

**Mono Basin RPAC
Regional Planning Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 10, 2018, 6:30 pm, Lee Vining Community Center**

Members present: Duncan King, Ilene Mandelbaum, Kristie Nelson, Bartshe Miller and Lisa Cutting

Public Attendees and Presenters: April Sall; Cal Rossi; Dave Marquart; Susan Des Baillets; Florene Trainor, Austin West & Mark Heckman, Caltrans;

1. **Call to Order:** 6:36 pm.
2. **Public Comment:** No public comment.
3. **Review Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of December 13, 2017 were approved with the following corrections: in Public Attendees remove 'SCE' and replace with SCE individual names. In item 4 line 3 delete 'and a public comment period on this project is upcoming'; and in item 11 line 2 delete 'was purchased'. Bartshe Miller proposed, Kristie Nelson seconded. The vote was unanimous with Duncan King abstaining.
4. **Election of Officers:** Barsthe Miller proposed and Ilene Mandelbaum seconded Lisa Cutting as Chair, Kristie Nelson as Vice-Chair, and Margy Verba as Secretary. (Duncan King will act as back up for the Secretary). The vote was unanimous.
5. **Supervisor's Report:** Bob Gardner was absent and the Chairperson read out his notes for the meeting. The County continues its efforts to develop cannabis regulations. Staff will be coming to the RPACs to provide information on how this process is going, and how residents can continue to provide input. The Board of Supervisors received a briefing this week about how the County monitors avalanche conditions, and how road closures and resident warnings would be handled when necessary. Information will be available on the County website. The County continues to work with Southern California Edison on issues concerning Wilson Creek and Mill Creek water flows. This is a complex issue that deserves careful review and understanding. I am still trying to get a briefing set up with the Yosemite Superintendent and Caltrans regarding Tioga Pass opening and closure issues. The County is working closely with the Forest Service and the Town of Mammoth Lakes on a new joint Recreation position that will provide support for several outdoor recreation-related initiatives. We hope to have this position filled this spring or summer. The County is also working on some housing initiatives, including providing loans for first-time home-buyers, and revising the current housing mitigation ordinance. More details will be provided in the future.
6. **Chairperson Report:** Lisa Cutting reported she had received a letter of resignation from Zane Davies. This precipitated another discussion on the need to recruit more members to the Mono Basin RPAC and especially the need for more diversification in the membership. Wendy Sugimura is preparing more advertising. The Mono Lake Committee has submitted comments to the Board of Supervisors for its 2018 planning with special mention of the need for protection of the safeguards on Wild and Scenic Rivers, the Mono Basin Scenic Area, the Public Trust, and Air Quality regulations. Also in recent Caltrans projects such as the shoulder widening of highway 395 near Mono Lake, the Mono Lake Committee was not the block on the project, but just provided public comment, along with many others, on the environmental documents.
7. **Member's reports:**
 - a. Kristie Nelson – After the recent collision on highway 120E Kristie, Joel, and Dave Marquart carried out a survey of the wild horse population in the vicinity of the road. 200 were seen to the east of Mono Lake and a further 110 in the Sagehen Meadows/Adobe Flats area. There seems to be increasing visitation and photographer presence because of the herds, and an increasing risk of

collisions on the road, especially where the horses cross to visit fresh water springs in the Dry Creek area. Signage of the danger and flashing lights would be useful here. We should agendaize this and invite the appropriate agencies to the next meeting. Dave Marquart also commented on the damage the animals are doing to the wetlands east of Mono Lake.

- b. Ilene Mandelbaum – Attended the Fire Safe Council meeting which explored a number of issues and set up a sub-committee for signage and public education. Ilene encouraged people to come forward and help on this. Topics will include fire safety, fire rings, and publicity. Recent phone outages are a safety concern, both cell and landline. Attempts to report these outages were unsuccessful.
 - c. Bartshe Miller – reported hygiene issues at the Forest Service Visitor Center due to its seasonal closure (and the associated restrooms) and lack of signage of the same.
 - d. Duncan King – Also attended the Fire Safety Council meeting and reported on the Mono City emergency access road complaints he heard. There is still apparent confusion over the ease with which residents can access the breakaway gates. An opportunity for the education sub-committee of the council.
8. **USFS Agency Report:** Postponed.
 9. **Lee Vining Main Street Project Workshop:** Caltrans: Mark Heckman, Florene Trainor, Austin West; MIG: Dan, Lily, and Joan Chaplick – presented their ideas for Outreach and Engagement with the community for the Caltrans project on How to Improve 395 in Lee Vining, its Resurfacing, Restoration, and Rehabilitation. IMG was seeking inputs on the best way to involve the community. The project involves five miles of 395 from just north of 120W to Cemetery Road. They had two main questions for the RPAC. One – what would be the best outreach strategy? Two – what would be the challenges and the opportunities for the project? Potential community groups were identified for IMG to approach, including, but not limited to, local and seasonal residents, businesses, the Chamber of Commerce, schools, both parents and students, group interviews and individual, the Spanish speaking community, environmental groups, local agencies, and focal points such as the Post Office and key businesses, and a wall chart was filled with project opportunities and challenges such as pedestrian safety, bike lane, speeding, narrow walkways, parking, traffic calming, RV and bus visibility issues, drainage and water pooling, access to Old Marina and Lee Vining Creek trail, roadkill hazards, and signage, especially for out of state and international visitors, and the impending arrival of Bicycle Interstates. From these inputs IMG will create a draft outreach plan by February and a final outreach plan by May. Interest was expressed in getting childcare facilities for some meetings to encourage attendance. Wendy is the communication point and will be closely involved with IMG. The tools IMG will use are interviews, meetings with local groups, web and paper based mapping tools for community members to express their ideas, walkthroughs, and workshops in the May to July timeframe, leading to a final presentation to the RPAC in August.
 10. **Consider support letter for Solar Pavilion:** The letter prepared by the chair was accepted. Duncan King proposed and Kristie Nelson seconded, unanimously approved.
 11. **Consider resolution of appreciation for Scott Burns:** Bartshe Miller proposed and Ilene Mandelbaum seconded that the letter be approved subject to wordsmithing by Wendy and printing on RPAC headed letter paper. Approved unanimously.
 12. **Information items and provide direction to staff (Planning):**
The county is recruiting and close to hiring for a number of positions. There will be a cannabis regulation update at the next meeting. The Tioga Inn plan is currently being revised and in time there will be a new scoping notice.

13. Upcoming agenda items: Review of community plan, wild horse issue, GBUAPCD equipment

14. Adjourn: 8:53 - Next meeting Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Prepared by Duncan King