

Mono Basin Regional Planning Advisory Committee
Draft meeting minutes
14 March 2018, Lee Vining Community Center

Members Present: Ilene Mendelbaum, Lisa Cutting, Bartshe Miller, Kristie Nelson,

Public attendees and presenters: Wayne Beaver, Bob Gardner, Gerry Le Francois, Jon Robertson

Opened with moment of silence to honor Supervisor Larry Johnston who passed away today

1. Public Comment: none

2. Review/Approve Minutes from February 2018: postponed. February minutes not currently available.

3. Supervisor Gardner's report: Bob reported on the County's continued cannabis regulation development, including land use and licensing. No decisions have been reached yet, but a cap of 10 cultivation permits is being discussed, as are restrictions in advertising/marketing to youth. Cannabis taxes are also being deliberated. The goal is to have the tax revenue cover direct (legal counsel, etc.), indirect costs (addiction/behavioral health, etc.), plus have some remaining cannabis-tax revenue for the county.

Short-term rentals: after 50 hours of workshops, plus the time the Planning Commission and others have put into this topic in June Lake, the county has made much progress, and hopes to resolve the short-term rental issue soon in a way that is best for the county and its residents.

Recreation: the County allocated \$50,000 for the joint recreation management position with the town of Mammoth Lakes to deal with the unmet recreation and facilities management needs. The joint position with the town will not be filled this year, so now the county is looking at how to spend these allocated funds within the county to help with recreation management. Bob or Tony Dublino are taking requests ASAP for requests on how the county should spend these funds. Later in the meeting the RPAC brainstormed top ideas.

4. Chairperson Report: Lisa reported on the Lee Vining PUD meeting with the Inyo National Forest, in which the progress in developing a test well for the State-mandated secondary water supply source needed for Lee Vining was discussed. Progress is slowly moving forward, and the next step is that the Inyo National Forest needs to approve the test well.

Collaboration with Friends of the Inyo has continued regarding restoring the Lee Vining Creek trail wash-out. Inquiries about the cable that is suspended over Lee Vining Creek are on-going. DWP Real Estate office received no request or announcement for its installation. A member of the public commented that much of the installation of the cable was done in nighttime hours. Public Comment for the Inyo National Forest SCE powerlines permitting package/renewal is currently open.

5. Members Reports: none

6. USFS Report: Postponed as no INF representative attended the meeting

7. Unmet Transit needs input (Jon from ESTA): In addition to the standard bus routes between Lone Pine and Reno that ESTA operates, Jon shared the van-pool opportunity that ESTA provides. A minimum of 8 people can pool modest funds for hiring custom-route van transportation. He also reviewed the non-emergency medical transportation program that ESTA offers.

8. Inyo NF – priorities and partnership opportunities: Ideas to improve facilities and tourist management in the Mono Basin and Mono County were discussed. We brain-stormed ideas for putting the \$50k the County has available for recreation management to use. In general, better bathroom facilities and extending the open season of local campgrounds were ranked highly. The specific list of unmet recreation and facilities-related topics proposed included: Better bathroom signage, and possibly extra porta-potties in Lundy Canyon at both the May-Lundy trail by the lake and the upper trailhead and for the Parker Lake trailhead. Also install signage at the Lee Vining Visitor Center when it is closed directing people to the nearest bathroom facilities in Lee Vining to reduce the human waste problem there was requested. The goal of having the lower Lee Vining campgrounds open during fishing season (April – mid-November) was a high priority. The popularity of fishing and the amount of tourism in what have traditionally been considered the shoulder seasons makes extending the campground season worthwhile.

The idea of a fall color shuttle to reduce traffic and parking shortages during the peak fall color period was suggested. The idea of increased volunteer assistance was also discussed. The Mono Lake volunteers group consists of over 300 dedicated volunteers who are a valuable asset to the community assisting in education, management, and interpretation. Perhaps a coordinator could get volunteers to assist beyond Mono Lake to include areas of high tourist activity within the Inyo-Mono region.

9. Fire Safe Council report: Kristie summarized the meeting on Monday March 12th. The Fire Safe Council discussed having campfire safety fliers available to campers, by including them with firewood bundle sales and distributing them at visitor centers to campers who wish to disperse camp. We also discussed additional posting of Smoky Bear signs around town to remind visitors and locals of fire safety. The Mono Basin Fire Safe Council has struggled with low turnout and lack of adequate leadership.

10. Upcoming Information Items (Planning staff): Gerry mentioned that the Tioga Inn project is being revised, but new details are not yet available. An SCE representative called the County regarding plans to install some kind of concrete structure near Hwy 120 west and 395. The RPAC (Lisa) will follow up.

11. Upcoming agenda items: Lee Vining rehab project, Dark Sky letter

Next Meeting: April 11, 2018

Prepared by Kristie Nelson