



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

Minutes of Regular Meeting

June 10, 2022, 8:30 a.m.

Meeting to be held in the Bishop Council Chambers and the Mammoth Lakes Council Chambers

Bishop Council Chambers 377 West Line Street, Bishop, CA 93514

Mammoth Lakes Council Chambers 437 Old Mammoth Rd., Ste Z Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Members Present: Chair John Wentworth, Vice Chair Dan Totheroh, Board Member Karen Schwartz, Board Member Stacy Corless, Board Member Bob Gardner, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, Board Member Jim Ellis, Board Member Lynda Salcido

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair John Wentworth called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m. in the Bishop Council Chambers, 377 West Line Street, Bishop, CA 93514. Chair Wentworth, Vice Chair Dan Totheroh and Board Members Karen Schwartz, Stacy Corless, Jeff Griffiths, Jim Ellis and Lynda Salcido attended the meeting in person. Board Member Bob Gardner attended via videoconference.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair Dan Totheroh led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments given at this time.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Board Member Jeff Griffiths
Seconded by Board Member Stacy Corless

Approve the Consent Agenda

For (7): Chair John Wentworth, Vice Chair Dan Totheroh, Board Member Karen Schwartz, Board Member Stacy Corless, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, Board Member Jim Ellis, and Board Member Lynda Salcido

Abstain (1): Board Member Bob Gardner

Carried (7 to 0)

- 4.1 **Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 1, 2022**
- 4.2 **Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 8, 2022**
- 4.3 **Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 6, 2022**
- 4.4 **Ratify Letter of Support for the Inyo County Eastern Sierra Rural Jobs Accelerator Partnership Application for a Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Grant**

5. **POLICY MATTERS**

- 5.1 **Receive a presentation from Mr. John Urdi, Executive Director - Mammoth Lakes Tourism and Ms. Ashely Helms, Deputy Director, Airports – Inyo County regarding the Eastern Sierra Regional Airport (BIH)**

Mammoth Lakes Tourism Executive Director John Urdi outlined the information in the 2021 Air Service Recap PowerPoint presentation.

Board Member Bob Gardner left the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Inyo County Deputy Director, Airports Ashely Helms outlined the information in the Bishop Airport (Eastern Sierra Regional Airport - BIH).

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

- 5.2 **Receive a presentation from Ms. Kristin York - Vice President, Sierra Business Council regarding the Community Economic Resiliency Fund**

Sierra Business Council (SBC) Vice President Kristin York outlined the information in the Eastern Sierra Region Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF) PowerPoint presentation.

Board Member Stacy Corless reported that she was now an employee of SBC and was currently working on a limited time basis as their Government and Community Affairs Director while she finishes out her term as a Mono County Supervisor. Ms. Corless said that she looked forward to being involved with CERF, and stated that at this time there was no legal conflict.

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

5.3 1. Discussion and Direction Regarding a Resolution of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments to Establish a Program of Work to be known as the "ESCOG: Economic Resiliency Program" and
2. Consider a Collective Partnership Agreement Letter for Participation in the Community Economic Resiliency Fund Planning Process

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

SPEAKING FROM THE FLOOR:

Inyo County County Administrative Officer (CAO) Leslie Chapman reported that the County's overarching concern was the broadness of the original resolution that Ms. Kabala had presented, however, she said that they saw the regional need for economic development which would take place. Ms. Chapman complimented Ms. Kabala on communicating the results of their meeting.

Board Member Karen Schwartz left the meeting at 9:58 a.m.

Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML) Town Manager Dan Holler shared similar concerns as Ms. Chapman, as well as concerns about staff's capacity to be able to perform the required level of work. Mr. Holler said that additional discussions were needed to consider options as to how they could provide the necessary staff capacity. He said that the Member Agencies would not be obligated to provide additional funding at this time because it was unknown at this point what that would be. He said that he had spoken with Ms. Kabala and Mono County County Administrative Office (CAO) Bob Lawton with regard to alternatives for staffing. Mr. Holler said that the application from SBC was due in late July and that he was not sure how long it would take to work through the approval process.

Ms. Kabala said that she was not looking for the Board to approve the resolution today, it was provided for reference and feedback. She said that staff was looking for direction to meet with regional CAOs to finalize the resolution and to work through the organizational capacity issues that Mr. Holler had discussed. She reported that there was a significant grant opportunity available to restart the Broadband Consortium and that they may want to roll that into the Economic Development resolution to get Member Agency approval to do so. Ms. Kabala announced that the City of Bishop was currently advertising for a Senior Planner which would give her more time to invest in the ESCOG, and said that there were some thoughts towards more partnership within the Member Agencies that would support additional staff capacity for the ESCOG.

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

CONSENSUS: There was consensus from the Board to not take action today, and to hold a special meeting in July to allow staff to bring back additional information and seek approval at that time.

5.4 Discussion and Adoption of the ESCOG JPA Fiscal Year 2022/23 Budget

Executive Director Elaine Kabala outlined the information in the staff report. Ms. Kabala reported that there was a modification to the budget as presented. She said that under revenues, the \$370k Buttermilk Infrastructure and Recreation Planning (BIRPI) grant had been rolled into the Rural Counties of Representatives of California (RCRC) line of credit in error, the RCRC line of credit was received last year and should not be represented in the Fiscal Year 2022/23 Budget.

