

**Mono Basin RPAC
Regional Planning Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 8, 2020, 6:30 pm, Lee Vining Community Center**

Members present: Duncan King, Lisa Cutting, Ilene Mandelbaum, Chris Lizza and Kristie Nelson

Public Attendees and Presenters: Bob Gardner, Elin Ljung, Wendy Sugimura, Bentley Regehr, Margaret Eisler, Gordon Martin and Cody Messerschmidt

1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:** 6:32 pm.
2. **Public Comment: Gordon Martin** – introduced Cody Messerschmidt as Temporary Deputy District Ranger for the northern Inyo National Forest.
3. **Approve Minutes: December 11, 2019.** Chris Lizza moved and Kristie Nelson seconded that the minutes be approved – Motion approved unanimously.
4. **Election of Officers: Nominate and elect Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary:**
Lisa proposed Duncan for Chair, Kristie seconded.
Lisa Proposed Kristie for Secretary and Ilene seconded.
Ilene proposed Lisa for Vice-Chair and Kristie seconded.
Ilene moved that the above slate of officers be approved for 2020. Kristie seconded.
Motion approved unanimously.

At this point in the meeting Duncan took the 'Chair' and Kristie took over as Secretary

5. Supervisor Gardner report: Update on the Lee Vining "Avalanche Rd": Bob obtained minutes from 2006 Board of Supervisors meeting in which maintenance of this road had been discussed. Before the installation of avalanche control stations above 395 (aka "Gas-X"), this section of 395 was at higher risk of large avalanches and having an alternate route was of even greater importance than today. But improving the road and installing a culvert is on a priority project list for the county. Jurisdiction over who owns/should maintain this road remains unclear, but the County plans to take action. Google maps often sends people down this road to access Old Marina – contacting them and requesting that route be removed was mentioned. The county is seeking a volunteer correspondent to help keep an eye on the Mono Lake Cemetery and report maintenance needs. The upcoming primary election is in March and information about it is on the County website. Mono Co. radio communications and dispatch are on the county's radar for improvement and communications are on-going as the County, Sheriff and others work towards improvements here. Dispatch may be regionalized.

6. Chairperson Report: Duncan – nothing to report.

7. Member's reports:

- a. Kristie – nothing to report
- b. Ilene
- c. Lisa – nothing to report
- d. Chris – Gave Planning Commission update, which included a variance granted to a property for a stream setback. Chris also announced that due to workforce shortage the Mono Market will close for the remainder of the winter. It will likely reopen in mid-March

8. Fire Safe Council Update: Bob Gardner reported on his correspondence with Stan Nelson of Bishop Cal Fire who was involved in the Mono City defensible space inspections. No major problems were found. He suggested the community initiate a volunteer group to help be advocates for fire safe recommendations. Home hardening techniques could be further employed in Mono City – many examples have been used in Swall Meadows home rebuilds.

9. Inyo National Forest Updates: Cody was introduced at the start of the meeting as the short-term Deputy District Ranger. Gordon mentioned INF positions which are open – including a second recreation officer and special use permit coordinator. Gordon reported news that a sink hole near the aqueduct near the Mono Craters had opened up. Also the INF is working with settlement parties regarding the Mill/Wilson creek issues. The Inyo is hiring for both North and South district Visitor Center managers. The north position would run both Mammoth and Mono Basin VC's. Other senior staff positions are filled, but many mid and lower positions are open. There may be a wilderness ranger/trail monitor funded through a John Muir Foundation Grant. Ilene asked about the status of the test well for Lee Vining PUD – Gordon mentioned he approved it. Duncan passed along to Gordon the list of topics the Mono Basin RPAC had previously identified as regional needs for INF to consider. Dispersed camping was briefly discussed.

10. Housing sub-committee report: There had not been a meeting yet this month but Lisa read an email from Bartshe Miller about his meeting with DWP employee Clarence Martin to discuss potential sites for housing developments to be constructed on DWP lands. Clarence said leasing was less viable than selling. There was precedent for this with DWP in Bishop, and if the County presented reasonable need in a proposal, that could start the ball rolling for further plans of land sale(s). No water rights could accompany a land sale, but if the property was associated with existing water/sewer this shouldn't be a problem. Clarence mentioned he is retiring or on leave starting in March. The land could potentially be sold to a developer if the county doesn't have funds immediately available.

Other parcel(s) that were previously identified as being ideal for affordable workforce housing are owned by the Mono County school board (as opposed to DWP parcels). It was discussed that the school board could be approached to investigate willingness to sell the parcel(s) for housing.

11. SCE substation: Uncertainties regarding long-term visual impacts about this substation which is located on the important entry-way to Lee Vining remain unclear. The project is larger than some members had anticipated and there was not a public comment period. The RPAC was curious about post-construction rehab plans, if any, including revegetation and the like. This could be addressed in a future meeting with an SCE repetitive.

12. Information Items: Wendy gave a briefing on the Tioga Inn. The county is in the process of drafting the final EIR response to comments. The property owner opted out of the optional follow up public workshop. The final EIR should be out around the end of February and there will be special meetings from the planning commission and the board to address the Tioga Inn. These are expected to take place in late March. Ilene voiced concern about the lack of an additional public workshop, and Wendy explained the process and that there is no legal trigger to require such a meeting, though community members could meet on their own if they wished.

13. Future agenda items: Mono Basin Fire Safe update, SCE sub-station update, Inyo National Forest

Adjourned 7:52pm until next meeting Feb. 12

Respectfully submitted – Kristie Nelson