



## Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) - Joint Power Authority (JPA)

### Minutes of Regular Meeting

October 8, 2021, 8:30 a.m.

437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite Z, Mammoth Lakes

Members Present: Chair Karen Schwartz, Vice Chair John Wentworth, Board Member Stacy Corless, Board Member Bob Gardner, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, Board Member Dan Tothoroh, Board Member Jim Ellis, Board Member Lynda Salcido

---

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. in the Council Chamber, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes. The members of the Board participated via videoconference.

#### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Karen Schwartz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments given at this time.

#### 4. ASSEMBLY BILL 361 (AB 361) FINDINGS

##### 4.1 Discussion and direction regarding Brown Act Compliance under AB 361

Legal Counsel Grace Chuchla outlined the information in the staff report.

Ms. Chuchla recommended that the Board hold a special meeting every 30 days to make the required findings as required by Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361) in order to comply with the Bill.

There was discussion between Ms. Chuchla, Executive Director Elaine Kabala and members of the Board.

Moved by Board Member Stacy Corless  
Seconded by Board Member Dan Totheroh

Adopt a resolution of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments regarding the need for continued virtual meetings to protect public health per Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361).

For (8): Chair Karen Schwartz, Vice Chair John Wentworth, Board Member Stacy Corless, Board Member Bob Gardner, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, Board Member Dan Totheroh, Board Member Jim Ellis, and Board Member Lynda Salcido

Carried (8 to 0)

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved by Vice Chair John Wentworth  
Seconded by Board Member Jeff Griffiths

Approve the Consent Agenda

For (8): Chair Karen Schwartz, Vice Chair John Wentworth, Board Member Stacy Corless, Board Member Bob Gardner, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, Board Member Dan Totheroh, Board Member Jim Ellis, and Board Member Lynda Salcido

Carried (8 to 0)

**5.1 Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 13, 2021**

**5.2 Consideration of Amendment #1 to the Agreement Regarding Clerical Services to be Provided by the Town of Mammoth Lakes to the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Joint Powers Authority**

**5.3 Consideration of A Resolution of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Designating the Town of Mammoth Lakes Town Office as the Office Place of Business for the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments**

## 6. POLICY MATTERS

### 6.1 Consideration of Contract Amendment #2 for Administrative Services with Elaine Kabala

Executive Director Elaine Kabala outlined the information in the staff report.

There was discussion between Ms. Kabala and members of the Board.

Moved by Board Member Bob Gardner

Seconded by Board Member Lynda Salcido

Approve Amendment #2 to the Agreement Between the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and Elaine Kabala for the Provision of Administrative Services.

For (8): Chair Karen Schwartz, Vice Chair John Wentworth, Board Member Stacy Corless, Board Member Bob Gardner, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, Board Member Dan Totheroh, Board Member Jim Ellis, and Board Member Lynda Salcido

Carried (8 to 0)

### 6.2 Consideration of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator Project Consultants and Formation of a Consultant Selection Subcommittee

Executive Director Elaine Kabala outlined the information in the staff report.

There was discussion between Ms. Kabala and members of the Board.

Moved by Board Member Stacy Corless

Seconded by Vice Chair John Wentworth

Approve the Request for Proposals to Provide National Environmental Policy Act Project Management and Project Implementation Preparation Services for the Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator and the Request for Proposals to Provide National Environmental Policy Act Services for the Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator as presented, appoint Board Members Jeff Griffiths, Lynda Salcido, Stacy Corless and Jim Ellis to the Consultant Selection Subcommittee, and authorize Executive Director Elaine Kabala to negotiate agreements.

For (8): Chair Karen Schwartz, Vice Chair John Wentworth, Board Member Stacy Corless, Board Member Bob Gardner, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, Board Member Dan Totheroh, Board Member Jim Ellis, and Board Member Lynda Salcido

Carried (8 to 0)

**6.3 Request Budget Modification to Obtain Professional Services to Provide Updates to the ESCOG Website and Email and Communication Platforms**

Executive Director Elaine Kabala outlined the information in the staff report.

SPEAKING FROM THE FLOOR:

Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML) Town Manager Dan Holler spoke about specific situations that would be better served utilizing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) versus a Request for Proposal (RFP). Mr. Holler discussed TOML's policy with regard to the dollar limit on agreements that he as the Town Manager was authorized to enter into without Council approval.

There was discussion between Legal Counsel Grace Chuchla, Mr. Holler, Ms. Kabala, and members of the Board.

Moved by Vice Chair John Wentworth

Seconded by Board Member Jim Ellis

Approve the request to amend the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Budget to reallocate \$10,000 for website and digital communications improvements as presented by staff.

