



Moapa Valley Town Advisory Board

"We are dedicated to maintaining a rural lifestyle and rural quality of life in our valley."



**WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 12, 2011 AT 7 P.M.
MOAPA VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER, OVERTON**

MVTAB members: Chair- Judy Metz, Dustin Nelson, Michael Otero, Gene Houston

MVTAB members absent: None

Secretary: Northeast Office Staff

Town Liaison: Janice Ridondo, District B

Attendance:

Posting Locations: Moapa Valley Community Center; Overton Post Office; Logandale Post Office; Logandale Chevron

MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Please silence all electronic devices; and take all private conversations outside the room.
- B. Conformance with Nevada Open Meeting Law- **CONFIRMED**
- C. Invocation and pledge.
- D. Introduction of Clark County staff and guests. Janice Ridondo, Clark County Liaison; Tom Collins County Commissioner, Andrew Munoz National Park Service, Chris Kirby National Park Service.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

- A. Adoption of Agenda. **MOTION MADE TO ACCEPT AGENDA AS POSTED, APPROVED, UNANIMOUS**
- B. Approval of draft minutes for September 14, 2011. **MOTION MADE TO APPROVE MINUTES AS WRITTEN, APPROVED, UNANIMOUS**

COMMENTS FROM GENERAL PUBLIC ON THIS AGENDA

Matt Hodkowski commented on the NPS issues asking if there is funding for the fee station, why is there no money to open the road. Sustainability needs to be met, but we are talking about the road. It would be good for the Park and the community.

Billy Mildice commented on the update on construction tax dollars asking if the Board has copies of the data. It's hard to make comments when you don't know what is going to be said.

C. Correspondence. None

III. REPORTS

- A. Town Advisory Board committee reports. None
- B. Other Standing Reports:
 - 1. **Administrative Services** None
 - 2. **Parks & Recreation Services.** None
 - 3. **Partners In Conservation.** None.
 - 4. **ATV/OHV Use Committee.** None

IV. GENERAL BUSINESS

- A. **Update by Partners in Conservation regarding the Road Monitoring Project** - Elise showed a map indicating where the project was conducted. She said PIC and the volunteers collected over 2,000 incident points, spent 3,757 hours, and drove over 44,000 miles doing the documentation for almost two years. They provided a "breadcrumb trail" type documentation everywhere they went and documented the disturbances (not every incident is considered bad) of 2,000 points. 1,250 were recreational use which includes camp sites and parking, areas of compacted soil which could be used for parking in the future, and shooting areas, road hazards, washouts, etc. As they turned in the data, BLM prioritized and responded. They documented 150 damaged or missing signs. They had great volunteer response as always.
- B. **Presentation of awards to Partners in Conservation Volunteers** - Unfortunately Kathy Hollinger is ill so she and Bruce could not be here to be recognized..
- C. **Update from NPS on Lake Mead, Overton Beach, and road closures with information on any proposed opening** – Andrew Munoz, Public Affairs Officer, and Chris Kirby, Chief of Commercial Services made the presentation. **Andrew** said there are a lot of unknowns in relation to Overton Beach. The probability of the roads reopening in the next couple of months is zero. We must look at water level. The water level is rising, and there is a prediction that we will have another winter like the last one. If that comes true, the probability of opening the road goes up. Their budget is shrinking, and we have to look at the operations costs, for example trash service is \$15,000. Is this the best use of taxpayer money, we don't know yet. Out responsibility is to provide access to the lake, but we must look at the best

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

SUSAN BRAGER, Chair • STEVE SISOLAK, Vice-Chair
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DON BURNETTE, County Manager

way to provide that access. It is an extra 10 miles to Echo Bay where there is a premier facility with lake access. Or do we spread the services thin? It will cost a minimum of \$45,000 to \$50,000 in operational costs to open. To bring it back to life is about \$200,000, which would include restricting access to buildings and housing areas. We must provide a deterrent to cattle and clean up from the ones that have already been there. In our evaluation of the best bang for the taxpayer dollar, we don't believe it's the best use of monies at this time, but we are continuously evaluating. April 1 is when the Bureau of Reclamation decides if we get extra water. If that happens next year, we will be in a better position to open. This year, we don't know where we will be on budget after November 18 as we are operating on a Continuing Resolution. Cuts in the budget of 5 to 10% are being proposed. The fee station money that is collected will be used to enhance the experience, not for operation. **Chris Kirby** gave an update on Echo Bay. There will be an ad placed for the new 10 year contract in the spring. The temporary contractor is losing money. Now the traffic is assisting Echo Bay and opening Overton Beach may have an adverse impact on the contractor. We cannot justify the cost of opening Overton Beach due to the low tourist numbers.

