



EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ESCOG)

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Friday, April 12, 2019

8:30 a.m.

Bishop City Council Chambers

301 West Line Street

Bishop, California

Board Members

Mono County Supervisor
Stacy Corless – Vice Chair

Mono County Supervisor
Bob Gardner

Town of Mammoth Lakes Councilmember
Lynda Salcido

Town of Mammoth Lakes Councilmember
John Wentworth

Inyo County Supervisor
Jeff Griffiths –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

Board Member Bob Gardner called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Board Member Dan Totheroh led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

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

Mammoth Lakes Housing (MLH) Executive Director Patricia Robertson spoke about Mammoth Lakes Housing and the services they provide. She discussed their recent five year strategic planning process and desire to work more throughout the region and strengthen partnerships. Ms. Robertson presented MLH's 2018 financial report and reported on their upcoming projects.

5. Update regarding ESCOG Staff Support, Town of Mammoth Lakes Assistant Clerk Angela DeLisle

Town of Mammoth Lakes Assistant to the Town Manager Pam Kobylarz introduced the Town's new Assistant Clerk, Angela DeLisle, and described what her duties would be. There was discussion between members of the Board and Ms. Kobylarz.

- 6. Approval of Minutes**
- a. **February 8, 2018**
 - b. **December 8, 2017**
 - c. **October 20, 2017**
 - d. **August 11, 2017**

SPEAKING FROM THE FLOOR:

There was discussion between members of the Board and Town of Mammoth Lakes Town Manager Dan Holler regarding whether members of the Board were authorized to vote on minutes from meetings that they did not attend, including minutes from meetings that took place before they were on the Board.

Ms. Kobylarz noted that the minutes on the agenda listed as February 8, 2018 should be corrected to read February 8, 2019.

ACTION: It was moved by Board Member Lynda Salcido, seconded by Board Member Karen Schwartz, and carried by 5-0 voice vote to approve the minutes of February 8, 2019, December 8, 2017, October 20, 2017 and August 11, 2017.

7. Update regarding Inyo Mono Broadband Consortium (IMBC) Advisory Council

Mono County Director of IT Nate Greenberg gave an update on the Inyo Mono Broadband Consortium (IMBC). Mr. Greenberg reported that the grant expires at the end of June. He outlined a partnership program IMBC is creating with local businesses, schools libraries, etc. regarding broadband opportunities. Mr. Greenberg also talked about economic development activities. He reported on the Broadband Access Tool, which is an interactive platform designed to help people understand what broadband services were available in the area and how much service they needed based on their potential usage. Mr. Greenberg outlined priorities with regard to infrastructure. He discussed the regional 911 outage in March, and steps taken to prevent outages in the future. He said that after the grant expired, most of the work that would be done could continue to be provided by staff, and that there should be a regional collaboration, however, the challenges working under the CPUC may not be worth it to work as a formal consortium.

Board Member Karen Schwartz asked if the IMBC would dissolve at the end of June, Mr. Greenberg said that is the recommendation. He said he and his staff would still manage the website, and they would seek additional funding if needed. Board Member Karen Schwartz thanked Nate and his team for their work. There was discussion between members of the Board and Mr. Greenberg.

8. Discuss the potential ban of flavored tobacco

Mono County Health Officer Dr. Thomas Boo led a presentation regarding the increased use of, and negative health effects of, flavored tobacco products and the Mono County Health and Human Services' desire to ban such products. Dr. Boo talked about other California jurisdictions that had taken action to ban flavored tobacco products to some extent, including Mono County, which would take place in October. He also talked about tobacco retail licensing, staff education and penalties or potential for revoking licensing. Also presenting was Mono County Public Health Tobacco Control Coordinator Dustlyne Beavers who reported on the tactics used by tobacco companies to market to, and increase the sales of their products to youth users, and presented statistics of flavored tobacco use in youth.

