

Lake Local Agency Formation Commission

Wednesday July 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes in Lakeport

Commissioners

Dirk Slooten, (City)
Stan Archacki, (Special Dist.)
Jim Scholz (Special District)
Ed Robey, (Public Member)
Moke Simon, (County)
Bruno Sabatier, Chair (County)
Stacey Mattina, Vice Chair (City)

Commission Alternate Members

Kirsten Priebe (Spec. District Alternate)
Vacant (Public Alternate)
Michael Green (County Alternate)
Russ Perdock (City Alternate)

Staff

Larkyn Feiler, Executive Officer
P. Scott Browne, Legal Counsel

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order and a roll call of meeting attendance was taken with Commissioners Slooten, Archacki, Scholz, Robey, Sabatier and Mattina were present with Commissioner Simon Absent. Staff in attendance were Larkyn Feiler, EO, John Benoit, Assistant EO and Marsha Burch, Counsel.
2. Kirsten Priebe from the Konocti County Water District was also present as she was appointed as LAFCo's Special District Alternate member. Commissioner Priebe introduced herself.
3. A Chair and Vice-Chair for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 were elected
 - a. Upon motion of Commissioner Slooten and seconded by Commissioner Archacki; Stacey Mattina was unanimously elected as Chair for Fiscal Year 2024-2025
 - b. Upon motion of Commissioner Sabatier and seconded by Commissioner Robey; Dirk Slooten was unanimously elected Vice-Chair for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Commissioner Sabatier chaired the meeting for Chair Mattina

4. **Accept resignation of Suzanne Lyons as the Public Member Alternate**
This is a formality and does not need to be accepted by the Commission. Commissioner Mattina thanked Suzanne Lyons for her years of service to LAFCo.

The Commission authorized the recruitment for a new Public Member Alternate to fill Commissioner Lyon's unexpired term.

5. Approval of Minutes – May 15, 2024 minutes

a. Hearing no comment, upon motion of Commissioner Robey and seconded by Commissioner Slooten the May 15, 2024 minutes were unanimously approved.

6. Public Comment.

There was no public comment received.

7. Consent Agenda

Upon Review of the expenses for May and June 2024, Commissioner Slooten moved and Commissioner Robey seconded. The expenses were unanimously approved.

Workshop:

8. Draft Fire Protection District Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update

Former Executive Officer Benoit introduced the item. Benoit made comments about Prop 172 monies & Special Taxes and expressed voter support for Fire and EMS. Mr. Benoit briefly discussed fire flows and expressed a need for standard fire flow protocols and standards.

The Commission reviewed the Draft Service Review and Sphere of Influence and Chair Sabatier conducted the workshop. The following comments were provided for items to be included in the final MSR/SOI:

- a. Clarify whether Clearlake ISO Ratings have changed since 2018. A brief discussion ensued.
- b. Add a paragraph about tribal history and history during pre-colonial times.
- c. Include ISO ratings for all districts (Did not have South Lake & Northshore?)
- d. Compare/contrast district water flows (MSR page 83 example) to highlight gaps and add determinations to address issues.
- e. Apply Commission adopted direction/policy for agencies to report back annually regarding issues recognized in the MSR (follow-up and document outcomes).
- f. Confirm whether there are DUCs for the South Clear Lake area.

- g. Verify the population numbers due to the significant fluctuation in numbers, update data from 2022 to current, and explain the reason for the population fluctuation (due to fire?).
- h. Clarify whether there have been any SOI changes proposed (coterminous, re-affirming prior SOI, etc.).

Commissioner Sabatier wanted to see additional detailed information (data) to examine overall improvements to fire flows and to water systems to enhance fire suppression. Notwithstanding the goal of the fire agencies is to protect lives; perhaps Prop 172 and additional Assessments (Special Taxes) may be a funding source used to develop an annual report and to improve fire suppression systems as discussed at the County's Risk Reduction Authority meetings.

