

# Winchester-Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

## MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 13, 2022

Place: Winchester Community Center, 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester

### Attendees:

Winchester-Homeland MAC:

- Andy Domenigoni, Chairman; James Horecka, Secretary; Gary Long; Jimmy Sheldrake.
- Our fifth seat is still vacant.

Ex Officio:

Robyn Brock, Deputy Chief of Staff, with 3<sup>rd</sup> District Supervisor Washington's office

Members of the Public

Call to Order: Call to Order by Andy Domenigoni at 6:30 PM.

Flag Salute. Introductions.

### Approval of Agenda:

Motion-to-approve by Sheldrake; second by Long. Approved unanimously.

### Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 14, 2021:

Motion-to-approve by Long; second by Sheldrake. Approved unanimously.

### Guest Speaker: Joe Mouawad, EMWD General Manager

- EMWD President Phil Paule introduced the guest speaker for the evening, and gave a brief bio. Mr. Mouawad has been with EMWD for about two decades. He was elevated to general manager about two years ago. Paule noted that there have only been 8 GMs since EMWD was formed in 1950.
- Mouawad noted that EMWD is the sixth largest water district in California, covering 558 sq miles. EMWD is both a wholesaler and retailer of water. Mr. Mouawad delivered a PowerPoint presentation. See copy for details.
- Q: How is the \$3/sf rebate done? A: \$2 of the \$3 is by MWD, the 3<sup>rd</sup> by EMWD. Once EMWD certifies that the new drought landscaping has been completed (removing turf), EMWD sends a check to owner.
- Q: Substantial new technologies are available. What are EMWD's plans to use it? A: They have been, all along. Examples: They put in 500kW of PV solar six years ago; last summer added another 16 MW of solar power. They convert wastewater treatment methane gas into electricity. EMWD has a robust water recycling program. EMWD does not support small-scale graywater use; EMWD does a better job of water recycling. They also have vast stormwater diversion and capture facilities. Noted Grand Avenue ponds, Mountain Avenue West replenishment basin, etc. Also noted: Development projects are required to include stormwater management best practices in plans.
- Q: A March ARB; isn't the base not in EMWD's service area? A: True, March ARB itself is not. However, the wells that EMWD is drilling are not on the base, but in the area surrounding the base. There were farms around the base with wells, and troops were served by wells. Today, due to contamination, there is virtually no pumping. Therefore the groundwater levels are very high, as high as 5' below the surface. EMWD advocated for grants, winning \$45 million in grants. That's only half the funds needed, but still good. Rectifying the situation there is in our collective interest. The area is served by EMWD infrastructure. The grant will help to treat the contaminated water. The plan is to make a purified water treatment facility. 1<sup>st</sup> phase will provide 4,000 acre feet of reclaimed water, then charge the aquifer. The water must take at least 6 months to percolate down; modeling shows it'll take 5 years.
- Q: Where will the water come from to support the massive growth? A: Riverside County is the fastest-growing county in the state. If we all do our share, we'll have enough water.
- Q: Can we get a MAP showing proposed water and sewer infrastructure over existing? A: Yes.

### Old Business:

A. General County update; Robyn Brock, representing 3<sup>rd</sup> District Supervisor Washington:

- Robyn noted that the new Chief of Staff is Joe Predeto.
- Opal Hellweg retired on December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021. We are all grateful for her service & support!
- Pacifica Hoffenberg: Public Information Officer (P.I.O.):

- December 14<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Supervisors approved new boundaries. The 3<sup>rd</sup> District kept the WHMAC area whole and intact (“Huzzah!”).
  - Regarding the Winchester Community Plan and GPA EIR: The Planning Department has hired a new consulting firm to process the EIR. They hope to have the draft EIR ready for presentation to the WHMAC soon.
- B. Sheriff Department update; Deputy Carrico:
- Crime stats: November: 246 calls; 6 arrests. December: 292 calls, 3 arrests.
- C. Cal Fire Winchester Station #34; Ken Moffitt.
- Moffitt stated that COVID 19 is very real: About 85% of calls that they respond to involve someone who tested positive for COVID 19. This is very tough for them in the field. There are ~300 personnel out due to it.
  - Our Winchester Station has the only HazMat Team in Riverside. They even go a few miles into Arizona.
  - Call volume: In 2020, there were 650 calls. In 2021, over 1,000 calls.
  - He noted that accidents have gone up as traffic through the area has increased. Fentanyl overdose increasing.
  - In 2021, there were 183,482 incidents in Riverside County.
  - Winchester Fire Station is at “Level 4.”
- D. EMWD Updates; Alma Ramirez:
- No additional comments (Mr. Mouawad presented earlier).
- E. Code Enforcement:
- No representative present; no report.
- F. Assemblyman Kelly Seyarto’s Office; Joe Fuentes, Field Representative
- The Assemblyman introduced three bills: Flyer brought in. See Internet for details of bills, etc.
- G. Senator Melissa Melendez; Amanda Fisher:
- Noted several new bills introduced. Fisher introduced Angelina Ausin, a new staff member.
- H. Valley Wide Park & Recreation District; Robert Byers, Recreation Supervisor:
- 2021’s theme was “Getting ahead.” In 2022, they hope to Keep that rolling
  - They are updating the ball courts at the Park. They’ll be refreshing the Dirk Meredith Meeting Room.
  - 2022 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Valley Wide, & the 20<sup>th</sup> of our Winchester Community Center!
  - There will be a big fundraising event in March, at the Esplanade Center.
- I. Highway 79:
- No fresh news.
- J. Land Use update; Cindy Domenigoni: Cindy presented a written report of the WTA LUC activities.
1. Winchester Community Planning & GPA #1207: Still awaiting DEIR. February 2022?
  2. Cannabis Storefront Retailer – CUP #190032; not yet approved by the Board of Supervisors.
  3. Crossroads / Boulder Crossing – TTM #38305 & TPM #38037 – NW corner of Hwy 79 and Domenigoni Parkway: Presently under construction.
  4. Matthews Road: Proposed change of zone.
  5. SoCal Mulch CUP 200009.
  6. RV Storage & Pod Storage PPT 190038.
  7. Val Daele Homes: Proposed 164 units on 14.9 acres (south of Salt Creek).
  8. Riverside Views TTM 37670 (81 acres at Briggs & Old Newport Road).
  9. CUP 210015 – Commercial Cannabis Operation at 31170 Highway 74, Homeland
- K. City of Hemet update:
- No representative present; no report.
- L. City of Menifee update; Doug Darnell:
- M. No representative present; no report.
- N. Other Old Business:
- Redistricting: Maps were brought in to the meeting for all to view.
- Open Forum:
- None.

Next WHMAC Meeting:

The next WHMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 10, 2022 6:30 PM, at the Community Center.

Adjournment:

The WHMAC adjourned at 7:59 PM. M:GL/S:JS