For (8): Chair Karen Schwartz, Vice Chair John Wentworth, Board Member Stacy Corless, Board Member Bob Gardner, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, Board Member Dan Totheroh, Board Member Jim Ellis, and Board Member Lynda Salcido

Carried (8 to 0)

**6.4 Consideration of A Resolution of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Authorizing an Application for Funding through the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for the Eastern Sierra Connected Communities Trails Network**

Executive Director Elaine Kabala outlined the information in the staff report.

There was discussion between Ms. Kabala and members of the Board.

Moved by Vice Chair John Wentworth

Seconded by Board Member Lynda Salcido

Adopt a Resolution of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Authorizing and Approving a Grant Application for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Vibrant Recreation and Tourism Grant.

For (8): Chair Karen Schwartz, Vice Chair John Wentworth, Board Member Stacy Corless, Board Member Bob Gardner, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, Board Member Dan Tothoroh, Board Member Jim Ellis, and Board Member Lynda Salcido

Carried (8 to 0)

**6.5 Receive an Update on the Fall 2021 Regional Housing Roundtable**

Executive Director Elaine Kabala gave an update on the Fall 2021 Regional Housing Roundtable.

There was discussion between Ms. Kabala and members of the Board.

**6.6 Receive an Update on the Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative**

Executive Director Elaine Kabala gave an update on the Sustainable Recreation Tourism Initiative (SRTI) activities and potential funding opportunities.

Board Member Wentworth gave an update on the SRTI and presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining current SRTI activities.

Ms. Kabala discussed the potential establishment of a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for our region.

There was discussion between Ms. Kabala and members of the Board.

## 7. **BOARD MEMBER/AGENCY REPORTS**

Board Member Jeff Griffiths reported that Inyo County had started the redistricting process and said that there had been a lot of change within the districts to the point that they were unbalanced and that some lines would need to be moved.

Board Member Bob Gardner reported that Mono County had started the redistricting process and said that they had a community meeting about it last night, and had developed an online tool that the public could utilize to create their own districts. Mr. Gardner said that the County's COVID numbers had declined compared to the mid-summer numbers. He said that Mono County Chief Administrative Officer Bob Lawton had worked with Inyo-Mono Integrated Water Management Program (IRWMP) Program Development Specialist Rick Kattlemann and IRWMP Program Director Holly Alpert to submit the California Fire Safe Council County Coordinator Grant application.

Board Member Stacy Corless said that she had be involved in several discussions with Rural Counties Representatives of California (RCRC) related to wildfire resilience and prevention and said that she had been appointed to a task force to work on solutions to improve communications, and said that she welcomed suggestions from members of the Board. Ms. Corless reported that the RCRC had voted to form a new Joint Powers Authority (JPA) focused on broadband development called Golden State Connect which Inyo and Mono Counties had voted to join.

Board Member Jeff Griffiths reported that a couple of counties had been added to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy which may cause the regions within the SNC to be adjusted.

Board Member John Wentworth gave an update on TOML's Town Council meeting this week and spoke about the makeup of the SNC and reported that the SNC may undergo a name change. Mr. Wentworth said that he had shared links with Executive Director Elaine Kabala to a series of webinars that the State had put on regarding funding for climate change which she could send out to the Board. He gave an update on The Parcel and spoke about poor direction coming from the State for rural areas, and discussed use of Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) for housing and recreation.

Board Member Lynda Salcido gave an update on the Grand Jury report about housing in Mammoth Lakes and spoke about the Town's goal to improve communications, which included the revised weekly update that would be sent out via social media, email and print media.

Board Member Jim Ellis said that he attended the League of California Cities Conference last month and discussed the various sessions he had participated in. Mr. Ellis reported that the City of Bishop hired a Grant Writer Consultant, approved a cannabis dispensary and completed installation of new traffic lights. He said that Bishop Ford had closed and reported that Erick Schat passed away.

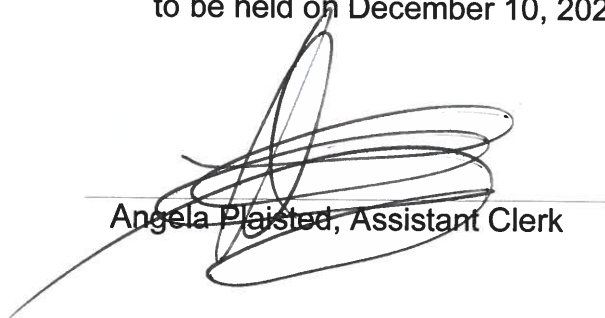
Chair Karen Schwartz reported that the first round of a graffiti ordinance had passed in Bishop.

There was discussion among members of the Board.

8. **REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m. to the next regular meeting schedule to be held on December 10, 2021.



Angela Plaisted, Assistant Clerk