

# MINUTES

Joint Meeting of the  
McKinleyville Community Services District (MCSD) Board of Directors  
and the McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee (MMAC)  
November 8, 2023 6:00 pm

## A. CALL TO ORDER

### A.1 Roll Call:

MCSD Board of Directors Members Present:

James Biteman, David Couch, Dennis Mayo, Scott Binder, Greg Orsini.

MMAC Members Present:

Lisa Dugan, Kevin Jenkins, Bonnie Oliver, Twila Sanchez, Kevin Dreyer,  
Maya Conrad, Pat Kaspari (and Greg Orsini).

Members Absent: None

### A.2 Pledge of Allegiance:

Led by Kevin Jenkin, Indigenous Land Acknowledgement led by Lisa Dugan.

### A.3 Approval of Agenda:

Dennis Mayo moved to approve the Agenda and David Couch seconded the motion.

## B. PUBLIC COMMENT AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

## C. CONTINUED AND NEW BUSINESS

### C.1 Discussion of County Roads Projects in McKinleyville

Including Central Avenue, McKinleyville Avenue, Ocean Avenue and the Multimodal Study.

Pat Kaspari presented information on current (Washington Avenue) and proposed future road improvement projects for McKinleyville including information from the Draft Town Center Ordinance, the Santos Subdivision Tentative Map and the McKinleyville Multimodal Transportation Study. Board and community members comments and concerns included:

- The County's current approach to road improvements seems piecemeal and a more comprehensive plan is needed (Lisa Dugan)

- HCAOG is working on a plan for shoulder widening and improvements on Central Avenue from Grange Road to Clam Beach. (Supervisor Madrone)
- Concern was expressed related to the proposed “disappearing bike lane” on Washington Ave. at the School Road intersection. (Colin Fiske) A southbound bike lane connecting to School Road is proposed to be provided through the new BMX Park that MCSD will soon be building. (Pat Kaspari)

## C.2 Discussion of the Exploration of Incorporation of McKinleyville

Kevin Jenkins, Chair of the McKinleyville Incorporation Exploration Subcommittee of the MMAC presented a summary of their work over the past year. This included consultation with Colette Metz Santsche, Executive Director of LAFCo and collaboration with Dr. Josh Zender, Professor of Economics at Cal Poly Humboldt and his team of students who worked on gathering data and producing an Incorporation Report. He shared the Oct. 25, 2023 motion by the MMAC to have an expanded subcommittee continue the work of incorporation exploration including seeking funding to have a Preliminary Initial Feasibility Study prepared and plan for community engagement and education on the incorporation process. Board and community members comments and concerns included:

- With the current sales tax lull, is this the right time to do the feasibility study? Kevin Jenkins shared that any study would include a number of years, and not just current time data. (Kevin Dreyer)
- How do interested members of the public join the subcommittee? Kevin Jenkins answered that the MMAC will likely work on specifying a process for this in a future meeting. (Twila Sanchez)
- Many in the community don’t want this, don’t want higher taxes and it’s time to “put this to bed”. (Dennis Mayo)
- Support was expressed for exploring incorporating / annexing with the City of Arcata.

## C.3 Discussion of Measure B Reauthorization to Support Parks and Recreation

Lesley Frisbee, MCSD Parks and Recreation Director, presented information on Measure B reauthorization to support McKinleyville Parks and Recreation. She reported that McKinleyville approved the Measure B Assessment on November 1, 2023 by 63%. Board and community members comments and concerns included:

- The results show how much value the community places in our parks and recreation opportunities and the importance that these play in our quality of life, especially for the youth of our community. Thanks was expressed by many board members to Parks and Recreation staff for their work and to the community for their support of Measure B.
- This funding only makes up about a quarter of the total Parks and Recreation budget and additional fundraising will be required.

