

**MARIN COUNTY COUNCIL OF MAYORS AND COUNCILMEMBERS  
MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2023  
VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE  
6:00pm**

**Members Present**

Belvedere: Mayor James Lynch  
Corte Madera: Mayor Charles Lee, Councilmembers Casissa, Thomas  
Fairfax: Mayor Chance Cutrano, Councilmembers Ackerman, Coler, Blash, Hellman  
Larkspur: Mayor Gabe Paulson, Councilmembers Carroll, Way  
Mill Valley: Vice Mayor Urban Carmel  
Novato: Mayor Susan Wernick, Councilmembers Eklund, Farac  
Ross: Mayor Beach Kuhl, Councilmembers Kircher, McMillan, Robbins  
San Anselmo: Mayor Steve Burdo, Councilmembers Colbert, Kullaway  
San Rafael: Mayor Kate Colin, Councilmembers Llorens-Gulati  
Sausalito: Councilmember Kellman  
Tiburon: Mayor Jack Ryan, Councilmember Fredericks

**Ex Officio:** MCCMC Secretary Rebecca Vaughn; City/Town Managers: Heather Abrams (Fairfax)|  
Christa Johnson (Ross), Jim Schutz (San Rafael), Dan Schwarz (Larkspur), Adam Wolff (Corte  
Madea)

Guests in attendance: Supervisor Katie Rice; Nancy Hall-Bennett, CalCities North Bay Division

**1. Call to Order**

President Brian Colbert called the meeting to order at 6:03p.m., and welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers, for March 22, 2023.

A roll call of the Marin towns/cities was taken. There was a quorum of the 11 Marin cities/towns present, with representatives from 10 cities/towns in attendance (Mill Valley not present for business meeting).

President Colbert then called for Public Comment.

**2. Public Comment:**

Public Comment was received from:

1. Mark Van Gorder, PG&E – Mr. Van Gorder provided updates on the recent storms, power restoration in progress and landslide in the Novato area

**3. Welcome and Introduction of Guests: President Brian Colbert.**

President Colbert welcomed the guests in attendance.

**4. Presentations:**

- 4.a. Update From Supervisor Katie Rice, and Greg Besser, County Administrator's Office, Regarding The County Landscaping Industry Emissions Reduction And Small Business Protection Plan

Supervisor Rice provided an introduction to the presentation, background on the development of the approach that the County is taking and introduced Gary Besser, Project Manager.

Mr. Besser discussed the County's work to transition to zero waste landscaping in Marin, while balancing environmental health and equity policy considerations. His presentation described the equity-focused strategy that the County is undertaking to reduce emissions while protecting the County's small businesses.

He described Assembly Bill 1346, which bans the sale of most gas-powered landscaping equipment beginning in 2024. The California Air Resource Board has set aside \$27 million for "small" businesses to purchase electric equipment, but microbusinesses (the majority of landscapers in Marin) are unlikely to see much of this funding.

Mr. Besser described the landscaping industry in Marin, the lifespan of gas-powered landscaping tools, the environmental and public health effects of those tools, and explained why the County decided to implement an equity and education approach to reduction of gas-powered landscaping equipment, rather than adoption of an ordinance. The County's approach encourages zero emission transition while protecting small businesses, by encouraging electrification without penalizing those who can't yet afford it. He concluded by discussing the early engagement already undertaken and the County's next steps.

More information on the County's Small Off-Road Gas Engine (SORE) Transition plan can be viewed here:

[http://www.mccmc.org/wp-content/uploads/VF\\_SORE-PRES-TO-MCCM.kt .pdf](http://www.mccmc.org/wp-content/uploads/VF_SORE-PRES-TO-MCCM.kt.pdf)

#### 4.b. Update From Anne Grey, Vivalon CEO, Regarding Vivalon's Healthy Aging Campus

Anne Grey, Vivalon CEO, provided an update on Vivalon (which was formerly known as Whistlestop). Vivalon provides a comprehensive, integrated program of healthy aging services and activities, including: specialized transportation, nutrition programs, classes and other means of social connection. She also discussed the upcoming 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Meals on Wheels and the Vivalon March for Meals program, which serves approximately 400 homebound adults around the County, along with the Nourish program which serves around 300 people, who do not qualify for Meals on Wheels based on age. There is also a pantry program every Friday at the Whistlestop building, with which they partner with local foodbanks. And last year, they started a program called Nourish for Pets for those who can't afford food for their pets.

