



## **EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ESCOG)**

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### **RESCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING**

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#### **MINUTES**

**Wednesday, February 14, 2018**

**Mammoth Lakes Council Chamber –9:00 a.m.**

**437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite Z**

**Mammoth Lakes, CA**

#### **Board Members**

Mono County Supervisor  
Stacy Corless

Mono County Supervisor  
Bob Gardner

Town of Mammoth Lakes Councilmember  
Shields Richardson

Town of Mammoth Lakes Councilmember  
John Wentworth – Chair

Inyo County Supervisor  
Jeff Griffiths – Vice Chair

Inyo County Supervisor  
Matt Kingsley

City of Bishop Councilmember  
Jim Ellis

City of Bishop Councilmember  
Karen Schwartz

#### **NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting please contact the Clerk of the Board at 760-965-3603. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City of Bishop or Town of Mammoth Lakes to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. (See 42 USCS 12132, 28CFR 35.130)

NOTE: Comments for all agenda items are limited to a speaking time of three minutes.

#### **1. Call to Order**

Mayor Wentworth called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

#### **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Wentworth led the pledge of allegiance.

#### **3. Roll Call**

The Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Board was present in its entirety.

- 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.

**SPEAKING FROM THE FLOOR:** Stephen Kalish commented that he was disappointed that ESCOG records are out of date because the minutes from several previous meetings are not available for public review or approval by the ESCOG.

- 5. Correspondence**

Email from John Wentworth and press release with introductory information for Alterra Mountain Company.

**SPEAKING FROM THE FLOOR:** Mark Brownlie, MMSA, introduced himself and spoke about the Alterra Mountain Company.

- 6. Update and review of recent actions taken related to Mammoth Yosemite and Bishop Airports, recent Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) staff visit, and next steps regarding ESCOG’s work related to supporting Reliable Regional Air Service.**

Grady Dutton, Town of Mammoth Lakes Public Works Director, reported that a statement of intent was approved by the Inyo County Board of Supervisors on January 16, 2018 the Mammoth Lakes Town Council on January 17, 2018. He discussed the January 24-25, 2018 FAA visit the Eastern Sierra. He suggested sending a thank you letter.

Kevin Carunchio, Inyo County Chief Administrative Officer, provided a status report regarding Bishop Airport.

The ESCOG discussed sending a thank you letter and suggested it should be signed by the two airport sponsors, and placing that item appropriately on each agencies’ individual agendas. The ESCOG requested that agency staffs draft a letter for signature by the two agencies.

There was additional discussion amongst the ESCOG members regarding next steps related to the Bishop Airport and reliable regional air service.

- 7. Appoint City of Bishop member to Mono Inyo Airport Working Group Ad Hoc Committee**

Supervisor Ellis volunteered to represent Bishop on the Mono Inyo Airport Working Group Ad Hoc Committee.

ACTION: It was moved by Supervisor Griffiths, seconded by Supervisor Corless, and carried by an 8-0 roll call vote to appoint Supervisor Jim Ellis to the Mono Inyo Airport Working Group Ad Hoc Committee.

**8. Request Agency Endorsement for Prop 68: California Clean Water and Safe Parks Act (Wentworth)**

Mayor Wentworth introduced the item and said it will be on the statewide ballot in June. He requested that the ESCOG members to take this to their individual boards to write and send endorsement letters. Supervisor Corless said that yesterday Mono County voted to endorse the proposition and Supervisor Griffiths said that Inyo County has discussed it but has not taken action yet.

**9. Discuss Potential for the ESCOG to Pursue JPA Authority (Gardner)**

Supervisor Gardner introduced the item and said that the FAA had suggested that setting up a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) for the regional airports might be a good way for the agencies to manage them. He requested that ESCOG explore the current authority of the ESCOG. He requested support from the ESCOG to move in this direction and pick up the pace with the JPA subcommittee.

There was discussion amongst the ESCOG. The ESCOG supported investigating the option of an airport JPA.

SPEAKING FROM THE FLOOR: Sharon Clark, Mammoth Lakes resident, said that the Mammoth Airport has failed so many times and reliable service is currently in Reno or Los Angeles. She spoke about the natural amenities in the Eastern Sierra, but said that people are not able get here by plane. She supports the JPA because we need real reliable regional air service.

**10. Update and Discussion Regarding Eastern Sierra Recreation Partnership (Wentworth)**

- a. Inyo National Forest: Management Plan - Update
- b. Eastern Sierra Recreation Coordinator (Mammoth Lakes + Mono County)

Mayor Wentworth provided an update on this item. He said that Mammoth Lakes and Mono County have been working with the United States Forest Service (USFS) to put together agreements that would allow the local and federal agencies to work together more effectively.

Supervisors Corless and Gardner said they are excited about this opportunity and new direction. They said that their Board would need to discuss funding for next budget cycle.

**11. Identify ESCOG Priorities for 2018**

The ESCOG identified the following seven priorities for 2018:

- 1. Sustainable recreation
- 2. Reliable regional air service
- 3. Broadband/Tech
- 4. Solid waste

5. Regional look at affordable housing
6. Cannabis (primarily Mammoth Lakes and Mono County)
7. Economic development

## **12. Committee Updates**

- ESCOG Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Ad Hoc Committee (Gardner, Griffiths, Schwartz, Wentworth,)
- Mono Inyo Airport Working Group (MIAWG) Ad Hoc Committee (Gardner, Griffiths, Wentworth)
- Inyo Mono Broadband Consortium (IMBC) Advisory Council

Supervisor Griffiths reported on attending a conference in Sacramento on behalf of the IMBC. He said that Mono County is almost built out in regards to middle mile and last mile projects for broadband access, but Inyo County is not. He spoke about other technology opportunities related to Digital 395.

## **13. Board and Council Reports**

Supervisor Griffiths reported that Inyo County has completed its work regarding cannabis regulations and is currently developing permit process, then will start taking applications. He said that the Sierra Nevada Conservancy regional meeting will be held in Bishop in June.

Councilmember Richardson reported that the Town is still working on its cannabis regulations and tax measure. He said that the Town has entered into escrow to purchase the Shady Rest Parcel, which is zoned for affordable housing.

Supervisor Ellis said he is looking forward to serving on the ESCOG.

Supervisor Gardner said Mono County is also working on its cannabis regulations and tax measure. They expect to have their regulations completed in early April. They have been working on decreasing the areas where people can smoke tobacco. He said that Mono County is discussing housing solution opportunities.

Councilmember Schwartz said the City of Bishop and Rural Fire Protection District have hired a new fire chief who will start in June. She said that a study about mixed-use housing in Bishop was recently completed and she will report on it after their presentation. She recently attended a presentation regarding a CalTrans grant for the North Sierra Highway. She said that the City of Bishop has changed its parking standards on Main Street.

Supervisor Corless said that Mono County established priorities and she summarized those for the ESCOG. She congratulated Matt Kingsley on his appointment as Second Vice Chair appointment to Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC).

Mayor Wentworth reported on attending the outdoor retailer show in Colorado and said there is a large public lands component to the event this year. He said that the TBID in Mammoth Lakes is up for renewal this year. The Town will begin its budget process soon. He said that there might be changes at Mammoth Lakes Housing due to the Executive Director and a Board member announcing that they are both running for office.

#### **14. Call for Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

The ESCOG requested the following items for its next meeting agenda:

- Coordinate for Sierra Nevada Conservancy visit in June.
- IMBC update.
- Staff update on the Airport Certification Manual (ACM) and other airport items.
- JPA update if available.

#### **15. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.