

# Minutes

## **HGCSD Board Regular Meeting, June 18, 2024**

**(Applegate Civic Center, 18014 Applegate Road, Applegate)**

1. **MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 4 P.M.** Those present included President Max Bailey, Board Members Gary Bundesen, Marc Krupin, Cheryl Madden, and Vice President Rhonda Rajaofera, Board Secretary Linda McLean. Also present were 9 homeowners from Heather Glen Estates.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **SPECIAL PRESENTATION** by Placer Hills Fire Protection District (PHFPD) Fire Marshall, Mark D'Ambrogli on "HOW TO BE PREPARED" for an Emergency Evacuation. Mr. D'Ambrogli gave a comprehensive explanation and instructions to residents of HGE on preparations they need to have made and the actual evacuation procedure. Mr. D'Ambrogli provided a 5-page handout to attendees, and also provided 21 extra copies for the HGCSD office to distribute to residents. The board instructed the Board Secretary to distribute the "Emergency Prep Kit Checklist" and the form requesting emergency contact(s) information (provided by Cheryl Madden.) Board also requested that a pdf version of the communication be posted on the [HGCSD.net](http://HGCSD.net) website.

4. **MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Rhonda Rajaofera made a Motion that the Minutes of board Special Meeting May 28, 2024 be approved without being read aloud. (Second: Gary Bundesen)

Votes in favor: 4

Against: 0

**MOTION PASSED**

5. **OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. Roads & Grounds Committee - Marc Krupin**

1. **Asphalt on B Lane:** A new bid was received for the asphalt overlay on B Lane at a cost of \$21,000. Marc Krupin made a Motion that the board postpone a decision about this work until after he reviews the budget. Rhonda Rajaofera amended the Motion to read "Approve the asphalt project on B Lane with a Not-to-Exceed (NTE) price of \$21,000." (Second by Gary Bundesen.)

Votes in favor: 4

Against: 0

**MOTION PASSED**

2. **Annual spraying of herbicide for weed abatement:** At the Special Meeting 4/12/24, the board approved a bid in the amount of \$1,745 (TruGreen Commercial) for spraying of herbicide on scotch broom and other undesirable weeds at perimeter of HGE community (part of fire risk reduction.) About a month delay occurred while TruGreen resolved an issue with their license to spray particular chemicals. However, when the TruGreen crew arrived to do the work, they claimed to not understand that their truck would not remain on pavement at all times in doing this work, and they CANCELLED.

Gary Bundesen initiated an alternative process (purchasing the RangerPro herbicide used in past years) utilizing two employees and a hired driver with ATV and spraying equipment.

Board Members Krupin and Madden asked for an accounting of what the costs were in this alternative process. [The cost of the herbicide was approximately \$550, the cost of the hired driver, ATV, and

spray trailer was \$1,000. It is difficult to separate out the employee hours since many hours were spent weed whacking in various areas of the property (including along Applegate Road, at the HG entrance, and along dirt access roads throughout the property. Also, hours were spent manually cutting back Scotch Broom which had become seriously overgrown.) All board members were in agreement that the herbicide is most effective when sprayed on weeds that are actively growing, and there was general agreement that the spraying should have occurred earlier, especially after a very wet winter. Board members Krupin and Madden also claimed that they had insisted that a different chemical be used instead of "glyphosate" (that they recommended "glyphosate ammonium") however, the remaining board members had no recollection of that conversation occurring. Lastly, Board Members Krupin and Madden complained that no notice was given of the days on which spraying occurred. Therefore, they believe the residents were put at unnecessary risk because they did not receive proper notice.

Resident Linda McLean took the podium and said that the published Fact Sheets available from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA,) the National Institutes of Health (NIH,) on toxicity of "Glyphosate," as well as findings published by an independent research laboratory in collaboration with Oregon University, all show laboratory test results that do not support the claim of adverse health effects — definitely not carcinogenic effects — in humans or domestic animals from exposure to Glyphosate. These arguments were ignored, largely because of a belief that Monsanto entered into settlement agreements with Claimants in the "RoundUp" class action lawsuit because their product was found to have caused cancers in those instances. Argument in rebuttal was that Monsanto may have simply entered into settlements to put an end to the inrush (millions) of Claims that had been asserted. However, the published scientific research does not support the argument that Glyphosate causes cancer.

