



EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ESCOG)

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 16, 2018

8:30 a.m.

Bishop City Council Chambers

301 West Line Street

Bishop, California

Board Members

Mono County Supervisor
Stacy Corless

Mono County Supervisor
Bob Gardner

Town of Mammoth Lakes Councilmember
Lynda Salcido

Town of Mammoth Lakes Councilmember
John Wentworth – Chair

Inyo County Supervisor
Jeff Griffiths – Vice Chair

Inyo County Supervisor
Dan Totheroh

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 8:36 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Wentworth asked a member of the audience to lead the pledge.

3. Roll Call

Board members Stacy Corless, Bob Gardner, Jeff Griffiths, Karen Schwartz, Dan Totheroh, and John Wentworth were present. Board members Jim Ellis and Lynda Salcido 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.

There were no public comments.

5. Approve the minutes of June 15, 2018

ACTION: It was moved by Board member Griffiths, seconded by Board member Gardner, and carried by a 4-0-2 vote, with Board members Schwartz and Totheroh abstaining, to approve the minutes of June 15, 2018.

6. IMBC Advisory Council - Update

Board member Wentworth provided an update on behalf of Nate Greenberg, Mono County IT Director. He has requested an extension on funding for the Inyo Mono Broadband Consortium (IMBC) from the CPUC until 2020 and should know in next couple of weeks whether that is approved. He reported on the existing budget. The IMBC Advisory Council will move its meetings from monthly to quarterly. There was a discussion among the Board.

7. Fire and Smoke in the Eastern Sierra – Update

- a. CAL OES Grant Opportunities
- b. CPAW Grant – Mammoth Lakes
- c. Coordination with GBUAPCD

Board member Wentworth gave a PowerPoint presentation. He said that CalOES has FEMA money for fire mitigation. There was discussion among the Board about a regional approach to identify high risk areas and needs. Board member Wentworth offered to set up introductions with his contact at CalOES regarding grant opportunities.

Board member Wentworth spoke about Mammoth Lakes Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire (CPAW) efforts. He spoke about the impacts of smoke and fire management practices in the region. There was a discussion among the Board about air quality and smoke impacts related to forest fires and fire management. Board member Corless said there is a new California Forest Management Taskforce to address issues such as smoke impacts and catastrophic wildfires. She is trying to get on a subcommittee of the Taskforce. There was a discussion among the Board regarding the need for better communication with the public and coordination

between agencies. The ESCOG would like to organize a community meeting in February with the U.S. Forest Service.

8. Reliable Regional Air Service – Update

- a. Town of Mammoth Lakes Actions – 8/1/18
- b. Town of Mammoth Lakes/Inyo County Joint Meeting – 8/28/18

Board member Wentworth reported that the Town of Mammoth Lakes took action on August 1 to continue the operation and maintenance of Mammoth Airport to support existing service. This includes completing CEQA work for the fence and additional parking/ramp areas, but not proceeding with terminal at this time. Board member Griffiths reported on Inyo County airport efforts. There was a discussion among the Board.

9. ESCOG Legal Capacity Requirements and Joint Powers Authority – Update

Board member Wentworth reported on meeting with Board member Gardner, Mono County CAO, Leslie Chapman, and Mammoth Lakes Town Manager, Dan Holler, regarding the capacity of the ESCOG. He said that the Town may have a need for administrative support and clerking assistance for the non-governmental organizations (NGOs). There is a possibility this position could also provide ESCOG ongoing administrative support, eliminating the need to rotate between agencies each year.

ACTION: It was moved by Board member Griffiths, seconded by Board member Wentworth, and carried by a 6-0 vote to strongly encourage member entities to support a Town of Mammoth Lakes administrative position to be shared with NGOs in an amount not to exceed \$10,000/agency.

Board member Gardner discussed the need to create a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to do many things that the ESCOG does not currently have the authority to do. He said that the current agreement does not have the legal authority to hire, spend money, receive grants, etc. All four entities would need to agree that they want to make the change, then the JPA document can be altered, then it would be reviewed by the ESCOG, and finally it would need to go back to the agencies for final approval. There was a discussion among the Board.

ACTION: It was moved by Board member Gardner, seconded by Board member Wentworth, and approved by a 6-0 vote to proceed with the process outlined by Board member Gardner to alter the current agreement to create the JPA, beginning with making presentations to each agency so that they can take action regarding whether or not to proceed with the next steps.

10. Inyo National Forest Management Plan – Update

There was a brief discussion among the Board about this item.

11. Eastern Sierra Sustainable 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. USFS Update
- e. CA Assembly Bill 1918: “Office of Sustainable Outdoor Recreation”

Board member Wentworth reported that the challenge cost share agreement has been signed. He said that the Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mono County are moving forward with a shared recreation position and provided an update on the recruitment status. He spoke about Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative. There was a discussion among the Board.

Board member Wentworth reported on the status of AB 1918.

12. 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 stated that the City of Bishop and South Inyo County could be eligible under the Opportunity Zone program and said he met with Bishop Councilmember Peksi staff member Elaine Kabala regarding it. There was discussion among the Board.

13. Board and Council Reports

Board member Griffiths reported on Inyo County CAO, Kevin Carunchio, leaving; he said that they have appointed Public Works Director, Clint Quilter as Interim CAO. They have engaged a recruitment firm and expect to have a new person in place by end of this year or early next year. He said a revitalized consolidated office building in Bishop is close to approval. He said the Inyo County budget was released and will be approved; it is a \$100 million budget.

Board member Totheroh said that it’s good to be back on this Board. He attended a sustainable groundwater meeting yesterday and said they are applying for a grant to prepare a sustainability plan.

Board member Schwartz said that the City of Bishop is in the process of finding a new City Administrator and have contracted with a firm who conducted their Fire and Police Chief recruitments. She reported that in July they had a workshop to address blight and spoke about some of the new construction happening around town.

Board member Gardner said that Mono County filed litigation against LADWP yesterday in regards to the water distribution issue. There was a discussion among the Board. He said that Mono County will be having budget discussions in September and early October.

Board member Corless said that Mono County has signed a design build contract for the Mono County Civic Center in Mammoth; next week there will be an update on financing. There was a discussion among the group. She reported that Wendy Sugimura was appointed as the new Community Development Director and Jennifer Halferty was appointed to the Board by the Governor in July. She said that the County is still working to pursue boundary adjustment with Madera County.

Board member Wentworth reported that the Town of Mammoth Lakes has two new Councilmembers. He said the Town has started work regarding development of the Parcel a 25-acre property purchased by the Town for workforce housing. He said that e-bikes are now legal now on multi-use paths within the Town.

14. Call for Agenda Items for Next Meeting

The Board requested the following items for the next meeting agenda:

- Update from member entities regarding actions related to ESCOG administrative support position and updating the JPA document
- Update and further discussion regarding the fire/smoke issue
- Certificate of recognition for Jim Tatum and Kevin Carunchio
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy update
- Airport update

The Board requested to move the next meeting, scheduled for October 19, to Bishop instead of Mammoth Lakes.

15. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 10:31 a.m.