Minutes of the regular meeting of the North Fork Community Development Council September 22, 2008 in the conference room at the CDC building

(all votes are unanimous unless otherwise indicated)

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Sandy Chaille with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Present were Board Members Dan Rosenberg (president); Gerrit Allen, Kirsten Englund, Maryann McGovran, Stuart Pincus, Mary Proper, and Cathey Thornburg. Board member Joanne Freemire arrived late. Also present were Jill Mross (CDC Grant Administrator), Steve Christianson (CDC Consultant) and Volney Dunavan, recorder. Guests included Roselyn Lwenya, Environmental Director for the North Fork Rancheria as well as Christina McDonald from that Department and Lou Beihn from the Rancheria Environmental Committee. Also Rancheria Environmental Consultant Gaylen Lee. and, Demeshio Wilson from LVI.

Update of Asbestos Abatement and Kiln Removal: Demeshio reported that all was going according to plan on the asbestos abatement and kiln removal. The inside of kiln B has been abated and the kiln and boiler completely shrink wrapped. Now they are proving the integrity of the containment. The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution District has done their review and all is ok. It should take 3 or 4 more weeks and, in fact, may overlap with the demolition. He will have a better time frame tomorrow. "We couldn't ask for a better site" he said indicating that it was wonderful for them to have full control of the site with no other contractors present. He also was very impressed with the recent fire deployment. Demeshio would love to have an office on site. Short term would be to ask Peter to only use one room for only a short time. Dan and Jill will work something out

Agenda: It was moved, seconded and carried that the agenda be approved as presented.

Report on the need for a Cultural Monitor: Roselyn Lwenya introduced herself and the other Rancheria members present, and explained the need for a cultural monitor on site. Lou Beihn reported that the North Fork area is one huge cultural site. SB18 requires a monitor if work is done on a sensitive site, and there is an entire process that must be done through with a trained and certified monitor (such as Gaylen Lee) prior to Madera County issuing a permit.

Gaylen Lee continued the presentation, saying that monitors are trained to look on the surface for certain things and then to transect the ground every 9 feet. The purpose is to locate and make a decision regarding anything that is found, and, of course, to prevent the disruption of human remains. The Tribal Council has the final say on anything that is found; they can rebury in the same place, move or cap a finding. For example, remains were found at the new Minarets High School site and they were reburied.

Here on the mill site a pestle was found by the water tank plus a hand stone by Willow Creek. The mill site was a living area through at least the 1920's if not the 1930's. Indeed, Gaylen's mom, Ruby Pomona, remembers Old Susie living here. Since this is a heavily cultural area there should be a dance site somewhere here. Often something located will be replaced and marked by GPS for the Tribe to know where it is in the future. Gaylen reported that Madera County is giving a lot of support to the effort. The next step will be for the Rancheria to sign the actual MOU with the County.

Update on Quad/Knopf research: Jill spoke with Amber of Quad/Knopf. They are adhering to their set schedule. They will have all of the research completed by October 10 and the Critical Path by the 18th. "Their report will be our guilding document over the next few years," said President Dan.

Grant Administrator's report: Jill reported that Grant 240 needs to show its link to three previous grants. Grant 250 is different than other grants in that Washington reviews prior to the release of the money. We needed to prove we had indeed encumbered 70% of the grant allotment. Jill had a question regarding Change Order #4. It does not need to be added on as it was in the contract. Mary Proper reported that funds from the EPA will be deposited into an older existing dormant checking account, saving us the time and expense of opening a new account and buying new checks. Jill is hoping work will start late this month or early October. She is also hoping to have one release date if everything overlaps. The $200,000 we are putting up is only on the dip tank area; both the County and the CDC will save money if the Underground Storage Tank can be handled at the same time. We shouldn't have to use the full $900,000 as the teepee is covered by the State.

Grants and loans are for specific things. If something else were to come up, would we be able to use our grant/loan money in another area? Jill will research how flexible the rules are. We don't want to close out our options if we may need the funds later on.