The Commission could consider goal setting for fire flow ratings, such as a goal of improving fire service in municipalities and districts.

Stan Archacki mentioned that critical infrastructure is needed to improve fire flow ratings. This is going to require intra-agency coordination. This is also needed for community growth. Benoit suggested finding grants to fund basic infrastructure improvements. The SWRCB and the USDA Rural Development has funds for small water systems, for example.

Commission Slooten asked about improvements in the Cobb Area. Paul Duncan, Assistant Chief with the SLCFPD, referred to page 79 of the report and noted that much of the infrastructure has been upgraded since the fire and an increase in 4/4y which used to be a 6 in some areas.

Commissioner Sabatier suggested returning to earlier comments from the fire Chiefs. Chief Sepeta of the Lake County FPD stated that in 2017 with the passage of measure D the City had an ISO rating of 6/6y. In 2018 his district had a rating of 5/5y and in Jan 2024 it went to a 4/4y. LCFPD has continuously worked with the water companies in the City of Clearlake to drop ISO numbers. The Chief explained how interties between the fire providers in Clearlake have been used.

Chief Reitz (Lakeport Fire) noted that ISO has worked for years and there is a significant concern about the California Wildfire Severity Risk, which districts have no control over. As a result, ISO has played a lesser role in dropping insurance costs in favor of Wildfire Severity Risk. He encouraged LAFCo to continue to work to reduce ISO ratings. Lakeport has a 4 rating and he has a goal to take the City to a 2. Wildfire Hazard Maps for the SRA have been recently updated and are located on the Calfire website. Incorporated City Maps (LRA) will be updated next by the state.

The Chiefs work with the Lake County Risk Reduction Authority (RRA) for all hazards, not only fire. The RRA looks at Community Risk Reduction.

Sabatier looked at page 83 of the report regarding Clearlake Fire Flows, and raised questions about how to use the MSR to address inadequacy in fire flows throughout the County, and what can be done with the MSR on outcomes?

We can affect change with costs of insurance. Insurance companies look at risk vs. hazard maps which mean something different albeit they are not allowed to use Calfire Hazard Maps in insurance rate setting.

Sabatier brought up DUCs criteria in Lake County, and noted that clarification is needed regarding the statement that there are no disadvantage communities in Lake County (i.e. population year used for DUCs) and Middletown Area population figures. Staff need to look at the Census Designated place maps and consistency over the years.

Slooten discussed fire flow modeling and the sophistication needed for water districts to do that based on a number of factors.

This item will be continued to the September 18th LAFCo meeting.

Other Action Items:

9. Letter of Support for pending legislation:

- a. Support for SB 1209 Indemnification

10. CALAFCO Conference action items:

CALAFCO Annual Conference Tenaya Lodge Fish Camp Oct 16-18, 2024

Commissioners Scholz and Robey and E.O. Feiler will be attending.

Nomination for the CALAFCO Board of Directors: No nominations were brought forward.

Nominations for the Voting Delegate to vote on behalf of and represent Lake LAFCo on matters at the CALAFCO Conference: Ed Robey will be the voting delegate and Larkyn Feiler will be the Voting Delegate Alternate.

No nominations for the CALAFCO Achievement Awards were brought forward.

- 11.** The Commission reviewed the Status of MSRs and SOIs and provided direction to staff to come back with recommendations for updates.

OTHER ITEMS:

12. Executive Officer's report.

AB 3277 re: Property Tax bill was signed by the Governor.

13. LAFCo Counsel's report: No report was given

14. Commissioner Reports

This item is placed on the agenda for Commissioners to discuss items and issues of concern to their constituency, LAFCO, and legislative matters.

15. Adjourn to LAFCO's next regular meeting: September 18, 2024 - 9:30 AM in Clearlake

The Commission may take action upon any item listed on the agenda. Unless otherwise noted, items may be taken up at any time during the meeting.