Comments: **Judy Metz** stated that the closure of Overton Beach is what caused the downturn. When the road is closed for two years, no one is going to go there.

Dustin Nelson said if you create an environment for a contract to fail, then it will. If the agency doesn't support the community, who will? We feel you don't take it seriously, and small communities are getting the shaft.

Mike Otero asked where does the buck stop. Is it Congress or the President? Who has the final say? **Andrew Munoz, NPS** said the Management Team at Lake Mead makes the decision. He said Temporary Road Closure means that the road is not closed. As soon as it's economically feasible, we will open the gate. **Chris Kirby, NPS** said the closure of Overton Beach is based on water level and not economy. There is no golden water level number.

Ron Ward said when he first moved here, the traffic to the lake was really bad in the summer. They could launch at Overton. If you build it, they will come.

Nancy Whitford said a marina is not what we have to have, we need access to the water. As a sportsman, I feel we have been denied this. We should be able to go down there and bank fish or have a picnic. Maybe NPS should have taken the money from other projects to use at Overton Beach. It's obvious we are being sacrificed for Echo Bay. Our economy has suffered because of the road closure. Open some of the areas on government land which is public land.

April Heath said that NPS is investing in the students in this community; Lyon Middle School. It's a shame they don't have anywhere to go to enjoy nature. If we are teaching the kids about nature, it would be great if our access to Lake Mead was open to enjoy with their families.

Kent Slight commented on the prospectus on the revenue to be generated by the new gate. How much will be generated? **Andrew Munoz, NPS**, said that's not an easy question to answer as we don't know how many will have passes. We won't know until after the first of the year how much revenue will be generated. **Ken** said this should be generating extra revenue to be used to keep this open. You are not providing any specific information.

Frank Kimball said with all the work they've done to preserve St. Thomas, are they going to stop the water level coming up to cover it? Will that affect Overton Beach? **Andrew Munoz, NPS** said we don't control the water. If it covers St. Thomas, it will cover St. Thomas. It will be protected either way, the method of protection just changes.

Billy Mildice asked do they recognize that the distance between here and Echo Bay is about 35 miles. That's about the same distance as between here and Mesquite. I used to enjoy going down to Echo Bay for supper, but I won't pay the \$10 to go through the pay station, I'll go to Mesquite. I used to enjoy watching the people at Overton Arm try to get their boats back on their trailers in the wind. I would like to see them move the pay station to the other side of Echo Bay so the people here in the Valley could use the facilities at a reasonable rate.

Matt Hodkowski thanked Mr. Munoz for coming out here. When you look at the date the \$8.4M was allocated in August of 2007, that was after the date the marina was moved in April 2007. Is this about water level or about money? The water is at 1,118 feet. That is higher than when the road was being closed. It was open for three years with a lower level. My understanding was that the park was funded through end fees. The fees do not pay for services. I don't understand why you would take fees just to pay for the fee taker's salary. Of course, it's going to take money to reopen. What about the money to be generated? What about the money you've already invested? I'm mystified when he says they are operating with no budget, but says there is no money in the budget. There is a big difference between opening the road for community access and opening up the concessions. We don't need the concessions. What is the golden number if this about water level? What is the water level necessary and for how long? What about the \$1.5M lump sum to Crown Resorts? What is that \$12M allocated? What does "temporary" mean?

Chuck Phillips said there has been an extension from NPS to work with the community members. I would like them to set a time and a date when we can get together to see what we can do.

Tom Collins said the word "temporary" is on the sign because I asked them to do that. This is a Town Board and I'm glad we're doing on this on federal legislation, but there are better places to go to get this solved. I'm on the Southern Nevada Water Authority and the Colorado River Commission. We've had one year of good water in the last umpteen years. We can point fingers at a whole bunch of people. Will the road be reopened? Yes, it will. I'm offering to help, if we worked in a little more cooperative spirit.

Ron Ward said you will put a stop to the motorcycles going through here when the booth is complete.

