

Special LATH Meeting Agenda for April 14, 2022
6:00 pm
New Paradigm Institute
3700 Country Club Drive, Lucerne CA 95458
Zoom Link is below for Virtual Access

Town Council Members Lani Urquiza, Chair
 Vacant, 1st Vice Chair
 Rebecca Schwenger, Secretary
 Jason Mohon, Member
 Kevin Waycik, Member

Called meeting to order at 6:07pm by Jason Mohon

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call -Lani Urquiza, Absent

1st Vice Chair, Vacant

Jason Mohon, Present

Kevin Waycik, Present

Becky Schwenger, Present

3. Minutes - Approval of November 2021 and March 2022 Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes for November 2021 an March 2022, Motion by Kevin

Waycik, 2nd by Jason Mohon. All in favor

4. Public Input - Up to 3 minutes per citizen to provide input on any item not on the agenda but is within the Councils' jurisdiction. LATH Chair can extend the time to accommodate the topic if needed but cannot discuss item if not on appearing on the agenda. These items can often be further discussed on a future agenda item if the LATH council decides to add it.

Joe Jones would like to publicly oppose the needle exchange program. They were in front of the senior center and now are still doing this on Tuesday nights on 13th Avenue. This should not be occurring in our town.

Citizen had a question about when people get needles do they turn in needles? The Council has no information on this. Supervisor Crandell said that questions regarding the program were asked by the Board of Supervisors and the needle exchange program has 90 days to come back to the Board of Supervisors with the data. Supervisor Crandell will discuss this with citizens who have questions after the meeting.

Austin Pratt said he has environmental concerns. He is concerned about the creek and the traffic with the new businesses near the creek. People are driving too fast on 9th avenue. There are no posted speed signs. Kids are near the park and it is dangerous. He is worried about the emphasis on the Harbor and that the rest of the town issues will be forgotten. Traffic Safety issues will be put on the agenda for the next month.

Zoom Link for the meeting:

<https://lakecounty.zoom.us/j/93260702591?pwd=R0Njcm5OL2R5NFVWUWNZTzdoQkZqUT09>

Meeting ID : 932 6070 2591

Password: 071816

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Dirt bikers are also speeding on Foothill Drive and are not obeying any traffic laws and would like a CHP or law enforcement presence to deter this.

5. Updates

a. Appointment of new LATH Member Danielle Santopietro

The public appreciates the positive impacts that Danielle has on the community. Motion to appoint Danielle as a LATH member made by Kevin Waycik, 2nd by Jason Mohon. All in favor

b. Lucerne Harbor Project – Guest speakers

- i. Lars Ewing – Public Services Director – Lake County
- ii. Robert Geary – Habematolel Tribal Historic Preservation Officer – From the Elem Indian Colony
- iii. Temashio Anderson – Robinson Rancheria EPA Director – From the Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians
- iv. Dr. John Parker - Registered Professional Archaeologist – Lucerne Esther Stauffer from RR

Brief Overview by Lars Ewing- The Lucerne Harbor has not been dredged for decades. As sort of the parks and recreation director, the county secured funding a few years ago and started the process. The public thinks the project and process is simple. CEQA is the process. It requires the evaluation of the project impacts. Through AB 52, preliminary design and permits were applied for and the CEQA review was requested. At Sonoma State, they asked about any records of archaeological sites. The county reached out to the tribes to see if they were aware of any archaeological sites that were not documented at the Northwest Information Center. The tribes identified some sites. The county is developing a cultural resource management plan. This plan will have monitoring by tribal members and an archaeologist. There will be a review of the cultural resource management plan when it is completed. CEQA will be completed and then the bidding process will begin and then work can be completed.

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Temashio Anderson- The Lucerne area is one of the largest village sites, the tribe has concerns about the dredging. There are 2 known sites that are within 150-200 yards within the Lucerne Harbor. Lucerne is within the Robinson Rancheria cultural area. The AB 52 letter was sent out July 6, 2021, and got a reply back October 2021. The project was for maintenance of a public facility. Robinson Rancheria supports the project but needs to be involved because there are known archaeological sites. The project has a potential for impacts to the archaeological sites. The CEQA process is to make sure the project won't impact the known archaeological sites. No CEQA studies was done prior to the original harbor. The project was changed from a maintenance project to an initial project since the sites were not considered for the original harbor. There is a superfund site near the project and archaeological sites. The county needs to make sure the sediments, heavy metals, and such are not disturbed or leached into the sites.

