

**JAMUL DULZURA
COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP
FINAL Minutes
Tuesday August 12, 2014
Approved Tuesday, August 26, 2014
Oak Grove Middle School Library
7:30 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER - Dan Neirinckx called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Janet Mulder, Dan Neirinckx, Elizabeth Kelly, Steve Wragg, Bill Herde, Joan Kouns, Michael Casinelli, George Novinger, Jean Strouf, Rich Marzec, Randy White, Joe Stuyvesant, and Preston Brown.

Excused:

Absent: Earl Katzer

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA for August 12, 2014 and minutes of July 22, 2014 regular meeting correcting the minutes to show that Michael Casinelli and Earl Katzer were both present, arriving after roll call for the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

4. OPEN FORUM: Opportunity for public comment on any item not on the agenda – 3 minute time limit

A. Leonard Stewart, Jamul resident for 35 years, reminded us that Mr. Simpson offered the land with Barratt House to the County for a park many years ago. Mr. Stewart's daughters, who were young then, played soccer, and today, have children of their own, and he would like to see a park in Jamul. He has read that the old Simpson property was being looked at for a charitable use for underprivileged kids, which he feels that would be better in Lyons Valley near Indian Hills Camp because we need a park in Jamul. Dan Neirinckx will invite him to be at the next meeting when Parks and Rec people are present.

5. BEE KEEPING ORDINANCE – Dr. David Kellum, Entomologist representing (SD County) spoke and told us.... – The original beekeeping ordinance was passed in 1954. In 2012 the City of San Diego adopted the Urban Agricultural Ordinances, which increased the distance to a minimum 15 feet from property line. **In 2013 BOS asked** Agriculture Weights & measures to look at the ordinances. They worked with Beekeeping people to come up with some suggested ordinances. They are required to have BMPs (Best Management Practices) which includes registration (for a nominal fee), re-queen, 6-ft flyover barrier, hive entry location (to avoid problems with neighbors), take an online course (one time), regular hive inspection by beekeeper at least once a month, preferably once a week, water supply

available in yard, identification info on hives, fire prevention, BMP checklist yearly. Sensitive Site Examples (as determined by Agricultural Commissioner) include picnic areas, schools, licensed daycare, outdoor sports facilities, licensed eldercare, licensed kennels, hospital entryway and parking lots, licensed boarding stables, and playgrounds. Setback distances for proposed 3-tier beekeeping ordinance by SDS and SD County AWM. Three **tiers A** – 2-up to five hives on a temporary basis – 90days- Distance from Road 25’, Distance from property line 25’, Distance from Sensitive sites SDBS rec. 75’ and C of SD recommends 150’ distance **Tier B** numbers are Distance from Road 20, Distance from property line 50, Distance from Sensitive sites SDBS rec 50, and County of SD recommends 100, 3-10 hives 150’ 11-20 hives 150 and 300. **Tier C** – commercial –no limit on number 100’ Distance from Road, 300’ Distance from Dwelling; and Distance from Sensitive sites – 450”

