

# Winchester-Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

## MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 9, 2023

Place: Winchester Community Center, 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester

### Attendees:

Winchester-Homeland MAC: Andy Domenigoni, Chairman; James Horecka, Secretary; Jimmy Sheldrake; Thomas Laury; Kim Wortman.

Members of the Public.

**Call to Order:** Call to order by Andy Domenigoni at 6:30 PM.

Flag Salute. Introductions.

**Revise Agenda:** Motion to move Guest Speaker up to be after Approval of Minutes.

Motion JH; seconded JS: Unanimous.

**Approval of the Minutes** from February 9, 2023:

Motion JS; seconded TL: Unanimous.

### New Business (moved up; see above):

- A. Guest Speaker: Eastern Municipal Water District General Manager Joe Mouawad.
- Mr. Mouawad presented a PowerPoint show: EMWD Updates; An Overview.
  - This covered a variety of topics, from history on. Founded in 1950. Now sixth largest in California. Both a retailer and wholesaler of water. EMWD's territory is considered to be only about 38% built-out. They're adding 5 to 6 thousand new connections per year.
  - Riverside county growth last year was 10.7%. EMWD's growth last year was 15%. MWD is a wholesaler.
  - EMWD has 5 directors; over 600 employees. Annual budget of \$465 million for FY 22/23. ~\$123M external.
  - They have 180+ active capital projects.
  - Services: 163K accounts for potable water; 268K accounts for wastewater. All our wastewater is used. 65% of recycled water to agricultural uses. Remainder to Valley Wide parks, schools, medians, etc. \$40K acre-feet.
  - Sources: Water from the State Water Project, & from the Colorado River Aqueduct. Also local groundwater. Some of the well water is brackish; treated by desalination plants. They just commissioned their third plant.
  - Due to diverse resources, EMWD has been able to weather the drought. Winter storms have helped. Lake Powell was at its lowest level since first filled: +3,521ft! (Full-power minimum is +3,525ft.)
  - California is in dire need of water infrastructure. In May, 2022, the Governor passed regulations prohibiting use of potable water for irrigation 'non-functional turf.'
  - Other: Since 2000: Area population has increased 97%. Yet water use per-capita is down 44%. Imported water is down 5%. EMWD doesn't wish to further restrict indoor use; the key is really outdoor use.
  - EMWD is in Stage 3C of its Water Shortage Contingency Plan.
  - There are still subsidies available for removal of non-functional turf (see programs for details).
  - Mouawad discussed various projects, for example: Wisely oversizing a line from 12" to 27", for long-term. The Wickerd Road Sewer Replacement Project. Keeping up with proposed Land Use changes, striving to ensure that EMWD stays up to date with proposed changes; larger pipelines and more storage will be needed.
  - Mouawad noted a 170% increase in development, including 16,900 additional EDUs (equivalent dwelling units), and 3.9 MGD in sewage.
  - Other projects: Ridgecrest Road Tank Project; +1,720' pressure zone, 3.4M gal, 24" pipeline; in design stage. Rice Road Pipeline, a 24" water main, crossing Salt Creek. Washington Street Pipeline Project. Lake Skinner Water Transmission Project (within two barrels in an existing water easement; former San Diego aqueduct).
  - Q (AD): Status of the Lift Station at Scott Road? A: The final location has not been chosen. Growth-driven.
  - Q: Union workers? A: Must use Prevailing Wage rules (comply).

- Q (AD): Timing of new facilities? A: Varies. CEQA & Environmental Review alone on some projects may take a year. Figure planning, engineering, construction documents... plus construction itself. Often years. In some cases, 'phasing' may be of help.
- All thanked Mr. Mouawad for his presentation.

