



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

Minutes of Regular Meeting

February 10, 2023, 8:30 a.m.

437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite Z, Mammoth Lakes

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

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair John Wentworth called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. in the Council Chamber, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite Z, Mammoth Lakes. The members of the Board introduced themselves.

1.1 Request to approve Supervisor Griffiths' Remote Participation in the February 10, 2023 ESCOG Meeting Pursuant to AB 2449.

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

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

Moved by Board Member Bob Gardner

Seconded by Councilmember Stephen Muchovej

Approve Supervisor Jeff Griffiths' request to appear remotely at the February 10, 2023 ESCOG meeting.

For (7): Chair John Wentworth, Board Member Karen Schwartz, Board Member Bob Gardner, Board Member Lynda Salcido, Board Member Trina Orrill, Councilmember Stephen Muchovej, and Councilmember Chris Bubser

Abstain (1): Board Member Jeff Griffiths

Carried (7 to 0)

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML) Town Manager Daniel Holler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Caltrans Staff Services Manager Carolyn Plummer announced that Caltrans would start a pilot test in March related to a potential replacement for the gas tax. Ms. Plummer said that they would test a Road Charge on mileage using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology, and said that they were seeking drivers from rural communities to participate in the study, in which they could earn up to \$250. She outlined the information in the Caltrans Road Charge presentation.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Councilmember Stephen Muchovej
Seconded by Board Member Bob Gardner

Approve the Consent Agenda.

For (7): Chair John Wentworth, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, Board Member Karen Schwartz, Board Member Bob Gardner, Board Member Lynda Salcido, Board Member Trina Orrill, and Councilmember Stephen Muchovej

Abstain (1): Councilmember Chris Bubser

Carried (7 to 0)

4.1 Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting October 14, 2022

4.2 Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 9, 2022

4.3 Approve the 2023 ESCOG Meeting Calendar

4.4 File the 2021-2022 Financial Report

5. POLICY MATTERS

5.1 Receive a presentation from Sandra Moberly, Town of Mammoth Lakes Community and Economic Development Director Regarding the Town's "Housing Now!" Initiative

Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML) Community and Economic Development Director Sandra Moberly and TOML Senior Planner/Housing

Coordinator Nolan Bobroff outlined the information in the TOML Housing Now! presentation.

There was discussion between Ms. Moberly, Mr. Bobroff, and members of the Board.

5.2 Approve Staffing Contract with Inyo County for Executive Director of Regional Coordination Position

This item was taken out of order.

Executive Director Elaine Kabala, TOML Town Manager Dan Holler, and Inyo County Administrative Officer Nate Greenberg outlined the information in the staff report.

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

Moved by Board Member Bob Gardner
Seconded by Councilmember Chris Bubser

Authorize the Chair to execute the Agreement Regarding Executive Director Services to be provided by Inyo County to the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Joint Powers Authority, with a not to exceed amount of \$150,000.

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

Carried (8 to 0)

5.3 Approve Contract Amendment with Eastern Sierra Planning, LLC to extend until April 15, 2023

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

Moved by Board Member Jeff Griffiths
Seconded by Councilmember Stephen Muchovej

Approve Amendment Number 5 to the Agreement Between the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and Eastern Sierra Planning for the Provision of Administrative Services.

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

Carried (8 to 0)

5.4 Approve California Advanced Services Fund Grant Disbursement Schedule and Consent Forms and Approve Agreement Between Inyo County and the ESCOG JPA as the Board of the Inyo-Mono Broadband Consortium regarding the Processing of Reimbursement Request under

This item was taken out of order.

Inyo County Administrative Officer Nate Greenberg, Legal Counsel Grace Chuchla, and Inyo County Director of Information Services Scott Armstrong outlined the information in the staff report.

Mono County Director of Finance and ESCOG Fiscal Agent Janet Dutcher provided additional information regarding the grant and said that its revenues and expenditures should be added to the ESCOG's budget and financial report. Ms. Dutcher said that she would work with Inyo County to make sure that she received transactional reports to ensure that the grant activity was recorded in the ESCOG's financial records.

There was discussion between members of the Board, Mr. Greenberg, Mr. Armstrong, Executive Director Elaine Kabala, and Ms. Dutcher.

Moved by Chair John Wentworth

Seconded by Board Member Lynda Salcido

Accept the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) grant, sign the Appendix B Consortia Grant Forms, and authorize the Chair to execute the Agreement Between Inyo County and the ESCOG JPA as the Board of the Inyo-Mono Broadband Consortium Regarding the Processing of Reimbursement Requested Under the California Advance Services Fund Grant.

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

Carried (8 to 0)

5.5 Appoint ESCOG Members to the Mono Inyo Working Air Group

This item was taken out of order.

