



EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ESCOG)

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Friday, June 14, 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 – 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

Chair Jeff Griffiths called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chair Stacy Corless led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Chair Jeff Griffiths, Vice Chair Stacy Corless, Board Members Bob Gardner, John Wentworth, Dan Totheroh, and alternate Board Member Bill Sauser were present. Board Members Lynda Salcido, Jim Ellis and Karen Schwartz 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 comments given at this time.

5. Approve the Minutes

April 12, 2019

ACTION: It was moved by Vice Chair Stacy Corless, seconded by Board Member Dan Totheroh, and carried by a 6-0 voice vote to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2019 Board Meeting.

6. Status and action regarding recommendation on formation of Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Joint Powers Authority

Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML) Town Manager Dan Holler outlined information in the Staff Report and the final draft of the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Agreement. Mr. Holler asked if there would be a common presentation made to each member agency regarding the scope of work that the ESCOG would be leading, and wanted to be sure that each of the agencies were presented the same goals, ideas, etc. Mr. Holler said that the ESCOG Board needed to agree on the JPA Agreement before it goes out to the member agencies, and asked for direction from the Board on how and when they wanted to bring it to the member agencies.

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

SPEAKING FROM THE FLOOR:

Mono County Counsel Stacey Simon commented on the administrative work that had been done on the JPA Agreement since the last meeting. Ms. Simon clarified the costs and funding related to the JPA as well any potential special projects.

There was discussion among members of the Board.

ACTION: It was moved by Board Member Bob Gardner, seconded by Board Member John Wentworth, and carried by a 6-0 voice vote to accept the JPA formation document.

ACTION: It was moved by Board Member Bob Gardner, seconded by Board Member John Wentworth, and carried by a 6-0 voice vote to accept the draft cost estimate to be presented to each member agency.

SPEAKING FROM THE FLOOR:

Mr. Holler clarified the recommendation to develop a scope of work for the JPA and/or a work program for the first year and the process for the scope of work.

Inyo County Administrative Officer Cliff Quilter said that he believed the Board should think through this step before bringing it to their respective boards, and wanted to make sure it doesn't go back and forth between the agencies and the ESCOG. Mr. Quilter said he would like to see an executive director in place for the JPA prior to developing a scope of work.

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

ACTION: It was moved by Board Member Dan Tothoroh, seconded by Board Vice Chair Stacy Corless, and carried by a 6-0 voice vote to authorize the JPA subcommittee to be the presenters to each of the member agencies, and to direct staff to prepare a modified staff report that would serve as a backup, and that the scope of work for the JPA would be developed once the executive director was in place.

7. Discussion and possible action regarding support of a ban on the sale of flavored tobacco products

Mr. Holler followed up on the presentation that was made by Mono County Health at the last meeting. He said that this was a region wide concern and that he had asked TOML staff to work on a ban, and to enhance the TOML Police Department's ability to confiscate paraphernalia from underage individuals. He said that would like a recommendation from the ESCOG to support this ban in their respective agencies.

Vice Chair Stacy Corless stated that Mono County already had a modified ban on flavored tobacco products in place.

Chair Jeff Griffiths gave an update on the City of Bishop and Inyo County's conversations regarding a potential flavored tobacco ban.

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

SPEAKING FROM THE FLOOR:

Mono County Public Health Tobacco Control Coordinator Dustlyne Beavers presented information regarding a survey that was given to businesses that sold flavored tobacco products regarding how a ban would affect their business. Ms. Beavers said the consensus was that it would have a small affect, unless they were strictly a tobacco shop. She said the current ban in Mono County only pertained to E-cigarettes and E-liquid and that the ban would revert back to a full ban on all flavored tobacco products ban in unincorporated Mono County in October 2019.

There was discussion between Ms. Beavers and member of the Board.

SPEAKING FROM THE FLOOR:

Mr. Quilter stated that he was supportive of JPAs and wanted the Board to look at whether the ESCOG as an independent body would be making policy decisions as opposed to just working together on benefit projects and programs that were mutually beneficial. Mr. Quilter stated that the Board should go back to their individual member agencies and let them know that they were going to take policy positions as well if that is what they decided to do, and see how they reacted. He summarized by saying that as a JPA, he wanted the ESCOG to be careful about taking policy actions.

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

CONSENSUS: The Board recommended that a presentation on flavored tobacco products be made to the Mammoth Lakes Town Council, then bring information back to the Board for further discussion.

8. Update on the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP)

Board Member John Wentworth gave an update on the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP) and said that all are welcome to participate in the ESSRP meetings.

There was discussion among members of the Board.

9. Update on the Town of Mammoth Lakes Sierra Nevada Conservancy Vibrant Tourism and Recreation Grant

Mr. Holler gave an update on the TOML Sierra Nevada Conservancy Vibrant Tourism and Recreation Grant. He also said that TOML would ask the Town Council for a joint effort with Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation (MLTPA) to help facilitate the grant work rather than having a TOML staff person committed to it.

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

10. Update regarding Mammoth Yosemite Airport and Bishop Airport

This item was taken out of order.

Town of Mammoth Lakes Town Manager Dan Holler gave an update on the Mammoth Yosemite Airport. Mr. Holler spoke about the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) update.