**Staff Reports:**

- A. Supervisor Chuck Washington's Office; Andrea Mares:
  - Improvements at Winchester Road & Haddock Street: Cal-Trans has initiated and received approval for a Pedestrian Beacon to the existing school crosswalk. Cal-Trans will fund and take the lead on project delivery. The project is on Cal-Trans deliver list for fiscal year 23/24. Project schedule: TBD. A Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon is a newer type of approved pedestrian signal that is currently used in a few cities in Riverside County.
  - Mares brought us up to date on our Winchester Signs: This topic will come before the Board of Supervisors with other Unincorporated Communities Initiative (UCI) projects that still have loose ends to tie up. Timeline is TBD still. Locations proposed: Simpson at Briggs; SH 74 near Briggs; Domenigoni Parkway at Briggs, & from east; SH 79 near Scott; Simpson at California.
  - "City Limit" Homeland Sign: The Riverside County Transportation Department reached out to Cal-Trans to ask them to remove and replace the Homeland Sign.
  - Q: Status our Community Plan? A: Moving through the process.
- B. Sheriff Department update; Deputy Holtkamp:
  - Stats: January: 333 calls, 1 arrest. February: 306 calls, 2 arrests. Crime: The usual; mostly thefts.
  - Q: Death at 9th & Grand? A: Cannot comment; active investigation.
- C. Cal Fire Winchester Station #34: No representative present; no report.
- D. EMWD Updates; Alma Ramirez, Public Affairs Officer:
  - Ramirez was present. No report, as Guest Speaker Joe Mouawad covered EMWD in his presentation.
- E. Code Enforcement; Sarah Rhoads, filling in:
  - February 1 to current: 95 cases open; 60 closed; 104 inspected. 1 seizure warrant.
  - Status, December through end of January: 63 open cases, 47 closed cases, 76 inspections, 2 vehicles towed.
- F. 36<sup>th</sup> District Assembly member Eduardo Garcia: Representative not present; no report.
- G. Senator Kelly Seyarto's Office; represented by Amanda Fisher: Representative not present; no report.
- H. Valley Wide Park & Recreation District; represented by Craig Shultz:
  - New LED lighting fixtures are being installed here at our park, outdoors & indoors.
  - Gala event slated for March 17-18. CERT training, here, April 28-30 (a 3-day long program).
  - March 25<sup>th</sup>: Bunny Hop, family events, etc. April 1<sup>st</sup>: Opening day. Egg hunts to follow!
  - Greg Worthington, Senior Park & Landscape Inspector, presented on area parks. Examples included: La Ventana Veteran's Park. Winchester Trails. Winchester Ridge (DR Horton, KB Homes). Pleasant Valley Park. McLaughlin South Park. Frederick's Ridge Park.
  - Q: Size of Pleasant Valley Park? A: 1.5 acres.
  - C: Gregg Cowdery suggested that the knoll be secured: cultural resources. Site was a movie location shoot.
  - Q: Method? A: Valley Wide doesn't build parks; developers do. Then VWP&R accepts them, & goes on to manage and maintain them. In the case of Winchester Ranch Park, the County of Riverside takes the lead: Design, engineer, construct all; then Valley Wide takes over from there.
- I. Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians: No representative present; no report.
- J. Winchester Land Use Committee update; represented by Cindy Domenigoni: Not present; no report.
- K. City of Hemet update; Linda Krupa:
  - Regarding potholes on the east half of California Avenue: The centerline is the city limit. She stated that Hemet is working on an accelerated path to repair the many potholes (weather has been a factor).
  - On Ramona Expressway, rapid repairs to damages are being carried out. Also: Center dividers, rumple edges.
  - On Sanderson, near Lamb Canyon, Cal-Trans is installing some K-Rail. Various upgrades.
  - The Ramona Outdoor Play will be celebrating 100 years this year. Performances slated over three weekends.
  - Dedication of Literary Landmark, Woman Writer in California: Helen Hunt Jackson.
  - Hemet City Council approved funding to start a bike path: Palm down to Chambers. Also for some parks.
  - Q: What store will be in the former CVS? A: "Old Navy."
  - Q: Status on proposed warehouse near Lowe's? A: Moving through process.
  - Q (AD): Interim rerouting of SH 79? A: There will be discussion on the subject.

- L. City of Menifee update; represented by Doug Darnell, Senior Planner:
  - Mr. Darnell advised us that the City Council adopted their Strategic Visioning Plan.
  - They are embarking on a Capital Improvements Program.
  - Menifee Valley Specific Plan: 590 acres. The Draft EIR is in process.
- M. Other Departments and Public Agencies:
  - None.

**Public Comments:**

- None.

**Councilmember Reports and Comments:**

- Andy Domenigoni reminded us of the notion of having a new logo representing Winchester. Think of ideas!

**Agenda Items for next meeting:**

- Ideas: SoCalGas was mentioned; due to schedule conflict with our regular meetings, will likely be at the WHTA.

**Adjourn Meeting:**

- The next WHMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 13, 2023, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center.
- The WHMAC adjourned at 8:06 PM. M:TL / S:JS