



EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

MINUTES

Friday – June 16, 2017

Mammoth Lakes Council Chambers – 8:30 a.m.

437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite Z

Mammoth Lakes, California

Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) Board Members

City of Bishop Councilmember Joe Pecsí

City of Bishop Councilmember Karen Schwartz – Chair

Inyo County Supervisor Jeff Griffiths

Inyo County Supervisor Mark Tillemans

Mono County Supervisor Stacy Corless

Mono County Supervisor Larry Johnston

Town of Mammoth Lakes Councilmember Shields Richardson

Town of Mammoth Lakes Councilmember John Wentworth – Vice Chair

1. CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Schwartz called the regular meeting of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments to order at 8:37 A.M. in the Mammoth Lakes Town Council Chambers, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite Z, Mammoth Lakes, California.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member Griffiths.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Board Members Pecsí, Griffiths, Tillemans, Corless, Vice Chair Wentworth, and Chair Schwartz

Absent: Board Members Johnston and Richardson.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT - NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC: This time is set aside to receive public comment on matters not calendared on the agenda. When recognized by

the Chair, please state your name and address for the record and please limit your comments to three minutes. Under California law the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Board is prohibited from generally discussing or taking action on items not included in the agenda; however, the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Board may briefly respond to comments or questions from members of the public. Therefore, the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Board will listen to all public comment but will not generally discuss the matter or take action on it.

Public comments were made by:

Mono County & Town of Mammoth Lakes Information Technology Director and GIS Coordinator Nate Greenberg discussed AB1655, encouraged amendments to be made before it is heard by the Senate as this bill will greatly limit funding to allow us to build broadband projects in rural communities, which could greatly impact Inyo and Mono Counties. There is language in the bill that would exclude providers from money to expand into rural communities. Information will be forwarded to the Clerk to be passed out to the Board.

Supervisor Corless provided an update on Larry Johnston. He is very ill and is recovering from brain surgery at Mercy General in Sacramento.

No further public comments were made.

5. APPROVE ESCOG MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 16, 2016 – City of Bishop (Action) – Consideration to approve the ESCOG September 16, 2017 minutes.

No public comments were made.

Board Member Corless made a motion to approve the September 16, 2016 meeting minutes as presented. Board Member Pecsí seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Ayes: Board Members Pecsí, Griffiths, Tillemans, Corless, and Vice Chair Wentworth.

Noes: None.

Abstain: Chair Schwartz abstained from voting on the September 16, 2016 meeting minutes only.

Absent: Board Members Johnston and Richardson.

6. APPROVE ESCOG MINUTES FOR APRIL 21, 2017 – City of Bishop (Action) – Consideration to approve the ESCOG April 21, 2017 minutes.

No public comments were made.

Board Member Corless made a motion to approve the April 21, 2017 meeting minutes. Board Member Pecsí seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Ayes: Board Members Pecsí, Tillemans, Corless, Vice Chair Wentworth and Chair Schwartz.

Noes: None.

Abstain: Board Member Griffiths abstained from voting on the April 21, 2017 meeting minutes only.

Absent: Board Members Johnston and Richardson.

7. RECREATION

A. INYO NATIONAL FOREST – FOREST PLAN REVISION UPDATE – U.S. Forest Service

No public comments were made.

Vice Chair Wentworth shared updates with the Board. The Inyo National Forest staff have been working hard to get the final draft of the forest plan completed by October 2017 so that decisions can be made in early 2018. Updated components of the plan should be coming out in July or August 2017. An updated plan is a key milestone for the current Forest Supervisor and he would like the Board to think about outreach and advocacy.

8. TECHNOLOGY

A. INYO-MONO BROADBAND CONSORTIUM (IMBC) ADVISORY COUNCIL

- a) June 1, 2017 IMBC Advisory Council Initial Meeting – A report on the June 1, 2017 IMBC Advisory Council initial meeting will be presented by Mono County and IMBC Advisory Council Chair Ron Day

Mono County & Town of Mammoth Lakes Information Technology Director and GIS Coordinator Nate Greenberg introduced IMBC Advisory Council Chair Ron Day. Ron Day stated that subcommittees have been formed, bylaws are being developed for meetings to stay organized, and he would like feedback from the Board on how to proceed. Mr. Day also stated that the parameters of the grant are loose enough to give the Council free reign, but wants the Board to address specific components and priorities.

