

Mono County Collaborative Planning Team

PO Box 347
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
760-924-1800 phone, 924-1801 fax

PO Box 8
Bridgeport, CA 93517
760-932-5420 phone, 932-5431 fax
www.monocounty.ca.gov

DRAFT MINUTES

October 31, 2019

Members present: Stacy Corless, Mono Supervisors; Alisa Ellsworth, CDFW; Ryan Dermody & Austin West, Caltrans; Doug Power, Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center; Jan Cutts, USFS/Humboldt/Toiyabe; Steve Nelson, BLM

Members absent: Deanna Dulen, Devils Postpile National Monument; Gordon Martin, USFS/Inyo; Mike Grahek, LADWP; Heidi Calvert, CDFW; Erin Nordin, USFWS/Reno; Kathleen Morse, Yosemite National Park; Shane Saulque, Benton Paiutes; Jay Hall, Bridgeport Indian Colony

Staff present: Wendy Sugimura, Nate Greenberg, Hailey Lang, Kelly Karl, CD Ritter

Guests present: Wendi Grasseschi, Mammoth Times; Bartshe Miller, Mono Lake Committee; John Wentworth, MLTPA

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ATTENDEE INTRODUCTIONS: Stacy Corless called the meeting to order at 9:09 am, and attendees recited the pledge of allegiance.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

3. MINUTES: Review/approve draft minutes from July 25, 2019, as submitted.
(*Dermody/Cutts. Ayes: All.*)

4. AGENCY ROUNDTABLE: Agencies discussed planning issues & pending projects.

5. IMPACTS OF PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF (PSPS)/DE-ENERGIZATION: Nate Greenberg, IT director, stated IT staff alone spent 325 hours on PSPS. Didn't expect to rise to this level of response. Worked with SCE late summer. Mono had nine PSPS events, longest 36 hours. Mammoth impacted a couple times. Laid out three-pillar plan: 1) internal operations; 2) equipment upgrade; and 3) engaging with business community, visitors, chambers of commerce. Despite frustrations with SCE, been direct on concerns and challenges. SCE responsive, implemented changes recommended. Getting better, long ways to go. Outstanding: More appropriate evaluation of weather and trigger-point framework relative to Mono. Winds of 50 mph are common in Mono. Mono recognized for resources. Gov. Newsom announced \$25 million to counties. Mono gets resources. \$37.5 million on State side, Caltrans leverage for changeable message boards. \$10 million for towns on competitive grant basis.

Sheriff Ingrid Braun working on messaging. Not notify until imminent status. Facebook and targeted messaging. Threatened with outages. SCE internals poor, externals not great. Frustration is transference to Mono from SCE. Nate noted working on protocols, trigger points. Up to 85 people involved. Trying to hold SCE accountable for its messaging. Not as timely as could be. Anytime alerted of potential event, short team collaborates with SCE. Greenberg: Few significant concerns of vulnerability; i.e., ski area. Thanksgiving holiday with

20,000 skiers, relatively no snow, high risk. Shut off power, people stranded. No way to evacuate or support. Focus on high-impact, severe circuits and prioritize.

Corless: Mono in second risk category.

Miller: Upgraded utilities in Mono Basin. SCE hypervigilant, six trucks along 395 taking wind measurements, helicopter monitoring lines before wind event.

Cutts: Fire conditions reduced when snow comes.

Greenberg: Actual fire risk index (dryness, vegetation, wind). Look at sensitivity.

Wentworth: Town Council requested SCE representation on protocols for snow coverage in town. It 40,000 people in town, power off, blizzard, want to split. How to allow for snowfall on ground?

Greenberg: SCE's Cal Rossi said concern about making public involves transparent decision making. Not black and white. More latitude when using better local data, not fixed point

Corless: SCE has 100,000 on PSPS, 300,000 on monitoring. Lucky to deal with smaller population.

Dermody commended Greenberg's efforts.

