

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

**Wednesday, June 24, 2020
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
6:05pm**

Or upon conclusion of the Marin County City Selection Committee, whichever is later

Members Present

Belvedere:	Kemnitzer, McAuliffe, McCaskill,
Corte Madera:	Beckman, Kunhardt
Fairfax:	Ackerman, Coler, Goddard, Hellman, Reed
Larkspur:	Haroff, Way
Mill Valley:	McEntee
Novato:	Athas, Eklund, Lucan, Peele, Wernick
Ross:	Brekhus, Kircher, McMillan, Robbins
San Anselmo:	Greene
San Rafael:	
Sausalito:	Burns, Cleveland-Knowles, Cox, Withy
Tiburon:	Fredericks, Thier

Ex Officio: MCCMC Secretary Rebecca Vaughn

Guests were: Dr. Lisa Santora, Marin Co. Deputy Public Health Officer

Call to Order

President Elizabeth Brekhus called the meeting to order at 6:16p.m., and welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers via webinar for June 24, 2020. A roll call of the Marin towns/cities was taken. She introduced all of the new Councilmembers who were elected in the past 6 months: From Corte Madera, Fred Casissa and Charles Lee; from Fairfax, Stephanie Hellman; from Larkspur, Scot Candell and Gabe Paulson; from Mill Valley, Urban Carmel and Tricia Ossa; from Novato, Amy Peel and Susan Wernick; from Ross, Bill Kircher, from San Anselmo, Steve Berdo and Alexis Fineman; from Tiburon, Jack Ryan.

She then called for Public Comment.

Public Comment

There was no public comment received from online attendees and no public comment received via email.

4. Presentations:

4A: Dr. Lisa Santora, Marin County Deputy Public Health Officer - Update on local and regional response to COVID19 and recovery efforts

President Brekhus introduced Dr. Santora and thanked her for volunteering to be present on the videoconference.

(Transcript of Dr. Santora's presentation)

Dr. Santora thanked MCCMC for asking her to present, she appreciated the opportunity to provide an update to the membership. As everyone has seen in the past week, there have been new openings and notifications of future openings that have a lot of conversations happening. At the same time, we

are seeing San Quentin numbers increase and also local numbers increase. Her presentation will provide an overview of how the County is beginning to align with the state as the state opens. That is different than where we were before. She encouraged everyone to go to the County's websites as they have the best and most current information. The data that you see on their websites is the same data sources that they at our Emergency Operation Center, on the dashboard. We strive to provide real time updates, and everyone always does have access to the latest information to inform themselves about COVID-19 in our community.

Dr. Santora stated that what they are seeing residents struggle with is that as we're opening there are residents that see this as an immediate opportunity to engage in full social activity. That is the exact opposite of what the County is recommending. There is an opening of this community, but we still are continuing to recommend that people limit their social activity to what is necessary for their emotional health and wellbeing. That depends on the individual, but there is more COVID-19 that is circulating in our community at the time that we're opening up.

Besides the message of Marin recovers and Marin is opening, our strongest message is to stay vigilant. This is the time where you really do need to model yourselves and to encourage your constituents stay vigilant, to reduce their social activities and limit as much as possible, especially if they have vulnerable members of their families or their social networks. Because as they're out in the community, what we're seeing is during the time in the household, when people are not covering their faces, they're not practicing hygiene as vigilantly as we all did in February and March.

This is a time to stay vigilant because we are opening. Again, opening does not mean increasing social activity in astronomic ways. It really is staying measured in your activity, limiting as much as possible. But we recognize that our economy is connected to the wellbeing of our community, and employment is connected to wellbeing, and activity is connected to wellbeing, we're human creatures. That's the two messages, we're both reopening, but we need to double down all of our efforts to stay vigilant. Again, I think the news that you've seen this week and the data that I'll just walk you through will reinforce both messages.