Ron Day stated that they would like to get organized so that no time is wasted in order to meet the grant's deadline.

Board Member Tillemans wanted to know how feedback could be conveyed to the IMBC Advisory Council, as a Board.

Vice Chair Wentworth wanted to advise the IMBC Advisory Council that the Board is interested in having policy that can be regionally identified and implemented to go to their respective jurisdictions.

Chair Schwartz felt that it would be too cumbersome to have to check back with the Board for every approval.

Board Member Griffiths stated that since the work plan is already written into the grant, the IMBC Advisory Council should come back to the Board with any updates or any work plan changes.

- b) IMBC Quarterly Work Plan/Action Plan and Budget – Board to receive an update on the IMBC Work Plan status and discuss next steps with associated budget expenditures - Mono County

Mono County & Town of Mammoth Lakes Information Technology Director and GIS Coordinator Nate Greenberg presented information regarding IMBC quarterly progress. He reported that a subcommittee has been formed for the regional brand initiative. Mr. Greenberg discussed the possibility of using an existing contract with the Town of Mammoth Lakes for its development. The initial work has been done on the website and broadband access tool, and hopes to see something tangible by fall. The Board agreed that they would also like to be advised as to when the IMBC Advisory Council meetings are scheduled to take place.

- c) IMBC Website Development – Consideration to authorize IMBC Advisory Council to move forward with website development work – Mono County

Mono County & Town of Mammoth Lakes Information Technology Director and GIS Coordinator Nate Greenberg discussed the need for retention of a contractor. The website will largely be informational. Vice Chair Wentworth would like to see this prioritized. The Board recommended that staff work through the designated sub-committee to move forward on this item and to work with Town of Mammoth Lakes' contractor Keri Davis on the further development of the IMBC website so that current information can be found and referenced. The Board also discussed the set-up and long-term maintenance of this website.

- d) IMBC Provider Forum – Board to receive an update on the IMBC Provider Forum and to provide feedback and direction to staff on the formation of the Provider Forum – Mono County

Mono County & Town of Mammoth Lakes Information Technology Director and GIS Coordinator Nate Greenberg discussed the desire to have conversations with providers.

B. ESCOG WEBSITE

- a) Discuss any other documents to be placed on the ESCOG website other than the ESCOG agendas and minutes – City of Bishop

Vice Chair Wentworth would like the bylaws and joint powers authority tracked down. Board Member Pecsí would like the El Camino Sierra symbol on the website. Tillemans would like the 150 year County of Inyo seal on the

website.

9. RELIABLE REGIONAL AIR SERVICE

A. INYO COUNTY/TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES COMMITTEE UPDATE –
Town of Mammoth Lakes and Inyo County

Supervisor Jeff Griffiths reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 30, 2017 at 1:00 PM in the Town of Mammoth Lakes Council Chambers, Suite Z. The sub-committee is comprised of Inyo County and Town of Mammoth Lakes representatives, County Administrative Officer, Town Manager and the respective Public Works Directors.

10. REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A. REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY – Mono County
and Town of Mammoth Lakes

- a) Discuss next steps and opportunities for ESCOG member engagement

Board Member Corless would like to set up a meeting with Elizabeth Redmon-Cleveland who works for the City of Berkeley's Economic Development Department. The Board agreed to have Board Member Corless scheduled a meeting with Elizabeth Redmon-Cleveland, Chair Schwartz, Vice-Chair Wentworth, Board Members Griffiths and Corless, City of Bishop Associate Planner/Economic Development Coordinator Elaine Kabala, Mono County Economic Development Director Alicia Vennos, and Inyo County Administrative Officer Kevin Carunchio to discuss this topic.

B. RESPECT STATE MARIJUANA LAWS ACT OF 2017 (H.R. 975) – Inyo
County

- a) Report from each jurisdiction relating to a letter to Congressman Paul Cook requesting his support of H.R. 975, the Respect State Marijuana Laws Act of 2017.