Ms. Grey then discussed the plans for the Healthy Aging Campus, which had its groundbreaking in June 2022 and will open in late 2023. The Healthy Aging Campus is an integrated approach for equity in aging, providing housing, healthcare, education, advocacy, nutrition, transportation and volunteering opportunities. It will provide 66 low income apartments for older adults in partnership with Eden Housing. In addition to the apartments, which are 100% section 8 voucher homes, there will be a community

center, café, classrooms and integrated care clinic. The project will allow Vivalon to expand the number of people they are able to serve.

The Vivalon presentation can be viewed here:

<http://www.mccmc.org/wp-content/uploads/Vivalon-Case-for-Support-12.1.22-no-notes-compressed.pdf>

And more information can be found on their website:

<https://vivalon.org/>

4.c. Update From Lisa Bennett, Showing Up For Racial Justice (SURJ Marin), Regarding Their Upcoming Elected Officials Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Training

San Rafael Mayor Kate Colin introduced the presentation and provided context, stating that in the first Race Counts report that came out in 2018, Marin County was rated as the County with the greatest inequality. MCCMC had a “One Book” book club and read “The Color of Law” by Richard Rothstein. The second step was that SURJ co-created a skill-building workshop to strengthen our ability to talk about racism and systemic racism, and local elected officials attended a series of workshops, in 2019 and again in 2020.

Lisa Bennet and Heidi Merchem introduced themselves and discussed an upcoming series of workshops for elected officials called VOTE, which stands for Values Observations, Trust and Empathetic Engagement, and described the many benefits of participation in the workshops. The series is designed for elected officials to develop anti-racist, values-based actions and to build a community of others doing the same. Participants will learn how to move from default practices to intentional practices as an anti-racist leader. The series will conclude with development of a project and sharing results with the cohort. The series will begin on May 13, 2023, and run through October 14<sup>th</sup> with approximately one month in between each session.

More information on SURJ Marin can be found here: <https://surjmarin.org/>

And the presentation slides can be viewed here: <http://www.mccmc.org/wp-content/uploads/SURJ-Marín-Presentation.pdf>

**5. Committee Reports:** All Committee reports were submitted in writing and are available in the [agenda packet on the MCCMC website](#). President Colbert thanked those who submitted written reports and encouraged the membership to review the reports.

5.a. Association of Bay Area Governments  
5a. Written report from Pat Eklund, Novato

~~5.b. Golden Gate Bridge, Highway & Transportation District  
5b. Written report from Holli Thier, Tiburon~~

5.c. MCCMC Legislative Committee  
5.c. Written report from Alice Fredericks, Tiburon

- ~~5.d. Marin Transit Board of Directors~~  
~~5.d. Written report provided by Maribeth Bushey, San Rafael~~
- 5.e. Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District (SMART)  
5e. Written report provided by Gabe Paulson, Larkspur
- 5.f. Transportation Authority of Marin  
5.f. Written report from Alice Fredericks, Tiburon

## **6. BUSINESS MEETING**

**(The business items were discussed and voted on in between the first and second presentations)**

- 6.a. Review of Draft Agenda for the April 26, 2023 MCCMC Meeting Via Zoom

There were no comments on the draft agenda, which will be held virtually via Zoom. President Colbert announced that the meeting may be cancelled as no cities had volunteered to host the in-person meeting. Staff will notify the group if we are able to pivot to a virtual meeting, depending on speaker availability.

- 6.c. Consideration and Possible Approval of the Draft Minutes of the February 22, 2023 MCCMC Meeting

President Colbert called for a vote to approve the draft minutes for February 22, 2023. There was a motion and second (Eklund / Cutrano) to approve the draft minutes for February 22, 2023. The motion was approved by roll call vote of the cities/towns present, 11-0

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm to the next regular meeting scheduled for April 26, 2023 to be held in person should a city volunteer to host.