

# Ebbetts Pass Property Owners Council

Unapproved Draft Minutes - Zoom meeting

April 1, 2020

Meeting (by Zoom) was called to order by Chair Bob Polakov at 9:15.

In Attendance: Laura Baughman      Lawrence Perondi  
Merita Callaway      Steve Pollock  
Jillian Goss      Harry Tittle  
Steve Lauterbach      Ray Webb  
Joel Metzger      Mike Willemssen

**March 4<sup>th</sup>** Draft minutes were approved as previously corrected.

**Treasurer's report** given by Chair Bob Polakov \$400.66

**Bob Polakov** welcomed everyone to the on-line meeting. Everyone, in turn thanked Bob for putting the effort into setting up the meeting.

Reports:

**Joel Metzger (CCWD)** reported that the water supply is safe from COVID-19. CCWD's advanced water treatment technology removes viruses, including the Coronavirus. The majority of CCWD staff are working from home. They are keeping everyone in the field safe with protective gear and request that if you see someone from CCWD working in your neighborhood, please do not approach them (practice social distancing).

**Highway 4 updates:**

- The District is rehabilitating two filters at its water treatment plant in Avery, which will help maintain the excellent water quality the Upper Highway 4 Corridor enjoys.
- White Pines Park has been partially closed. Caution tape and signs have been placed around bathrooms, playgrounds, picnic tables and beaches. Walking and exercise are still allowed, but strict social distancing guidelines must be followed.
- The Reach 1 Pipeline Replacement Project is continuing. The contractor is removing trees and installing the new bypass **pipes**. The Highway 4 corridor will continue to experience lane closures and traffic delays. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and patience. The project is scheduled for completion by end of summer/beginning of fall.
- We have received grant funding from FEMA to replace five redwood tanks in the Upper Highway 4 area and replace them with steel tanks that are resistant to wildfire.

**Merita Callaway (District 3 Supervisor)** Thanked all the Real Estate Agents and Property Managers for responding to the call of shutting down 300 short-term rentals.

- County Supervisor's Covid-19 call line is **754-6460** and is open from 8:00-4:30 Monday through Friday. (ABC – channel 10 will be filming the call center this afternoon).
- Thanked Cal Trans for supporting the office by setting up road signs encouraging people to please stay home. Unfortunately, we can't demand that homeowners with a second home in Calaveras County not to come up. We can just encourage them to stay in their primary residence.

- At this time law enforcement is not taking any punitive action to people not following the social distancing guidelines but they may ask folks to disperse if they are in larger crowds (over 10)
- Dr. Kaleita is the lead for the Supervisor's during the virus. There are 22 public health labs (of which there are only 3 private labs) that can test for Covid -19. 100 people have been tested to date and they all came back negative.
- Work on Blagen Road will not commence until September
- White Pines road crew are currently clearing trees from Murphys to Ebbetts Pass.

**Steve Lauterbach – Arnold Rim Trail:** The forest service has supported the “Shelter in Place” edict but trails are remaining open if social distancing is in place. The parking lots have been closed off. A big thanks to Laura Scott who is the project facilitator for the \$5,000 Calaveras Community Foundation grant. She has done a remarkable job of leading the placement of hundreds of new signs on previously existing posts plus on seventy-five new posts. Hundreds of new signs will be placed to finish the project.

**Steve Lauterbach -On Covid19:** Steve explained that since this is a new virus, the medical infectious disease doctors are still learning about what we need to do to prevent catching this infection including when we start to re-socialize. In the meantime, the shelter in place is a valuable and conservative approach. He talked about what sources of information are reliable and provided some websites (listed below) that can help us all understand the virus and its implications as we go through this process. Those at risk because of age or existing medical conditions will want to learn strategies to avoid catching this virus until a vaccine and/or truly effective treatments are developed. These strategies will be forthcoming as more is learned about transmission and prevention.

In summary:

- **Please refer often to the CDC and the Calaveras County Websites.** Keep in mind that commercial news outlets tend to emphasize the scary and terrifying side of this disease. Rely on those who have made their life's work the systematic, non-hysterical study of infectious diseases.
- We are very lucky to live In Calaveras County where **we have excellent public health, law enforcement, and first responders.** They are actively keeping up with these learnings that are being gathered by health care agencies all over the United States and preventions recommended by CDC. They will let us know what we need to do to continue being safe. We are sheltering in place and being asked to wear cloth masks voluntarily.
- **Most of all, we can now consider easing into this evolving pandemic rather than fearing it.** The medical epidemiologists and infectious disease specialists are all working together worldwide to learn what will be needed not just to flatten the curve so that care facilities are not overwhelmed but to chart a path so we can reasonably expect not to get this illness until there is a vaccine or truly effective treatment.
- **Some valuable life- style ideas to consider:**
  - Focus on relationships with family and friends
  - Spending time each day in self-reflection, whether it be spiritual or meditative
  - Get out in the fresh air and walk or do some form of exercise daily
  - Be mindful of those people who are home alone and may need someone to reach out to them.
  - Be cautious of triggers that might find us overusing alcohol or other crutches.

**Trusted websites:**

<https://covid19.calaverasgov.us/> - This is our Calaveras County site, updated frequently

<https://covid19.calaverasgov.us/Press-Releases> - link to Calaveras County press releases

<https://www.coronavirus.gov> – this site is also updated frequently

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads.html)

[www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwrsubscribe.html](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwrsubscribe.html) (Morbidity & Mortality Report Communications) - You may subscribe to MMWR here, a CDC publication that has been published for decades. Below is an example of their recent publications. You may always unsubscribe.

[www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6914e1.html](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6914e1.html) (Studies by Epidemiologists on the virus spread by folks who are infected but still not symptomatic. It was presumed that it could spread before symptoms manifested, but this needed to be proved by careful study.)

[www.covid19.ca.gov](http://www.covid19.ca.gov) (California's website with updates on coping mechanisms for those suffering anxiety, depression or PTSD due to the virus)

**In closing, Steve would like to share this poem named “I Worried” by Mary Oliver:**

I worried a lot. Will the garden grow, will the rivers  
flow in the right direction, will the earth  
turn as it was taught, and if not how shall  
I correct it?

Was I right, was I wrong, will I be forgiven,  
can I do better?

Will I ever be able to sing, even the sparrows  
can do it and I am, well,  
hopeless.

Is my eyesight fading or am I just imagining it  
am I going to get rheumatism, lockjaw, dementia?

Finally, I saw that worrying had come to nothing.  
And I gave it up. And took my old body  
and went out in the morning,  
and sang.

Steve Lauterbach trained and received his boards in general surgery. He also received his boards in emergency medicine. He spent his career working in a busy urban emergency department. Steve retired to Arnold with his wife Cathy and raised his son here.

Steve became involved with EPPOC in 2004 and has been instrumental in keeping EPPOC an important part of our community.

If you would like to receive a communication with more detail than in these minutes plus a scholarly article about the vaccine development from the New England Journal of Medicine, please email Steve at [stevelauterbach@comcast.net](mailto:stevelauterbach@comcast.net)

Respectfully Submitted,  
Laura Baughman, Secretary

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