TOML Town Manager Dan Holler and Inyo County Administrative Officer Nate Greenberg outlined the information in the staff report.

There was discussion among members of the Board, Mr. Holler, and Mr. Greenberg.

Moved by Chair John Wentworth

Seconded by Board Member Trina Orrill

Appoint Chair John Wentworth, and Board Members Bob Gardner, Karen Schwartz, and Trina Orrill to the Mono Inyo Working Air Group (MIWAG).

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

Carried (8 to 0)

Moved by Chair John Wentworth

Seconded by Councilmember Stephen Muchovej

Appoint Board Members Chris Bubser, Lynda Salcido, Jeff Griffiths and Steve Muchovej as alternates to the Mono Inyo Working Air Group (MIWAG).

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

Carried (8 to 0)

5.6 Award Contract for Buttermilk Infrastructure and Recreation Planning Initiative

Chair Wentworth recused himself due to his service on the Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access (MLTPA) Board and left the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

U.S. Forest Service, Inyo National Forest Public Services Staff Officer Adam Barnett noted that although the funding for this project runs through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the actual monies for it would come from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. (LADWP) as a pilot program.

Chair Wentworth returned to the meeting at 10:21 a.m.

Moved by Councilmember Stephen Muchovej

Seconded by Board Member Karen Schwartz

Award the project to Alta Planning + Design, Inc and authorize staff to negotiate and execute a Professional Services Agreement between the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and Alta Planning + Design, Inc. for the provision of recreation planning services for the Buttermilk Infrastructure and Recreation Planning Initiative for an amount not-to-exceed \$127,411.

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

Absent (1): Chair John Wentworth

Carried (7 to 0)

5.7 Consideration of Master Challenge Cost Share Agreement with U.S. Forest Service – Inyo National Forest

Executive Director Elaine Kabala, U.S. Forest Service, Inyo National Forest Resources/Planning Officer Nathan Sill, and Public Services Staff Officer Adam Barnett outlined the information in the staff report.

There was discussion among members of the Board, Ms. Kabala, Mr. Sill, and Mr. Barnett.

Board Member Jeff Griffiths left the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Moved by Board Member Bob Gardner

Seconded by Board Member Karen Schwartz

Authorize staff to execute the Master Challenge Cost Share Agreement between the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and the USDA, Forest Service Inyo National Forest.

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

Carried (8 to 0)

5.8 Consideration of Memorandum of Understanding Between the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership and ESCOG

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

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

Staff was given direction to bring the Memorandum of Understanding back, with modifications as discussed, at the April meeting.

5.9 Discussion on Community Economic Development Strategy Submittal by ESCOG and California Economic Resiliency Fund Update

Executive Director Elaine Kabala gave a presentation regarding the Community Economic Resiliency Fund Pilot (CERF) Program Update.

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

5.10 Executive Director Update Report

Executive Director Elaine Kabala provided updates on the Eastern Sierra Towns to Trails project and the Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project a.k.a. The Donut Project.

5.11 Call for Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

This item was taken out of order.

There was discussion among members of the Board.

Moved by Chair John Wentworth

Seconded by Board Member Trina Orrill

Appoint Board Member Jeff Griffiths the Chair of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments.

For (7): Chair John Wentworth, Board Member Karen Schwartz, Board Member Bob Gardner, Board Member Lynda Salcido, Board Member Trina Orrill, Councilmember Stephen Muchovej, and Councilmember Chris Bubser

Absent (1): Board Member Jeff Griffiths

Carried (7 to 0)

Moved by Board Member Lynda Salcido

Seconded by Board Member Karen Schwartz

Appoint Board Member Bob Gardner as the Vice the Chair of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments.

For (7): Chair John Wentworth, Board Member Karen Schwartz, Board Member Bob Gardner, Board Member Lynda Salcido, Board Member Trina Orrill, Councilmember Stephen Muchovej, and Councilmember Chris Bubser

Absent (1): Board Member Jeff Griffiths

Carried (7 to 0)

6. BOARD MEMBER/AGENCY REPORTS

Board Member Karen Schwartz reported there had been some Emergency Medical Services (EMS) disruption issues in Northern Bishop and said that they

were and actively seeking solutions. Ms. Schwartz said that the Silver Peaks low-income housing project did not get funded.

Board Member John Wentworth said that it had been a pleasure to serve as the Chair of the ESCOG over the past year.

There was discussion among members of the Board.

7. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Vice Chair Bob Gardener requested that a discussion around inviting representatives from Alpine County to join the ESCOG be added to the next agenda.

Board Member Stephen Muchovej reported that Inyo and Mono County had both recently hired Fire Deputies and requested that they be invited to a future meeting to discuss solutions for the region.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.



Angela Plaisted, Assistant Clerk