

**HOMESTEAD VALLEY  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**



*“One voice for the people of Homestead Valley”*

**Agenda for the September 21, 2009 Homestead Valley Community Council Meeting  
at the Flamingo Heights Community Center, 3:00 P.M.**

Flag Salute

Roll Call / Delegate List

Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

Treasurer's Report:

1. Guest Comments

2. Committee Reports:

Audit

Sphere of Influence

Public Outreach

Fund Raising / Events

Community Services / Improvements

3. President's Report

6. Items for Next Agenda – meeting Monday October 19<sup>th</sup> 3:00 P.M. at the Landers Community Center

# HVCC DELEGATES

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Alan RASMUSSEN ...228-5400 .....arasmussen@sbccounty.gov

**HOMESTEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING AUGUST 17, 2009**

Meeting opened in Johnson Valley at 3:15 with flag salute

**PRESENT:** the new delegate from Johnson Valley, Joyce Wheeler; Maryan Barkley, Phyllis Burns, Jim Hanley, Jim Harvey, Earlene McCloskey, Mike McGrath, Betty Munson, Barbara Renton, Nancy Sammons, Rick Sayers, Carl Schmitt.

Guests: Chuck Bell & Richard Selby (LVEDA), Janae Jackson & Jessica Napoli (MCAGCC), Ray & Jason Pessa (FOGR), Gregory Almoroth, John Burkhart, Catherine Janowicz, Martha Oswald, Rebecca Unger (Hi-desert Star), Marina West (BDVWA).

Delegate list approved with changes.

**AGENDA WAS APPROVED**, but with the changing of the order of the agenda items, so the items of interest to guests who had come from far away could be discussed first

**MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING** were approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Earlene McCloskey. Expenditures of only 31.80; balance 5,908.16  
Two donations of 100.00 each for this fiscal year were given to Earlene by the Yucca Mesa Improvement Assn and the Johnson Valley Improvement Assn.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**1. Community Comments:**

Jess Napoli, associated with Marstel Day Environmental Consulting, with an office in the G-5 Community Plans division of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, is working with the Morongo Basin Open Space Group studying land use, gathering input from residents of the desert.

Ray Pessa, with the Friends of Giant Rock and the Partnership for Johnson Valley, said he was attending a meeting the next day with the BLM in Barstow, concerning the designation of OHV routes on BLM lands, signage of roads and limited use signs. He asked for suggestions for routing OHVs to the Open Riding Area without impinging on residents and private property. The Community Services committee will talk to him after the meeting.

**3. Hauled water ordinance.**

Chuck Bell and Richard Selby of the Lucerne Valley Development Association (LVEDA) have presented the county with a comprehensive list of permit requirements that are obstructive and contradictory. Among them is the problem of no building permits being issued to property owners who rely on hauled water. The provision in the County Development Code saying hauled water must be approved by Environmental Health Services and the EHS memo saying their approval is not necessary for occupied or recently vacated property served by hauled water. Chuck and Richard agreed that a regulation saying water must be delivered by a licensed hauler would be OK would be acceptable. The question was raised about water hauled by meter holders from community wells for their own use, what happens to them? Alan Rasmussen was ill and not at our meeting, so we could get no report on his progress in clarifying the matter.

LVEDA is pushing for the county to institute rural development standards. They say the Supervisors of the 1st District and the 3rd District (which include much of the high desert in San Bernardino County) must be urged to support rural standards.

**4. Industrial scale solar and wind rights of way and the "Mother Road Monument" proposal.**

Jim Harvey has written a letter to Chris Carillo and James Peterson, assistants to Senator Diane Feinstein, who are involved in the drafting of this legislation. He strongly protested the exclusion of the primary stakeholders from a meeting held in Feinstein's office in West Los Angeles. He pointed out that in any discussion of the fate of the Johnson Valley Open Riding Area and the open lands along Hwy 247 it was vital to include representatives of the Johnson Valley Improvement Assn and the Homestead Valley Community Council. JVIA would be heavily impacted with any change in status of the OHV area. Property owners in all the HVCC communities will be economically hurt by such a closure, and by utility-scale renewable energy installations.

Ray Pessa gave a first hand report of the Mother Road meeting. All the invited conservationists met first for about four hours. Then in a separate meeting, Ray, and Helen and Harry Baker of the Partnership for Johnson Valley, were included with AMA and other off road groups, not necessarily sympathetic to Johnson valley interests. He quoted one statement he heard, "...whatever portion of the Johnson Valley OHV area that the military does not take" would be protected.

Several guests left after the conclusion of Items 3 and 4.

We went to back to **Agenda Item 2, COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

AUDIT: will meet with Earlene to do the audit and report at the September meeting.

BY-LAWS/STANDING RULES: added 2 items to Standing Rules: User Names and Passwords on electronic accounts, are not to be distributed outside the Council without permission of the Council; matters pertaining to the interests of local businesses must be approved by a majority of delegates. Approved with additions, Earlene McCloskey and Mike McGrath abstaining.

SPHERE OF INFLUENCE: Elizabeth Karman sent report that the Yucca Valley Town council will address the SOI request and it could possibly be withdrawn. She asked for attendance at that meeting. Committee to confer later about possible HVCC presence.

PUBLIC OUTREACH: Color brochure draft layout discussed. Need 100 for Yucca Mesa Country Faire. Estimate VIP printing, 75c each. We will compare prices and samples, consider printing them ourselves. Business card final layout will be circulated via e-mail; delegates who wish to use cards will submit the information to be imprinted and quantities. Adding Community information to the Website and events to HVCC Website calendar and were discussed.

FUND RAISING/EVENTS: Christmas party at Landers to be discussed with Ken Stermetz. Tentative date, Saturday, Dec. 19.