Jean Strouf complimented them on how far they have come. **George Novinger** asked the number of commercial beekeepers. **David Kellum** stated that over 90% of the bees in the county are commercial. **Michael Casinelli** asked about the distance from sensitive sites with disagreement between County and Bee Keeping Society. He questioned how there could be a difference in opinion. **Dr. Kellum** stated that looking at the same data, they came up with different distances from the University of Florida, and University of California, Davis, and both feel that it is conservative to have 150’ distance. **Michael Casinelli** asked what are the enforcement mechanisms? **Dr. Kellum** stated that they are working on it and the one thing they have come up with is that if the beekeeper has a problem with a neighbor it automatically goes to the next tier. **George Novinger** asked how the County handles complaints today. **Dr. Kellum** pointed that normally a phone call solves the problem, but enforcement would be a problem. **Randy White** asked about people who are allergic to bees, why are they not listed on the chart. **Dr. Kellum** stated that not many people are allergic but ones who are would carry a card and epi pen. **Randy White** pointed out that he is allergic and the location of allergenic people’s need to be added to the sensitive site and would make a recommendation it be added. **Steve Wragg** asked if there is a definition of a hive and how many bees are in a normal hive. **Dr. Kellum** stated that a standard box that was maintained would be a hive of 20,000 bees. **Bill Herde** asked about the sensitive sites and **Dr. Kellum** stated that they have to go with complaints. **Kim Hamilton, resident and bee keeper**, said that the complaint process would trigger an action by the agriculture commissioner, which would be preferable to a door-to-door canvas prior to starting a hive. **Joe Stuyvesant** asked why the County would not want further setbacks if the beekeeping society suggested it. **Kim Hamilton**, representing the Bee Society, was trying to make sure that the Africanized Bees do not take hold of our area. She lives in Deerhorn Valley and the Harris Fire took away a lot of the forage or the bees, and when the bees started to come back they were mostly Africanized Bees. She is attempting to raise enough domestic bees to counteract the Africanized bees. She pointed out that it is truly imperative to have bees in our area for our agriculture to survive, and that is why these smaller beekeepers are so important as the large commercial beekeepers have pulled thousands of hives out of San Diego County due to the drought. She and the rest of the people in the Beekeeping Society feel it is incumbent upon them to use best practices and teach others. **George Novinger moved that our JDCPG go on record expressing our general support of the Beekeeping Ordinance, urging them to look more closely at the definition of sensitive sites to**

include emphasis on people with critically allergenic reactions. Motion carried unanimously.

6. HEIDI LANE EASEMENT (IOD) PROPOSED REMOVAL – Tom Harrington, Senior Land Surveyor from County of San Diego presented a map and gave a bit of history regarding the IOD on Heidi Lane and asked to have it vacated. The owner had dedicated the land for a walking path between the two schools and it is in existence today. **James Pine, SD County Fire Authority**, has concerns regarding the vacating of this easement in case of fire. **Tom Harrington** pointed out that he was asking for our input. **Joan Kouns** stated that at one time Olive Vista was to go all the way out to SR 94 – **Tom Harrington** said that in 1890's there was a road survey and public dedication and it was accepted by the BOS at that time. Olive Vista will need to be improved by the future development to the east and developers will be required to include this improvement in their plans. **Steve Wragg** reminded us that the JDUSD had asked for and received our support regarding an emergency access easement and we need to be careful not to take away access. **Tom Harrington** stated that Olive Vista needs to connect to Lyons Valley for emergencies. He suggested that the Heidi Lane could be straightened and the access be made more feasible. **Randy White** asked if the County would require the owner to dedicate the land to "straighten Heidi Lane". **Michael Casinelli** asked what is the difference between an easement and an encumbrance? **Jean Strouf** asked why was the original IOD slanted instead of going straight and **Tom Harrington** said it was required at the time. **Judy Bohlen** stated that the vacation alone would not be agreeable to her, but only if the property owner were willing to dedicate property to create realignment which would then be a possible emergency access alignment created in the future. She further pointed out that emergency access was extremely important for our Oak Grove Middle School students. **Eileen Poole, Resident, Pleasant Valley Road**, state that it makes sense to realign the easement but with assurance that the County realizes it needs to be able to be an emergency access road. **Dan Neirinckx** moved we recommend the realignment of Heidi Lane easements as necessary in order to create a perspective emergency access maintaining easement dimensions of a minimum of 60 foot in width in order to maintain an adequate emergency access alternative. Motion carried unanimously.

7. NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE DRAFT COMPREHESIVE PLAN UPDATE – Jean Strouf and Joe Stuyvesant – continued until next meeting as the deadline for comments has been extended until middle of September.

8. ECHO VALLEY ACCESS TO NWR TRAILS – Jean Strouf read a letter written to Jill Terp, from her in which she questioned why the Fish and Wildlife could not use it. (Jean's letter follows:)

Jean Strouf
16089 Lyons Valley Road
Jamul, CA 91935

August 5, 2014

Jill Terp
US Fish & Wildlife, San Diego

RE: Access to San Diego US Fish & Wildlife off Echo Valley Road, Jamul

Dear Jill,

I write this as a member of the Jamul community in the interest of time.

