



EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

MINUTES

Friday – December 8, 2017
Bishop City Council Chambers – 8:30 a.m.
301 West Line Street
Bishop, 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

Mono County Supervisor Bob Gardner – Alternate Board Member

Town of Mammoth Lakes Councilmember Shields Richardson

Town of Mammoth Lakes Councilmember John Wentworth – Vice Chair

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Schwartz called the meeting of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments to order at 8:34 a.m. in the Bishop City Council Chambers.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Schwartz.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Board Members Pecsí, Griffiths, Tillemans, Corless, Alternate Board Member Gardner, Board Member Richardson, Vice Chair Wentworth, and Chair Schwartz

Alternate Mono County Board Member Bob Gardner was present in Board Member Johnston's absence.

Absent: Board Member Johnston

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:

Mammoth Lakes Tourism Executive Director John Urdi thanked everyone who participated in the air service planning meeting held on December 7, 2017 which is the beginning of several meetings to address the level of consistency and reliability at both Mammoth Yosemite Airport and Bishop Airport.

No further public comments were made.

5. APPROVE ESCOG BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR JUNE 16, 2017 – Board consideration to approve the ESCOG Board Meeting Minutes for June 16, 2017.

No public comments were made.

Vice Chair Wentworth made a motion to approve the June 16, 2017 minutes as presented. Board Member Corless seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0, with 1 abstention.

Ayes: Board Members Pecsí, Griffiths, Tillemans, Corless, Richardson, Vice Chair Wentworth, Chair Schwartz

Noes: None

Abstain: Alternate Board Member Gardner

Absent: Board Member Johnston

6. ESCOG Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Ad Hoc Committee – Representatives from each jurisdiction – Alternate Board Member Gardner, Board Members Griffiths, Pecsí, and Vice Chair Wentworth.

The Board discussed reviewing the initial intent of the original ESCOG Joint Powers Agreement with staff prior to moving forward with the approval of the proposed ESCOG Joint Powers Authority agreement and taking any further actions at this time. After further discussion, the Board came to a consensus and agreed that the ESCOG JPA Ad Hoc Committee will arrange for a consultant to facilitate a planning session with staff to re-address the intent of the original ESCOG Joint Powers Agreement to better understand why we should look at drawing up a new ESCOG Joint Powers Authority agreement.

Public comments were made by:

Steven Kalish, a resident of Swall Meadows, asked for clarification as to whether the ESCOG JPA Ad Hoc Committee meetings as well as the Airport Ad Hoc

Committee meetings will be noticed publicly and minutes taken like other Brown Act meetings. The ESCOG Board responded that if it is a standing committee meeting, with or without a quorum of a governing board, it is subject to the Brown Act. However, if it is an ad hoc committee set aside for one purpose that is temporary in nature, it is not subject to the Brown Act. Mr. Kalish acknowledged the Board's response stating that he was not challenging the Board, but wanted clarification. However, he stated that he would encourage the Board to make these meetings public.

No further public comments were made.

A motion was made by Board Member Tillemans to approve the ESCOG Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Ad Hoc Committee representatives from each jurisdiction: Alternate Board Member Gardner, Board Member Griffiths, Vice Chair Wentworth and Chair Schwartz. Alternate Board Member Gardner seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.

Ayes: Board Members Pecs, Griffiths, Tillemans, Corless, Alternate Board Member Gardner, Board Member Richardson, Vice Chair Wentworth, Chair Schwartz

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Board Member Johnston

Mayor Schwartz reported that it is expected that the ESCOG JPA Ad Hoc Committee will report back to the Board at their next meeting with their proposed mission(s).

7. ESCOG MONO-INYO AIRPORT WORKING GROUP AD HOC COMMITTEE – Representatives from each jurisdiction – Alternate Board Member Gardner, Board Member Griffiths, Vice Chair Wentworth, and Chair Schwartz.

Mayor Schwartz reviewed this item with the Board and explained that this item was placed on the ESCOG Board agenda since the motion taken at their October 20, 2017 meeting approved the Mammoth/Inyo Air Working Group Sub-Committee representatives, not for the Mono-Inyo Airport Working Group Ad Hoc Committee representatives. Therefore, the approval of the Mono-Inyo Airport Working Group Ad Hoc Committee representatives is under consideration.

No public comments were made.

A motion was made by Board Member Griffiths to approve the ESCOG Mono-Inyo Airport Working Group Ad Hoc Committee with representatives from each jurisdiction: Alternate Board Member Gardner, Board Members Griffiths, Pesci, and Vice Chair Wentworth. Alternate Board Member Gardner seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.

Ayes: Board Members Pecs, Griffiths, Tillemans, Corless, Alternate Board Member Gardner, Board Member Richardson, Vice Chair Wentworth, Chair Schwartz

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Board Member Johnston

Mayor Schwartz reported that it is expected that the ESCOG Mono-Inyo Airport Working Group Ad Hoc Committee will report back to the Board at their next meeting with their proposed mission(s).

It was also announced and discussed that due to the high interest level on this topic, the ESCOG Mono-Inyo Airport Working Group Ad Hoc Committee meetings will be publicly noticed.

8. CANNABIS REGULATIONS (Discussion) – Continue discussions on regional cannabis regulations – All Jurisdictions.

Board Member Tillemans recused himself from discussion on this item because of a potential conflict of interest as advised by legal counsel. Board Member Tillemans left the room at 9:05 a.m.