Board comments: **Judy** – I got kicked out of Overton Beach when that when down. It's good of you to think you are making the decisions, but believe me, you have nothing to do with the decision as far as when things get opened and closed down there. We dealt with NPS, the Department of Interior, your bosses in San Francisco, the local people, Congressmen, Commissioners, and Senators to stop the concessionaire being closed. We brought people in who wanted to run the concession. We were told that's not how it's done. We were told at that time that it would never be totally closed. The concession would be closed, but the boat ramp and the road would stay open. They promised us that. We were also told at that time, that the water would have to reach its high level mark, be maintained for five years, and then they would bid the concession for Overton Beach. I was disappointed when the road closed. The \$50,000 is small

compared to the cost to our businesses of at least 10 times that much. I think you need to put more effort in to it. It will not take anything away from Echo Bay. They will still have their concession, their trailers, their rental spots, and boat launch. We still, as a community, want the road to open. The Lake is not the only thing. You do need to look outside the box. People do want to do more than just launch boats, they might just want to have a picnic. How many rangers do you need if you are not launching boats? We would like to meet with you. Before you leave, let's set up a date.

D. Update on how the Moapa Valley Construction Tax dollars have been spent – Tom Collins state that from 2004 to the present there was \$326,558.61 in Park District 9, which includes Moapa Valley, among others. The disbursements were \$383,854.38. From 2007 through June 30, 2011, \$72,676.40 has been raised, earning interest of \$45,673.76. The projects we have completed in the district are lights in the ball field with an on/off button; trees, gates, and fences; Wittwer land acquisition, the Senior Center, horse stalls at the fair grounds, bleacher expansion, the snack bar at the fairgrounds and one at the rodeo grounds, the playground safety resurfacing, and the swimming pool is still open even though it's in violation. We use swimming pools here twice as much as others in the County. If you have any questions, please put them in writing to the Town Advisory Board or to Victoria.

Matt Hodkowski – made comments on Tom's presentation based on the parks funding. The shovels will be in the ground in February. It's good to know that the money is being accounted for.

Billy Mildice commented that it is good to know that Tom has a complete list of how the money was spent. It would be nice if that were sent out with the agenda so you could go over it to frame your comments before the meeting.

V. ZONING (Possible Action)

NONE

VI. COMMUNITY CONCERNS

A. Street lights to be repaired. None.

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

According to Nevada's Open Meeting Law, it is the Board's discretion to take Public Comment during times other than during a Public Hearing or during the Public Comment Session. In all other instances, a citizen may speak on any matter before the Board after receiving recognition and consent of the Chairman of the Board. Public comment will be limited to three minutes. If any member of the Board wishes to extend the length of a presentation, the Chairman of the Board will do this by majority vote. If you wish to speak on a matter not listed as a public hearing or on a matter not posted on the Agenda, you may do so during the Public Comment Session.

Other Community Concerns & Public Comment.

Ron Ward commented about the sewer information presented at the last meeting. Ron said he and Matt Hodkowski went to the Community Center to look at the videos. The pipe is half full of water, so I don't know what that inspection entailed. We noticed that some of the pipes were crimped at the top and they (Water Rec.) mentioned that was of medium concern, but what was the bottom like? The way I understand a sewer pipe inspection is done, is you block off all the water going through the pipe so you can get 100% of the pipe. What's under the water? We don't know. They don't show spider web cracks. Now we're going to the high school. Why Ron and St. Joseph? What's that for? Everything is going to Las Vegas Paving. We need more for the businesses out here. Fix the sewer pipes in Overton. We are spending more on manhole covers than on the sewer.

Matt Hodkowski asked if NPS will be at the next meeting. **Judy** said she is going to set up a meeting with the community before the come back. **Matt** asked is there a difference between opening the road and opening the facility?

Bill Mildice said that we know we have a problem with the agenda, it needs to be simplified. Billy and Judy can get together to discuss.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting is for 7 p.m. Wednesday, November 9, 2011 in the Moapa Valley Community Center with a special call date for Wednesday October 25, 2011.

The Moapa Valley Community Center is accessible to individuals with disabilities. With 24 hours advance request, a sign language interpreter may be made available (phone 702-455-3530 or TDD 702-385-7468) or Relay Nevada toll free (800) 326-6868, TT/TDD.