- 1) You came before the Planning Group in February to request support for US F&W to vacate Open Space in the Proctor Valley Road/Millar Ranch Road areas. You mentioned this was needed before you could develop a PLAN for the area. Concern was strongly expressed by a couple members of JDCPG that access would be denied or limited in the PLAN; you assured us it would NOT, and that actually the PLAN would promote additional public use.
- 2) Three months later, your representatives closed access via Echo Valley Road to the refuge. A horse gate installed by Jamul Trails Council to keep Off Road Vehicles from entering previously successfully controlled this access.
- 3) Following perhaps contains some here say, and much fact:
 - a. One resident of Echo Valley, who in the past did not lead a crime-free life, and lives near the horse gate decided she did not want other residents using the trail access. On more than one occasion, she chained the horse-gate closed after several youth equestrians had gone onto the property. The only way they got out and back home was by using their cell phones, calling parents, and having a parent cut the chain with bolt-cutters. Meanwhile, the horses and riders anxiety increased, creating a potential hazard.
 - b. You suggested that the residents of the street should have a party, invite the person, and work out the differences. Sometimes, you cannot reason with hostile lunacy. I've recently experienced a neighbor accusing another neighbor's dogs of mauling her smaller dogs. The accused dogs are Guardian dogs and not at all aggressive. When it was suggested to her that the attack was from a coyote (since she did not witness or hear the attack(s)), she answered "Coyotes, bobcats, mountain lions and Yeti do NOT roam around Jamul in daylight". Some people are just hopeless.
- 4) You mentioned opening an alternative trail head, controlled with horse gate, further East on Proctor Valley Road. Great; although this has not been done, nor started, and over 2 months have passed, as has most of the summer when the youth of Echo Valley Road are more likely to use the trails.
 - a. In addition, this is not a SAFE alternative. The terrain of Proctor Valley Road lends itself to Off-Road racing, and not only by ORV. Hikers and equestrians are in grave danger riding alongside this road. Most of the hikers and equestrians of Echo Valley Road are either under 21 or over 65. Your actions have taken from them a safe entrance. This would be understandable, if the access had only been available for less than 2 years. This access has been used almost daily for well over 20 years.
- 5) I believe the residents of Echo Valley Road are gathering a petition to re-open access via the horse gate. We will get this to you, as soon as possible.
- 6) Here's my idea for a solution:
 - a. Remove the gate/fence placed at the end of Echo Valley Road just prior to Memorial Day weekend.

- b. Chain the horse gate that Jamul Trails Council installed many years ago.
- c. Make sure all residents of Echo Valley Road have the ability to open the lock on this gate.
- d. If you think it's necessary, install a sign at that entrance that says "Private entrance to residents only".

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Jean Strouf

Dan Neirinckx read a letter written to Congressman Duncan Hunter and Congressman Juan Vargas (attached to these minutes as follows) Same letter sent to both.

**JAMUL DULZURA COMMUNITY
PLANNING GROUP
P.O. BOX 613
JAMUL, CA 91935**

Honorable Juan C. Vargas
U.S. Representative
California 51st District
333 F Street, Suite A
Chula Vista, CA 91910

August 8, 2014

Dear Congressman Vargas,

By unanimous vote, the Jamul Dulzura Community Planning Group (JDCPG) authorized this letter of concern.

The United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service has published a Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment for the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge (SDNWR). While the "Plan" is primarily outside your district, it never the less impacts your constituents. Non-motorized trails are a significant factor in the quality of life aspect of the rural area of eastern San Diego County. The existing trail closures as proposed by the Draft Plan, while not specifically identified, would result in a significant adverse effect on the quality of life for the adjacent and near by communities. Chapter 5, paragraph 5.7.2.1 of the Draft plan states "None of the alternatives evaluated for implementation on the San Diego NWR would result in a significant reduction in the availability of recreational opportunities throughout the region." This may be an accurate statement if the definition of region is San Diego County. However, the adjacent communities will experience significant adverse availability of recreational opportunities.

To date, the public meetings held by the Department of the Interior (DoI) have demonstrated a significant opposition to the vague extent of the proposed closing of existing trails. The local DoI representatives have responded well to the public outcry and have indicated a willingness to listen and possibly negotiate trail alignments and

retention. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) required analysis of “socio-economic” affects is lacking and a more in depth analysis is requested.

