

HVCC DELEGATES / COMMITTEE LIST

COUNCIL MEMBERS

*Members appointed by the 4 HVCC Organizations, residing in the community they represent.
Up to 3 voting members from each community, plus alternate to vote in case of an absence.*

Kim Abramson JVIA alternate 760-792-4555 dojasmomdc@gmail.com
Adrienne Bishop Landers 760-364-2345
Floy Creveling Landers 714-309-8677 g.creveling@att.net
Toby Gramm FHCA 760-668-7774 outforblood74@hotmail.com
Jim Hanley JVIA 760-364-4829 jhaflame@aol.com
Jim Harvey JVIA 760-401-1015 johnsonvalley@gmail.com
Betty Munson JVIA 760-364-2646 ranchotaj@gmail.com
Chris Nichols YMIA 760-285-3560 chris@wb6cdf.com
Rick Sayers YMIA 760-574-6598 rick@ricksayers.com
Roxanna Shamay Landers 760-333-2707 shamay@inreach.com

OFFICERS

President: Jim Harvey
Vice President: Rick Sayers
Secretary: Betty Munson
Treasurer: Floy Creveling

STANDING COMMITTEE

Community Outreach: Chairperson: Betty Munson
Jim Hanley, Rick Sayers

AD HOC COMMITTEE

Scenic 247 Committee: Chairperson: Betty Munson
Phillip Brown, Barbara Harris, Jim Harvey, Sarah Kennington, Sara Fairchild, Chuck Bell

Committee members not required to be members of the Council

MINUTES OCT 19, 2020 MEETING

3:00 p.m. at Johnson Valley Community Center

Guests: County 3rd District Supervisor Dawn Rowe; Mark Lundquist, 3rd District Field Rep; Sheriff's Dept. Capt. Lucas Niles, Lt. Mike Walker; Chuck Bell, Lucerne Valley Economic Development Assn; H.E.L.P. Director Jason Hansen; Matthew Welsch, Morongo Basin Ambulance; Kristina Brown USMC, Kim Pope, USMC GEA; Steve Bardwell, Morongo Basin Conservation Association; Alex Cruz, Nick Rodriguez, Stale Louis-Floki Terranova Nakken, Judy Mifflin, K. Lund, Charlene Claybaugh, Terry Burkhart, John Burkhart,

Flag Salute 3:10 p.m.

Roll Call/Delegate List - absent Toby Gramm, Chris Nichols

Agenda Approved with additions

Minutes of August meeting Approved

Treasurer's Report: Floy Creveling - approved

Oath of Office - HVCC Officers present sworn in by Supervisor Dawn Rowe

1. SB County Fire - unable to attend

2. SB County Sheriffs Dept – Capt Luke Niles - working closely with Supervisor Rowe's office, Sheriff's Dept has transferred more assets from stations into County marijuana team to make concerted effort in our region to eradicate 30 illegal marijuana farms out of 200; ongoing operation will publish exact data when finished. Requested communities to continue to be diligent relaying information to him about new locations and grading equipment. Discussion clean-up after closures; communicating through Code Enforcement. Complaint system through CE established, but shocking increase of illegal farms and COVID19 disruption of schedules and shifts; communicate through Capt Niles. How careful should we be interacting with suspicious people? Avoid them. Sheriffs do preliminary surveillance.

3. Morongo Basin Ambulance – Matthew Welsch - stats Sept 2019: 10 responses. Sept 2020: 14. includes calls for medical aid, traffic accidents. Johnson Valley averages about 15 9-1-1 calls per month. Starting advance planning for onsite at King of the Hammers which can generate 50-60 calls.

Welsch brought membership information can relieve financial burden if MBA services are needed. MBA is a 501(c)3 non-profit, supported by subscriptions, billing, donations. Membership: annual \$50 per person; \$85 per household.

4. 29 Palms Marine Base - Deputy Director of Internal Affairs Kristina L. Brown - reported the Shared Use Area in the Johnson Valley OHV Recreation Area closes to the public from October 30 to November 9 to conduct military training. She brought flyers, maps, App cards to warn if approaching border. Most Base tours suspended due to COVID; hoping to resume by January.

5. SB County 3rd District Supervisor Dawn Rowe – reported Dave Cole is planning on having King of the Hammers, and he is working to ensure the event is safe and complies with all health orders. Working with County Health to find a rapid COVID-negative test, if the State of California restrictions still apply. Three KOH contingency plans depending where the state is on re-opening. Current guidelines would not allow the event, but KOH Week requires so much advance planning they are looking at all options.

-Code Enforcement lead officer Andy Wingert passed away recently and unexpectedly. He was instrumental helping Rowe with her Night Sky Ordinance. She hopes that project will come to fruition with his replacement; it is still a priority for her. Point lights downward – if it can be seen from afar, it's too bright.

Question: could code enforcement become more aggressive? Pot farms, trailers inhabited, unpermitted, connecting to water; the late Mike Romage lived here; always alert to violations like illegal dumping. New web-based reporting app uses GIS map..

-Rowe reminded us the western Joshua tree and its habitat being studied for protection; it has full protection meanwhile under the California Environmental Protection Act, so do not touch it. Contact California Fish & Wildlife for questions how this affects your property. Damaging trees after September 22, 2020, is very serious.

-Citizens may address Board of Supervisors meetings in the teleconference center in the County building in Joshua Tree. Not well attended lately; to keep it open, please come to speak there rather than driving all the way to San Bernardino.

-COVID Compliant Grant program closes end of October; 2500.00 eligibility was extended to non-profit community organizations even though they have no employees. Kim Abramson displayed the check received by JVIA.

-Question: camping on your property. OK while building house and having inspections. Will add to HVCC newsletter.

