

Unapproved Minutes  
Dunnigan Advisory Committee  
Wednesday, March 19, 2008

Dunnigan Fire House  
29145 Main Street  
Dunnigan, Ca 95937

**Call to order:** 7:08 pm

### **ATTENDANCE**

- 15 members in attendance, quorum present
- 3 members not in attendance, Greg Bickford, Wilma Gullatt and Karene Harris
- 20 members, residents and guests were present at this meeting

### **MINUTES**

Chairman Williams called for the adoption of the February 20<sup>th</sup> minutes, no correction or additions were noted. Chairman Williams called for a motion to approve the minutes.

**Motion by:** Shirley Gooch, **Seconded by** Betty Elliott

**Vote: Yes 14, No 0, Abstain 1** Minutes of February 20<sup>th</sup> approved.

### **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

#### **By Laws:**

Committee discussed lowering the number of members on the committee. According to the By Laws the number of members currently on the committee is 19. Some members felt the number should be lowered. The committee currently has 18 appointed members. Chairman Williams called for comments from the members present,

- E. Linse felt if the chair can keep us on topic, keep the meeting moving forward, the number should not be a problem
- D. Kirkland stated the committee at present represents the entire community of Dunnigan. A smaller committee would enable us to tend to business more quickly. My recommendation would be to lower the number of members to 17. Existing number of 18 would remain; if a member left they would not be replaced lowering the number to 17.
- Assistant Deputy Maya Walker stated the Dunnigan Committee is by far the largest and very active in county issues. Other committee's are much smaller.
- M. Smith indicated for the number of years he has served on the committee there has always been an active participation from the Dunnigan community. The DAC is by far the most active and are on top of current county issues that continue to slide by other advisory committee's. Has no preference as to the number of members.
- Our Supervisor needs to know the committee's desire with reference to the number of members. We need to make a decision and not leave it in limbo.

- Chairman Williams addressed the question about having a quorum present, there has never been a problem with reaching a quorum; his concern is if the committee stands at an even number, would there be a problem with our voting process.
- B. Weber felt last year had a lot of heated topics without conclusions, this year the climate is different, the number on the committee at present feels good. A smaller group can deal with issues faster and reach a consensus.
- M. Smith, consensus is important factor, when vote goes to Supervisor a split decisions looks bad, a decisive majority is important. The larger the committee the more chaotic it can become.
- A. Backhaus indicated the larger the committee the more time is taken up with discussion.
- S. Gooch questioned the appointment decisions; Maya Walker indicated the Supervisor decides on who is appointed.

It was further noted the committee currently stands at 18; no existing member would be removed to reach a new number if we decide to lower the number of members. However, when a committee member leaves, they would not be replaced which would bring the committee to the number stated in our bylaws.

Chairman Williams asked if there was any further discussion, if not, we could entertain a motion.

**Motion:** D. Kirkland made a motion to lower the number of members on the committee to 17 and adjust our bylaws according. **Seconded by** W. Ingraham

**Vote:** Yes, 11; No, 3; Abstain, 1 **Motion Carried**

### **Public Comments**

Chairman Williams opened Public Comments

- W. Ingraham mentioned the Rooster problem that continues to grow here in Dunnigan. Wants county to control this problem.
- Deputy Maya Walker indicated at present there is no limit on the number of Roosters that can be owned.
- W. Ingraham indicated residents who have animals need to be more responsible, has had dead chickens thrown in his yard, also there are loose chickens running all over the place in the Hardwoods.
- V. Lovell indicated the problem with animals has gotten worse; she referenced the types of animals, also shared an incident with the number of cows on a piece of property creating an unhealthy situation for a neighbor.
- Deputy Maya Walker stated the county currently does not have a code enforcement officer, suggest Animal Control be notified
- V. Lovell indicated her neighbor has contacted the proper department with no response. She went on to indicate the presence of cock fights; neighbors who have actually witnessed the training of not only the cocks but pit bull puppies as well. Lots of problems exist in this area, referencing the Hardwoods in general.
- Chairman Williams suggest we place this item on next months agenda with the intent of preparing a letter describing the situation we want addressed.
- D. Rust, Planner indicated complaints addressed to the code enforcement officer can be made through a web page; these complaints are currently being addressed

by the Building or Planning Department until a new code enforcement officer is on board.

- B. Weber thanked the county for the work currently being done on Road 2
- E. Linse, Vice Chairman shared some information on a development in the bay area that had been pulled due to market conditions as well as the fact that jobs were not there before housing. Millions of dollars were lost in this 2500 home proposed development. He anticipates a long delay before we see some changes here and feels we should start some concrete planning on jobs before we get a big development here. Eric referenced an article, which he past on to Chairman Williams, referencing building trends that start furthest from central cities, apparently this appears to be the current way development is taking place.
- S. Gooch announced the church flea market will be held on April 26 in Bill & Kathy's parking lot. Help will be needed to set up on April 25. Volunteers can call Shirley. Starts at 1:00pm.

