



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

Minutes of Regular Meeting

October 19, 2023, 8:30 a.m.

437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite Z, Mammoth Lakes

Members Present: Chair Jeff Griffiths, Vice Chair Bob Gardner, Board Member Trina Orrill, Board Member Lynda Salcido, Board Member John Wentworth, Board Member Chris Bubser, Board Member Karen Schwartz, Board Member Stephen Muchovej

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Jeff Griffiths called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m. in the Council Chambers, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes.

Legal Counsel Grace Weitz reported that Board Member Stephen Muchovej had requested to attend the meeting remotely under the "just cause" provisions of AB 2449.

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

It was moved by Board Member Bob Gardner, seconded by Board Member John Wentworth, with Board Member Stephen Muchovej absent, and carried by a 7-0 vote to approve adding an item to the agenda to allow Board Member Stephen Muchovej to attend today's meeting remotely under the "just cause" provisions of AB 2449.

It was moved by Board Member Karen Schwartz, seconded by Board Member John Wentworth, with Board Member Stephen Muchovej absent, and carried by a 7-0 vote to approve Mr. Muchovej's attendance at today's meeting remotely under the "just cause" provisions of AB 2449.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Member Trina Orrill led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments given at this time.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Jeff Griffiths requested that Item 4.2 be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Moved by Board Member Lynda Salcido

Seconded by Vice Chair Bob Gardner

Approve the Consent Agenda as amended to include only Item 4.1.

For (7): Chair Jeff Griffiths, Vice Chair Bob Gardner, Board Member Trina Orrill, Board Member Lynda Salcido, Board Member John Wentworth, Board Member Chris Bubser, and Board Member Stephen Muchovej

Absent (1): Board Member Karen Schwartz

Carried (7 to 0)

4.1 Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 17, 2023

4.2 Approve Amendment No. 1 to Professional Services Agreement with Alta Planning and Design for the Provision of Conceptual Recreation Planning Services for the Buttermilk Infrastructure and Planning Initiative

Board Member John Wentworth recused himself from this item.

Executive Director Elaine Kabala outlined the information in the staff report and the revised Alta Amendment No 1 Buttermilk Infrastructure and Recreation Planning (BIRPI) Extension Budget Amendment.

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

Moved by Vice Chair Bob Gardner

Seconded by Board Member Lynda Salcido

Approve Amendment No. 1 to Professional Services Agreement with Alta Planning and Design for the Provision of Conceptual Recreation Planning Services for the Buttermilk Infrastructure and Planning Initiative.

For (7): Chair Jeff Griffiths, Vice Chair Bob Gardner, Board Member Trina Orrill, Board Member Lynda Salcido, Board Member Chris Bubser, Board Member Karen Schwartz, and Board Member Stephen Muchovej

Abstain (1): Board Member John Wentworth

Carried (7 to 0)

5. POLICY MATTERS

5.1 Receive an update on Regional Air Service from Ashley Helms, Inyo County Public Works Deputy Director

Inyo County Public Works Deputy Director Ashley Helms provided an update on regional air service.

Board Member John Wentworth requested that a Mono Inyo Airport Working Group (MIAWG) meeting be scheduled.

Inyo County County Administrative Officer Nate Greenberg said that he, Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML) Town Manager Dan Holler, TOML Administrative Services/Finance Director Rob Patterson and Mono County County Administrative Officer Sandra Moberly had discussed the structure of MIAWG and the need to reevaluate it, and to improve governance around air service in the region. Mr. Greenberg said that there was a desire to formalize the decision making abilities of the Eastern Sierra Air Alliance (ESAA).

Vice Chair Bob Gardner requested that a status report on the ESAA be added to future ESCOG agendas.

There was discussion between Ms. Helms, Mr. Greenberg, and members of the Board.

The Chair called a recess at 9:38 a.m.

5.2 Discuss Regional Parks and Athletic Fields Capacity

The Board reconvened at 9:49 a.m.

