



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

Minutes of Regular Meeting

August 17, 2023, 8:30 a.m.

Dual Locations: Bishop Council Chambers and 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 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 8:34 a.m. in the Bishop Council Chambers, 377 West Line Street, Bishop California. Board Member Lynda Salcido attended the meeting from the Mammoth Lakes Council Chambers, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, California.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Eastern Sierra Regional Broadband Coordinator Scott Armstrong led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments given at this time.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Board Member Stephen Muchovej requested that Board Member Lynda Salcido's vote on Item #1.1 in the June 15, 2023 minutes be reviewed and corrected.

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

Approve the Consent Agenda with the discussed revision to the June 15, 2023 minutes.

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)

4.1 Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 15, 2023

5. POLICY MATTERS

5.1 Consider Concept Application for the State of California, Caltrans, Reconnecting Communities: Highways to Boulevard Grant (Cal RC:H2B Grant) and Adopt a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments

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

There was discussion between Ms. Kabala, Caltrans Representatives Andrew Besold and Catherine Carr, and members of the Board.

Moved by Board Member Stephen Muchovej
Seconded by Vice Chair Bob Gardner

Adopt a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Authorizing the Executive Director to Submit an Application for the California Department of Transportation Reconnecting Communities: Highways to Boulevards Grant.

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)

5.2 Receive an Update Regarding the Community Economic Resiliency Fund (CERF) from the Sierra Business Council

Sierra Business Council Government and Community Affairs Director Stacy Corless provided an update on the Community Economic Resiliency

Fund (CERF). Ms. Corless spoke about the Catalyst Fund that was introduced by State leaders recently which would offer predevelopment funding to bridge the gap between the planning and implementation phases of the CERF project. She requested that she be allowed to make a formal presentation regarding the Catalyst Fund and present a draft regional summary at the October ESCOG meeting in order to get feedback on it from members of the Board before submitting it to the State.

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

5.3 Receive an Update on Discussions Regarding Proportionate Budget Contributions from Member Agencies and Appoint Members of the Board to an Ad Hoc Subcommittee for Further Discussion

Councilmember Stephen Muchovej discussed the equity of the current Member Agency contributions to the ESCOG and requested that the Board appoint an ad hoc committee to revisit the current payment structure and to consider making revisions to it.

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

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

Vice Chair Bob Gardner, and Board Members Tina Orrill, John Wentworth and Stephen Muchovej volunteered to serve on an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to further discuss the budget contributions from the separate Member Agencies.

5.4 Review and Approve Scope of Work for a Contract with an Assistant Regional Interagency Liaison

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 Stephen Muchovej
Seconded by Board Member Trina Orrill

Approve the Scope of Work for a Contract with an Assistant Regional Interagency Liaison.

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 Approve Inyo Mono Broadband Consortium Budget Modification Request to the California Public Utilities Commission for the California Advanced Services Fund Grant

Eastern Sierra Regional Broadband Coordinator Scott Armstrong outlined the information in the staff report.

Board Member Lynda Salcido left the meeting at 9:29 a.m. and returned to the meeting at 10:11 a.m. after the vote for this item had taken place.

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

Moved by Vice Chair Bob Gardner

Seconded by Board Member Chris Bubser

Approve the Inyo Mono Broadband Consortium Budget Modification Request to the California Public Utilities Commission for the California Advanced Services Fund Grant.

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

Eastern Sierra Regional Broadband Coordinator Scott Armstrong outlined the information in the ESCOG Broadband Update and the Connected Eastern Sierra website.

Board Member Chris Bubser left the meeting at 10:31 a.m.

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

5.7 Executive Director Update Report

Executive Director Elaine Kabala provided updates on the following projects: Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project (ESCCRP) a.k.a. The Donut Project, Buttermilk Infrastructure and Recreation Planning (BIRPI), Town to Trails project, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), Eastern Sierra Region Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF), and spoke about a parallel effort in the State of California to the CERF for a regional tourism strategy, which is being run through Visit California with assistance from JLL Consulting.

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

6. BOARD MEMBER/AGENCY REPORTS

Board Member Stephen Muchovej reported that the City of Bishop public comment phase for the Whitney Alley Improvement project was open, and said that they were in the process of hiring a new Fire Chief.

Chair Jeff Griffiths reported that Bishop and Inyo County had two Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers leave, and said that they were currently using Sierra Lifeflight Reach as their ambulance provider and were looking for a long-term solution with them.

Board Member John Wentworth reported that the Town of Mammoth Lakes assumed that the Donut Project would move forward, and said that the fuels treatment in Town had begun and discussed the financial scaling of the ESCOG for the project. Mr. Wentworth provided information regarding a presentation at last night's Town Council meeting related to the Mammoth Yosemite Airport (MMH). He spoke about the potential for heavy rains forecasted to accompany Hurricane Hillary.

Vice Chair Bob Gardner said that he looked forward to Mono County's new Chief Administrative Officer Sandra Moberly beginning her employment with the County on August 21st. Mr. Gardner reported that the Mono County Board of Supervisors (MCBOS) was considering a Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID) proposal for the June Lake Community which had been presented to them by the June Lake Chamber of Commerce last month.

There was discussion among members of the Board.

7. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items requested.

8. **CLOSED SESSION**

The Board went into Closed Session at 10:49 p.m.

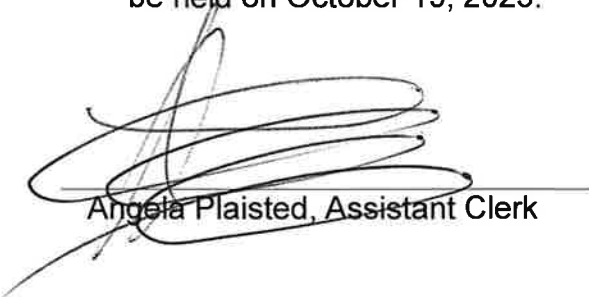
8.1 **Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Pursuant to Government Code §54957 – Title: Executive Director**

The Board returned from Closed Session at 11:39 a.m.

Chair Jeff Griffiths announced that there was no reportable action taken.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m. to the next regular meeting schedule to be held on October 19, 2023.



Angela Plaisted, Assistant Clerk