Your help to encourage the Department of the Interior to recognize the importance of preserving the local and interconnecting trails affected by their “Plan” is an important part of preserving the quality of life in rural San Diego County.

Respectfully,

Dan Neirinckx
Chair, JDCPG

In addition, the following letter was sent to Congressman Duncan Hunter:

**JAMUL DULZURA COMMUNITY
PLANNING GROUP
P.O. BOX 613
JAMUL, CA 91935**

Honorable Duncan D. Hunter
U.S. Representative
California 50th District
1611 Magnolia Ave.
El Cajon, CA 92020

August 8, 2014

Dear Congressman Hunter,

By unanimous vote, the Jamul Dulzura Community Planning Group (JDCPG) authorized this letter of concern.

The United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (F&WS) has recently closed a long existing access point to trails from the Echo Valley area of Jamul. The W&FS has indicated that the closure was because the access point was from/through non-public land. The F&WS currently permits access to its trails at the McGinty Mountain Area over non-public lands. The closure at the Echo Valley point seems arbitrary. The JDCPG supports the effort by most Echo Valley residents to re-open the closed access point and requests your support as well.

Respectfully,

Dan Neirinckx
Chair, JDCPG

Jean Strouf had a committee meeting and introduced **Rob Castetter**, resident of Echo Valley, who met with Congressman Duncan Hunter's Deputy District Director, Michael Harrison, and he has a meeting with Fish and Wildlife on August 25 and will take the petition of over 135 signatures focused on the opening of Echo Valley access and the limiting of trail access.

Joe Stuyvesant stated that Fish and Wildlife would offer a second alternative off of Proctor Valley Road and it is a very unsafe spot to try to have it. **Randy White** suggested that the Fish and Game would need to make a second alternative and make it safe off of Proctor Valley Road.

Jean Strouf read a letter she wrote to Supervisor Dianne Jacob and would recommend that we should also be a party to this letter. The letter is attached here:

Jean Strouf
16089 Lyons Valley Road
Jamul, CA 91935

August 11, 2014

Dianne Jacob
San Diego County Board of Supervisors

RE: MSCP & SD Wildlife Refuge, US Fish & Wildlife

Dear Supervisor Jacob:

I read in a recent County news bulletin of the success the County has had in increasing property deeded to various land conservation agencies to uphold the MSCP. A few years ago, I would have applauded this "success", but no longer.

In February, the manager of the US Fish & Wildlife SD Wildlife Refuge came before the JDCPG, asking our approval to Vacate Open Space areas adjacent to Proctor Valley Road & Millar Ranch Road, in Jamul. A few of our group's members expressed concern that this designation change would reduce pedestrian & equestrian access to the areas. The Open Space areas are adjacent to quite a few private residences, and are frequently used by the local hikers and equestrians. Jill Terp assured us that the intent was to increase public access, not reduce access, by bringing the lands into a PLAN for the Refuge.

A number of residents of Echo Valley Road attended our June meeting of the JDCPG. A large gate had been put up the day before Memorial Day weekend, by US F & G, at the end of Echo Valley Road, preventing access to the newly designated properties. Since then, the JDCPG and residents of Echo Valley Road have met & communicated regularly with Jill Terp and the US F&G office, requesting a solution to re-gain access. We have suggested using the existing horse gate constructed by Jamul Trails Council 10 years ago and using locks on it that residents of Echo Valley would have. The Fish & Wildlife solution is to install a horse gate just off Proctor Valley Road, further East of Echo Valley Road. This seems to be a reasonable solution, however Proctor Valley Road in this location is WAY too dangerous for pedestrians OR equestrians to walk alongside. Jill Terp's answer to that concern was for us to approach the County to improve Proctor Valley Road to make it safer. Below is the most recent correspondence between parties:

Jill,

Drove by and took a look at the area for the proposed gate. While we are grateful for the option, unfortunately it does not alleviate the significant safety concerns of Proctor Valley Road.

The section of Proctor Valley from Echo Valley to the proposed gate location is narrow with no shoulder and a blind, sharp corner. Horses on this road would be very dangerous and it would be irresponsible to force riders into this situation.

I hope we can continue to work to resolve the Echo Valley Rd access issue in the near future.