Today (June 24th), the County exceeded the 1,000 number. We now have over 1000 known cases of COVID-19 in our community. The majority of whom have recovered, which is what we want to see. This is a disease that is acting differently than it did in the beginning. In February and March, our cases we were seeing in older white populations who had traveled through the winter months, who may have been on cruises or traveled to Europe or New York, and we were having higher hospitalization rates of those cases. As it's had the opportunity to circulate in our community, both from known circulations, if you all can remember in March is when we learned about the Grand Princess Mexican Riviera, there were over 55 Marin County residents that were on that boat that were circulating with possible probable infection when we had very limited testing capabilities and were part of the transmission of disease, as well as people that were returning from New York and other airline travel prior to our shelter in place orders that were announced on March 13th and went into effect on March 15th.

What we're seeing now is we're seeing that the newly infected are primarily young members of the Latino community who have been essential workers. Often, due to their income, they're living in crowded housing situations and/or households with larger numbers of individuals. So there is the increased probability of transmission in households. And the area that there has been some focus on is the Canal. It's one of our most densely populated areas. So the phenomenon that we saw in New York, where there was such high numbers of cases increasing so rapidly, high numbers of hospitalizations was also part of just the density of the population in the city and is the nature of use of public transportation and other things that we see in some of our lower income communities and communities of color.

That being said, what is reassuring is that we aren't having significant increases in hospitalizations. When we are seeing hospitalizations, it's very different. The earlier hospitalizations, the majority of the earlier hospitalizations that we were seeing related to COVID where respiratory and severe respiratory illness with the pneumonia like picture. Right now, many of the hospitalizations we're seeing that are the younger group for getting hospitalized is because they have other comorbidities. Most commonly we're seeing the new diagnosis of diabetes. So this would be an individual who was already probably pre-diabetic, maybe not eating it healthy or physically active, possibly due to some of our shelter in place restrictions. And then the infection in their body is what triggers a steroid response and immune system response that then increases the sugars in their body. So oftentimes they're not hospitalized for the respiratory illness, they've been hospitalized for a new onset diabetes or other infection complications that aren't the same like what we saw in January and February.

The thing that's also different from the beginning when I spoke to you in person, and to today when I speak to you on Zoom is the availability of testing. This is something that Marin County has led the state in. We were the first County public health department to offer its own point of testing site, a drive through site. And we have advocated and worked diligently to make sure that we had the testing resources, that our community needed to know the status and the prevalence of COVID-19. And now we have tested almost 27,000 residents in Marin County have tested. We're testing almost around 400 to 500 people a day. We're still seeing the rates of positive is less than 5%. So some of that's because we are increasing testing and asymptomatic individuals or individuals who are close contacts. The test is best when we test someone that is at high risk for actually having the disease.

So there is always that risk of false negative that circulates in the community. So that is one of the risks of larger testing in an asymptomatic population. But it's also important for us to remember, as many times that people that are symptomatic and they're testing negative for COVID, there's all the other viruses that normally circulate in the summer and that will begin circulating in the fall that we have to consider that we have to consider. So there's other Coronaviruses that are circulating. And again, just some of the other basic infections that we live with in our community. And what is different with COVID-19 is we're learning more about COVID-19 and trying to, again, gauge our reopening with science. And that's something we've really have remained committed to since the beginning is being data-driven and evidence-based in all of our decision making at the public health seat. Last week, we successfully submitted a variance to the state, which was approved by the state.

And what that does now is it allows Marin County to begin aligning with the state. If you were to visit the State's website on reopening California, they already are allowing dine-in restaurants and personal care services to operate in the County with a variance. We are delayed in Marin County. And again, that's because we have, from the beginning, when we were one of the original counties that issued the shelter in place order, to be being one of the last counties in the state to submit the variance. We're being very measured and cautious in our response because as you all know, more than 30% of our population are over the age of 60. And unfortunately, age is probably one of the most important risk factors for morbidity and mortality related to COVID-19, second only to being in a nursing home or a residential care facility for the elderly or a skilled nursing facility, which are other significant risk factors.

