

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

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

Public attendees and presenters: Wayne Beaver, Bentley Regehr, Wendy Sugimura, Bob Gardner, Tim Banta, and Dave Marquart

1 Call to Order: 6:39 pm. Moment of silence in remembrance of Zane Davis.

2. Public Comment: Wayne Beaver had two comments – first he encouraged and supported continued communications between County officials and those involved with the Tioga Pass opening so locals and businesses can be better informed about the status of Hwy 120 opening. Bob Gardner mentioned a statement on Hwy 120 had recently been issued, which stated that clearing snow of 120 west will start in April and the pass won't be open for Memorial Day. Secondly, Wayne expressed his displeasure with the state of the "Avalanche" road – the dirt road paralleling Hwy 395 between Old Marina to Lee Vining. This road serves as the only useable route when avalanches cover that section of 395, which occurs frequently. An avalanche had recently slid there and nearly crossed 395. If it had, a closure would be a terrible headache for the community and travelers, which would be preventable if the alternate road was properly maintained. The Avalanche road has been washed out since last summer (or longer?). Wayne encouraged pressure be applied to have this remedied and no longer stand for the extreme delays in maintenance.

3. Review/Approve Minutes from November and December 2018. Minutes from November and December 2018 were reviewed. Bartshe moved and Kristie seconded the November minutes; Ilene moved and Kristie seconded the December minutes. Both were unanimously approved.

4. Supervisor Gardner's report: Regulations for short-term rentals are done! They are banned in Mono City, and outside areas have an application process. SCE want to reduce dispersed camping on their land off Utility Rd. They are interested in finding big boulders for limiting/managing access to targeted areas. Housing: there's demand for 120 – 160 housing units in Mono Co. outside of Mammoth. The County continues with its plans for providing funds to help the Forest Service with visitor experience and recreation-related needs like potties and trail maintenance. Further ideas for unmet needs in this area are welcomed. Board of Supervisors this year have been discussing their priorities including the Civic Center in Mammoth, ongoing disaster prevention planning, and labor/HR programs. They also provided comments to the Inyo NF management plan in favor of having the Mono Basin tributary streams be included in Wild/Scenic designations.

5. Chairperson Report: Lisa also spoke in support of Mono Basin creeks being considered by Inyo NF as Wild/Scenic designation which the Mono Lake Committee also supports.

6. Members Reports: Kristie expressed discontent that the 395 speedometers remain broken. Ilene shared that since the 2019 blizzard, much about emergency preparedness was learned

and implemented on the fly. She expressed a desire for a community meeting of individuals and organizations to establish a local disaster management plan based on what worked well and not so well in February.

7. Fire Safe Council update: Bob and Ilene attended. Bob discussed the excellent idea of having the County function as an umbrella organization for grant-writing for several or all Mono Co fire safe councils. That would streamline the application process and grant writing efforts, and distribute funds to multiple local needs under unified organization. The Mono Basin fire safe council is aiming for banners in town this summer encouraging fire-safe behavior and awareness.

8. Update on letter of support/RPAC direction on Electric Vehicle charging station: Lisa drafted a letter of support for the EV car charger at Hess Park, outlining RPAC's support for the concept. Specific details, however, are being worked out by the County.

9. Housing Element Draft workshop: Bentley overviewed this part of the general plan which is undergoing revision. There is a need for 160 housing units in Mono Co. outside of Mammoth (which is more than the state assessment of needed units). Workforce housing continues to be of great need in the Mono Basin and Mono County. Discussion ensued about ideas of having camp/tent-based bunkers for Lee Vining workforce which was first proposed by Ilene.

10. Information Items and Direction to staff: An application for retail cannabis sales has been submitted for the old LV gas (aka Tyvek Taco) building. Long Valley water demur was denied, so the lawsuit with DWP is going ahead. This year because of high water flows, DWP will be releasing the full water allotments to Long Valley this summer and appears supportive of the County researching water management/hydrology.

11. Future agenda items: Approval of electric vehicle letter; emergency preparedness, unmet transit needs

Adjourn 8:00

Prepared by Kristie Nelson