Chair Jeff Griffiths introduced City of Bishop Community Service Manager Dan McElroy. Mr. Griffiths and Mr. McElroy outlined the information in the staff report.

TOML Town Manager Dan Holler spoke about the regional partners TOML had for some of their facilities, announced the partnership with Mammoth

Unified School District (MUSD) for the Town's Pickleball Courts, spoke about funding restrictions on revenues, gave an update on upcoming recreational facilities in Mammoth, and discussed the sentiment of the residents in the community. Mr. Holler said that a Regional Park District would need to be created through a voter initiative and discussed the financial challenges related to maintaining recreation facilities.

MUSD District Superintendent Annie Rinaldi Gonzalez spoke about the athletic scheduling challenges the district had faced last winter.

Inyo County CAO Nate Greenberg reported that there would be a strategic planning effort coming to the Inyo County Board of Supervisors to discuss possible use of one-time funding for recreational purposes.

Executive Director Elaine Kabala said that as a Joint Powers Authority (JPA), the ESCOG had the authority to serve as a forum for regional conversations, and discussed the value in doing a needs assessment across the region to look at the current assets, usage, and fee structures of the existing recreation programs in the region.

There was discussion between Mr. McElroy, Mr. Holler, Mr. Greenberg, Ms. Kabala, and members of the Board.

5.3 Receive an Update Regarding the Community Economic Resiliency Fund (CERF) from Stacy Corless, Sierra Business Council Government and Community Affairs Director

Sierra Business Council Government and Community Affairs Director Stacy Corless outlined the information in the Community Economic Resiliency Fund (CERF) PowerPoint presentation.

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

5.4 Adopt a Resolution of Eastern Sierra Council of Governments JPA Approving the Eastern Sierra Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Alpine, Inyo and

This item was taken out of order.

Moved by Board Member John Wentworth
Seconded by Board Member Lynda Salcido

Adopt a Resolution of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments JPA Approving the Eastern Sierra Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Alpine, Inyo and Mono Counties as Prepared and Authorizing

the Strategy to be Submitted to the U.S. Economic Development Administration, contingent on approval by all member agencies.

For (8): Chair Jeff Griffiths, Vice Chair Bob Gardner, Board Member Trina Orrill, Board Member Lynda Salcido, Board Member John Wentworth, Board Member Chris Bubser, Board Member Karen Schwartz, and Board Member Stephen Muchovej

Carried (8 to 0)

5.5 Discuss ESCOG JPA Core Competencies and Strategic Priorities

This item was tabled until a future meeting.

5.6 Inyo Mono Broadband Consortium Activities Report Provided by Eastern Sierra Regional Broadband Coordinator Scott Armstrong

This item was taken out of order.

Eastern Sierra Regional Broadband Coordinator Scott Armstrong outlined the information in the ESCOG Broadband Update PowerPoint presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

David Baron asked about the type of data that was collected in the speed test that was presented.

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

5.7 Executive Director Update Report

Executive Director Elaine Kabala provided an update on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs), Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF), the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Grant for the Pace and Scale Accelerator, the Buttermilk Infrastructure and Recreation Planning (BIRPI), and Towns 2 Trails. Ms. Kabala reported that she had submitted an application on behalf of the ESCOG for the Caltrans Highways to Boulevards Grant with assistance from Caltrans staff, and said that the ESCOG's member agencies had requested increased communication from the ESCOG.

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

6. BOARD MEMBER/AGENCY REPORTS

Board Member John Wentworth reported that the Town of Mammoth Lakes Town Council approved a 45-day moratorium on the issuance of new certificates for Short Term Rentals (STRs).

Vice Chair Bob Gardner reported that Mono County would bring their item regarding a STR moratorium back to the Board of Supervisors for approval at their next meeting because it was approved by a three-fifths vote, rather than the required four-fifths vote.

There was discussion among members of the Board.

7. **REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no future agenda items requested.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m. to the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on December 14, 2023.



Angela Plaisted, Assistant Clerk