. Johnson will provide report on regional sustainability approach at next COE meeting.
3. Legislative Recommendations or Updates – Schlenger gave status of SB14 (Simitian), which was now in Assembly. AB 64 is still in Assembly. Haifley gave information on draft federal cap-and- trade bill under development.

F. Set May 27 Agenda. Proposed items:
Ongoing discovery process – Proposed Green Building Program (Planning); ICLEI Inventory Status Report (General Services); Monning legislation (Sarris) and consideration of Rosewall's draft letter for presenters.

G. Roundtable/announcements
Johnson asked about Eco Park; Melodye Serino explained scaling back of project due to current economic situation and waste product trends in construction, demolition and composting. Local markets have asked to be included in local composting plans (New Leaf and Whole Foods).

Haifley announced award to Laura Kasa from AMBAG and Marine Sanctuary for Save Our Shores work.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned by consensus at 6:42 p.m. Next meeting is May 27, 2009.