Corless: Common systems. PG&E has maps, SCE doesn't. PG&E has alert sign-ups.

Greenberg: SCE acknowledges weak/deficient, doing some work. What would we want to see in map?

Grasseschi: Continue indefinitely with power with snow on ground?

Greenberg: Four main circuits that feed town are dependent on other things. Transmission 150 kv. Failure of backup line in recent outage. Town is better isolated, multiple routes.

Grasseschi: Mammoth could stay powered up during outage. Keep people here.

Nelson: As long as lines don't come down. Incident team have space to include agencies with similar concerns? BLM working with Cal Fire.

Greenberg: "Team" decide if an event exists or not. Frievalt asked when open EOC.

Sheriff Braun: Starting to get feel of when it's real vs. perfunctory. Bring in partners for real event. Don't load others up with work.

Greenberg: Last big statewide one mostly Great Basin, not lose power. Shrink periods of concern.

Cutts: Maybe talk again next summer.

Sheriff Braun: Knew PPS was coming, constantly in PPS. Not know when getting out of it. What circuits on?

Greenberg: Telling us what circuits are impacted but can't tell me what circuit I'm on.

Sheriff Braun: Only 30 circuits in Mono. Print circuit on everyone's bill.

Dermody: Fires starting down south for circuits not shut off.

Sheriff Braun: Every fire might trigger tightening by SCE.

Greenberg: Makes sense to pull in agencies. When, how, best time to do it.

Dermody: Liberty Utilities? *Greenberg: Engage them, no formal presentation, no wildfire mitigation plan with CPUC. North Mono could lose power.*

Ellsworth: Liberty working on that.

--- Break: 10:43-10:50 a.m. ---

6. WILDLIFE CROSSING UPDATE/NEXT STEPS: Austin West of Caltrans has been working on this during the past eight months. Options include exclusionary fencing, over/under crossings. A Project Initiation Document will define scope, cost and schedule. Proposition 68 grant not funded, mainly cost. Improve wording next grant cycle. Innovative funding strategies needed, perhaps partner with 'Eastern Sierra Land Trust.

Nelson: Clean up environmental verbiage to amend right of way. No Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement. Simple language.

Ellsworth: Ask Tim Taylor to review application.

Corless: Randall-Parker check on LADWP headwaters strategy.

Dermody: Mammoth Creek bridge/fence upgrade. Convict Creek too. Fundraising for crossing.

7. EASTERN SIERRA SUSTAINABLE RECREATION PARTNERSHIP UPDATE: John Wentworth, MLTPA (Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access) Partnership with agencies in public partnership. New partners include BLM, LADWP, tribes. Specific to outdoor recreation in Eastern Sierra. Initiative is a grant directly supporting goals of partnership. Recreation/stakeholders, climate adaptation, asset valuations of natural resources in Eastern Sierra, and projects. Connecting with visitor audience. Make sure people know what to expect, how to behave. Meets on regular basis, if interested in being part of it, contact Wentworth.

Engage with visitor audience? *Wentworth: Feedback to turn into projects by various marketing arms.*

Corless: About 100 attendees at last meeting in Bishop.

Wentworth: NPS to participate. Air service moving from Mammoth to Bishop.

8. SAGE GROUSE UPDATE: Listing decision extended six months. Awaiting data sets, site visits, maps of water infrastructure, prioritizing with LADWP. Caveat: It's LADWP land, so it holds final decision on authority. Grant denied.

Karl: Scale greater this year. Mountain Meadows focus. Asked \$900,000. Practical implementation.

Sugimura: LADWP on board for next application.

Karl: Sale down, specific to Long Valley, less money, quick turnaround. Grant application due Nov. 20, 2019.

Sugimura: Management plan plus data on ranch, agriculture, and LADWP.s water (storage and capacity). Will seek letters of support.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

10. ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING: Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020, at 9 a.m.

Prepared by CD Ritter, CPT clerk