Lars Ewing said there is a sediment characterization work plan that will be in place.

Dr. Parker-The information center at Sonoma state he helped set up in the 70's. He shared screen with "chips of rock". He has lived in Lucerne for about 15 years and has worked in lake county for 50 years. The rocks came from the widening highway 20 project. Shells were found in shapes that have been rounded and drilled. The "rocks" were used as drill bits. The area is where the Shigom tribe was. The shells were made into beads by the Shigom to use for money. This site is near the harbor and knows it was used within the last 500 years. There is no idea what is under the sediment from over the years. During the dredging the sediment can be monitored and if artifacts are found, they can be handled in a respectful manner. The northwest information center should have had the documentation from Cal Trans studies from the 1980's.

Temashio Anderson- The tribe is concerned about preserving what is left as roads have paved over archaeological sites in the past. He does not want his people erased from the map.

Robinson Rancheria is trying to follow AB 52.

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Danielle wants to know how long this will delay the dredging. Lars said that once the dredging starts, the dredging will be a little longer with the cultural management plan. The CEQA process will probably extend the time 6 months. Lars would like to start the construction the fall of this year.

Robert Geary-Introduced himself in his native language. He is one of the last native speakers of the Elem tribe. If the initial CEQA process was followed from the beginning the dredging would have already started. The native community does not want their ancestors excavated. He compared that to digging up the Arlington Cemetery. He has a map showing that every red dot on the map represents a cultural site. Clearlake is the oldest natural fresh water lake in the nation. An arrowhead found around the lake was dated back about 23,000 years ago. Every red dot is an archaeological site and is logged at the Northwest Information Center. When dredging occurs, there is likely cultural artifacts in the sediment. The scientific and historical cultural data needs to be considered for every project. With AB 52 there has to be a plan about what to do about cultural artifacts if they are found. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) normally needs to be done before anything is done. An EIR was not originally done and there was a categorical exemption. The tribes were asking why an EIR wasn't done.

Kevin Waycik wants to know if there was a way to remove the mound of dirt that has accumulated over the years.

Robert Geary-When the highway was raised the fill dirt came from Anderson Marsh so potential archaeological sites are relocated from one place to another. The tribes preferred that artifacts remain in the ground. That mound could have cultural artifacts in it.

Dr. Parker-core samples can be done but they are generally small. Archaeologists and tribes would like to preserve cultural sites rather than dig it up. Cultural sites are like books, when we dig them up it is like burning a book.

What is the alternate plan if human remains were discovered during dredging? That would mean the dredger went below the natural sediment.

Robert Geary-AB 52 was passed in 2014 so CEQA was amended. A permit can't be issued unless there is an agreement about a cultural resource management plan.

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John Hillenbrand-He is a geologist/mining specialist that works with Sulphur Bank Mine super fund site. It is a source of contamination. There are sources of mercury in the lake and it is unclear where they come from. It is unclear if the Sulphur Bank Mine contributes to mercury in the sediment for dredging. The sediment characterization work plan will be key to the dredging to determine high and low mercury content. The work plan should address all the contaminants that people are concerned about.

Temashio Anderson- The Superfund Site said they were not aware of any dredging or other activities going on around Clearlake. He wants to make sure the community is aware of the contaminants and health effects the dredging could have on the community,

Robert Geary-10 miles away is far away from the superfund site to have an effect on Lucerne. The Community Development Department employee turnover has contributed to the delay.

Esther Stauffer- She is thankful for the collaboration between Robinson Rancheria and the town of Lucerne.

c. Dispensary at the driftwood lodge-tabled to next meeting

d. Update on Cal-Water and Water Sub-committee – Shannon McGovern / Dan Debonis -tabled to next meeting

6. Announcements

a. Danielle Santopietro

i. Little Red Hen Easter Festivities – Sunday April 17 – 10 AM – 12 PM

ii. Northshore Ready Fest - April 30, 2022 – 9 AM – 2 PM

7. Adjourn

Motion made by Kevin Waycik to adjourn the meeting, 2nd Danielle Santopietro. All in favor
Meeting adjourned at 8:16pm

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