



EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

MINUTES

**Friday – July 29, 2016 – Special Meeting
Mammoth Lakes Council Chambers – 2:00 p.m.
437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite Z
Mammoth, California**

ESCOG Members

Mono County Supervisor Stacy Corless – Chair

Mono County Supervisor Larry Johnston

Town of Mammoth Lakes Councilmember Shields Richardson

Town of Mammoth Lakes Councilmember John Wentworth

Inyo County Supervisor Jeff Griffiths

Inyo County Supervisor Mark Tillemans

City of Bishop Councilmember Joe Peci

City of Bishop Councilmember Karen Schwartz –
Vice Chair

Called to Order: 2:05

Break 3:30

Resume 3:40

Adjourn: 4:07

Randy Short – Review audio

- Vice Chair of Boating & Waterways
- First time commission will meet in Eastern Sierra, in Bishop
- Eastern Sierra Waterways Project started by Dick Noles
- 42 lakes on list for boating facilities
- Pursuing grant funding
- About \$1.4 million in Inyo & Mono counties to date
- Many agencies don't understand what Boating & Waterways can do, and the projects they can fund
- Encourage everyone to attend meeting and tour of local facilities
- Director of State Parks will be in attendance
- Meeting in Bishop 9:00 on August 10th, tour 9th at 2:15 at Silver Lake

1. Recreation and Inyo National Forest Plan Revision Comments (Action Item):
Discuss and consider recommendation for support of forest plan revision

citations provided by the Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative. **AUDIO 1:16:00**

Wentworth

- Document is based on work in region, is not all-inclusive
- Deadline is August 25

Motion Wentworth/Griffiths to 1:35:00 recommend consideration of revisions to forest service plan in letters to forest service. 5-0

2. ESCOG Meeting Schedule and Start Time (Action Item): Consider changing the ESCOG meeting schedule to every other month, starting with the next regular meeting on September 16. Consider changing the meeting time to 8:30 a.m.

8:45 Pecsí/Wentworth

3. Minutes (Action Item): Approve the minutes of the March 18 and June 17 meetings. March 18 Pecsí/ June 17 AUDIO
4. Regional Air Service Discussion: Meet with Jim Lomen and Robin Hunt from the Federal Aviation Administration to discuss opportunities for enhancing and expanding regional commercial air service.

Move to #5 on agenda.

Grady Dutton, Town of Mammoth Lakes Public Works Director

- Introduced Robin Hunt & Jim Lomen
- Toured Mammoth airport
- Discussed planned rehab of Airport Road
- Terminal will be 30-35 million
- Main issue right now for Mammoth is availability to have more than 1 plane on ground at a time.

Clint Quilter, Inyo Public Works

- Discussed with FAA recent construction at Bishop airport
- General Aviation Airport now, moving to become Part 139 (commercial) compliant
- Part 139 compliance will cost about 2-2.5 million at low end, 7 million to really do it right. Additional infrastructure down the road will be about 14 million.

Robin Hunt

- Encourages airports to work together
- Doesn't want to duplicate efforts
- Currently Acting Regional Manager
- Very optimistic, see good things happening
- Good that communities are working together

- Can provide lessons learned from other communities
- May have planning system grants available - looks at economics, bottlenecks, joint powers configuration, assets, needs, long term planning
- Typically one agency applies for grant, other agencies participate
- Maybe state could get grant to study regional needs
- 3-5 year airport improvement plans are both reasonable, could both happen
- May not need terminal expansion in Bishop just to deplane
- Need to do scope of work to limit risk of freezing current plans

Pecsi

- Bishop looking at regional perspective
- Will Mammoth terminal be 30 mill
- Bishop economic plan a few years ago focused on airport expansion
- What is cost for Bishop to be Part 139
- Wants Bishop developed enough for commercial flights

Tillemans

- Bishop tried decades ago to get lease with LA to expand airport
- Struggling with regional air service as a part of the economy
- Bishop has great attributes
- Need to really consider what is best for all stakeholders
- Hopefully if Mammoth is expanded it can help Bishop down the road
- Is it realistic to fund projects at both airports?
- Limitations are size of runway, and size of planes that can service

Wentworth

- Remarkable cooperation among all 4 groups in ESCOG
- Appreciates FAA coming to the region
- Does FAA have resources region can use
- Lot of opportunity in multiple areas – Digital 395, Recreation, airports, etc.

Lomen

- New to San Francisco, came from Alaska
- Devil will be in the details
- Look at big picture, represent the region
- Grant time frame would be next year at soonest
- Grant could be awarded in the January time frame

Griffiths

- Goal is reliable regional air service
- Lot of progress identifying progress and limitations of both airports

- Need some facilitation on how to get to next step
- Inyo County open to wide variety of partnerships
- How long would systems planning grant take to obtain
- Would system planning grant put existing plans on hold?

Schwartz

- Would Bishop need terminal just to be an alternate landing facility

Carunchio

Holler

- Need for Councils and Boards to appoint representatives to grant subcommittee

Michael Raimondo

- All carriers require revenue guarantee for each flight
- Mammoth is looking at many new markets
- Only limitation right now is need for larger terminal
- There is a disconnect with funding Bishop to support Mammoth Airport
- How are Bishop and Inyo going to support airport?

Randy Short

- When Ski area owned airline, he used it a lot. Ability to divert planes to Bishop was crucial.
- Without diversion ability, flying out of Mammoth is not an option

John Urdi

- Has stats for cancellations for Mammoth and similar airports. Last year 16.71% of flights had cancellations in Mammoth. 58 cancellations of 68.5 were due to weather issues.

Steve Frisch

- If you get grant, look at overall economic development, not just tourism

Motion to have Mammoth Town Council and Inyo Board of Supervisors form committee?

Tillemans/Wentworth 5-0

5. Board Member and Staff Reports
6. Call for Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Juvenile Hall Update
September Meeting in Mammoth
Discuss CPUC/CASG/F Consortium
ESCOG Authority
Airport Update



Stacy Corless, Chair

Approved: 4/21/2017