#### C.4 Discussion of Status of McKinleyville Community Forest

Leslie Frisbee, MCSD Parks and Recreation Director, presented information on the status of the McKinleyville Community Forest including the history of the project. The Lot Line Adjustment, property appraisal and preliminary Title report are completed and they are now working with Green Diamond and the Trust for Public Land to finalize the “Donation Agreement” for the transfer of the property to MCSD ownership. They hope to wrap this up in early 2024 and then will establish a Standing Committee for stewarding the development and management of the Community Forest over time. Representatives of Green Diamond and the Trust for Public Land attended our meeting to answer questions. Leslie Frisbee shared that the Community Forest will be part of the December 6, 2023 MCSD Board of Directors Meeting Agenda and additional information on the project will be shared.

#### C.5 Discussion of Bringing McKinleyville’s Voice to County Issues

Lisa Dugan led a discussion on how to bring McKinleyville’s voice to County issues. As the third largest community in Humboldt County, and unincorporated, many of our public services are under the County’s purview. Decisions on County wide issues, including large upcoming projects (offshore wind, fish farm, climate action plan etc.) and McKinleyville specific issues all should include input from the McKinleyville community. Monthly 2x2 meetings with the MMAC Chair, MCSD Board Chair, MCSD General Manager, Humboldt County 5<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor and invited County Department Chairs are an example of progress being made in this area. Board and community members comments and concerns included:

- Stay at the table to keep things from falling through the cracks. (Dennis Mayo)
- We need to continue communication with County Dept. Heads. We still aren’t hearing about McK. subdivisions from the Planning Division. (Kevin Dreyer)
- The County has a culture of “siloeing” and they need to automatically come to MMAC and MCSD with everything McKinleyville. (Greg Orsini).
- We need to continue and expand our coordination with local Tribes and the McKinleyville Chamber of Commerce. (Maya Conrad)
- Should McKinleyville be a standing agenda item at the Board of Supervisors meetings and for other County official bodies? (James Biteman)

#### C.6 Discussion of the Role of MMAC and the Relationship Between MMAC and MCSD in Governance of McKinleyville

Greg Orsini led a discussion on the role of MMAC and the relationship between MMAC and MCSD in governance of McKinleyville. He discussed MCSD’s role as a provider of services (water, wastewater, lighting, open space, parks and recreation) and MMAC’s role as a body to gather input from the community and providing advice

on matters which relate to the McKinleyville Community Planning Area to the Board of Supervisors and other County governmental agencies. A cooperative relationship between the two bodies is essential for planning and serving the community of McKinleyville. He suggested that MMAC members try to come to MCSD meetings when they can. Board and community members comments and concerns included:

- MCSD staff should forward comments that come to them, that are really County issues, to the MMAC. (Kevin Jenkins)
- What does a citizen need to do to be heard at County Planning? In past experience with County Planning it seemed like individual citizen voices are not heard (James Biteman). Supervisor Madrone recommended that 5<sup>th</sup> District citizens contact him when they feel like they aren't being heard by County staff on issues related to a local project.

#### C.7 Discussion of Potential Future Presentations / Programs for either MMAC, MCSD or Both

Greg Orsini led a discussion of potential future presentations / programs for either MMAC or MCSD or both. He encouraged board members and community members to share their thoughts and ideas:

- The McKinleyville Multimodal Project, Economic Development in McKinleyville, the Airport and its development pursuits. (Maya Conrad)
- Offshore wind, Two-Feather's grant for Mental Health and Youth, emergency plan for McKinleyville, Miranda's rescue. (Twila Sanchez)
- The County does have a McKinleyville Disaster Plan. Information on this could be shared at a future meeting. Also, our local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is active and would welcome new members. (Scott Binder)
- A presentation on the history of McKinleyville starting with our Indigenous community history. (Bonnie Oliver)
- Continue updates on Parks and Recreation projects like the Community Forest and Teen Center programs. (Kevin Dreyer)
- An emergency preparedness presentation and a presentation on the Vista Point Park project which just received FAA approval. (Supervisor Madrone)
- McKinleyville Schools and economic development. (Jesse Miles)

#### **D. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Oliver