



EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ESCOG)

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Friday, October 19, 2018

8:30 a.m.

Bishop City Council Chambers

301 West Line Street

Bishop, California

Board Members

Mono County Supervisor
Stacy Corless

Inyo County Supervisor
Jeff Griffiths – Vice Chair

Mono County Supervisor
Bob Gardner

Inyo County Supervisor
Dan Totheroh

Town of Mammoth Lakes Councilmember
Lynda Salcido

City of Bishop Councilmember
Jim Ellis

Town of Mammoth Lakes Councilmember
John Wentworth – Chair

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 8:37 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Wentworth asked the Carunchio family to lead the pledge.

3. Roll Call

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

- 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. Recognition of Jim Tatum for his years of service to the City of Bishop**

Board member Schwartz presented the certificate and spoke about Mr. Tatum’s service to the City of Bishop. The certificate will be given to the Tatum family.

- 6. Recognition of Kevin Carunchio for his years of service to Inyo County**

Board member Griffiths thanked Mr. Carunchio for his service to the region. The ESCOG presented him with a certificate of appreciation.

- 7. Update regarding Inyo Mono Broadband Consortium (IMBC) Advisory Council and review of IMBC web platform (Christie Osborne)**

Christie Osborne, IMBC member, presented an update. She said the grant was extended for six months; the Council has had some challenges, so they are requesting a two year extension. She discussed issues with staffing and the fiscal agent. She reported that the IMBC has been working on branding, building out its website, and economic development. Ron Day, IMBC member, gave an update as well.

Ms. Osborne showed a draft of the website to the group and spoke about efforts to further develop it. She will share the link for the website for ESCOG feedback before it goes live. There was discussion between the ESCOG and Ms. Osborne and Mr. Day.

- 8. Update regarding California Federal Opportunity Zones and Eastern Sierra Roundtable Discussion with staff from the State of California**

Board member Griffiths explained what opportunity zones are. Board member Schwartz reported that a state representative will be visiting Bishop in early November to discuss the opportunities here with local staff and public officials. Bishop and Inyo County would need to reach out to investors to take advantage of this. There was a discussion among the ESCOG.

- 9. Update regarding Mammoth Yosemite Airport and Bishop Airport**

Dan Holler, Town of Mammoth Lakes Town Manager, gave an update on the Mammoth Yosemite Airport. He said that we are working to transition from Alaska Air to United and that Jet SuiteX service is expanding. He said that staff are working with FAA on the segmented circle and wildlife fence. Staff has had discussions with the USFS regarding land around the airport.

Clint Quilter, Inyo County Chief Administrative Officer, said that they are working on taxiway design for the Bishop Airport. He reported on interviews for CEQA/NEPA consultants coming up, and said they should have a contract in November. Their consultant is preparing melded flight projections for environmental analysis. Staff expects to have a project list for infrastructure funding is due October 31. There was a discussion between the Board and Mr. Quilter.

10. Update and next steps regarding funding request for ESCOG administrative support

Mr. Holler reported on the creation of a new Town position that could provide administrative support for the ESCOG, in addition to providing support for NGOs in Mammoth Lakes. Mammoth Lakes and Mono and Inyo Counties reported that they had approved a contribution of up to \$10,000 each for this concept; the City of Bishop 50% of the contribution. There was discussion regarding the ongoing nature of the contribution. It was suggested to revisit the contribution at the ESCOG level every few years. There was discussion among the group. ESCOG expressed support for this concept and requested that Mr. Holler bring an update on this position to the next meeting.

11. Update regarding next steps in considering formation of a Joint Powers Authority for the ESCOG

Board members reported out votes on this item from their respective agencies. Town of Mammoth Lakes voted 4-1 and Mono County voted 3-2 to proceed with next steps. Inyo County voted 5-0 to continue the process, with concerns about limited scope of what potential JPA would cover and concerns about loss of individual agency authority. The City of Bishop was supportive and voted 5-0 to move forward. Mono and Inyo County Counsels are going to coordinate with next steps moving forward. There was discussion about the process and time commitment to next steps.

12. Update regarding the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership including update on the Inyo National Forest Management Plan Update

Board member Wentworth reported on giving a presentation in Utah about public public partnerships. He spoke about poor guest experiences in Eastern Sierra public lands and gave a PowerPoint presentation about the Partnership. There was discussion among the ESCOG.

13. Update and submission of proposal to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to establish the “Eastern Sierra Office of Sustainable Recreation and Tourism”

Board member Wentworth said that Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access (MLTPA) is making a submission to SNC to establish this.

14. Discussion regarding fire and smoke in the Eastern Sierra

Town Council will have a meeting about this on November 7. There was discussion among the ESCOG about local government role in fire management. There was discussion about how to educate reach out to local communities and citizens. There was a discussion among the ESCOG members, who decided to create a taskforce to help understand how the process works and local roles. Board members Wentworth, Corless, Totheroh volunteered. The taskforce will focus on an education effort to the public versus trying to influence fire decisions.

15. Sierra Nevada Conservancy update

This item was not discussed.

16. Approve the minutes of August 16, 2018

ACTION: It was moved by Board member Totheroh, seconded by Board member Griffiths, and carried by a 8-0 vote to approve the minutes of August 16, 2018.

17. Discuss options for 2019 meeting schedule

The ESCOG discussed changing the standing meeting dates in order to avoid scheduling conflicts that have been a challenge in the past. They suggested meeting the second Friday of every other month.

18. Board and Council Reports

Board member Schwartz said the City of Bishop is recruiting for a new City Administrator, who they hope in place by end of year. She said they are working on dealing with downtown vacancies.

Board member Wentworth reported on the Housing Action Summit coming up in Mammoth Lakes.

Board member Totheroh spoke about filming in the Eastern Sierra. He told a story of a photo of Lone Pine Peak being used to represent the USA in the Singapore airport.

19. Call for Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Everything from this agenda except agenda items 5 and 6.

20. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 11:07 a.m.