

Mono County Local Agency Formation Commission

PO Box 347
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
760.924.1800, fax 924.1801
commdev@mono.ca.gov

PO Box 8
Bridgeport, CA 93517
760.932.5420, fax 932.5431
www.monocounty.ca.gov

MINUTES

May 4, 2011
(Adopted June 1, 2011)

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Larry Johnston & Byng Hunt, Mono County; Jo Bacon & Matthew Lehman, Town of Mammoth Lakes; Earl Henderson, special districts. **ABSENT:** Hank Brown, special districts; John Ross, public member.

VISITORS PRESENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Scott Burns, LAFCO executive officer; Brent Calloway, CDD analyst; C.D. Ritter, LAFCO secretary

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Earl Henderson called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.
- 3. MINUTES:** Review and approve minutes from November 3, 2010, as amended: (Hunt/Lehman. Ayes: 4-0. Abstain: Johnston, who is new to LAFCO.)
- 4. REAPPOINT COMMISSIONER JOHN ROSS:** Ross was not present, but was reappointed. **MOTION:** Reappoint Commissioner John Ross to a four-year term that expires May 4, 2015. (Bacon/Hunt. Ayes: 5-0. Absent: Brown & Ross.)
- 5. PUBLIC HEARING:** Consider adoption of 2011-2012 Preliminary Budget. Scott Burns indicated a status-quo budget that reimburses commissioner travel, attendance, and conference attendance. The past year had Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence adjustments and authorization of Latent Powers for County Service Areas #1 and #5. Possible annexation for the Snowcreek area and geothermal development activity could occur. The budget is split between Town and County due to impact on poorly funded districts.

Commissioner Bacon asked how many hours are actually billed to LAFCO projects. Typically hours are not accounted for, but a new system was implemented six months ago. Many LAFCOs have their own staff, whereas smaller LAFCOs have circuit riders, and smaller county staffs pick up administrative functions. LAFCO could consider independent staffing.

Commissioner Johnston asked about the cost of special districts. MUSD and MCWD are fairly wealthy. Is it based on the budget? Yes, Burns replied, it's a percentage of the whole expenditure pie. He offered to bring the formula to the June meeting.

Commissioner Henderson noted that MUSD can adjust rates. He brought this up last year. "If we do it for one, do we have to do it for all?" he asked. Burns indicated it's open in LAFCO law. Alternative formulas exist.

Commissioner Henderson thought all special districts should be tuned into LAFCO and be part of it – LAFCO might affect them sooner or later even though Town and County pick up the tab.

Commissioner Bacon wondered about cost to charge them all for admin time, or would it be too complicated? Burns will ask Finance Director Brian Muir.

Commissioner Hunt supported the preliminary budget, but questioned why the budget must be at least as big as last year. Why, especially in recessionary times?

Brent Calloway stated that the LAFCO board would have to say it wouldn't cut services in order to go below last year's budget. **CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING.**

MOTION: Adopt 2011-12 Preliminary Budget as presented (Hunt/Bacon. Ayes: 4-0. Absent: Brown & Ross.)

6. EMERGING TRENDS IN LAFCO: Scott Burns introduced Brent Calloway, CDD analyst, who has experience at all levels of government, including a special district that merged with another. Most people have never heard of LAFCO when they take a job with it.

Calloway reported on the recent CALAFCO conference held in Ventura. The keynote speaker was a professor from CSU Channel Islands, who spoke on maintaining perspective as public servants in an increasingly negative public environment. Public workers are the new illegal aliens, used as political pawns, he contended.

Analysts gathered, mostly newer and younger who have been charged with MSRs, different strategies. Orange County talked about creating virtual MSRs, real-time data streams. Orange County set up LAFCO e-harmony website with all Special Districts. Emerald City ~~became~~ *may become* the first marijuana city. A recurring theme was economic stability. New model: Government is driven by costs, so focus on cost-sharing instead of revenues. Productive cost-sharing has occurred between city police departments that formerly would not have communicated. The new model can't exist if anyone has an attitude of not wanting to cooperate with other districts.

LAFCO can market itself a place to go if interested in communicating with districts or cities on cost-sharing. GIS services are low-hanging fruit. Town/County is already doing that cutting edge tactic.

Tax collection and allocation was discussed heatedly. Changes to California budget, with a prediction California is handing more control to counties but without money to go along with it. This could result in a deeper cultural divide between coastal (high ~~tech~~ *tax*, high service) and inland (low ~~tech~~ *tax*, low service). Red Cross has shown advanced social networking. Lawyers contradicted use of social networking, contending that any conversation on social media sites becomes someone's First Amendment rights, so did not want it on government sites. Lawyers recommended that if a forum for public conversation is desired, frame and set it up so any public comment becomes government property. A tech-savvy Ventura official became the first blogging city manager.

Climate change was discussed but had nothing to do with LAFCO – just a few scientists giving research papers on predictions for Central Coast region, far removed from day-to-day LAFCO processes.

CEQA sessions revealed a wide variety of philosophies in rapidly urbanizing areas: big projects, annexations, utilizing CEQA in opposition to different projects. Seasoned CEQA people are using it for completely different purposes.

Commissioner Johnston asked about smaller counties? Most are not doing much.

Commissioner Henderson recalled reorganizing/grouping of rural and mountain communities.

Commissioner Hunt wondered about a normal small-county group within CALAFCO. The split is Northern, Central, Coastal, and Southern.

7. ADJOURN to June 1, 2011, to approve Final Budget. Commissioner Johnston will be absent.