And that's again, where we, since March in partnership with our healthcare partners have led California, if not the nation in deploying mobile teams rapidly to any facility that has one positive staff or resident, that is not the typical response, but it's our response and that's why we have not seen some of the unfortunate evacuations of nursing homes in Marin County. That still remains a risk to us, again, with reopening. As more people are engaging in social activity and they work in these vulnerable communities, the risk of them bringing in COVID-19 back into that community, for example, a nursing home, increases as we move forward in the weeks to come. And that's why you've seen the state and the County implement orders. We went a little further than the state, there's orders for skilled nursing facilities to test all of their staff monthly, to again, just have this baseline testing and surveillance testing for employees who are working with some of our most vulnerable populations.

We extended that order in Marin County to include those who work at residential care facilities for the elderly. So we've found it necessary, again, to protect our most vulnerable, to be as aggressive and proactive as possible in these spaces. But on June 29th in Marin County, you will see the launch of our personal care services. I myself have an appointment with my own hairstylist. So I'm very excited. And then indoor dining restaurants. The other important resources that are there for all of the sectors that have been reopening is that website, marinrecovers.org. It has site specific plans that facilities have to have in place in order to be approved for opening and it has additional resources to support them in that effort. And Marin County Public Health is launching weekly meetings. We started with the chambers of commerce and now we'll be having sector or industry specific meetings, just so leaders, and stakeholders and those groups, for example, I think construction is our first Zoom call this week.

We'll be able to ask sector specific or industry specific questions of me or Dr. Willis. One of us will be attending all of these meetings. So just to be able to have that opportunity and to learn together. Again, we work together to flatten the curve here and to slow the spread of the disease. And we also see and value the need to work together to understand the nuances of different sectors. Most recently, our schools, last Thursday you saw Marin County Office of Education and Marin County Public Health release guidance documents, a 30 point plan for supporting the re-opening of schools. We are confident. And again, this is a data driven decision that I know many people were not expecting. We have actually had childcare and schools in session since the beginning.

There were smaller cohorts, cohorts of 20, modeling more of what we have during our summer camps and youth activities. And we have closely monitored all of those cohorts. And we had only three cohorts that required closing and there's thousands of student days, those of you that are in education know that that student days are the number of States students who are in school and [inaudible 00:31:26] the number of students. And so that tells us the volume of interaction and social activity of the thousands of student days that we had. We only had one case of a student to student transmission. And notably, all those cases, the child had mild if no symptoms, a sore throat for one day, a headache for one day or a low grade fever for one day, and then we're normal.

What we're moving forward now is having weekly conversations with labor school administrators, school staff, to start working. One, to review the signs with them. The data I shared with you for Marin County has been replicated in Australia, where again, they're not seeing schools as a large source of hospitalizations and we're not seeing severe disease in our pediatric population or hospitalizations of our pediatric population, which is actually different than the flu. I have my children in camp and I have two goals. One is to normalize their lives again. I've seen the impact of sheltering place on their education and their wellbeing. But my second goal, which is probably overrides that first goal, is protecting my parents. Both of whom are over the age of 70, and I want to still have that engagement with their grandparents and in person, physical engagement. So that is why we're taking very aggressive measures of establishing cohorts.

And in the beginning as school opens that we'll be closing any cohort that is positive and placing any students in that cohort on quarantine. So those are pretty aggressive public health tools that might not seem aggressive to this group of individuals, but again, we're at a different phase because we know this disease better than we did in February and March. And again, we will be working with individual school districts and their key stakeholders, including students and parents, to ensure that the schools as they open are opening as safely as possible. And then lastly, before I take questions, I just want to speak to San Quentin. That's been a challenging space for the County to engage in. We do not have jurisdiction over the San Quentin prison.

So it is not an outbreak that we are allowed to actively manage, unlike the outbreaks that occurred in nursing homes. And now we'll be approaching 500 cases of COVID-19 among the inmates and staff of San Quentin. And this again, is expected when they received individuals with high risk of COVID

exposure or high risk of COVID disease. And there was a delay in testing and the inability of the ability to, we call it radical cohorting, really being aggressive in cohorting, which is what we do in a nursing home. It's not unexpected that in this congregate setting that we would see a rapid increase in cases that you've seen across the nation and institutions like San Quentin. And so we have advocated since February for ensuring that CDCR and San Quentin had both medical surge plans, as well as outbreak plans.