Noise, light, environmental problems intruding on neighbor may fall under Code Enforcement regulations. Squatters paying property taxes would be a civil matter between owner and squatter. **45:14:42**

6. Homestead Valley H.E.L.P. – Jason Hansen - addressing issue of limited law enforcement, fire and emergency medical resources. History of 1992 earthquake response uncoordinated. Homestead Emergency Lifeline Project has completed six units for disaster preparedness, management and recovery: Animal Rescue Unit (already activated, in 2-1/2 weeks rescued 130 animals during the Apple Fire), a Communications Unit, a Ground Operations Unit, a Triage Unit in every community center and church for less urgent injuries, Drone Command for wide radius search and recovery, Food Distribution Team headed by Roxanna Shamay.

Testing getting a 501(c)3 designation for H.E.L.P. in 14 days, if successful, will share with community associations.

HVCC is motivation for this project.

6. Illegal Marijuana Grow Farms – Chuck Bell, Jim Harvey **16:00-59+**

Lucerne Valley hit earlier and harder with this illegal grading and 8-ft. fencing of large properties; the community already meeting with law enforcement; CHP stopping unlicensed trucks and trailers hauling water.

Discussion Agenda materials: Prop 64 Purpose & Intent and its changes to Health & Safety Code 11358. On Page 61 of 72 pages, it downgraded illegal growing of non-medical marijuana from a felony offense with severe penalties to a misdemeanor with \$500 max fine, causing this mess. Most voters did not know they voted for this change, not detailed in ballot summaries, and the section on Purpose and Intent stated Prop 64 would take production and sales out of the hands of the illegal market. Other western states legalizing non-medical marijuana impose much harder penalties and punitive fines for non-permitted, non-regulated commercial cultivation. They do not have this problem.

Judges and DA's not pursuing this. Voter initiative voted this in. Sen. Grove staff working on it. Environmental protections may trigger felony. No state agency known to have presence for any enforcement in this area. SB County licences no growers except industrial hemp, highly regulated. Non-discrimination rules, utility companies must sell water and power to anyone who asks for it.

7. SB County Community Plans – Chuck Bell, Jim Harvey

Discussion of letter from Chuck Bell and LVEDA recommending inclusion of each 2007 Community Plan in Countywide Plan, answered in conference call:

Steve Bardwell reported BOS Oct 27 meeting will consider the Countywide Policy Plan and Countywide Business plan, to certify the programmatic Environmental Impact Report repealing all 2007 Community Plans, and “acknowledge” the Community Action Guides. Earlier this day on a conference call with Terri Rahhal, Director of Land Use Services, to state abandoning specifics in the Community Plans will not serve to protect our communities. Planning Department not interested in this approach. They look on Countywide Plan as a “living document” and later policies could be adopted as amendments. Some 2007 policies did not make it into the Countywide Plan “matrix.” Community Action Guides not legally binding. Detailed information about fire dangers, flood dangers, air quality, etc. may be lost.

Chuck Bell suggested comparing specific Community Plan to matrix in digital Countywide Plan. LVEDA to update the Lucerne Valley 2007 Plan for use by community. Difficult to find items in Countywide. Plans require enforcement.

HVCC always has 2007 Homestead Valley Plan available to the public on www.hvccsite.org. Use for reference to staff in the future.

8. Stagecoach Solar Notice of Preparation – Chuck Bell, Jim Harvey

Discussion Agenda materials: Stagecoach Solar Notice of Preparation with project construction details, must submit written comments by November 13, 2020. Showed location map of the 3000-acre project on State Lands compared to Scenic 247 Visual Assessment map of Section 4 South (same area). This devastates our formulas for impacts on our scenic values, all visible from the highway.

Calcite Substation helps grandfathered projects all over the area. HVCC comment to emphasize incompatibility with scenic qualities.

9. SB 1263 Hauled Water Properties Building Permit Prohibition – Chuck Bell, Jim Harvey

Chuck has sent cases to Pacific Legal Foundation; possible legislative change since author of Assembly Bill 1263 is no longer there. Looking for Single Family Zone case where building a house is primary use.

No guarantee that drilling a well will give you usable water. No “if all else fails” remedy in the law. Property taking = if legal policy maker adopts a policy in your area that prevents your using your property in any way.

10. Committees:

1. Standing: Public Outreach (Betty Munson) meeting announced on radio; Hi-Desert Star column. Last meeting the Council recommended we publicize our support for Measure J

2. Ad Hoc: Scenic Highway 247 (Betty Munson) Making progress with Land Use Services, working on the Corridor Protection Plan. Committee is prepared to make comments on the new threat from Stagecoach Solar. We hope ridealong with Caltrans doesn't happen with marijuana farms in view.

11. Guest Comment on cargo containers dropped on land near the highway. Information from County, you could have a container on your land if farming, or during construction for supplies. Also, it must be a color that complements our desert.

12. President's Report - Received our Covid Compliant grant check; Jim purchased hand sanitizer, masks and contact-free thermometer.

13. Community Reports List – Announcements -

Landers Thrift Store still open, Food drive every Thursday.

YMIA- a few weddings and other private parties. Polling Place in the Community Center.

FHCA- Registrar of Voters approved Community Center as a Polling Place Sat, Oct 31 - Tues, Nov 3

JVIA - Tailgate Swap Meet Saturday, Nov. 7th, 7:00-noon, or later if anyone wants to stay

14. Review Action Items From This Meeting

Comment letter on Stagecoach Solar

**Next HVCC meeting: Monday, November 16, 3:00 pm
Flamingo Heights Community Center, 55977 Perris St.**

Adjourn 5:25

Betty Munson, Secretary