The Board continued discussions on regional cannabis regulations and continued discussions on creating a matrix to track each jurisdictions progress on this and other issues. No action was taken. No public comments were made.

Board Member Tillemans returned to the room at 9:07 a.m.

9. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Discussion) – Reports from each jurisdiction after meeting with administrators – All Jurisdictions.

Alternate Board Member Gardner reviewed this item with the Board and to follow up on the analysis he shared with the Board at their October 20, 2017 meeting. Discussion ensued on looking at the economic development demand for this region.

Public comments were made by:

Mammoth Lakes Tourism Executive Director John Urdi spoke to their relationships in working closely with not only Mono County but also in the past five years with Bishop Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau Executive Director Tawni Thomson and Inyo County to promote this region. He expressed that they have all worked very closely together to build their current alliance with the National Park Service and to market this entire region as a whole, from fishing, to driving up highway 395, to going to the national parks.

No further public comments were made.

In conclusion, the Board asked that this topic be brought back to their next meeting and asked that City of Bishop Associate Planner Elaine Kabala be present to share the her report on the economic development discussions they had with Berkley Economic Development Office representative Liz Redmond-Cleveland back in July 2017.

10. HOUSING (Discussion) – Continue discussions on the progress of housing across the region – All Jurisdictions.

The Board continued discussions on the progress of housing across the region. Vice Chair Wentworth reported that the Town of Mammoth Lakes accepted the Mammoth Lakes Housing Action Plan and described their next steps; the Board asked to place the discussion on the Sierra Business Council Sierra Camp on their next meeting agenda; and Board Member Coreless announced that Mono County Board of Supervisors accepted the Mono County Housing Needs Assessment in November 2017 identifying 120-180 housing units needed in the next ten years in Mono County. Board Member Corless said she would be happy to forward the Mono County Housing Needs Assessment to staff for ESCOG Board Members to view, and that she already forwarded a link to the Mammoth Lakes Housing Action Plan to staff so that it can be forwarded to the ESCOG Board to view as well. No action was taken. No public comments were made.

11. RECREATION – All Jurisdictions.

Vice Chair Wentworth reported on U.S. Forest Service activities, increased recreation focus updates, and the new County of Mono / Town of Mammoth Lakes joint position coming up for approval by the Mono County Board of Supervisors and the Town of Mammoth Lakes Town Council. The Board asked that this item be brought back for further discussion at their next meeting and to further discuss Senate Bill 5 for trail maintenance and other opportunities in our region.

12. REVIEW ESCOG PRIORITIES FOR 2018 – All Jurisdictions.

The Board asked that the following items be brought back to the next ESCOG meeting as priorities for 2018: Air Service, Recreation, Technology, Housing, Solid Waste, and Cannabis. The Board also mentioned that they should continue to discuss all items that they have listed thus far in their past agendas to be brought back to their future meetings as requested.

Board Member Corless announced that she would have to leave shortly. Chair Schwartz asked to address Item 14 on the agenda next in order to have Board Member Corless participate in the appointment of ESCOG officers for 2018. The Board quickly came to a consensus to do so.

The Board addressed Item 14 below and back to Item 13 thereafter.

13. REVIEW AND APPROVE ESCOG MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2018 – All Jurisdictions.

A. Proposed ESCOG Meeting Schedule for 2018:

- Friday, February 16 in Mammoth Lakes
- Friday, April 20 in Bishop
- Friday, June 15 in Mammoth Lakes
- Friday, August 17 in Bishop
- Friday, October 19 in Mammoth Lakes
- Friday, December 14 in Bishop

The Board reviewed the proposed dates listed above. After a brief discussion, it was agreed to keep the ESCOG meetings on a Friday beginning at 8:30 a.m.

The only changes to the list above is to schedule the meeting in April to Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 8:30 am in Bishop, and the meeting in August to Thursday, August 16, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. in Bishop.

Board Member Corless left the meeting at 10:27 a.m.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Griffiths to approve the following ESCOG Meeting schedule for 2018 as follows:

Friday, February 16 in Mammoth Lakes
Thursday, April 19 in Bishop
Friday, June 15 in Mammoth Lakes
Thursday, August 16 in Bishop
Friday, October 19 in Mammoth Lakes
Friday, December 14 in Bishop

Board Member Pecsí seconded the motion. No public comments were made. Motion passed 7-0.

Ayes: Board Members Pecsí, Schwartz, Tillemans, Richardson, Alternate Board Member Gardner, Vice Chair Griffiths, and Chair Wentworth

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Board Member Johnston, Corless

14. CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The Board agreed to continue with their standing agenda items for 2018 as discussed. A discussion ensued on whether or not the ESCOG Board would be interested in including Alpine County in future ESCOG discussions. The Board came to a consensus to discuss this further at their next meeting.

15. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board Members reported on Council/Board meetings, other agency meetings, and shared upcoming City/County projects.

16. ADJOURNMENT – TENTATIVE: Friday, February 16, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. Regular Meeting in the Mammoth Lakes Town Council Chambers located at 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite Z, Mammoth Lakes, California.

Chair Wentworth adjourned the meeting at 10:51 a.m. to the ESCOG meeting scheduled for Friday, February 16, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. in the Mammoth Lakes Town Council Chambers.