We've worked together with assembly member Levine and his staff to continue to advocate that the state lean harder into outbreak management and provide more support for the outbreak management at San Quentin prison. And so those are the big buckets. The only small thing, and I'll just address it because it made the news was Marin Sanitary Services. I myself went on site last week. We did something that we would not normally do is we ... we prefer mass testing of the employees at Marin cemetery. The reason for doing that is it was deemed to be part of such a critical of our infrastructure. Again, as elected officials, you know this better than me, how critical our sanitation districts are to the health and wellbeing of our community, that we want it to be again, as proactive and rapidly in our response as possible.

Following her presentation, Dr. Santora took questions from the audience. After Q&A concluded, President Brekhus thanked Dr. Santora for her time and continued with the meeting.

5. Committee Reports: All Committee reports were submitted in writing and are available in the agenda packet on the MCCMC website. President Brekhus thanked those who submitted written reports and encouraged the membership to review the reports.

- 5.a. Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)
No written report was submitted.
- 5.b. Association of Bay Area Governments
Attachment 5b – Written report from Pat Eklund, Novato was included in the June 24, 2020 MCCMC Agenda packet
- 5.c. Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District
Written report from Alice Fredericks, Tiburon, was included in the June 24, 2020 MCCMC Agenda packet
- 5.d. MCCMC Legislative Committee
Written report from Alice Fredericks, Tiburon, was included in the June 24, 2020 MCCMC Agenda packet
- 5.e. Transportation Authority of Marin
Written report from Alice Fredericks, Tiburon, was included in the June 24, 2020 MCCMC Agenda packet
- 5.f. Marin Operational Area Disaster & Citizens Corps Council (DC3)
No written report was submitted. Catherine Way stated that Dr. Santora's presentation covered much of what she had planned to report on.

5.g. MCCMC Climate Action Committee
David Kunhardt, Corte Madera, reported that the Climate Action Committee met immediately prior to this evening's MCCMC meeting, and had 10 individuals from 9 out of 11 communities who participated in the meeting. Urban Carmel was appointed by Mill Valley as their representative to the

committee, taking Stephanie Moulton-Peters' place. He reminded the Committee that there really are two major causes of greenhouse gases from our county, and those are transportation and buildings. And Mill Valley is one of the leaders in the area of buildings and advancing with a stretch code. Vice Mayor Kunhardt stated that Mill Valley should be the one that we should copy when it comes to building code and advancement that we talked about several months ago. In the area of electrifying transportation, we were all marveling at, "Yes, hasn't the air cleaned up so much?" as there are so many fewer internal combustion engines running around our county. And that proves that we have the ability to take action, should we choose to take action, it really improved the air and improved the climate.

Regarding EV-charging infrastructure, he pointed out that Tiburon and Novato are leaders, as well as Larkspur, who have all passed an ordinance. AB-1236 requires us all to take this action by 2015, but most of us haven't, until now. San Anselmo and Corte Madera have done the first reading of a complying ordinance, which basically says how to ease up on permitting of EV-charging infrastructure in your jurisdiction. So Novato, Tiburon, Larkspur are the leaders. San Anselmo and Corte Madera are in the midst of it, if you want to get a copy of what we've done. When we all pass an ordinance that puts us in compliance, we will be better able to respond to the funding challenges that MCE Clean Energy and TAM have of bringing in state money to us, because we will be in compliance with the state rules. So it's not just a matter of going along to get along and check a box, but rather, also, to open up some dollars from the state's energy commission.

The Committee also discussed outstanding works being completed locally, from Fairfax's new pavilion through San Anselmo's great sustainability commission and what they're doing in spite of shrinking budgets. But we are looking forward to continuing a vital Climate Change Action committee.

5.h. Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART)

Written report from Dan Hillmer, Larkspur, was included in the June 24, 2020 MCCMC Agenda packet

6. BUSINESS MEETING

6.a. Summary Of Actions Taken At City Selection Committee Meeting Regarding Appointments of MCCMC Representative and Alternate MCCMC Representative To ABAG Executive Board

President Brekhus announced that during the earlier City Selection Committee meeting, Pat Eklund and Joan Cox were appointed to continue to serve respectively as the MCCMC Representative and Alternate Representative to the ABAG Executive Board for new two year terms.

