

Mono Basin RPAC
Regional Planning Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 11, 2016, 6:30 p.m. Lee Vining Community Center

Members present: Bartshe Miller, Ilene Mandelbaum, Chris Lizza, and Margy Verba

Public Attendees and Presenters: Scott Burns, Tim Alpers, Lynn Boulton, Tony Dublino, Steve Heimlich, Floyd Rathbun, Margie DeRose

1. **Call to Order:** 6:37 pm.
2. **Public Comment:** None
3. **Review Minutes:** The meeting minutes of April 13, 2016 were approved. Chris Lizza made motion, Ilene Mandelbaum seconded. The vote was unanimous with Margy Verba abstaining.
4. **Supervisor's Report:** Tim Alpers reported the road up to the park was plowed and he was trying to find out when the gate would open. NPS was done plowing to Olmstead Point. The 2014-2015 audit came through with flying colors. Reported on assessed values of Mono County properties as well as Mono County finances in general. The speed limit signs for Mono City were being painted. The county hired a new CFO and new Risk Manager. The bathrooms in the County park are improved.
5. **Chairman's Report:** California State Parks have restricted drone use over Mono Lake. Permits are available for research or commercials. DWP can divert their 4,500 acre feet, however, DWP will likely be cut off next year, and a fence to block coyotes from nesting areas will also be likely. The Bird Chautauqua has record number registrations.
6. **Members' Reports:**
 - a. Ilene Mandelbaum: Doggie bag dispensers and signage are needed in Lee Vining. Community Garden started up again with improved water conservation.
 - b. Margy Verba: Nothing to report.
 - c. Lisa Cutting: Absent.
 - d. Duncan King: Absent.
 - e. Paul McFarland: Absent.
 - f. Zane Davis: Absent.
 - g. Chris Lizza: Town Clean-up was a successful event. Reported on LAFCO discussion of Mono City/Lee Vining merger. He gave an update on topics for next Planning Commission meeting. Reported on discussion with Brent Green (CalTrans District Director) around need to open gate on 120 W. as early as possible for Lee Vining fire department trainings as well as back country ski tourism opportunities. Reported gate would open May 12th at noon.
7. **Quarterly Inyo National Forest (INF) update (Margie DeRose, Deputy District Ranger):** The INF management plan revision will be available May 27, with a 90 day public comment period. Public meetings are tentatively scheduled for June 13th in Mammoth, and June 14th in Bishop. She also gave updates on the roads and campgrounds. She reported the Over Snow Vehicle (OSV) NEPA is on hold. A new Recreation Staff Officer in the Mono Basin will start Monday, April 16th. Bartshe inquired about PUD test well drilling. Margie replied it has not yet been addressed. Fire danger in dispersed camping as well as due to projected tree die-off was discussed. Bartshe requested a FS report on tree deaths.
8. **Conway Annual Report and Operations Plan – Recieve Comments:** Consultant Floyd Rathbun commented, current lessee wishes to maintain the lease. FIM Corporation is working hard to make sure livestock do not present a problem. Ilene inquired about numbers of sheep. Rathbun commented, due to loss of leases elsewhere, this lease is very important for maintaining agricultrual character. Some discussion of Big Horn Sheep issue ensued.
9. **Conway Ranch Strategic Faciliteds Plan:** Tony Dublino reported on comments received after last meeting and that they had been presented to BOS. To date, he has not received many comments. BOS discussed whether the document it "actionable.: Tony Dublino's intent is that the document be a policy level document and not actionable. Some discussion of diversion of local creek's impact on the meadows. Chris brought up recent and historic fishing in Mill Creek and suggested that recreational fishing in Mill Creek be added to the discussion. Tony reported that the Bridgeport RPAC wants the property used for economic benefit.
10. **Lee Vining PUD update:** Agenda item was tabled till next meeting due to Paul McFarland's absence.
11. **Information Items and Provide Direction to Staff:**
 - a. Scott Burns discussed charging station location, reporting that Chamber business owners prefer the Community Center. Lynn Boulton discussed the layout of the charging station, and recommended that vehicles other than Teslas be provided for as well. Ilene expressed concerns over scenic quality of Community Center. Scott discussed the County's role. The next step is to refine policy.
 - b. Scott reported on the Main Street WiFi effort. Nate Greenberg is pushing to make this happen this summer.

Chris expressed concern about businesses and residents clogging the system, which is intended for tourists.

c. Other Items: Going to solicit RPAC members.

12. Caltrans will hold a meeting in Bishop on June 2nd on the statewide bike plan from 1-2 pm.

13. Upcoming Agenda Items: Various CalTrans items; Status of Mono Lake; Facilities Issues.

14. Meeting adjourned 9 pm.