



Newberry/Harvard Property Owners Association Meeting Minutes

Saturday, September 8, 2018

The regular meeting of the NSHPOA began at 12:05 at the Newberry Springs Family Center.

The agenda was modified to correct two errors, and an item added to call for 2019 officer nominations.

The minutes were modified to remove the words 'by law' from the seventh paragraph describing the need for review and revision of the Baja Sustainability Plan.

A discussion involving the possible transfer of water rights from west of Minneola to the east revealed that Lake Jodie had been using water rights from Coolwater for some time, but there were no indications of other users buying/transferring those rights as yet.

A general discussion ensued about how the Association is going to approach the water issues facing our valley currently, it being noted that we should be addressing the problems with higher authorities but that the Mojave Water Agency (MWA) in its role as Watermaster should be addressing issues such as carryover, excess water usage by non-stipulators to the 1996 judgment, and transfer of water rights over the Calico-Newberry fault, which in itself could have disastrous consequences for Newberry.

A motion was made by Wayne Snively to Formulate Resolutions on how we should achieve water balance for the Baja Subarea, seconded by Ronnie Shaw. The motions passed. Subsequent discussion indicated a need for an ad hoc committee to formulate the resolution or resolutions as necessary and that the committee should use other sources in an advisory capacity.

The next discussion covered the expected results from both the Countywide Plan, and the so-called Newberry Community Plan touted by the County for the last couple of years, the community plan appearing to have disappeared off the radar. The land use maps in the new Countywide Plan appear to have undergone no change, but it is noted that there are arguably positive statements in the Plan that would tend to militate against the types of solar development currently planned for the Daggett and Newberry areas. There was also quite a bit of discussion on the history of the county and community plans in general since 1984 noting that many changes were ethically questionable and tended to worsen local conditions rather than ameliorate them.

The consensus relating to what approach we should take to the Tuesday meeting seemed to be that we should attend and take an individual rather than Association level part in the proceedings.

There was a motion by Wayne Snively, seconded by Ronnie Shaw to sponsor a Community Services District (CSD) candidate meet and greet at a mutually acceptable date. The motion was passed and a tentative date of October 3 from 6 P.M. at the Community Center was suggested. It was also suggested that Karen Gray be asked to officiate. Jack Unger volunteered to try to reserve the Community Center on that date and time.

It was decided that there would be no endorsement of candidates by our Association.

The discussion on the status of the proposed Daggett/Newberry solar facilities revealed that there is now a new corporation, Clearway Energy Group, which seems to have absorbed both NRG and Sun Power utility level divisions. Also, Wayne Snively noted that the glut of power in California is making further solar development of solar facilities uneconomical because California is now shipping power at a loss to Arizona. Fred Slearn noted that elements of the Renewable Energy Conservation Element (RECE) that have been incorporated into the County Development Code have justified and reinforce Newberry opposition to the two proposed utility scale

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solar facilities. Bob Vasseur mentioned that it is still very important to ensure that Policy 4.10 of the RECE be added to the Development Codes as well to prevent future intrusions of massive utility scale solar.

Discussion continued with Jim Johnson mentioning that, at the CSD meeting in July it was voted, from a proposal by Paula Deel, to send a letter to the authorities requesting that the disposition of the water rights to the West of Minneola and any transfer to the East of Minneola be placed under the control of the Daggett and Newberry CSDs. Attendees described that any control of water rights by either or both CSDs would be weird, bizarre, shocking, and so on but not acceptable.

There were no nominations for Association officers for the 2019 calendar year.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Robert A. Vasseur, President

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