

# Midcoast Community Council

An elected Municipal Advisory Council to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors  
Post Office Box 248, Moss Beach, CA 94038-0248  
<http://mcc.sanmateo.org>

Bill Kehoe . Laura Stein . Lisa Ketcham . Bob Kline . Len Erickson . Dan Haggerty . David Vespremi

## Approved Minutes: Meeting on December 14, 2011

**Call to Order:** 7:45 Self-introductions: all current and outgoing council members present: Len Erickson, Bill Kehoe, Neil Merrilees, David Vespremi, Bob Kline, Deborah Lardie, Leonard Woren.  
Supervisor Don Horsley in attendance at table with council members.

### **Sherriff's Report:**

- Holiday safety alert: lock doors, general security/safety measures
- Commercial film-making in the area for 2 more days -- film makers have all required permits. Please be patient with parking and other disruptions. (film about life of surfer Jay Moriarty)

### **SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS: Change of Council**

- Recognition of outgoing council members: Deborah Lardie, Neil Merrilees, Leonard Woren  
Presentations by Supervisor Don Horsley, Assemblymember Jerry Hill, and Katrina Rill  
(Congresswoman Jackie Speier's Aide)  
Comment/praise by Joel Farbstein for Neil Merrilees  
Comments by outgoing councilmembers Lardie, Merrilees, Woren
- Oath of Office for New Members - Supervisor Don Horsley 8:10  
Dan Haggerty, Lisa Ketcham, Laura Stein are sworn in and seated.
- Election of Officers (Len Erickson)  
Chair: Bob nominates Bill Kehoe. 7/0 for Bill.  
Vice Chair: Lisa nominates Laura Stein. David nominates Bob Kline. 7/0 for Laura.  
Secretary: Laura nominates Lisa Ketcham: 7/0 for Lisa  
Treasurer: Laura nominates Bob Kline. 7/0 for Bob
- Bill Kehoe takes charge of meeting.

### **1. Board of Supervisors and other officials Report (8:15)**

- a. Nicholas Calderon: Everything on his report is on the agenda, will comment then.
- b. Reports from other officials present
  - **Brian Aviles** from GGNRA. Rancho Corral de Tierra now part of National Parks Service as of 12/9/11 transfer from POST, introduced:
  - **Christine Carey** NPS/Parks Conservancy (professional planner & engineer) – Project Coordinator for GGNRA in San Mateo County. Contact info 415-561-4745, [ccarey@parksconservancy.org](mailto:ccarey@parksconservancy.org) Christine will be here on a regular basis. Welcome events being planned for spring, educational events (mountain lions), continued outreach. Sign up or contact her to be added to email update list.
  - **Katrina Rill**, Congresswoman Jackie Speier's Aide introduced herself -- will have Midcoast responsibility. Lives in Pacifica. Office in San Mateo. Will be attending MCC meetings.

### **2. Community Forum (8:20)**

- **Cid Young** : Supervisor Horsley, are there any community service opportunities available on the Midcoast? Supervisor Horsley answers: There are volunteer opportunities; emergency

response teams (not CERT), meet monthly for training. Let them know at Moss Beach substation that you'd like to volunteer.

- **Leonard Woren:** Coastside Fire Protection District having CERT training course, starts in January, about 8 Tuesday evenings in a row. Leonard is setting up Google group for announcements. Good volunteer training for emergencies.
- **Jim Marsh:** Came home last June and his hedge was gone – 60 linear feet, corner of Coronado and Cabrillo in El Granada. Found out DPW removed due to site line issues. Asks for MCC to open a dialogue with DPW to discuss these kinds of procedures.
- **Kathryn Slater-Carter:** Thanks to Supervisor Horsley for speaking against the dissolution of MCC (see agenda item 4d).

### 3. Consent Agenda (8:30)

- a. Minutes – October 31, 2011 (Special Meeting)
- b. Minutes – November 9, 2011
- c. Minutes – November 14, 2011 (Special Meeting)
- d. Minutes – November 30, 2011 (Special Meeting)

Motion: Len to approve all minutes. Second: Laura. 7/0 Approved

### 4. Regular Agenda – The Council may take action on the following items:

#### a. **Devil's Slide Task Force / South Portal Crossing** - Don Horsley (8:30)

Don Horsley, task force chair, will speak and take comments on the recent announcements for Pedestrian Crossing changes and the operation of the Devil's Slide Task Force in 2012.