Inyo County Public Works Associate Engineer Ashley Helms gave an update on current improvement projects at the Bishop Airport. She announced that Bishop Airport had been awarded grants from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Supplemental Appropriations. She said that the airport needs terminal upgrades and parking improvements with an estimated cost of \$1.5-2 million. Ms. Holmes said that they were looking into financing options for those improvements, and said that it would be a multi-use terminal which would be used for general aviation purposes as well as charter flights. She said that they had been working with Mammoth Mountain Ski Area regarding air service. Ms. Holmes also discussed potential long term improvements that are under consideration and stated that if commercial air service moves to Bishop Airport, they could widen the main runway and shift taxiway and create a long range commercial service terminal.

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

11. Update and discussion on General Aviation and Commercial Air Service plans for Mammoth Yosemite and Bishop Airports

Mr. Holler gave an update on air service at the Mammoth Airport, including charter flights provided by JetSuite X. He said that the current plan was to continue service as is for the summer, and that no decision had been made yet to implement changes to routes next year.

Board Member John Wentworth reported that the Herman C. Bliss Partnership Award had been presented jointly to the Town of Mammoth Lakes and Inyo County in recognition of the partnership they had developed between their respective airports, to create a regional solution to meet the aviation needs of the Eastern Sierra. Mr. Wentworth voiced concerns about the subsidy for air service and the legality of using that subsidy in Bishop, and how it will affect the Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID).

Mr. Quilter gave an update on the Bishop Airport. Mr. Quilter said Inyo County was prepared to discuss changes to how the air subsidy worked and that all of the regional agencies should benefit.

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

CONSENSUS: The Board recommended that staff from all four agencies have a joint meeting regarding air subsidies and TBID, then collectively present a report to Mono Inyo Airport Working Group (MIAWG).

12. Update from Members on housing projects, programs and initiatives

This item was taken out of order.

IMACA Housing and Planning Director Larry Emerson gave an overview of IMACA's past, present and future housing programs. Mr. Emerson said they are in escrow on a parcel in Bishop upon which they plan to build 70 new units. He said that the project should be completed in 2022. He also discussed the overall issue of homelessness in the Eastern Sierra and the programs that IMACA had in place to combat that issue. Mr. Emerson discussed funding that IMACA had received from the State.

Chair Jeff Griffiths said that the State was allocating a large amount of resources towards addressing homelessness. He discussed projects that Inyo County was working on, including Veteran's Housing, a home that Mono County owns in June Lake that they may sell to IMACA for the Coalition of Care for transitional housing, and a "safe parking lot" equipped with restroom facilities that homeless individuals could stay in without being asked to leave by the police.

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

Vice Chair Stacy Corless read an email from Mammoth Lakes Housing (MLH) Executive Director Patricia Robertson with an update on MLH's program, and noted that the MLH Board adopted their 2019-2023 Strategic Plan which could be accessed on the MLH website.

Board Member John Wentworth handed out information cards related to The Parcel project in Mammoth Lakes and gave an update on the progress and upcoming schedule of events surrounding it. Mr. Wentworth said there were people who come to Mammoth Lakes by choice, equipped and ready to live in their cars, vans, etc. and said they would utilize something like a "safe parking" lot with facilities, as described by Chair Griffiths.

Board Member Stacy Corless said that Mono County anticipated creating a new housing position. She reported that Mono County was in the process of selling a property on Davison Road in Mammoth Lakes as restricted sale toward the development of affordable housing. Ms. Corless said that the Mono County Behavioral Health Department was working on permanent support of a housing project in Mammoth Lakes.

Board Member Bob Gardner said the Planning Commission would be considering approval of a 5 unit, affordable housing development in June Lakes.

Chair Jeff Griffiths reported that the City of Bishop's Planning Commission approved the project by the Home Street Nursery which would provide 13 homes and a building for the nursery, with a unit for the caretaker of the nursery to live in.

There was discussion among members of the Board.

13. Board and Council Reports

Board Member Dan Totheroh reported on the Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) situation. He said that information about potential PSPSs could be found on SCE's website www.SCE.com/psps

Chair Jeff Griffiths spoke about pump storage proposals and reported that the Haiwee proposal had been rejected by Inyo County because the upper reservoirs were in the wilderness. He also discussed lithium mine proposals, geothermal leases that were put out, and said that the County put out a round of cannabis applications for licenses. He said that Inyo County was reviewing their short term rental ordinance.

Vice Chair Stacy Corless reported that an open house for the Mono County Administrative Officer candidates would be held on June 24, 2019 in Mammoth Lakes and in Bridgeport. She also reported that Mono County had a visitor impact study done and said that she would distribute the results when she received them.

Board Member John Wentworth reported that the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) Association had a field representative designated to Inyo and Mono Counties now. Mr. Wentworth said that he had met with Congressman Paul Cook while he was in town and mentioned that Congressman Cook's Legislative Director, Tim Itnyre had relocated from Washington, DC and would now be in the field in our local district along with Field Representative Dakota Higgins. Mr. Wentworth announced that the Town of Mammoth Lakes Town Council approved the Community Recreation Center (CRC), and that Mono County Local Transportation Commission (LTC) had been in talks regarding the unmet transit needs between Bishop and Mammoth.

14. Call for Agenda Items for Next Meeting

It was requested that all current agenda items, with the exception of Item #12, be added to the agenda for the August 9, 2019 ESCOG Board Meeting.

15. Adjournment

Chair Griffiths adjourned 10:55 a.m. to the next regular meeting on Friday, August 9, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. in the Bishop City Council Chambers.