



The voice of our community

Board Meeting
May 13, 2025 – 4:00 PM
MINUTES

In-Person at the Montecito Community Hall/Library
And Virtually Via Zoom

I Call to Order at 4:03 PM by Chair Black. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Present: Black, Bollay, Denson, Duran, Herting, Lundgren, Macfadyen, Miller, Newquist, Rockenbach, Pennino, Prince, Serrani, Trosky, White, Wittman

Absent: Babbitt

II. Approval of March 11, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Abstained: Bollay, Denson, Duran

Newquist/Denson Motion Approved

III. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda- None

IV. Community Reports

Montecito Fire Department- Chief Neels- Dispatch services for the south bay closed and transitioned to the new Regional Emergency Center. The result is positive due to the combined resources and ability to identify where other departments are located. A system-wide test of the emergency management system, SBReady, will take place on May 15 at 10 am. The last test in Montecito showed a 70-80 percent compliance of residents who signed up to be part of the system. On June 26, a wildfire preparedness meeting will take place at MUS with other agencies in attendance.

Sheriff Dept.-Lt. Rich Brittingham- Update given: There was a failed attempt to break into a home by smashing windows. They were deterred by the alarm. There has been post office mail theft and a cocaine arrest on Channel Drive. Work has continued to secure a location for a substation. Ticketing at Hot Springs Trailhead is ongoing at all hours.

Montecito Sanitary District- General Manager, John Weigold-They are handling 600,000-700,000 gallons of sewage a day without issues. The manhole relining project is 15 percent complete, and the 2023 storm repairs are complete; they are working on final reimbursements for repairs. In the rehabilitation portion of the project, they are planting new plantings in different areas. The multi-million-dollar wastewater treatment plant upgrade will take place due to parts that are no longer available.

Cold Spring School- Amy Alzina- Reported on student feedback. They have incorporated the Seven Habits of leaders, held an all-school track meet, and completed Spring Sing and art show. Alzina was tapped to chair an AI Taskforce in California.

Montecito Union School- Anthony Ranii- Expressed appreciation to the Montecito Association and the Sheriff's office for leadership on improving safety. They are completing projects at the school, including an AI camera system. They are hiring and receiving many applicants. Art improvements will be made using money from the state ballot initiative.

Office of County Supervisor Roy Lee-Aida Thau-Reported on collaboration with safety agencies regarding the Hot Springs Trail and parking area to mitigate nighttime trail usage. On red-flag warning days, vehicles can no longer park in the area. On Memorial Day weekend, work will take place to change the height of the fencing to make it more difficult to scale.

V. Conference Agenda

Hands Across Montecito Update

1. Al Ortiz, Regional Program Supervisor, CityNet

Presentation given: The mission is to break the cycle of homelessness, connecting neighbors experiencing homelessness to services that lead to housing. The organization overview: services, outreach, shelters, wraparound services, housing navigation, housing supportive services, census/point-in-time counts, police diversion response teams. As of March 2025, the funding available for Montecito is \$41,298 and can cover one homeless person in a shelter or motel for nine months. They made 120 outreach contacts, 63 service requests, 31 client engagements, 3 shelter placements, and 1 housing placement. Housing is limited, and there are no vouchers or beds available. Their goal is \$211,000 for shelter for one year and \$10,000 for indirect administration and supervisors.

2. Andrew Velikanje, Founder of EarthComb

Presentation given: He was the first outreached individual of HAM initiative of the Montecito Association, whose support was able to place him in a hotel. After renting a room, he worked his way up to opening a business and helped twenty-four people get housed and now employs people who work with him to perform the clean-outs. He now works with the Sheriff's Department, the Summerland Citizens Association, and is on retainer with the Montecito Association. He has a partnership with Heal the Ocean and handles cleanups in Carpinteria as needed.

VI. President's Report-Doug Black-The Safety Committee signed a letter of intent for a lease for a substation for the Sheriff. Montecito Community Foundation is setting up \$30,000 for a substation.

VII. Executive Director Report- Houghton Hyatt-Reported that the Community Town Hall on safety was a success with around sixty attendees and will hold another one later in the year. The Land Use Committee hosted Nick Turner, who presented on the Groundwater Sustainability Agency plan. Hot Springs solutions discussed, the appeal with the Miramar regarding parking passed. There were 113 membership renewals, online, and 5 checks. In April, \$18,000 in memberships. The next HAM outreach walk is scheduled for May 21 at 8:30 am. On June 5, we will hold a community event at the Friendship Center as an awareness event and how the community can help.

VIII. Treasurer's Report- Financials are in the black, and the website redesign helped revenue.

IX. Committee Reports

a. Safety- Jacqueline Duran thanked partners, MCF provided \$30,000, working to make a Montecito Sheriff substation. They are ready to take donations and have several pledges. Miramar is working on something in the future.

b. Events- Mindy Denson-Working on 4th of July, there will be grand marshals, BBQ, booths, and a band.

c. History- Trish Davis, working on putting topics to focus on for the community hall wall.

d. Outreach-Jan Rockenbach- April had an outreach event with the Miramar, held a safety town hall on April 22, and will hold a HAM event in June. The Montecito Association logo will be on all materials. Plan to talk to Coast Village Road about holding an outdoor movie night.

X Old Business- None

XI New Business- None

Adjourned 5:55 pm