Board Member Tillemans recused himself from this item and any other items related to cannabis going forward since the topic of marijuana/cannabis could become a conflict of interest for him. He also announced that the County of Inyo Board of Supervisors will probably be discussing this topic later this month. Board Member Tillemans left the room at 10:10 a.m.

The Board then started discussions on this item.

Board Member Pecsí reported that the City of Bishop has decided not to take action on this item at this time and will wait to hear more from the League of California Cities.

Board Member Griffiths reported that the County of Inyo has also decided not

to take action on this item at this time and will wait to hear more from the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC).

Board Member Corless reported that the County of Mono Board of Supervisors will be hearing from the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) at their Board meeting and that she has not brought this item to the County of Mono Board of Supervisors for discussion.

Board Member Wentworth made comments that he appreciates hearing from all of the other jurisdictions on this item and looks forward to having more discussions on proposed legislation and regional cannabis/marijuana policies at future ESCOG meetings.

Board Member Tillemans returned to the room at 10:12 a.m. after the Board concluded their discussions on this item.

C SHORT TERM RENTAL POLICIES – All Jurisdictions

a) Discuss short-term rental policies in region.

Board Member Pecsí stated that the Bishop City Council looked at a draft proposal, made comments, sent the proposal to the City of Bishop Planning Commission for their review and recommendations.

Board Member Griffiths stated they are conducting public meetings in Inyo County. The next public meeting is scheduled for July 6, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Bishop area.

Vice Chair Wentworth feels that short term rentals are a threat to housing in all communities. The enforcement program in the Town of Mammoth Lakes is working very well. Vice Chair Wentworth continued to state that he feels that the technology for enforcement needs to match the technology being used by those getting the short term rentals. A standardized approach by all regions would be beneficial.

Board Member Corless stated that there was a moratorium on Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) last year for Mono County. The general plan was recently amended for Type 1. Type 2 is still being considered.

11. BOARD MEMBER AND STAFF REPORTS

A. City of Bishop

Board Member Pecsí reported on the warm weather and spring runoff reports, one road closed in the Bishop area, and the Bishop bypass. Chair Schwartz reported on Bishop Mule Days, the California High School Rodeo State Finals, and Pacific Crest Trail hikers.

B. Inyo County

Board Member Griffiths reported on Inyo County looking at a new business model due to Lone Pine having a retail store parked on a public right of way.

C. Mono County

Board Member Corless introduced Mono County's new staff, and discussed the jail improvement grant for twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) that will build a new jail at the old hospital site in Bridgeport. This grant will also be used for improving programs at the jail.

D. Town of Mammoth Lakes

Vice Chair Wentworth reported on the purchase of Mammoth Resorts, the current status of the Lakes Basin, the Town of Mammoth Lakes is considering hiring a "Winter Sports Specialist" through the local Forest Service district, gave an update on the Trail system and new projects, the search for a new director for Mammoth Lakes Recreation, the approval of a new recreation zone/community center, Measure A recalibration, Measure U. Downtown revitalization project, and an upcoming Trails workshop on July 8-9.

Joel Rathje was unable to attend this meeting to discuss the New Trail Construction and Trail workshop.

Board Member Tillemans left the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

12. CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Board Member Griffiths announced that he will be out of town and will miss the next scheduled ESCOG meeting.

- Review of Region Wide Draft Marijuana Policies – All jurisdictions
- Regional Economic Development Authority Conversations Update – Town of Mammoth Lakes
- Discuss Unmanned Aircraft (or Aerial) Vehicle (UAV)/Drone policies in region – Inyo County
- Short Term Rental Robots
- Forest Plan Update
- Inyo-Mono Broadband Consortium
- Airport Update

Board Member Pecsí announced that he will be out of town and will miss the scheduled October 20, 2017 ESCOG meeting.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Schwartz adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m. to the ESCOG meeting scheduled for Friday, August 11, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. in the Bishop City Council Chambers.


Karen Schwartz, Chair

Approved: 12/8/2017