There were no comments from the membership and no public comment was received in person or via email.

6.b. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the 2020-2021 Meeting Schedule, And Listing Of Host Cities/Towns

There were no comments on the 2020-21 meeting schedule and listing of host cities/towns, and no public comment was received in person or via email.

There was a motion and second (Fredericks / Athas) to approve the meeting schedule and list of host cities for 2020-21. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote of the

cities/towns present, 10-0-1 (San Rafael absent)

6.c. Review of Draft Agenda for September 23, 2020 MCCMC Meeting To Be Hosted By The Town Of Corte Madera If Return To In-Person Meetings Is Allowed

There were no comments from the membership and no public comments received, in person or via email, on the draft agenda.

6.d. Approval of Draft Minutes of the May 27, 2020 MCCMC Meeting

President Brekhus called for any edits or corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, she called for public comment. No public comments were received, in person or via email, regarding the draft minutes. President Brekhus called for a motion.

There was a motion and second (Greene / Fredericks) to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2020 MCCMC meeting. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote of the cities/towns present, 10-0-1 (San Rafael absent)

6.e. Consideration and Possible Action to Appoint Executive Committee – MCCMC President and Vice President for 2020-21 Term:

6.e-1: MCCMC Vice President for 2020-21 Term

Sashi McEntee, Mill Valley, was nominated from the floor at the May 27, 2020 meeting and has submitted a letter of interest. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor and a vote of the membership will be held.

President Brekhus introduced the item and stated that the Executive Committee received a letter of interest for the position of vice president for the 2020-21 term from Sashi McEntee, Mill Valley, and she was nominated from the floor at the May 27, 2020 meeting. She announced that additional nominations would be accepted from the floor, and hearing none, Sashi McEntee addressed the membership and stated that MCCMC has given a lot to her. She has learned so much from all of the group and enjoyed being able to hear what all the other cities are doing and share with, and learn from, each other. Service as vice president offers her the opportunity to give back and support the group in leadership.

There were no questions or discussion from the membership. President Brekhus called for public comment and no public comment was received in person or via email. She then called for a vote.

There was a motion and a second (Coler / Kunhardt) to appoint Sashi McEntee as Vice President of MCCMC for the 2020-21 Term. The motion was approved unanimously by a roll call vote of the cities/towns present, 10-0-1 (San Rafael absent)

6.e-2: MCCMC President for 2020-21 term

Eric Lucan, Novato, was nominated from the floor at the May 27, 2020 meeting and has submitted a letter of interest. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor

and a vote of the membership will be held

President Brekhus introduced the item and stated that the Executive Committee received a letter of interest for the position of President for the 2020-21 term from Eric Lucan, Novato, and he was nominated from the floor at the May 27, 2020 meeting. She announced that additional nominations would be accepted from the floor, and hearing none, Eric Lucan addressed the membership and stated that although it seems like just yesterday that he attended his first MCCMC meeting, it was actually eight years ago. He was honored to serve as vice president this past year, alongside current president, Elizabeth Brekhus, who has done a phenomenal job. It would be an honor to be able to serve as President. He looks forward to the fall, and hopefully being able to meet in person again. His biggest takeaway from MCCMC is the importance of the social hour and the social time they have to connect as colleagues. There are many new colleagues joining us that we haven't really gotten to know, and he hopes that they can get back to meeting in person in the fall. He thanked everyone for their support.

There were no questions or discussion from the membership. President Brekhus called for public comment and no public comment was received in person or via email. She then called for a vote.

There was a motion and a second (Goddard / Athas) to appoint Eric Lucan as President of MCCMC for the 2020-21 Term. The motion was approved unanimously by a roll call vote of the cities/towns present, 10-0-1 (San Rafael absent)

Adjournment

President Brekhus congratulated Eric Lucan and Sashi McEntee, thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 7:32pm to the next regular meeting scheduled for September 23, 2020 to be held in person, if possible, or via Zoom videoconference.