**Don:** Devil's Slide Tunnel Task force in existence 7-10 yrs, meets quarterly; Don inherited it when he became Supervisor. Attempts to get above/below grade crossing were refused by Caltrans, who offered to do lighted crosswalk with warning lights in tunnel. Don argued for something better -- on demand light. Caltrans offered HAWK pedestrian light. Don is arguing for something similar on the north portal. Next Task Force meeting is in March. MCC delegation welcome to attend – let him know who will attend. Probably only couple more meetings – tunnel completion expected December 2012. Described some of work needed to prepare old roadway for trail – seasonal screening in some areas to prevent nesting birds from being disturbed (birds disturbed by people looking but not passing cars). Poles in K-rail with wire to prevent people from climbing over. Estimates \$1.5 million to upgrade road facilities for Coastal Trail. Link in CCT on Pacifica side not complete because could not yet agree on fair price with property owners.

**Len:** Overlap between Devil's Slide Task Force and County's Hwy 1 Mobility Study – where to address concerns? Hwy 1 study shows Hwy road width inadequate for bicycles at tunnel approach. Don suggests bringing question to both places.

**David:** Who will attend Task Force meeting? (Answer: to be decided when agenda itemized at regular meeting --have until March to decide). Purpose of bypass or tunnel was to expedite traffic flow. Signals at tunnel entrance not safe and do not expedite traffic flow.

**Laura:** 2004 tunnel Coastal Development Permit (CDP) conditions stated the requirement for the pedestrian signal and exactly where it should be located. So, there has to be a signal.

**Lisa:** Process of tunnel permit approval and conditions added must have been public – how is this knowledge lost and years later the community and the agencies involved are talking about all the possible solutions. It seems as though nobody at the table remembered that this had been decided in 2004.

**Dan:** All for safe crossings. Concerned about effect on post card view exiting tunnel, style of traffic lights. Hope they won't be too intrusive into the view – consider size, color. Balance between clearly visible stop light and obnoxious structure.

**David:** MCC was not involved back in 2004. Setting sun in afternoon causes limited vision – traffic light has to compete with that.

**April Vargas:** MCC had tunnel aesthetics review committee 2000-03. MCC was not involved in trails connectivity discussions – those were agencies with fiduciary interest only. At that time discussion just beginning about parking spots, bus stop, but signal not mentioned that she remembers. Feels we should discuss other options now in case the light doesn't work out, rather than living with bad situation for a long time. Backed up traffic may be seen as invitation to widen Hwy 1. Community needs to be involved more. Great that Supervisor here to discuss this.

**Cid Young:** Wanted to correct David's statement that tunnel was built to expedite traffic flow. Her understanding was that the tunnel was built for access, not speed, because Devil's Slide was repeatedly closed and we were a cul de sac. She also acknowledged problem of traffic backups caused by lights such as at Frenchman's Creek.

**Don:** Can't stuff 2 lanes through one lane in tunnel. Absolutely no plans to turn it into a 4-lane highway. Hwy 1 is currently designated expressway which needs to be changed in order to lower speed limits. Remember this is on-demand light for pedestrians, only because there's a bus stop on other side.

**David** clarified earlier comment that CDP contemplated at-grade crossing which led to traffic light requirement, but if you eliminated an at-grade crossing there would be no need for traffic light. Also not good to have cars backed up spewing exhaust.

**Bill:** was on the MCC committee on south portal crossing in early 2011 that met with CalTrans. They said there is no data at this time re pedestrian traffic to warrant an overpass, but they would take a look at that in the future. Welcomes opportunity for MCC delegation to attend Task Force – has heard conflicting council opinions, so would like to get one person from each side to go. Thinks having no light there would be a disaster and unconscionable. Also bicyclists in Hwy are at risk since there is very little or no shoulder.

**Laura:** Wants to understand the process of how traffic light plan could be changed – how to change conditions required in CDP.

**Len:** When Steve Monowitz is here re Hwy 1 Mobility Study, he can speak to CDP issue.

## **b. Roadmap for Highway 1 Safety and Mobility Improvement Study and Transportation Planning – Council Discussion (9:15)**

With the Study draft released to the public, Steve Monowitz' comment on the 2012 roadmap will be discussed.

Action: The council may decide to provide feedback to Steve Monowitz.

**Len:** Steve Monowitz plans to hold two public meetings to present study: one with MCC, the other a general community meeting. After digesting public comments, then another release of the study presented to the MCC. Schedule appears measured with no rush.