## **B. Fire Protection Committee - Cheryl Madden**

**1. Harmon Property** - Due to influence of board member Cheryl Madden, Owners agreed to CalFire assistance to create a shaded fuel break that will benefit HGE.

**2. Burying the four Propane Tanks at "Park 3"** (North end of Dunvegan): After lengthy discussion, Marc Krupin made a Motion to approve spending \$9,990 to bury the new propane tanks being provided by Hunt Propane. (Second by Cheryl Madden)

Votes in favor: 4

Against: 0

MOTION PASSED

**3. Approval of Funding for Washington Ridge Conservation Camp manzanita removal work on Hotchkiss Hill** to reduce risk from wildfire for the HGCSD water storage tank. In addition, Cheryl Madden mentioned that an unforeseen benefit of the work is that the hill now presents a flat top, where it may be possible for helicopters to land to insert fire crews in an emergency. Cheryl Madden made a Motion to approve funding\* in the amount of \$2,718 for the WRCC work. (Second by Rhonda Rajaofera) \*The contract had previously been signed.

Votes in favor: 4

Against: 0

MOTION PASSED

**4. "Project C on Applegate Road"** (property near intersection of Weaver Hill Road, owner George Bach): Cheryl Madden intends to write a letter of complaint to Placer County to influence owner to comply with mandated defensible space fire prevention work.

**5. "Project D on Weaver Hill Road"** (property behind 585 and 595 A Lane, owner believed to be Joel Schaeffer): Cheryl Madden intends to write a letter of complaint to Placer County to influence owner to comply with mandated 100 ft defensible space fire prevention work.

**6. Motion to approve additional funding of \$300** to complete work of removing overhanging tree limbs over HGE roads made by Cheryl Madden. (Second Rhonda Rajaofera)

Votes in favor: 4

Against: 0

**MOTION PASSED**

**7. RCD Chipper Program.** Cheryl Madden was successful in persuading the RCD program to provide chipper services on top of Hotchkiss Hill to process manzanita debris into chips an acceptable size to reduce fire risk, at a cost of \$80 per hour, two hours total.

**8. Evacuation Preparedness:** Board approved distributing to all residents at HGE the 5-page handout from Mark D'Ambrogli of PHFPD as well as an Emergency Kit Checklist, and a form requesting emergency contact information from residents.

### **C. Budget Committee Report - Cheryl Madden**

**1. Marc Krupin requested that a special meeting be held** to discuss all the requirements of California Prop 218 and to ensure that all those requirements are understood and are being met. (more specifically, the ordinance mandates that when a request is made for an increase in rates by any utility in the State, that (1) the customers are notified in writing and given an opportunity for a public hearing for comment and voicing objections (all of which was done in Fall of 2021;) then that the funds from that rate increase can only be used for the purpose(s) stated in the notice to customers. Marc is concerned that the HGCSO accounting does not reflect the additional funds received due to that particular rate increase, and those funds are not earmarked for Reserve spending, Therefore, the board is not clear about what funds are available for work that would be considered Capital Expenditures, aka Reserve Expenditures (Such as paving a road, replacing a pipe in the underground water distribution system, replacing major components of the WTP, etc.)

### **7. NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. PCWA F.A.P. Grant for Pilot Study** on Reducing Harmful Bi-products of Disinfection of \$32,980: HGCSO board approved acceptance of the F.A.P. grant Funding Agreement and the commitments associated with using those funds. The Funding Agreement was signed by Board President, Max Bailey. Also, the Engineering Services Agreement with Hydros Engineering for the engineering work needed to do the study was approved. This contract was signed by Marc Krupin.

**2. Budget for Linda McLean to attend CSDA Conference** June 23 through 26: A budget for airfare, rental car, and a per diem of \$69/day for meals and miscellaneous expenses was presented and approved, for a total expense of \$1,270.96.

(The District was not asked to pay for hotel at \$209/night, because Linda would be staying with a friend, nor was the District asked to pay the \$775 fee for attending the conference because a scholarship was provided by CSDA.)

**3. Employment Agreement with Linda McLean:** Cheryl Madden presented a proposed employment agreement. The document has been signed and returned to the Board President.

### **8. ADJOURNMENT - MEETING ADJOURNED at 6:20 p.m.**

The next Regular Meeting of the HGCSO Board is scheduled for the fourth Thursday in September, i.e. **September 26, 2024**. Meeting to be held at the Applegate Civic Center commencing at 4:00 p.m.