We got an insurance estimate for 3 years, 5 years and 10 years. The pollution liability is probably the County's but at this point no one knows for sure. Gerrit gave a big thanks to Jill for coming in under what we thought we would have to pay. As Jill understands the process, it is the first $200,000 of the loan that will be forgiven.

Jill had been concerned about security and kids getting into things during weekends. She happily reported that LVI will be on site seven days a week. Overtime will not mean anything extra for the CDC to pay. The total so far is just under $30,000. The diesel is being purchased from Bass Fork to the tune of about $450 every other day. All else … housing, food, regular fuel … are being purchased locally. She hasn't received anything yet from the certified asbestos consultants but is getting daily reports and field observations from LVI.

Has there been any movement to get our steel into market? Marc Mandel says steel has dropped in price. Even at today's prices, we should be able to still get $18,000 for it. Marc has used one company most of the time.

Joanne will be gone most of October; she hopes that her alternate, Paul Abram, will be able to be here. She has already discussed her recycling concerns with Demishio. There shouldn't be a problem.

Regarding funding for our grant administrator position, Dan has asked Jill to look at how much time is left with existing funding, and also to investigate other potential funding sources. Dan's understanding is that we are pretty safe through the end of the year. He has asked Jill to look at funding sources past that time.

On-Site Consultant Report: Steve Christianson said that Phase II of the water project was winding down. We had a very good electrician which had been recommended by Travis Construction. They have completed their portion of the control system and the water came on-line just in time for the Cascadel fire needs. Travis has completed erosion control on the wells. Steve met with Ponderosa

Telephone on site; originally it was thought to have two lines. Now the plan is to use a fiber optic line. The purpose of the phone line is to leave a message on our regular phone if there is a problem with the pump.

Dan requested a binder with all maintenance info in it such as check water lines once a year, if there is a phone call from the pump, call water site person, etc.

Regarding erosion Maryanne said the seeding the Rancheria did never took. We live in an area of very powdery material. Companies come in with a big truck and shoot an area with fiber. The Fire Safe Council used pine needles in one area and it worked well. The Fire Safe Council is not willing to be involved at this time. This topic can be referred to new business.

Regarding registering the water system, we are operating in a grey area as 25 hook-ups is the cut-off, but RCD may have 30 folks for lunch. Our system is being built as a small community water system. Steve reported on various costs to register the system. We have a three year old water tank. There were originally 18 wells scattered around the site. The water quality by the creek is good. With this large an operation, should we be registered? Steve will get more information. Janice Delaney of Madera County Environmental Health felt we needed a 50 ft deep annular seal. This is a concrete sleeve that goes down a shaft and is designed for wells with low pressure. Because ours are artesian, it appears this will not be needed. With the Quad/Knopf information, we will be able to pin down some costs.

Repair has been scheduled on Crossroad's fire sprinkler. Steve recognized we were short on fire extinguishers and smoke detectors. He asked two companies for quotes, one responded. This will be moved to new business.

Minutes: It was requested that President Dan's last name be added to paragraph 5, line 1. This was passed with 1 abstention.

Discussion and Action Items: A. Old Business

1 **Erosion Control at the Wells and Crossroads Fire Sprinkler** (presented above). Motion to accept passed 9 yes, 2 abstentions.

2 **Tire Amnesty Day** went very well; again there were more tires than they thought they would have. At completion, they packed up and then came Monday for another load and Tuesday for yet another bin load. They got a lot of tires out of the mountains.

3 **Fire Station Meeting**. There was some bickering regarding the setback from the riparian area. County Code says some places 50 ft some 100 ft. The area has been identified as riverbed. Supervisor Wheeler says it is all decomposed granite. Greg Farley measured it. There was concern as Ray Beach stated some people previously interested in the parcel no longer are. The fire people, however, are all in favor; the County, not. Sandy offered a codicil from Don Vasconcellos: Ed Guzman of Sierra Ambulance communicated to him their termination of participation in the new North Fork fire station. Ed said with property values dropping, there might come a time when the Ambulance Board may just decide to buy a three bedroom house, renovate it, and be operational in 30 days. There was a question about zoning.