**Don:** Will come in January with Steve to discuss the Study, suggests only that item on agenda.

**Lisa:** Likes timing and order of steps. Suggestion re 2 separate initial presentations, one at MCC and one for community -- It would benefit MCC and community as a whole to create best possible opportunity to get the most people involved in the same room at the same time so we can all hear the presentation together as well as all the questions/answers/comments. One joint meeting hosted by MCC & County, like League of Women Voters Candidate Forum, where forum was only item on the agenda, MCC Chair introduced the League, turned meeting over to them, councilmembers sat in audience with public. Also like 2009 MCC Trails Forum. Could be held on regular MCC night and televised. Larger meeting room needed. Combined publicity efforts would be greater. Suggest joint meeting late Jan. or early Feb.

**David:** excellent idea, having everybody there together

**Bill:** concerned some people may have conflict that evening and miss any chance to comment.

**Lisa:** It would be on TV

**Laura:** totally supportive -- there with largest part of the community to find out their thoughts. Is

there greater attendance on weeknights or weekends?

**Don:** Doubts that weekend meeting was planned – assumes night-time meeting was planned.  
Can work out schedule with MCC Chair.

**Bill:** Sounds like council leaning toward one joint meeting

**Don:** Can we discuss later – wants to see what Steve thinks

**Len:** Probably some breakout study sessions needed as well.

**Bill:** One meeting would be more cost efficient.

**Laura to Don:** Would it carry more weight if council took a vote?

**Don:** Yes

**Lisa:** Moved that MCC invite the County to hold single joint meeting on Hwy 1 Mobility Study presentation with MCC. Second: David Vote 7/0 in favor.

**Cid Young:** What about the airport overlay? How will it affect surrounding areas. Especially the 3 persons-per-unit limit.

**Don:** Study to be done by C/CAG, got grant for \$100,000 from SFO to do study. Not started yet. Thinks overlay would contract rather than expand. Does not know when community can make comment.

**c. Green Building Program Update – David Vespremi (9:25)**

The Green Building program update was circulated prior to meeting.

Action: The council will decide whether to vote a letter of support to the Board of Supervisors for this update or defer action until there is a briefing and opportunity for further discussion.

**David :** There are two draft letters, one recommending approval of the Green Building Program Update, and one asking the County to delay decision until MCC further studies the issue.

There are many unanswered questions. Don't know when the next Update will be so people can respond. Will there be rolling changes? Is it a yearly, monthly program? Built an eco home in 2007. Has many, many questions.

**Nicholas:** Has spoken with Chuck Clark (Chief Building Inspector, in charge of Update).

Prepared to give council any information on the Program tonight. Update expected to come to BoS in January.

**David:** only 10 minutes allotted on the agenda, not enough time to study the issue

**Len:** Chuck supplied slide presentation on the Update that has all the summary points as revised to be presented to BoS, which was supplied to councilmembers in advance of this meeting. Council could say looks good, send letter of approval, or decide need more info in order to comment in which case no letter needed.

**Laura:** Moved: Support BoS letter re Update and put Green Bldg Program on Retreat agenda.  
Second: Len Chair does not call for vote.

**April Vargas:** Member of Green Bldg Task Force. Recommends approving letter approving Update. Building community is very supportive of Program. It is ongoing. These amendments are to improve the efficiency of the program. Won't serve the best interest of the community to hold up approval on continuation of the Program just because the council hasn't had time to have a public forum on all of it. Best to approve this now and then later organize a public forum which she would be glad to help with. The MCC can make recommendations for Program Updates at any time – don't need to wait specific time interval. April, as member of Task Force, can bring package of recommendations to County to reconvene Task Force.

**Bill:** Wonders what is the cost to homeowners, to incorporate "green" elements into construction. Could it put cost of home out of reach of many people? Saw nothing in the program to show that these elements were a great investment.

**David** mentioned unsatisfactory experiences related to County Building Code in building his own home.

**Laura:** There's a motion on the table.

**Dan:** Important to understand Building Code is not the same thing as Green Building Program and they are changed in different ways. Green Building Program doesn't change the Building Code. Builder who puts certain green elements into home earns point credits with Green Building Program which bring benefits such as expedited permit process and inspections.

**David:** still concerned about losing opportunity to make changes in program

**Laura:** There's a motion on the table.

**Bill:** comments not finished. He's the one who needs to call for the motion.

**Cid Young:** Was on Samcar Green Building Task Force – about 3 years ago everyone started talking "green". This green program is a bragging rights program for energy efficient features --the possibility of getting more when selling home. Includes certification for commercial now too. Program has been modified and is improving --an ongoing process. We've had discussion, there is a motion on the table. Recommends approve letter and send it along.