Thanks!
Joe

Dianne,

The SD Wildlife Refuge presented their Plan at the August 5th meeting of the Valle De Oro/Rancho San Diego Community Planning Group. There were a number of concerned neighbors, as well as various trail group users present. Many had read the full PLAN presented, and the various options offered. The consensus is that the US F&W proposes to reduce hiking & equestrian & biking trails to about 20 miles. The Jamul Trails Council & Bonita Valley Trails Council have identified close to 200 miles of trails currently used, and most have been used for over 20 years. Reducing trails to 20 miles would equate to a very dangerously crowded situation, unless most of the users decided NOT to use the refuge.

Jay Showalter of the SD Mountain Bike Association reminded us very clearly: the Mission Statement of the Refuge is to adhere to & promote the MSCP. And by keeping us out, they will succeed. They (the US F&G) have NO responsibility to provide or promote recreation.

I applied to be a member of JDCPG at your suggestion, since I was a member of your Trails Committee. The purpose of the Trails Committee is to promote & extend trails, particularly in the Eastern section of the County. It appears there is a major conflict between the MSCP and the Trails Committee. Would you help clarify priorities?

As a member of the JDCPG, my obligation is to the constituents of this area, with respect to land use. Again, I feel there is a major conflict between the Mission Statement of the SD Wildlife Refuge/US Fish & Wildlife and the Planning Groups that are adjacent to these properties.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jean Strouf. Member JDCPG

Joe Stuyvesant moved that we send a letter to Jill Terp, Fish and Wildlife, requesting removal of the gate prohibiting immediate access to the property off of Echo Valley Road. Motion carried unanimously.

Randy White moved that we endorse the attached letter written by Jean Strouf to Supervisor Dianne Jacob, voicing concerns over the restricting of public access to public lands, specifically off of Echo Valley Road. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Barrett Ranch House Project at Jefferson & SR94 – Dan introduced Jim Weatherly, representing Caring for Kids. He played for Chargers, and is now working with alumni and current players. He is working towards **R-Charity Ranch**. He found a ranch in another area, but the deal fell through. He wants to work with the siblings of children who are special needs kids, giving them an advantage. They will take the mothers to a special location for hair cuts, manicures, facials, etc., and the children would be taken care of and be able to ride the horses. The Wounded Warriors are also coming out to help. They are working on getting the Barrett House back into shape and they need volunteers to help clean it up. No one is charged at all, but it is all-volunteer and is for all age kids. **Jean Strouf** asked who owns the property now and what are their plans and how does he fit into it? **Jim Weatherly** asked the owner if he could develop all of the other acreage around these 19 acres and then donate it to a non-profit organization to run. He plans to have an organic garden planted by the kids and then harvested by them. They have insurance policies including a 2 million dollar policy and a 1 million dollar policy. They pay \$3000 a month lease and have 20 horses to work with kids. Children up to age 14 will not be allowed to ride out of the arena...They have some Black Angus cattle on the property as well. They need volunteers, donations and lots of equipment (thanks to Pensky and Burns and Sons and others for the help). **Michael Casinelli** asked how they plan to finance this opportunity for kids? **Jim Weatherly** stated that all the money is donated and all donors become a part of the ranch. **Steve Wragg** congratulated him on his dream and recommends that Jim go to the County for permits before he goes any farther. **Jim Weatherly** stated that he has a 2-year lease and thanked the group for their input.

10. JAMUL INDIAN VILLAGE UP-DATE - Dan Neirinckx reported that he followed trucks leaving the JIV full of sand and uncovered which were sandblasting his motorcycle and him. It was suggested that he contact JAC and send a declaration about the damage to his vehicle by the trucks.

11. JDCPG OFFICER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

- a. Parks and Recs will be represented at our next meeting to discuss what their job is, what all is involved in the use of the funds, and any questions we have.
- b. The Board of Supervisors has approved PLDO funds as well as the joint powers agreement between the JDUSD and the County Parks and Rec. However, no funds will be spent until approved by JDCPG.

Adjournment: Dan Neirinckx, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 9:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Mulder, Secretary

**NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING:
7:30 P.M. TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2014
OAK GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY**

Meeting minutes and agendas can be accessed at

<http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/pds/CommunityGroups.html>