COMMUNITY SERVICES/IMPROVEMENTS: Jim Harvey reported on preliminary research on CalAware Seminar or workshops on Brown Act and Public Records. Two 4-hr. workshops in a day would cost \$500. Fee waived if CalAware signs up 20 new members from these meetings. Travel expenses estimated at \$400-500 to be paid by HVCC. Radio and newspaper sponsorship might defray this cost. Committee actions: #1. Committee to contact media. #2. Ask Alan Rasmussen to get involved in contacting elected officials to set a date for after the elections. ASAP. #3. Set up meeting...possibly Yucca Valley Community Center?

5. President's Report: Thanks to Earlene for finding the necessary items to set up the PayPal account for donations through the Website. Thanks to Betty for work on layout designs.

6. Agenda items for next meeting, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 AT FLAMINGO HEIGHTS:  
Christmas Party; Ames Basin and the Pipes Wash dump and pump.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Guest: Cindy Joyce is no longer managing the Homestead Valley Park. We asked her to keep us notified of other community events she is aware of.

Nancy Sammons brought up Census 2010 community participation promotion. Earlene and Jim will follow up.

Guest: Gregory Almeroth stated he was interested in property in Johnson valley, had a map showing a 5-acre parcel on Quailbush Rd., which formerly had a horse corral in the wash that runs through. He said he wanted to put up enough solar panels to supply the community, tying into existing power lines. He did not explain how he would be paid for energy going onto SCE lines. He was told that large-scale solar was being discouraged here. Jim told him HVCC policy is to endorse rooftop solar and AB 811 instead, as indicated by our letter to the SB Board of Supervisors.

Meeting closed at 5:50.

Betty Munson, Secretary

# HVCC COMMITTEES

## **AD HOC COMMITTEES**

SPHERE OF INFLUENCE: Chairperson Elizabeth Karman  
Betty Munson  
Rick Sayers

NOMINATING: called in April for May nominations and June elections

AUDITING: Mike McGrath, Jim Hanley

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

PUBLIC OUTREACH: Chairperson Betty Munson  
Maryan Barkley  
Mike McGrath  
Linda Willgues

FUNDRAISING / EVENTS: Chairperson Earlene McCloskey  
Phyllis Burns  
Nancy Sammons

COMMUNITY SERVICES / IMPROVEMENTS: Chairperson Rick Sayers  
Jim Hanley  
Betty Munson

**Notes on meeting 9/10/09 with Alan Rasmussen, Field Rep for 3rd District Supervisor, Neil Derry  
and**

**HVCC Community Services/ Improvements/ Cooperation Committee**

Rick Sayers (chairman), Jim Hanley, Betty Munson, Jim Harvey

Hwy 247 project.

Alan will ask for more referrals from the first person he talked to about the Scenic Highway, as his attempts to reach the person in charge have not been answered. Time is running short. Chevron solar project near Lucerne Valley is already in Environmental Study phase. We discussed other possible recruits to aid us with historical status or state scenic highway status: Mickey Quillman, BLM; Alan's contacts with MBHS, also historical society members coming to see petroglyphs in JV on 9/12.

Jim Hanley and Alan also discussed CalTrans highway sign replacements.  
I brought up last year's attempt to replace weathered signs in the JV community.

Rick Sayers and Jim Hanley will try to attend JMAC meeting on 9/21 at the JT community center to attempt to open up lines of communication between HVCC and JMAC.

CalAware project.

Jim Harvey briefed Alan about Terry Frank of CalAware who would present two workshops in one day, one on Public Records and one on the Brown Act, possibly after November election.

This would be an HVCC-sponsored public service event. Rick Sayers will seek co-sponsors, such as Sportsmen's Club, radio, newspapers. Possible venues: JT Community Center, contact Frank Haggard, or Yucca Room in YV.

Invite the public and all elected officials and staff from 29 to Morongo Valley and possibly Desert Hot Springs, more publicity would encourage more attendance by members of agencies subject to Brown Act. Alan was asked if Neil Derry might even give a brief speech. This definitely ties in with Supervisor Derry's proposed Ethics Commission and Sunshine Ordinance.

Note: resistance is known to come from agencies' counsels who may advise against attending, on the premise that they can instruct agencies as to the laws. However, some are quite wrong in advice, which tends to be how to circumvent the regulations.

Alan will notify his contacts with various agencies and town councils and see about dates between election and Thanksgiving. (Pre-election date, too little time to organize)

Water hauling and building permits project.

We briefed Alan on the difficulties that Lucerne Valley is having clarifying permitting issues with the county, among them the water hauling issue.

We repeated to Alan the HVCC position. County should not deny permits on parcels because they rely on hauled water. No state or county code prohibits hauled water; state recommends discouraging hauled water yet it licenses haulers. As the unwritten policies of the state, the EHS and the county now work, you cannot build or improve on your property unless you have pressurized water or have a well drilled.

Today's policies affect lower-income property owners the most. It also devalues all private property in

the desert that does not have a well or be on a water main. LV considers this a constitutional issue.

Alan has not heard again from Jim Clabaugh, whose permitting problem in JV first brought the issue to the attention of HVCC. After Alan's earlier research he had advised Clabaugh to apply again and see if any problems came up. However, we feel this is an issue far beyond Jim Clabaugh, and want to see it resolved clearly, in writing, not subject to interpretation, even with the threat that the state would continue to discourage hauled water.

This system has worked for years. We think a property owner has a right to get water to the land in the best, most economical way under the local circumstances, and still be allowed new construction or remodeling, with only the usual health and safety requirements for plumbing and septic tank.

This is a problem throughout the desert and both 1st and 3rd District Supervisors should be consulted to come to our aid.

Betty Munson, secretary HVCC