



EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ESCOG)

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Friday, June 15, 2018

8:30 a.m.

**Mammoth Lakes Council Chamber
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

The meeting was called to order at 8:41 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Nate Greenberg, Mono County IT Director, led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Board members Stacy Corless, Bob Gardner, Jeff Griffiths, Matt Kingsley, and John Wentworth were present. Board members Shields Richardson, Jim Ellis, and Karen Schwartz were absent.

- 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 - Brent Truax, Chair of Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra, spoke about the community build for the inclusive playground that is being built this week and next week at Mammoth Creek Park. He invited the ESCOG members to volunteer to assist with the project or just come check it out.

5. Approve the minutes of April 19, 2018

ACTION: It was moved by Board member Corless, seconded by Board member Gardner, and carried by a 5-0 vote to approve the minutes of April 19, 2018.

6. California Primary Election Result Updates

- a. Inyo County - Local Measures
- b. Mono County - Local Measures
- c. City of Bishop - Local Measures
- d. Town of Mammoth Lakes - Local Measures
- e. State Representation/State Measures
- f. Congressional Representation

Board members reported on results from local elections in each of their jurisdictions. The Bishop City Council election will be in November. Board members Wentworth and Kingsley spoke about statewide results for ballot measures, as well as Congress and Senate seats.

7. Discuss and Provide Direction regarding ESCOG Legal Capacity Requirements and Potential Joint Powers Authority

Board member Gardner introduced the item. He said that there is an interest in creating a regional JPA to address broad regional issues including housing, broadband, and economic development. He suggested that some external funding could be available.

There was a discussion among the Board members. Inyo County stated general support for the concept. There was a discussion about how to roll this out to the various agencies. There was

consensus to move forward with this item and take it to the respective agencies for further discussion.

8. IMBC Advisory Council Update

Nate Greenberg, Mono County and Town of Mammoth Lakes IT Director, presented the item. He discussed the possibility of extending the life of the grant for the Inyo Mono Broadband Consortium (IMBC) due to significant funding still being available. He spoke about some of the staffing challenges and the desire to hire a part-time staff person to assist the Consortium. The Board was supportive of moving forward with staff working to determine appropriate staffing solutions.

9. Provide Direction regarding IMBC Staffing Needs

This item was covered in conjunction with Item 8, above.

10. Reliable Regional Air Service Update

Grady Dutton, Town of Mammoth Lakes Public Works Director, provided an update regarding regional airport issues. He spoke about an upcoming meeting with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). There was a discussion among the Board and Mr. Dutton about this item.

SPEAKING FROM THE FLOOR - Brent Truax, Chair of Mammoth Lakes Tourism, reported on attending the Western Regional FAA conference. He said that one of his takeaways from the meeting was that the FAA is looking for direction from the Town of Mammoth Lakes and Inyo County on how to move forward regarding regional airport facilities.

11. Eastern Sierra Recreation Partnership Update

- a. Challenge Cost Share Agreement between Mono County, Town of Mammoth Lakes, Inyo National Forest, Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest
- b. Staff position to be shared between Mono County and Town of Mammoth Lakes to live with Mammoth Lakes Recreation
- c. Sierra Nevada Conservancy Update
- d. Federal Reserve San Francisco/CA OPR Invitation
- e. CA Assembly Bill 1918: "Office of Sustainable Outdoor Recreation"

Board member Wentworth presented the items. Board member Griffiths said that Inyo County has discussed the challenge cost share agreement and is interested in exploring a similar agreement. There was a discussion among the Board.

12. Transient Rental enforcement/Host Compliance Update

Rob Patterson, Town of Mammoth Lakes Finance Director, presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Town's efforts with Host Compliance and transient rental enforcement.

The Board asked questions of Mr. Patterson and he responded.

13. Update regarding California Federal Opportunity Zones. Consider authorizing ESCOG or requesting that each agency take action supporting the expansion of Opportunity Zones.

- a. “A new national community investment program that connects private capital with low-income communities across America” (<https://eig.org/opportunityzones>)

Board member Wentworth said that Bishop has been identified as an opportunity zone. Board member Griffiths said he is exploring how they can take advantage of this. Lone Pine as well.

14. Board and Council Reports

Board member Griffiths reported that Inyo County CAO, Kevin Carunchio, announced his retirement and said the Board will be starting a recruitment process to replace him. He said Inyo County is moving forward with its consolidated office building process. He said they are nearing the end of their cannabis business application period; it has been light. He said that Bishop named Chris Costello to its City Council to fill a vacant seat, who will serve until elections in November. He thinks we need to keep talking about housing and said the National Park Service has funding for housing.

Board member Gardner reported that Mono County passed an operating budget on Tuesday. He said they also had a cannabis application period, and have received two applications so far.

Board member Corless reported that Mono County took another step toward new South County office building on McFlex parcel, however the timing is uncertain at this time.

Board member Wentworth reported that the Town is considering putting together consolidated construction partnership between local agencies that could help to attract developers to come build larger projects in the area.

15. Call for Agenda Items for Next Meeting

No specific items were requested.

16. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 11:11 p.m.