4 **ODell letter:** Odell is still behind in rent. There is no electricity to his shed. Dan will make a call: if they want to continue past December, they will need to clean up their area and get current on the rent which is due the first of the month.

5 **TMF Water Report:** tabled

6 **Reshedule subdivision meeting with Madera County**. We need to get with the County and look at the issue from their perspective and also to pin them down as to what is needed. The more the County sees North Fork faces down in Madera, the better it is for us. Probably be good to set a meeting, but it should be scheduled after the 18th so we have the Quad/Knopf report. Kirsten will work on it, but not set it for the next day in case Quad/Knopf is late. Steve mentioned that until the fire station is pinned down, our hands are tied. In attendance at the last meeting with the County were Supervisor Wheeler, Stel Manfredi, Lorne Greene, etc. Kirsten will touch base with Sandy and Steve.

7. **Tax Exemption:** Thanks to Mary Proper's hard work, we finally have this. What this means is that we don't have to pay property taxes which were $8,000 on one parcel and $6,000 on the other.

B. New Business:

1 **Hydro seeding for erosion control.** There are concerns as to how effective this process is. Cost is $1,440 and this is a normal part of installation. It is imperative we do it now, before the rainy season, especially as we have no ability to water. The Rancheria did it on the slope below the Community Building. They had to do it three times and it took a little the third time. As ours is at a backfill area, it might take better. Steve Christianson got three bids and recommends the HydroGrow bid for $1440 to reseed the pipe area. It is believed that this is a ontingency that can be paid out of the 250 grant. Maryanne questioned if the grant pays, don't we have to go with the lowest bid? The answer was no. It was moved, seconded and passed to give the contract to HydroGrow unless we find that the seeding cannot be paid for out of the grant

2. **Smoke Detectors and Fire Extinguishers in our building**: They need to be serviced once a year. Bid is only for the equipment. There was a suggestion to check prices at Costco but the quality would not be the same. Going with an inspector will get help with placement. That Fire Guy will be awarded the contract.

3. **Ad for Yosemite/Sierra Visitor's Guide.** It will cost us $110. to appear in an award winning publication used throughout the year. We need to rewrite the ad with more alluring text. Kirsten will work on the ad; the check will be paid to the North Fork Chamber of Commerce. Motion passed to do this.

4. **Newsletter:** The newsletter was a fiasco last time. If there are no ads, Get around if no ads it costs less mailing bulk. Our organization has real news to report. Maryann will research costs. We should consider everyone in North Fork, Bass Lake, Wishon and O'Neals.

Kirsten suggested that we could give a presentation to the Realtor Association for Eastern Madera County. Dan sees all of this as a public relations effort. We need to determine how to

get the most bang from our buck. Kirsten will call a PR committee meeting to brainstorm. Volney and Maryanne offered to join the committee. Our brick promotion could also be part of this.

Out of Order:

- Joanne Freemire asked to make further changes to the August minutes. On page 2, 8.A.4, it should read: "A letter was to be sent to ODells asking them to clean up the equipment stored on the outside of the building. Their agreement is for the building only, not outside storage. Dan will follow up with a phone call. The changes were approved.
- Gerrit had a question regarding Jill's report. There is a gap between the date the bids are due and our next Board meeting. He is concerned we don't have more visibility and input. The concrete removal will be first. There needs to be a place to pile and leave the concrete. We can use this as road base or sell it. It could cost $200,000 for removal of the concrete and remediation of the soil under the dip tank area. We want to make sure things we do accomplish more than just reducing the costs to the County. Will we need to sign a contract before our next meeting? Probably not as we are being bypassed. The bids are separate but will be done together as it is more cost effective. Jill does believe we have the right of refusal.
- Gerrit reviewed the RFP document. Will we need to call a special meeting when the bids come in. Dan suggested that those who wanted to review the bids could join with Gerrit and develop a short list. Anyone interested can contact Jill.

There was a motion approved and the body moved to closed session at 8:05 p.m. The body returned to open session in a timely fashion.

It was moved, seconded and carried that Steve Christainson's contract will be complete as of the close of business on Thursday, September 25.

Organizational reports were not presented. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Volney Dunavan, Recorder