Mono County Office of Education TUPE Program Coordinator Debie Schnadt outlined the work she had done in local schools and reported on health issues related to tobacco use, and the history of attempts to ban menthol flavored tobacco products. She read a quote from the 15 year old son of a local family friend that was currently fighting nicotine addiction primarily from use of a vape pen. Inyo County Health and Human Services Deputy Director Anna Scott spoke about the number of Inyo County students that have reported use of tobacco products. She said that the direction from her Board was to contact the City of Bishop to coordinate a potential vaping ordinance with some other tobacco related policy components that would impact the City as well as the unincorporated parts of the County. Ms. Scott said they would like to come back with a draft of an ordinance in June.

Town of Mammoth Lakes Police Department (MLPD) Officer Daniel Hansen and Sergeant Janson Heilman reported on the vaping epidemic in Mammoth Lakes schools, and the steps the department had taken to combat that problem. They said that law enforcement in Mammoth had lost the ability to hold kids accountable for tobacco use when penal code Section 308B was changed and the legal age was raised to 21. This change prevented police from citing minors for tobacco use. The officers said a municipal code with some type of punishment for minors using tobacco would be helpful in addition to a flavored tobacco ban. There was discussion between members of the Board, Sergeant Heilman and Officer Hansen.

SPEAKING FROM THE FLOOR:

Toiyabe Family Services Substance Abuse Counselor and Youth Prevention Worker Earl Lent, reported that the numbers related to tobacco use in the tribal community are higher than other communities. He said they had programs in place to raise awareness and educate their youth about tobacco use as it relates to their culture as well as its negative health effects. Mr. Lent talked about how the tobacco companies target youth.

Pediatric Nurse Practitioner for the Pediatric Clinic in the Hospital District Colleen McEvoy spoke about her outreach work with students in the Bishop School District with regard to E-cigarettes and other tobacco related products and their negative health effects.

Town of Mammoth Lakes Town Manager Dan Holler discussed the effectiveness of training the Town of Mammoth Lakes has done with clerks in retail locations, and action the Town had taken allowing them to revoke tobacco licenses if necessary.

Jennifer Halferty, Mono County Board of Supervisors, reported on her daughter's concerns about students using tobacco products at school and how that affects her. Ms. Halferty said she does not want to hold kids accountable. She said that she believes the adults and the industry needed to be held accountable. There was discussion among members of the Board.

Dr. Boo said that Mono County Public Health recommended county and municipal bans, a region wide ban on all tobacco products with characterizing flavors that would provide regional consistency with Mono County and asked the Board to consider implementing tobacco retail licensing programs and to consider official support for a statewide ban.

At 10:27 a.m. Board Member Board Bob Gardner called a recess.

At 10:34 a.m. the meeting reconvened.

9. Discuss Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership

This item was not discussed.

10. Update regarding Mammoth Yosemite Airport and Bishop Airport

This item was not discussed.

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

Mr. Holler outlined information in the staff report with, regarding the potential formation of a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) and the time, staffing and costs that would be involved. He discussed some proposed edits to the draft JPA document.

There was discussion between members of the Board and Mr. Holler.

ACTION: It was moved by Board Member Lynda Salcido, seconded by Board Member Dan Totheroh, and carried by 5-0 voice vote to accept the Joint Powers Authority draft document as amended, subject final legal review.

12. Board and Council Reports

Board Member Karen Schwartz said the City of Bishop is in the process of discussing the potential rezoning of downtown for mixed use due to housing issues. She said they would hire a consultant to advise the city. There was discussion among members of the Board.

13. Call for Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Update regarding a ban on flavored tobacco products.
- Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership.
- Update regarding Mammoth Yosemite Airport and Bishop Airport.
- Joint Powers Authority status and action.
- Discussion supporting broadband moving forward after the IMBC is dissolved.

There was discussion among members of the Board.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m. to the June 14, 2019 meeting at 8:30 a.m. in Mammoth Lakes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela DeLisle
Asst. Clerk
Town of Mammoth Lakes