

**Mono Basin RPAC  
Regional Planning Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 12, 2014, 6:30 pm, Lee Vining Community Center**

**Members present:** Katie Bellomo, Lisa Cutting, Zane Davis, Tim Hansen, Chris Lizza, Mark Logan, Ilene Mandelbaum, and Bartshe Miller. **Absent:** Duncan King.

**Public Attendees and Presenters:** Tim Alpers, Wayne Beaver, Scott Burns, Leslie Chapman, Tony Dublino, Karen Ferrell-Ingram, Randy Keller, Jim Leddy, Dan Lyster, Paul McFarland, Rick Noles, Ralph Obenberger, Lauren Porter, Marshall Rudolph, and Gary Walecke.

1. **Call to order:** 6:35 pm.
2. **Public comment:** Ralph Obenberger introduced himself and reported that he is running for sheriff. He summarized some of his accomplishments of the past year. Gary Walecke expressed concern because SCE hasn't cleared vegetation at the base of power lines in and adjacent to town. This is a huge fire concern especially in this extremely dry year.
3. **Review Minutes:** February 12, 2014: Correction to 6g. Concerned about increasing government taxes and fees. Correction to 6d. Concerned about winter road closures and fines that are being levied if locals access illegally. In the past this was OK. This recent activity signals a new conflict between Caltrans and the community. Motion by Lizza; second by Hansen; passes unanimously. Abstaining: Bellomo (absent).
4. **Supervisor's report:** Alpers alerted the RPAC that Mono County's comments on recent proposed Endangered Species listings are on the County's website. June Mountain will stay open until April 20<sup>th</sup>. Leslie Chapman will update the RPAC on the mid-year budget.
5. **Chairman's report:** Nothing to report.
6. **Member's reports:**
  - a. Katie Bellomo: Thanked Tim Alpers for his efforts related to June Mountain.
  - b. Lisa Cutting: Nothing to report.
  - c. Zane Davis: Nothing to report.
  - d. Tim Hansen: Thanks to Jeff Walters and Public Works for installing the school signs. Four Caltrans road projects in the Mono Basin scheduled: Conway four-lane project, North Conway climbing lane, passing lanes in Bridgeport, and north of the Bodie Road the rocky corner area.
  - e. Duncan King: Absent.
  - f. Chris Lizza: Planning Commission mostly workshops last month and this month. Topics include: County energy programs (emissions); development standards; and set back clarifications. This month Inyo Forest Planning process updates; County biomass project report (Wendy Sugimura); and County waste management planning.
  - g. Mark Logan: Nothing to report.
  - h. Ilene Mandelbaum: The fire hot shot crews may be able to help with the fire clearing that Gary was discussing earlier. Maybe Caltrans could consider moving the road closure gates closer to Grant Lake so that the community can access front country areas. Latin Night was last Saturday and donations were collected for the Lee Vining Community Center landscaping work that still needs to be done. Hoping these fundraising events can continue.
7. **Presentation on the County Budget (Jim Leddy, CAO; Leslie Chapman, Finance Director).** Jim Leddy and Leslie Chapman went over the County's midyear review handout (PowerPoint presentation) which is posted on the County's website:

<http://www.monocounty.ca.gov/auditor/page/201314-mid-year-budget-review>. The county is exploring all options for reducing costs in light of the report and is including County employees in the process.

8. **Unmet Transit Needs (ESTA Staff)** John Helm, Executive Director of Eastern Sierra Transit Authority, gave an update on public transportation in Mono County. A transit needs hearing is not required because all money that Mono County receives goes to public transportation. Highway 395 routes are running 4 days a week (year-round) and during the summer season are coordinated with YARTS service to Yosemite. John explained how the Van Pool program works and how they are exploring Ride Share programs.
9. **Update by County staff and Eastern Sierra Land Trust representatives regarding the status of efforts to draft a proposed conservation easement on Conway Ranch pursuant to Mono County / Caltrans MOU. Discuss aspects of said easement and provide any feedback.** Marshall explained that ESLT and the County are still working on the draft conservation easement document. The County did hear back from State Parks and their restrictions will apply to the 75 acre fish-rearing area. Both grantors want to review the conservation easement once it's finalized so they can formally assess if their concerns are addressed. Caltrans, Mono County, and ESLT have agreed on a 3 month extension (July 1, 2014) for finalizing the conservation easement. Marshall outlined the plan for getting comment on the easement: 1) granting agencies; 2) MoCo Fisheries Commission, RPACs, and public; 3) and then to the Board for final approval. The group felt that the RPAC should either review before the grantors or at least concurrently. Marshall could not respond to that request. He will explore various options. An RPAC subcommittee working group was formed consisting of Katie Bellomo, Lisa Cutting, Tim Hansen, and Bartshe Miller. They will review documents and propose edits consistent with the Mono Basin Community Plan and values expressed to date from the community and other RPAC members.
10. **Information items and provide direction to staff: (Planning)**
  - a. Report of development activities in Mono Basin: Mono City Emergency Fire Road – Jeff Walters is working with Triad Engineering to refine alignment and hopefully reduce costs of the project. The CEQA process will allow for a 30 day review period and then there will be a decision to accept authorization. Then there will be a 30 day appeal process period. Once the gates are installed the rocks will be removed. The RPAC urged swift action given the dry winter and high fire danger that we will have this summer.
  - b. ATP Priority Project List and review of Lee Vining projects: The Active Transportation Program is the federal program that allocates funds for projects. Next Tuesday the Board is going to discuss community projects and prioritize them. For Lee Vining the Mono Basin Community Plan identified projects including: pedestrian safety especially at cross walks; bulb outs and curb extensions; flashing cross walk lights; and decorative street lights.
  - c. Digital 395 update: The project is completed and anchor locations have been activated. Local ISP companies are beginning to tie in the “last mile” for their customers.
  - d. Other: None.
11. **Schedule next regular meeting:** Wednesday, April 9, 2014
12. **Adjourn:** 9:13 pm.