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

Moved by Board Member Lynda Salcido

Seconded by Board Member Stacy Corless

Adopt the ESCOG JPA Fiscal Year 2022/23 Budget as modified.

For (6): Chair John Wentworth, Vice Chair Dan Totheroh, Board Member Stacy Corless, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, Board Member Jim Ellis, and Board Member Lynda Salcido

Absent (2): Board Member Karen Schwartz, and Board Member Bob Gardner

Carried (6 to 0)

5.5 Approval of an Agreement with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for the Eastern Sierra Towns to Trails 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 Jeff Griffiths
Seconded by Vice Chair Dan Totheroh

Approve Agreement with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for the Eastern Sierra Towns to Trails Project

For (6): Chair John Wentworth, Vice Chair Dan Totheroh, Board Member Stacy Corless, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, Board Member Jim Ellis, and Board Member Lynda Salcido

Absent (2): Board Member Karen Schwartz, and Board Member Bob Gardner

Carried (6 to 0)

5.6 Approval of Bid Information for Implementation of the Buttermilk Infrastructure and Recreation Planning Initiative Phase 1: Toilet Facilities Replacement

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

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

Moved by Vice Chair Dan Totheroh
Seconded by Board Member Jim Ellis

Approve the plans and specifications and authorize staff to prepare and publish notice of bids for the installation of a double vault toilet in the Buttermilk recreation area in partnership with the Inyo National Forest (INF).

For (6): Chair John Wentworth, Vice Chair Dan Totheroh, Board Member Stacy Corless, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, Board Member Jim Ellis, and Board Member Lynda Salcido

Absent (2): Board Member Karen Schwartz, and Board Member Bob Gardner

Carried (6 to 0)

5.7 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

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

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

CONSENSUS: There was consensus from staff to hold the next regular meeting in Mammoth Lakes.

Moved by Board Member Jeff Griffiths

Seconded by Board Member Stacy Corless

Adopt the resolution regarding virtual meetings for the protection of public health pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 361.

For (6): Chair John Wentworth, Vice Chair Dan Totheroh, Board Member Stacy Corless, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, Board Member Jim Ellis, and Board Member Lynda Salcido

Absent (2): Board Member Karen Schwartz, and Board Member Bob Gardner

Carried (6 to 0)

5.8 Executive Director update report on Sustainable Recreation and Ecosystem Management Program

Executive Director Elaine Kabala said that a couple of grant opportunities were announced after the agenda had been published, the first of which was the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia Account grant. Ms. Kabala reported that the proposal for this grant was due on July 15th and that there was \$10.71M available in the next fiscal year which would allow for an

expansion of Consortia activities. She said that Inyo County County Administrative Officer (CAO) Leslie Chapman, the Regional Managers, and the Information Technology (IT) Directors from Inyo and Mono Counties all came together in support of the grant and reestablishing the Inyo Mono Broadband Consortium. She said that the IT staff from Inyo and Mono Counties would work together to put together a project proposal to apply for the grant which would require formal approval from the ESCOG Board in order to submit it and requested that if there were general support for this grant that they schedule a special meeting on July 11th or July 13th to review and approve the proposal.

Legal Counsel Grace Chuchla recommended that a program of work regarding economic development be put in place that would include the broadband component. Ms. Chuchla said that if there were time constraints, there was the option of having the Member Agencies approve a resolution allowing the ESCOG to do this first, and then the ESCOG adopt a resolution later.

SPEAKING FROM THE FLOOR:

Ms. Chapman reported that the CASF grant would provide up to \$200k per year for two years and could be used to fund the Project Coordinator for all the broadband regional work that had to be done. Ms. Chapman said that holding a special meeting on July 13th would make it very tight for staff since the proposal is due on July 15th and was required to be submitted by a consortium.

Ms. Kabala provided a PACE and Scale Accelerator update, said that the next Wildfire Academy would take place on June 20th at 6:00 p.m., and said that the second grant opportunity that was announced after the agenda was published was from the Strategic Growth Counsel (SGC) for the Regional Climate and Collaboratives (RCC) Program for capacity building for under resourced communities in California, which Inyo County would be eligible for and Mono County would not, however, under the ESCOG JPA they could use the funds to implement programs across the ESCOG's jurisdiction and spoke about the types of programs the funds could be used for. She said that the project proposal was due on July 15th and that she was looking for the Board's general support to determine if they would like her to move forward with a proposal and would circle back with the Member Agencies individually to determine what the proposal would look like.

Chair John Wentworth recommended that a Board Member representing each of the member agencies meet with staff to discuss the SGC RCC opportunity and give staff direction with regard to moving forward with the grant.

Board Member Lynda Salcido suggested that an ad hoc committee be created moving forward to be available to Ms. Kabala to quickly review last minute opportunities that come up between meetings to give her feedback as to whether or not the ESCOG would like to look at them before the next regular scheduled meeting.

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

6. BOARD MEMBER/AGENCY REPORTS

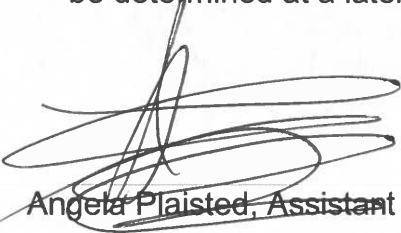
There were no reports given.

7. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items requested.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m. to a special meeting with the date to be determined at a later time.



Angela Plaisted, Assistant Clerk