

Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) - Joint Powers Authority (JPA)

Minutes of Regular Meeting

October 14, 2022, 8:30 a.m.

437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite Z, Mammoth Lakes

Members Present: Chair John Wentworth, Board Member Karen Schwartz, Board Member Stacy Corless, Board Member Bob Gardner, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, Board Member Lynda Salcido

Members Absent: Vice Chair Dan Totheroh, Board Member Jim Ellis

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair John Wentworth called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. in the Council Chamber, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes. Chair Wentworth and Board Members Karen Schwartz, Stacy Corless and Lynda Salcido attended the meeting in person. Board Members Bob Gardner and Jeff Griffiths joined the meeting via videoconference.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

City of Bishop City Administrator Deston Dishion led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no comments given at this time.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved by Board Member Stacy Corless
Seconded by Board Member Lynda Salcido

Approve the Consent Agenda.

For (6): Chair John Wentworth, Board Member Karen Schwartz, Board Member Stacy Corless, Board Member Bob Gardner, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, and Board Member Lynda Salcido

Absent (2): Vice Chair Dan Totheroh, and Board Member Jim Ellis

Carried (6 to 0)

- 4.1 Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 12, 2022
- 4.2 Approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of September 9, 2022
- 4.3 Approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of October 7, 2022
- 4.4 Approve a Letter of Support for the Whitebark Institute Grant Application to the Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program
- 4.5 Consideration of a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Regarding the Need for Continued Virtual Meetings to Protect Public Health – AB 361

5. POLICY MATTERS

- 5.1 Executive Director Update on ESCOG: Community Economic Resiliency Fund Pilot Program

Executive Director Elaine Kabala provided an update on the Community Economic Resiliency Fund Pilot Program.

There was discussion between Legal Counsel Grace Chuchla, Ms. Kabala and members of the Board.

- 5.2 Receive a Presentation from Nick Wobbrock, Chief Operations Office, Blue Forest Conservation

Blue Forest Conservation Chief Operations Officer Nick Wobbrock introduced Project Analyst Annapurna Holtzapple, and outlined the information in the Introduction to the Forest Resilience Bond (FRB) PowerPoint presentation.

There was discussion between Blue Forest staff, Executive Director Elaine Kabala, and members of the Board.

- 5.3 Approve an Agreement Between the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and Alta Planning + Design for the Provision of Trails Planning Services for the Eastern Sierra Towns-To-Trails Plan

Chair John Wentworth recused himself from this item due to his position on the Board of Directors of the Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation which would be providing support on this project.

Executive Director Elaine Kabala outlined the information in the staff report.

There was discussion between Ms. Kabala and members of the Board.

Moved by Board Member Lynda Salcido

Seconded by Board Member Stacy Corless

Approve and authorize staff to execute the Agreement between the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and Alta Planning + Design, Inc. for the provision of trail planning services for the Towns-to-Trails Plan for an amount not to exceed \$321,768.

For (5): Board Member Karen Schwartz, Board Member Stacy Corless, Board Member Bob Gardner, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, and Board Member Lynda Salcido

Abstain (1): Chair John Wentworth

Absent (2): Vice Chair Dan Totheroh, and Board Member Jim Ellis

Carried (5 to 0)

5.4 **Approve Contract Amendment No.1 to the Agreement between the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and the Whitebark Institute of Interdisciplinary Environmental Services for the Provision of National Environmental Policy Act Services for the Eastern**

Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator, and: Approve Contract Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement between the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and the Whitebark Institute of Interdisciplinary Environmental Services for the Provision of Project Management Services for the Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator.

Chair John Wentworth returned to the meeting at 9:29 a.m.

Executive Director Elaine Kabala outlined the information in the staff report. Ms. Kabala reported that there was a correction to be made to the contract amendment for the project management contract to remove "for the Provision of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Services" from the title of said amendment.

There was discussion between Ms. Kabala and members of the Board.

Moved by Board Member Stacy Corless
Seconded by Board Member Karen Schwartz

Approve Contract Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement between the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and the Whitebark Institute of Interdisciplinary Environmental Services for the Provision of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Service for the Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator.

Approve Contract Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement between the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and the Whitebark Institute of Interdisciplinary Environmental Services for the Provision of Project Management Services for the Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator as amended.

For (6): Chair John Wentworth, Board Member Karen Schwartz, Board Member Stacy Corless, Board Member Bob Gardner, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, and Board Member Lynda Salcido

Absent (2): Vice Chair Dan Totheroh, and Board Member Jim Ellis

Carried (6 to 0)

5.5 Receive an Update on ESCOG Staffing from Staff and Regional Managers

Executive Director Elaine Kabala outlined the information in the staff report.

SPEAKING FROM THE FLOOR:

Inyo County Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Nate Greenberg spoke in support of housing Ms. Kabala's position within Inyo County, as well as an administrative support person for the ESCOG. Mr. Greenberg stated that he wanted to make sure that the City of Bishop was supported during Ms. Kabala's transition from their Planning Department to the full-time role as the Executive Director of the ESCOG.

City of Bishop City Administrator Deston Dishion spoke about the process Bishop had been going through in their quest to fill the position of Planner which would be vacant upon Ms. Kabala's successful transition to the full-time Executive Director position with the ESCOG.

Town of Mammoth Lakes Town Manager Dan Holler spoke about the Town's desire to support the City of Bishop in order to maximize Ms.

Kabala's time while she transitioned from her position with Bishop to the ESCOG while ensuring Bishop's Planning Department continued to be successful. Mr. Holler explained that the employment structure the Member Agency Managers were considering would be to employ Ms. Kabala, and potentially an administrative support position, with Inyo County rather than creating a Human Resources Department for the ESCOG, however, she would serve the ESCOG full-time and the Member Agencies would fund the position.