**Bill** asks Laura to re-state the motion.

**Laura** restates motion: Approve the letter supporting the Green Building Update. Bring topic to retreat to plan for presentation. Len second. 6/1 in favor. David opposed.

**d. Report – SMC Finance and Operations Committee (FOC) Meeting – Bill Kehoe (9:40)**

Meeting observations on staff recommendation to further consider a suggestion to "Eliminate Midcoast and Pescadero Municipal Councils".

Action: none proposed for this meeting.

**Bill:** Introduces topic. 3 meeting reports submitted by Midcoast attendees.

**April Vargas:** Unaware of meeting until the day before. Troubling that written report recommends elimination of MCC and PMAC, areas where there is a real need for more community input and self governance. Wrong way to go. Supervisors Groom and Tissier are on FOC. Report was given by Deputy County Manager Mary McMillan who authored the report. MCC & PMAC in category to be eliminated. In category of councils to be created is Coastal Council on Sustainability with appointed members. Her understanding is that the new group was intended to replace MCC and PMAC. Lot of other things MCC deals with regularly besides sustainability and environmental issues. People should elect their own representatives. Elimination of the councils would in the long run probably cost the county more money in staff time with individuals losing the local forum for discussion and solutions to be proposed to county, ending up each attempting to address them individually. There was no F/O committee vote to eliminate the 2 councils. Both Supervisors wanted to hear more community input. There was discussion of advisability of having councils put together a work plan every year, and a yearly report. Idea was discussed to have annual meeting between 3 community advisory councils to discuss common interests. April thinks that's good idea. Mary McMillan would be happy to attend MCC to discuss. April suggests MCC invite McMillan to discuss how this recommendation was put together, what kind of studies were done. Encouraged council to discuss more at length and turn it into a positive.

**Lisa:** Spoke at the FOC meeting from the point of view of the Homeowners Association at Pillar Ridge, affordable housing for 850 people, and the invaluable support the MCC provided our community in a very difficult situation some years ago, by providing public forum to get the issue moving. Without council probably couldn't have accomplished what we did. Other things I took away from committee meeting were particularly that they want more community input, and also that to be looking at costs of elections, appointed vs elected, after having great campaign, election, community interest, and coming onto the council this way, that in a democracy if we have to save money by doing away with elections, that's not the way to go.

**Len:** re unincorporated coastal super council, HMB in middle and not included. Also Pacifica to the north also clearly the Coastsides. Re transportation issues need a mechanism to discuss regionally.

**Leonard:** Good government is not necessarily efficient government. Emperor or king is efficient. Council needs to be elected.

**Don:** Saw the item on short notice too. Told them it's not going to happen, to not bring this up again. It's dead.

**Laura:** Please clarify – there will be no more action, so the council should not take anymore action?

**Don:** Proposal to get rid of the council is dead. Meet with other councils if you want. Maybe more constructive to talk to Pacifica – some real commonalities.

**Bill:** Might behoove council to take Mary McMillan up on her offer anyway. Good to talk to other councils. Coastside underrepresented on C/CAG Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC).

**Don:** Agrees there should be someone on BPAC from the coast, who rides a bicycle. Thought I had it figured out, but neither Sabrina nor Bill got elected. There was a large field of well-qualified candidates.

**Bill:** discuss the FOC issue further at retreat

## 5. Council Activity (9:45)

**Bill Kehoe** – 11/17 Bill & Kathryn Slater-Carter met with Jim Eggemeyer & Steve Monowitz re tracking planning issues (minutes provided).

## 6. Committee Reports and Continuing Business (9:50)

**Website (Len):** Managed website last 2 years as Chair or Vice Chair. Going forward, looks to new Chair and Secretary for content input and direction, until website rebuilt and structure approved to allow others to add content directly.

**GGNRA fire field trip meeting 11/22 (Don Horsley):** Thanked Bill and Lisa for attendance, remarked Lisa was "incredible" and appreciates what she had to offer.

**Bill:** needs to check with Nicholas re action items from meeting and minutes to get back to council.

## 7. Future Agendas (9:55)

**MCC Retreat (Laura):** Retreat scheduled for January 8, Sunday, 11-4 at Granada Sanitary District Office. Will schedule another time to meet with Supervisor. Will email agenda -- group effort.

## 8. Adjournment (10:00) Moved to adjourn: Len      Second: Laura      Vote: 7/0