Chairman Williams requested we place the livestock issue on next month agenda as he had also received comments from the community on the rooster issue.

As there were no further Public Comments, Public Comments were closed.

### **Correspondence**

Chairman Williams read a letter from the assistant engineer for the county which referenced an issue the drainage committee has continued to work on. Discussion on this problem followed:

- History, investigation started two years ago on the drainage problems in the Dunnigan area, one area at a time was being addressed; the first area was the flooding of the CFE senior community. This community flooded twice during the recent rainy season
- D. Kirkland made reference to the incorrect statements noted in the letter. The letter referenced a ditch a ¼ mile from Road 8 south to Road 7 which should have read south to Byrd Creek. Road 7 is north of Road 8
- The problem exists from Road 8 to Byrd Creek on the east side of 99W between the railroad tracks and the road way; there is no longer a drainage ditch evident to take the water that drains from Ritchie Bros and Pilot south to Byrd Creek. The influx of water coming from Ritchie Bros and Pilot has no where to go so it continues north to the Road 7 drainage system. This influx of water inundates this system which is not capable of handling it. All this water attempts to travel down Road 7 to the 90 degree turn and then into a ditch that can be described as a rut in the road. This ditch is the bottleneck of this system and has not been worked on in years. Problem is the county states the ditch is on private property and they can not do anything to correct the problem. They also indicated the Dunnigan Water District has an easement where this ditch is located for a water delivery system that flows from north to south delivering water to local farmers. But this is not confirmed.
- The issue is that the Road 7 drainage system can not handle this large amount of water. If the county cleaned out the ditch on the east side of 99W to Byrd Creek

it would allow the water to flow in the correct direction and alleviate the Road 7 issue.

It was noted two years ago when the drainage sub-committee dealt with Rick Moore at the Public Works Department it was a meaning full team effort to get the drainage ditches in Dunnigan cleaned out. Mel Smith, Greg Bickford and Deanna Kirkland were on this committee and did a lot of investigative foot work through out Dunnigan. A map was created depicting the problem areas, presented to the Public Works Department and asked if they could make these corrections over the next year and they did.

Over the last two years the current problem was identified and monitored. When we asked for county assistants we were met with a defensive attitude from the representatives that were sent to meet with us. In no way was the sub-committee attempting to place blame for this problem only to ask for assistants in rectifying the problem. The letter presented this evening still bears a defensive tone, as well as attempts to direct blame. In a personal conversation with the engineer it was indicated that some work would be done around Road 8. The issue with the ditch at the end of Road 7 at present still has no solution. Chairman Williams opened discussion on this issue:

- B. Stucker will address the possible easement at the Water District meeting to attempt to get a resolution to the Road 7 problem.
- Chairman Williams questioned if the water is draining north to Road 7 and then east that's a torturous route, when it seemingly could just be dumped out there and go right into Byrd Creek.
- M. Smith stated his lawyers have subpoenaed the records from the county on the Ritchie Bros and Pilot drainage system. There is responsibility here of what magnitude or who could be responsible is unknown at this time. The bottom line is that Country Fair Estates is being flooded out because we are being inundated by the water coming from the Ritchie Bros and Pilot drainage system.
- Chairman Williams stated he looked at the area and the water should drain south to Byrd Creek.
- Question was posed about the retention ponds; M. Smith indicated these ponds were always located at the bottom of the project.
- S. Mumma brought attention to the problem of Azevedo Draw at the railroad tracks.
- Maintenance of the drainage ditches is crucial to our roads problem. The county needs to maintain the ditches within their easement on an annual basis. There is no limit to the amount of private participation that can be done to keep these ditches open through private property.

Chairman Williams indicated we have gotten off on to other drainage issues, he asked Maya or Mr. Rust to look into having the drainage around Road 8 corrected.

- B. Weber indicated going back to basics, water flows down hill, the county needs to identify what down hill is. Also to have them identify their easements and clean out the ditches within those areas.

Chairman Williams asked if there were any other correspondence items, none were brought to the floor, correspondence was closed.

## **Discussion Items**

### **Community Clean Up**

Chairman Williams referenced the proposed community clean up slated for April 19<sup>th</sup>. He referenced the letters that had been drafted in the past to ask for a receptacle to be placed in Dunnigan with no avail. He went on to note Deputy Maya Walker's concern about not having enough community participation. He then asked Maya Walker to proceed. Maya indicated:

- Start at 8:00 am
- Meet at Fire House
- Basically community participation, workers would include the DAC and representatives from the Supervisor's Office and all other help we can arrange
- Orange vest and receptacles will be provided, basically plastic bags
- Transportation from here to land fill would have to be by community volunteers. Dumping would be free. Gas for donated vehicles would not be paid for.
- Basically this is an earth day clean up, trash from road side clean up will be free to dump
- D. Kirkland when the letter was written to ask for a receptacle to be budgeted for Dunnigan for a once a year clean up it was with the idea that residents from the community could bring their large items to a centralized cite. Traveling the roads last weekend, we don't have a lot of road side clean up but we have residents with a lot of trash that needs to be clean up. The main issue here is to have a once a year clean up budgeted. Maya indicated the budget request was shot down.
- B. Weber would like to have a dumpster here and we should continue to push for it. He is willing to donate a truck and trailer for the clean up day.
- Deputy Maya Walker indicated with reference to the budget that all departments are being asked to cut 10% across the board.
- Vice Chairman Linse commented we don't mind if we get something to cut. We don't feel there is enough here that we could cut.
- Point is we pay taxes and some of the farmer's pay quite a bit of taxes, however we don't get anything. And when we ask the county for assistances they never seem to have any money, or we can't get it in the budget or something else is more important. This is wrong, if you take tax money from a community some of that money needs to come back to the community.
- V. Lovell indicated she could probably arrange for large items to be picked up. The Supervisors want to place all these houses here and don't want to help us clean up. We are trying to do something for the community; they need to give us some consideration. Were not Capay Valley, we don't have all the funds coming from the casino. To do a large item clean up were talking about the cost of diesel fuel from here to Davis.

Chairman Williams commented our feelings are known as to what we would like; he could see the value in having a community wide clean up. We have people here tonight that our willing to help, a reminder our next meeting is on April 16<sup>th</sup> so we will have time to complete the arrangements. He questioned the idea of having high school

students to assist and if there was any liability involved also how electrical waste would be handled. Maya and Chairman Williams will check into the liability and the local high school student's participation.

- N. Busch made reference to having a transfer station in Dunnigan. The closest one is in Esparto, questioned how it was funded.
- M. Smith indicated that's definitely what we need, we have been working on this thing for ten years, having clean up day and a couple of roll offs every two years to try and clean up is not the answer, it's not the road side that is inundated with trash it's the private property, we can't deal with that with volunteer's.
- Vice Chairman Linse suggested we should try to continue to work with the county to get the community clean ups as in the past.

### **Roads report:**

Chairman Williams called for the Roads Sub-committee to present their report.

Committee members were given a copy the roads repair priority list and the letter addressed to our County Supervisor requesting the repairs.

- Vice Chairman Linse presented two of the safety issues listed, one dealing with a potential fire hazard the other with pedestrian traffic on Road 4, suggestion for correcting this situation by adding a marked walkway.
- D. Kirkland covered the remainder of the report referencing Road 89, Road 2 and Road 88. Maintenance issues listed covered potholes, maintenance of road side ditches, re-grading of drainage ditches, adding culverts as well as long range objectives.
- Committee members identified a large pothole on Road 88A between Roads 4 and 5 that needs immediate attention. Requested it be added to the list. Also noted was the widening of Road 5 as a long range objective.

Chairman Williams asked if the committee was agreeable to the letter and report, consensus noted agreement. Secretary Kirkland asked Chairman Williams to sign the letter and presented it to Deputy Maya Walker for delivery to Supervisor Chamberlain. A revised list with the two additions added will be faxed to Maya the next day.

### **Newsletter:**

Chairman Williams indicated he had called a meeting; however the other members were not able to attend. He feels there is general consensus for the newsletter, would like to get a sample newsletter in the works. Also would like to confirm Ritchie Bros is sincerely interested in printing the newsletter. Additional comments:

- B. Weber suggested we use realtor boxes for a method of distribution.
- Not able to distribute by placing stand in post office.
- Chairman Williams will continue working on the newsletter and a distribution method.
- M. Smith suggested we ask for volunteers to make 5 or 6 small stands that could be placed at stores or gas stations. We could make an agreement with local merchants to have the stands in their stores.
- Mail out not an option.

- Chairman Williams referenced an idea, he asked Anita to check on the local high school students to see if they might be able to get credit for community service by distribute the newsletter.

### **Planning Commission Update**

Don Peart stated the Dunnigan community should be very proud to have this number of members on the committee, all the other advisory committee's have about 7. "I want to compliment this Committee for showing a real interest in the community and doing a good job". He went on to reference the Sugar Mill project which the Planning Commission has recommended they go ahead with Clark Pacific. Clark Pacific is a good company and is willing to mitigate any problems that may arise. They recommend the Board of Supervisor move ahead with the project approval.

Chairman Williams recognized Don Rust, Planner who indicated he would read the animal ordinance and email a copy to the secretary.

Chairman Williams recognized David Hunt, Fire Chief who indicated the department was going to have to update communications equipment as their frequency is going to a narrow band when the changes take effect next year. They are receiving some grants to help offset the cost.

### **Future Agenda Items**

- Roosters and livestock problems
- Community clean up
- Newsletter
- Drainage ditches

As there was no further business Chairman Williams asked for a motion to adjourn. Betty Elliott made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Anita Tatum, all in favor. Meeting adjourned 8:35 pm

Respectfully Submitted  
Deanna Kirkland, Secretary  
Dunnigan Advisory Committee