



# Newberry/Harvard Property Owners Association Meeting Minutes

Saturday, June 9, 2018

The regular meeting of the NSHPOA began at noon at the Newberry Springs Family Center.

The agenda was modified to include an item calling for an attempt to resubmit the original 1984 Community Plan currently in the possession of Fred Stearn.

The President's report included a description of the May 24 Planning Commission attendance, which seems to have resulted in success by those opposing the attempt by the Planning Commission to modify the original RECE language, which would have allowed utility scale solar project development in rural living areas, Robert Shaw commenting that the amount of earth to be moved for the Daggett solar project has been increased to approximately five million tons.

Vasseur also indicated that he is still working on enhancing the NHPOA bulletin board(s).

Robert Shaw recommended dropping the small claims action against the NSEDA and pursuing financing through the fall Focus newsletter. No action taken, but Bob Vasseur will formulate an article and membership form to be included in that newsletter that is due by August 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.

In Old Business there was intensive discussion on ways to solve the water overdraft problem in our valley. As part of the discussion, it was noted that there is now financing available to low income individuals for well replacement. Ellen Johnson remarked that she believes that there currently may be fewer or no grants available for the purpose, but that individuals should still submit requests to the MWA in case the situation changes.

The water discussion continued with Vasseur emphasizing the need for the collation of bullet points from both sides of the aisle, to that some kind of correspondence can proceed to get the county and the MWA moving in the solution of the water overdraft problem. The Johnsons noted that the Baja Sustainability Plan needs to be reviewed and revised as required, but hasn't been, basically because the other involved agencies won't act until the Mojave Water Agency does. The consensus seems to be that both the MWA and the county need to get moving soon on steps needed to solve our water problem, including things like demanding that the MWA supply more makeup water and that the county formulate ordinances that will prevent overdraft by users, especially those not subject to the 1996 court judgment.

Vasseur showed a fifteen minute sludge video pointing out that the so-called compost produced from municipal water treatment is really nothing but sludge and should no longer be dumped in our area, or any residential area for that matter. It was also noted that since 'compost' is legally considered organic waste, it might also be a component of the 'organic' food in local markets, and since there are clean water acts, and clean air acts perhaps we also need a clean dirt act. Ronnie Shaw suggested that perhaps a anti-sludge provision be included in any community plan for our area.

During the discussion of the May 24 Planning Commission meeting it was noted that the planned solar projects for Daggett and Newberry may be grandfathered since the applications were submitted prior to approval for the insertion of the RECE into the County Development Code, and that we should be watchful that the projects are not approved using a grandfathering excuse.

Dialog about the summer meeting hiatus generated the comment that we should not be having a dark period during a critical time like this with RECE approval being so important. Vasseur noted that the hiatus is part of the by-laws and that association activity will definitely not cease during that summer period anyway. Wayne Snively

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suggested that, for an emergency related to the RECE approval we could call an ad hoc meeting which most agreed would be the way to go.

The meeting adjourned at about 1:45 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert A. Vasseur". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert A. Vasseur, President

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