There was discussion between Ms. Kabala, the Member Agency Managers, and members of the Board.

Staff was given direction to continue discussions with the Member Agencies in order to move forward with Ms. Kabala's transition to the full-time position of Executive Director of the ESCOG.

5.6 Approve Contract Amendment #4 for Administrative Services with Eastern Sierra Planning, LLC

Executive Director Elaine Kabala outlined the information in the staff report.

There was discussion between Ms. Kabala and members of the Board.

Moved by Board Member Lynda Salcido

Seconded by Board Member Karen Schwartz

Approve Amendment Number 4 to the Agreement Between the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and Eastern Sierra Planning for the Provision of Administrative Services amended to extend the date to 2/15/2023.

For (6): Chair John Wentworth, Board Member Karen Schwartz, Board Member Stacy Corless, Board Member Bob Gardner, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, and Board Member Lynda Salcido

Absent (2): Vice Chair Dan Totheroh, and Board Member Jim Ellis

Carried (6 to 0)

5.7 Receive an Update on the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Fair Political Practices Commission Conflict of Interest Code

Legal Counsel Grace Chuchla outlined the information in the staff report. Ms. Chuchla noted that there was an edit to be made in Appendix A to

correct the Disclosure Category for Board Members to reflect Category 1, not Category 2.

There was discussion between Ms. Chuchla, Ms. Kabala and members of the Board.

Moved by Board Member Jeff Griffiths

Seconded by Board Member Bob Gardner

Adopt the resolution entitled "A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Adopting Modifications to the Conflict of Interest Code as Proposed by the Fair Political Practices Commission" as amended.

For (6): Chair John Wentworth, Board Member Karen Schwartz, Board Member Stacy Corless, Board Member Bob Gardner, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, and Board Member Lynda Salcido

Absent (2): Vice Chair Dan Totheroh, and Board Member Jim Ellis

Carried (6 to 0)

5.8 Receive an Update on Assembly Bill 2449

Legal Counsel Grace Chuchla outlined the information in the staff report.

Board Member Jeff Griffiths left the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

There was discussion between Ms. Kabala and members of the Board.

CONSENSUS: There was consensus from the Board to continue holding its meetings under the provisions of Assembly Bill 361 until such time that it expired.

5.9 Executive Director Update Report

Executive Director Elaine Kabala provided an update on ongoing projects under the ESCOG's Sustainable Recreation Ecosystems Management Program (SREMP).

Chair John Wentworth requested that an item be added to a future agenda to discuss the potential for the ESCOG to get involved in project implementation.

There was discussion between Ms. Kabala and members of the Board.

6. BOARD MEMBER/AGENCY REPORTS

Board Member Stacy Corless reported that she had attended the State's Wildfire Resilience Taskforce on September 28th and encouraged the members of the Board to visit their website at wildfiretaskforce.org to obtain information about that meeting. She also attended the State Natural Resources Agency Kickoff Meeting on September 29th for the 30x30 Partnership Program. Ms. Corless said that the other members could go to the California Nature website to sign up for their news list and said that she would send out the website URL.

Board Member Bob Gardner reported that he had attended a meeting yesterday regarding the Yosemite reservation system, and said that there was an interesting article in the San Francisco Chronicle about wild horses in the Mono Basin which was getting some attention.

Board Member Karen Schwartz reported that the City of Bishop had been busy with a lot of tourists in town. Ms. Schwartz said that the City had sent a letter to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) requesting some parcels near the Silver Peak project located by Pizza Factory and said that she had been working with City of Bishop City Administrator Deston Dishion on potentially selling the parcels they had requested. She said that she had attended an informal lunch with the Bishop Tribe yesterday and engaged in a discussion regarding housing issues and drug prevention. Ms. Schwartz suggested adding tribal representation to the ESCOG.

Chair John Wentworth provided a housing update, and said that modular units for The Parcel were currently stored at the airport and would be placed on the pedestals which had been constructed at The Parcel. Chair Wentworth reported that he was up for reelection for the TOML Town Council and said that our community was enjoying a classic Eastern Sierra fall without any smoke or forest closures. He said that there was still a lot of camping and hiking activity in the Onion Valley area.

Board Member Lynda Salcido reported that she had attended a tour at the airport yesterday to view The Parcel's modular homes. Ms. Salcido said that she felt the products used in them were very high quality.

TOML Town Manager Dan Holler provided a housing update and reported that he hoped to see up to two hundred and seventy units available in Mammoth Lakes within the next two years. Mr. Holler reported that the Town was buying and reselling units through the bridge program, spoke about the Homekey project with MLH for the Access Apartments, and said that Red's Meadow Road was now closed and that there would be prescribed burning in that area in addition to

the road construction efforts. He discussed expansion of grooming for winter trails including the Sherwin Creek Trailhead and Shady Rest, work with Forest Service on snowmobile trails, and coordination with Ormat Technologies and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) with regard to snow plowing and access to their wells. He said the Town recently celebrated the opening of some new trails in the Lakes Basin with a ribbon cutting, and said that they were looking at grant work through the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) for the Sherwins area.

There was discussion between Mr. Holler and members of the Board.

7. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS


Board Member Stacy Corless suggested that the Board participate in an ESCOG Planning Session with a facilitator from the Institute for Local Government (ILG).

Chair John Wentworth requested an item be added to the next regular meeting for an Airport/Air Service update for both the Mammoth and Bishop Airports. He also requested that Executive Director Elaine Kabala provide an update to the Board with regard to the various State funding opportunities available.

There was discussion between Ms. Kabala and members of the Board.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m. to the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on December 9, 2022.



Angela Plaisted, Assistant Clerk