



EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ESCOG)

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Friday, February 8, 2019
8:30 a.m.
Mammoth Lakes Council Chamber
437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite Z
Mammoth Lakes, CA**

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 started at 8:35 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Wentworth asked Matthew Paruolo to lead the pledge from the audience.

3. Roll Call

Board members Corless, Gardner, Salcido, Wentworth, Griffiths, Totheroh, and Schwartz were present. Board member Ellis was 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

Matthew Paruolo, Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP) Coordinator, introduced himself and spoke about the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership.

5. Election of Officers

ACTION: It was moved by Board member Corless, seconded by Board member Schwartz, and carried by a 7-0 vote to nominate and appoint Vice Chair Griffiths to the Chair position.

ACTION: It was moved by Board member Schwartz, seconded by Board member Corless, and carried by a 7-0 vote to nominate and appoint Board member Gardner to the Vice Chair position.

6. Committee Appointments

There was a discussion about the role of the Mammoth Inyo Airport Working Group. There was a discussion among the Board about which members wanted to serve on the committees.

ACTION: It was moved by Board member Gardner, seconded by Board member Schwartz, and carried by a 7-0 vote to nominate and appoint Board members Gardner, Salcido, Griffiths and Ellis to the Mammoth Inyo Airport Working Group and to appoint Board members Gardner, Wentworth, Griffiths and Schwartz to the ESCOG Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Ad Hoc Committee.

7. Approve the minutes of December 14, 2018

ACTION: It was moved by Board member Corless, seconded by Board member Schwartz, and carried by a 6-0 vote, with Board member Wentworth abstaining, to approve the minutes of December 14, 2018.

- 8. Update regarding the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP)**
a. Introduce ESSRP Coordinator Matthew Paruolo

- b. "Recreation Counties Attracting New Residents and Higher Incomes" (ATTACHMENT)
- c. Grant application to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (ATTACHMENT)

Board member Wentworth spoke about a report by Headwaters Economics. There was a discussion among the Board about connections between forest management, recreation, and economic development.

Board member Wentworth spoke about the budget deliverables in the grant application. There was a discussion among the Board about the status and how the grant would be implemented.

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

This item was taken out of order.

Dan Holler, Town of Mammoth Lakes Town Manager, gave a report. He said that a JPA would be a standalone public agency and would have all of the responsibilities thereof. He spoke about costs to operate a new entity. He asked the Board to consider startup costs, PERS contract, HR costs/needs, etc.

Clint Quilter, Inyo County Administrator, said there will be administrative activities in the JPA that grants won't cover. He reminded the group that there is no funding for a grant application that is not successful. He warned about legal costs compounding when multiple agencies are asking their legal counsels for opinions. He advising having a formal arrangement for legal services.

Leslie Chapman, Mono County Administrator, spoke about reimbursement grants. She said that agencies might need to front \$100,000s prior to being reimbursed by a grant.

David Kelly, City of Bishop City Administrator, stated that the ability to get things done is going to be difficult without having a staff person dedicated to this JPA due to limited staffing availability from the four agencies.

Stacey Simon, Mono County Counsel, said she would update the draft JPA document to include the suggestions from the administrators. She said that Inyo County has a contract to provide legal services for ESTA, and she is not sure what the current cost is.

There was a discussion among the Board about cost and realistic expectations.

CONSENSUS: continue to move forward to make changes to the draft agreement.

9. Introducing the “Mountain Ventures Summit”

Board member Wentworth said this event is coming to Mammoth Lakes in March. He provided details of the event.

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

This item was not discussed.

11. Update regarding Town of Mammoth Lakes Assistant Clerk position

Jamie Gray, Town of Mammoth Lakes Town Clerk, spoke about the recruitment process and provided an update on filling this position.

12. Update regarding Mammoth Yosemite Airport and Bishop Airport

Dan Holler spoke about operations at the Mammoth Yosemite Airport.

Clint Quilter spoke about the environmental review process for the Bishop Airport.

Board member Wentworth spoke about the impact of snow to the Mammoth Yosemite Airport.

14. Civility – discussion and introduction

Board member Gardner spoke about an item that the Mono County Board of Supervisors approved regarding the need for more civility at the federal government level.

15. Board and Council Reports

Board member Gardner said that Mono County just completed a mid-year review and State of the County and set strategic priorities for the rest of the year. He spoke about visiting the new cannabis retail business in June Lake. He said Mono County approved a marijuana cultivation business in Walker/Coleville.

Board member Schwartz reported on the celebration of life for Jim Tatum. She said that Bishop entered into a purchase agreement with LADWP to transfer land to IMACA for affordable housing.

Board member Griffiths reported that Inyo County has gone through a review process for two marijuana dispensaries in the North Bishop area. He reported that the County has received a lot of cultivation permits for locations in the southern county as well as for two dispensaries. He spoke about hemp cultivation. He said that Inyo County has been giving conditional use permits for Airbnb uses. He reported that Adventure Trails requested that the State extend its pilot program for five more years.

Board member Wentworth spoke about the “IKON effect.” He said people are comparing Mammoth Mountain/the Eastern Sierra to other locations that also have IKON passes.

Board member Corless provided an update on the Mono County Civic Center project in Mammoth Lakes. She said she has been participating in the State’s Forest Management Taskforce Sierra Eastside Prioritization Group. She spoke about challenges with dealing with forest management at the local level.

There was a discussion among the Board about Firesafe Councils.

Board member Salcido spoke about the tax appeals that are coming in for Ormat and MMSA.

16. Call for Agenda Items for Next Meeting

No specific items were identified.

17. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 10:50 a.m.