



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

Minutes of Special Meeting

April 21, 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 John Wentworth, Board Member Chris Bubser, Board Member Karen Schwartz, Board Member Stephen Muchovej

Members Absent: Board Member Lynda Salcido

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Jeff Griffiths called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. in the Council Chamber at 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite Z, Mammoth Lakes, CA.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Inyo County Public Works Deputy Director - Airports Ashley Helms led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Eastside Project Navigator for the Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF) project Magnolia Barra introduced herself to the Board and said that she would be the liaison between the Sierra Business Council (SBC), CERF and the ESCOG.

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

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Board Member John Wentworth
Seconded by Board Member Stephen Muchovej

Approve the Consent Agenda.

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

Absent (1): Board Member Lynda Salcido

Carried (7 to 0)

4.1 Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting February 10, 2023

4.2 Approve Amendment No. 1 to Professional Services Agreement with Alta Planning and Design for Towns to Trails Plan

5. POLICY MATTERS

5.1 Introduce Inyo Mono Broadband Coalition (IMBC) Regional Broadband Coordinator Scott Armstrong and Receive a Report on IMBC Activities

Inyo Mono Broadband Coalition (IMBC) Regional Broadband Coordinator Scott Armstrong introduced himself and provided the Board with his background information. Mr. Armstrong spoke about what he had been working on with the IMBC and changes that had been made to the Coalition. He directed the members of the Board to the IMBC website for additional information and spoke about grants that had been awarded to both Mono and Inyo Counties, and upcoming grant opportunities. He said that Tuolumne County would hold an in person public meeting to allow for input on the State's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program on May 30th and said that he was working on setting up a dual meeting location in Mono or Inyo County so that our community leaders and members of the public could participate in that meeting at a local venue.

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

5.2 Receive a Presentation from Kristen Pfeiler, Inyo County Wildfire Preparedness Coordinator Regarding Regional Wildfire Resiliency Planning

Inyo County Wildfire Preparedness Coordinator Kristen Pfeiler outlined the information in the *Wildfire in the Eastern Sierra Aligning Community and Regional Efforts* presentation and announced that funding for the CalFire County Wildfire Coordinator positions had been extended through March 2025.

There was discussion between Ms. Pfeiler, Executive Director Elaine Kabala and members of the Board.

5.3 Mono Inyo Airport Working Group Committee Report on Meeting Held April 7, 2023

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

Inyo County Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Nate Greenberg provided an update on the efforts of the Mono Inyo Airport Working Group Committee (MIAWG).

Inyo County Public Works Deputy Director - Airports Ashley Helms addressed questions from the Board.

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

Staff was given direction to coordinate with the regional managers to begin moving forward with some of the strategic plan in parallel with efforts to coordinate discussions with each of the regional entities.

5.4 Discuss Regional Parks and Recreation Collaboration

Chair Jeff Griffiths and Executive Director Elaine Kabala outlined the information in the staff report.

City of Bishop City Administrator Deston Dishion spoke about the further degradation of the recreation fields at the Bishop City parks after this winter and discussed options Bishop was considering as to how to repair them, and said he would like regional support.

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

5.5 Approve Modified ESCOG Schedule

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 John Wentworth

Seconded by Board Member Chris Bubser

Approve the Modified ESCOG Schedule.

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

Absent (1): Board Member Lynda Salcido

Carried (7 to 0)

5.6 Approve Memorandum of Understanding with the Sierra Business Council for the Purpose of the Community Economic Resiliency Fund (CERF)

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

Vice Chair Bob Gardner left the meeting at 10:22 a.m. and returned at 10:24 a.m.

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

Moved by Board Member John Wentworth
Seconded by Board Member Karen Schwartz

Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Sierra Business Council (SBC) for the Purpose of the Community Economic Resiliency Fund (CERF) with an amendment to Item C to specify a year for the first deliverable due date.

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

Absent (1): Board Member Lynda Salcido

Carried (7 to 0)

5.7 Discussion Submission of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Executive Director Elaine Kabala and Legal Counsel Grace Chuchla outlined the information in the staff report.

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

Moved by Board Member John Wentworth
Seconded by Chair Jeff Griffiths

Direct staff to coordinate with each County to prepare a resolution authorizing the Eastern Sierra Council of Government (ESCOG) to submit the Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) on behalf of the Eastern Sierra Region.

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

Absent (1): Board Member Lynda Salcido

Carried (7 to 0)

5.8 Discuss Expanding ESCOG JPA to Include Alpine County

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

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

Staff was given direction to not expand the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) JPA to Include Alpine County, but to instead invite them to participate in meetings, and to ask them to designate a representative to attend the ESCOG meetings on their behalf.

5.9 Discussion regarding ESCOG Administration of Sierra Nevada Conservancy Landscape Investment Pilot Project

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

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

Staff was given direction to provide administrative services to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), Land Investment Strategy (LIS) Pilot Project for the Eastern Sierra Community and Climate Program (ESCCRP).

5.10 Executive Director Update Report

Executive Director Elaine Kabala provided updates on the Buttermilk Infrastructure and Recreation Planning (BIRPI) and Towns to Trails projects.

Board Member John Wentworth left the meeting at 11:01 a.m.

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

6. BOARD MEMBER/AGENCY REPORTS

Vice Chair Bob Gardner reported that June Mountain had closed on the 9th but would be open for a bonus weekend tomorrow and Sunday.

Board Member Karen Schwartz reported that the City of Bishop had new medians on Main Street, and said that there were some concerns about them related to Mule Days. Ms. Schwartz said that the City of Bishop would celebrate Earth Day in the Park tomorrow.

Board Member Steve Muchovej reported that Bishop would not have a lapse in Emergency Medical Service (EMS) services.

Board Member Chris Bubser said that she was grateful to the Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML) staff for their efforts related to the severe weather. Ms. Bubser reported that representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) were in Town last week to determine if the Town would qualify for a Major Disaster Declaration which would provide additional funding for repairs, and reminded TOML and Mono County residents to fill out the online damage assessment form. She said the Town was working on repairing potholes, and was in the midst of the Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID) renewal process.

Board Member Tina Orrill reported that Inyo County's main focus at this time was preparation for runoff from the snowmelt.

Chair Jeff Griffiths reported that the runoff had caused severe damage throughout the County. Chair Griffiths announced that Inyo County would hold a Community Meeting on the 27th to discuss how to prepare for potential flood related issues. He said that Glass Mountain Apartments in Mammoth had two units red tagged, displacing two families, one of which had been moved to another unit, while the other was currently staying in a hotel, and requested assistance and coordination with Inyo Mono Advocates for Community Action (IMACA). He announced that Inyo County had two new employees, Information Technology Director Noam Shendar, and Water Director Holly Alpert, and said that the County was working on housing efforts, including the Veteran's Housing component of the Silver Peaks project in Bishop.

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 11:11 a.m. to the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on Thursday, June 15, 2023.



Angela Plaisted, Assistant Clerk