

# Mono County Collaborative Planning Team

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## DRAFT MINUTES

July 25, 2019

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**Members present:** Stacy Corless, Mono Supervisors; Cleland Hoff, Mammoth Town Council; Mark Heckman & Jill Batchelder, Caltrans; Deanna Dulen & Alexis Radzicki, Devils Postpile National Monument; Doug Power, Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center; Steve Abele, USFWS/Reno (teleconference); Jan Cutts, USFS/Humboldt-Toiyabe; Gordon Martin, USFS/Inyo; Steve Nelson, BLM

**Members absent:** Alisa Ellsworth, CDFW; Mike Grahek, LADWP; Heidi Calvert, CDFW; Erin Nordin, USFWS/Reno; Kathleen Morse, Yosemite National Park; Tina Braithwaite, Benton Paiutes; Jay Hall, Bridgeport Indian Colony

**Staff present:** Wendy Sugimura, CD Ritter

**Guests present:** Jennifer Crittenden, Mammoth Times; Sandra Moberly, John Wentworth & Kim Cooke, Town of Mammoth Lakes; Matt Paruolo, Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership; Rudy Gonzalez & John Lum, Southern California Edison; April Sal, Bodie Hills Conservation Program; Bartshe Miller, Mono Lake Committee; Jora Fogg, Friends of the Inyo

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**1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ATTENDEE INTRODUCTIONS:** Stacy Corless called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Items

**3. MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** Approve draft minutes of April 23, 2019 (Hoff/Martin. Ayes: All.)

**4. AGENCY ROUNDTABLE:** Agency planning issues & pending projects

**5. EDISON WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN & PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF PROGRAM:** Rudy Gonzalez distributed two handouts on the wildfire mitigation plan. California no longer has “fire season.” Forest fires that are now called wildfires occur year-round. Hazardous fuel is building up. Most destructive CA fires occurred last four years. Edison needs current contact information on preventing, preparing for, and mitigating effects of wildfires. The Governor’s Strike Force Report was issued April 12, 2019. High fire risk areas have three tiers one through three (highest).

Edison is replacing wood poles with composite and using insulated wire and fast-acting/current limiting fuses. Facility inspection by helicopters and drones can identify issues. Undergrounding is costly (\$3 million/mile). Staff meteorologists monitor weather conditions. Incident management team in Irwindale monitors activity 24/7. Wildfire cameras in use. Communities treasure their trees, but Edison does not want trees to fall on power lines, so trims trees back. Edison sends notices on imminent public safety power shutoffs (48 hours and 24 hours). Recent legislation (AB 1054) addresses wildfire liability and cost recovery issue. PG&E had already declared bankruptcy when fire in Northern California occurred last year. No negligence for Edison. Options on wildfire liability: 1) line of credit for utilities, or 2) \$21 billion liability fund paid half by rate payers, half by utility. Bill not perfect but step in right direction.

Conductor replacement? 6,000 miles within five years, including Old Mammoth Road into Lakes Basin. Add another circuit tie. No identified scope within Mono except opportunity-based. Look at highest risk first.

Peters: Generator can back feed up to higher voltage. Feed whole house off generator. Problems: Improperly attached grounding scheme or poorly maintained equipment. If install generator, do it properly, professionally wire by electrician. No food loss insurance. Keep power on but pushback to utility on tree trimming. Ensure negligence not start fire. *Corless: Residents outraged by tree removal.* Peters: Cannot repeat what happened in Northern California. *Corless: Two notifications in area already.*

Peters: Some circuits could fall on list, others not. Why neighbor has power, we don't?

Hoff: Received notice on Inyo as well. Why alert for Mono and Inyo?

Gonzalez: Multiple notice, multiple jurisdictions.

Peters: Four- to five-hour midafternoon power outage at Pickel Meadow was caused in town. Small construction window to get any work done at all.

--- Break: 10:52 - 11:02 ---

**6. EASTERN SIERRA SUSTAINABLE RECREATION PARTNERSHIP (ESSRP):** Matt Paruolo received grant for recreation. Joel Rathje will coordinate regional stakeholder meeting. Work focused on keeping what we have. Portable restrooms at high-use locations: June Lake, Lower Rock Creek multi-use trail. Trail ambassadors in Lakes Basin. Convict Lake geology tours. Fishing-line- recycling program. Adopt-A-Trail program. Light trail maintenance projects. Wildlife conservation grant with BLM by Mono overlaps with ESSRP. Submitted grants with wildlife Conservation Board and NPS for Mountain Gate. Town energy on cost-share agreement, Lakes Basin cleanup soon. Outlined summer projects and planning efforts. ESLT (Eastern Sierra Land Trust) pulling out invasive species at Conway Ranch today. Meetings start Aug. 15. Advertise widely. Regional messaging. Need BLM and LADWP involvement on recreation overlap.

Wentworth: MLTPA awarded contract with Town. More contractors on recreation assets and users. RTCA grant with NPS. Focus on bringing all regional recreation assets together. Town Council: ESCOG apply, receive, administer grants. \$70,000 could go to ESCOG JPA. Looking for long-term agreement on waste management. Clean up messes and recycle. Care for and clean up mess we create.

**7. POTENTIAL USES FOR FOOTPRINT OF DEPO CAMPGROUND:** Deanna Dulen seeks public engagement on campground. Scientific value, public interest, and inspiration. Connecting people to nature and heritage. Move campground back from river front. Walk-in camping sites. 20 sites late June to Labor Day, closed last four seasons. Six to seven feet of snow on May 2. 170% of normal. 2017 opened July 22, 2019 opened July 4. Major trail safety issue at Rainbow Falls, so closed in 2018. Rock work, log work, partners handled dangerous project. Biggest hazard was people throwing rocks at trail workers. Stationed person entire shift to tell people not to throw rocks. Continuous presence at Rainbow Falls important. Six USFS campgrounds have 147 sites. Day-use visitors can access river when motorhomes not parked at edge. Enjoy natural sights and sounds of area on easy trails along river. Day-use picnicking. Water safety, cross-current at Rainbow Falls pool. Staff presence reduced enforcement. 1,500 visitors weekdays, 2,500-3,000 weekends. Mandatory shuttle closes after Labor Day. 65-car parking lot, rest at campsites. Alternatives: 1) No action. 2) close campground. 3) connect people to nature and heritage. Campground maximum occupancy 120/day. Averaging 131,000 visitors. Campgrounds require maintenance, fees, janitorial, problems occur at night. Comment cards available. Open NEPA in August for six months. Primary workload is food storage, nighttime issues, monitoring uses.

**8. RESILIENT MAMMOTH LAKES PROJECT:** Sandra Moberly stated focus is on housing and safety and well-being of all aspects of Mammoth Lakes. Climate change impacts to town (10 topics). Vulnerabilities identified, rolled into Safety Element. Sites for all types of housing, updating demographics. The Parcel 25-acre site. Public hearing Aug. 7 with Town Council.

**9. PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT:** Wendy Sugimura cited multiple iterations proposed by Premium Energy. All versions were rejected by FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission). Aug. 1 deadline to resubmit. LADWP not involved in this. *Corless: Great concern to constituents.*

**10. MONO/MADERA BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT:** Stacy Corless said BOS sent letter to Madera BOS, asked to consider: Thanks, no thanks, all good here, bye. Tom Wheeler said sheriffs consulted but Sheriff Braun has not talked to them in six months. Dulen: SAR presence two to five days/week. Found someone in need, domestic dispute on trail. Concerted effort despite no funding for schools. Corless: Primary concern is public safety. Would be nice if communicated to Town and Mono. Dulen: Coverage increased but not know how long will last. What's communication plan? Madera said USFS sent \$30,000. Dulen: Lot of confusion, who's doing what. Corless: Mono interested in assuring public safety. Dulen: If bigger emergency response, nice to have Mono and Town involved. Corless: Mono will issue SAR efforts.

**11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** Will send request for agenda items few weeks ahead.

**12. ADJOURN** at noon to next meeting: Thursday, Oct. 31, 2019, at 9 a.m.

*Prepared by CD Ritter, CPT clerk*