



MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF MONO
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Regular Meetings: The
First, Second, And
Third Tuesday of each
month

Regular Meeting

County Courthouse,
Bridgeport, CA 93517

March 8, 2011

9:01 AM Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Hazard.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Sr. Deputy Clerk Shannon Kendall.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

John Wentworth:

- MLTPA – delivered Mono County Recreation Access Tool; gave Supervisors a brief update.
- Supervisor Hunt: asked how this tool would work for our county.
- John suggested having a time to talk about all the programs that can be integrated into the recreation programs – need to get together, look at programs and integrate them into the website/system.
- Supervisor Hansen: very impressed with work done so far. He's looking forward to seeing this go forward and hearing more about it in the future.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Supervisor Hunt:

- 2/9 – Lion's Club meeting, speech contest.
- 2/9 – First Five reception for the Pea Pod program.
- 2/14 – He and Supervisor Hazard went to a meeting with Elizabeth Tenney regarding monument issue, come up with slight modification, etc.
- 2/18 – ESTA meeting, business as usual. Report in Inyo Register stating that Inyo County had been given the financial officer status to pull ESTA out of financial crisis which is not necessarily true. ESTA is in good financial shape.
- 2/17 – regular Commission meeting for First Five. They decided to spend every dollar they have – trying to fund programs currently in place.
- Attended MCPEA negotiations several times over the month. Will continue.
- 3/2 – Eastern Sierra Transit held a bus driver safety meeting. They do this periodically. Truly hospitality agents.
- Eastern Sierra Economic Assessment Project; update on what's been going on the past few months. Digital 395 stood out as significant future project.
- Yesterday Solid Waste Fund meeting at Town Manager's Office – we need a short term fix.
- Met new Town Manager, Marianna Marysheva-Martinez; she also attended ML Housing meeting last night.

Supervisor Hansen:

- 2/8 – went to Mono County Chamber of Commerce Meeting.
- 2/9 – Lee Vining RPAC; Chairman Hazard came and explained a lot about Digital 395.
- 2/10 – meeting in Walker about Mountain Gate Fishing access.
- 2/12 – Antelope Volunteer Fire Department – fund raiser.
- 2/14 – LTC meeting.
- 2/15 – BOS meeting; great turnout at the 6:00 Cougar Gold meeting.
- 2/17 – Bridgeport RPAC – discussed Caltrans issues.
- 2/23 – 2/25 went to Sacramento for New Supervisor’s training.
- 2/25 – Fishing Commission meeting discussion on new regulations.
- 3/1 – BOS meeting.
- 3/2 – CalTrans meeting about Conway Ranch.
- 3/3- Budget meetings. Antelope Valley RPAC.
- Yesterday, meeting with Conway Ranch individuals.

Supervisor Bauer:

- Absent; board report deferred.

Supervisor Johnston:

- Attend Solid Waste Advisory Meetings, potential solution on the table.
- LTC Meeting.
- Attended new Supervisor training. One more to go in April.
- Met with Kristin Olsen, brief meeting.
- Read a lot of emails on the Bodie Hills issue.

Supervisor Hazard:

- 2/2 - Met with McKeon’s office on WSA.
- 2/3 - Meeting regarding Assessor issues.
- 2/4 - Office Hours.
- 2/7 – Town of Mammoth Lakes meeting. Digital 395 discussion; there are certain policies we are not addressing – we might need to assign individuals to committees. Need to get on Collaborative Planning team discussion. (Marshall: agendize using other providers as well as an update to the Board as there has been a lot of activity?)
- Talked to various Mammoth business owners regarding Airport issues/Mountain and economic opportunities.
- Meeting with Rusty Gregory.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

- 1) CAO Report regarding Board Assignments (David Wilbrecht)
ACTION: Receive brief oral report by County Administrative Officer (CAO) regarding his activities.

Dave Wilbrecht:

- Last week was filled with budget meetings; more time needs to be spent on various topics which will be scheduled.
- Management C-4 meeting.
- CalTrans meeting; Supervisor Hansen attended.
- Continuing to work with Assessor’s Office on personnel issues.
- Met with Stacey Adler regarding Forest reserve, reviewing policy.
- Discussion with Town of Mammoth Lakes regarding Solid Waste proposals. Hearings to be scheduled – at least two meetings – early April probably, including a presentation to the Town Council.

- 2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- M11-46** **ACTION:** Approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 15, 2011.
Hunt moved; Hansen seconded
Vote: 3 Yes; 1 Abstain: Johnston; 1 Absent: Bauer

Closed Session: 9:07 a.m.
Break: 10:03 a.m.
Reconvene: 10:09 a.m.
Break: 10:49 a.m.
Reconvene: 10:52 a.m.
Lunch: 12:15 p.m.
Reconvene: 1:12 p.m.
Break: 1:45 p.m.
Reconvene: 2:02 p.m.
Break: 4:10 p.m.
Reconvene: 4:16
Adjourn: 4:32 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

There was nothing to report out of Closed Session.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- 3a) Closed Session -- County Counsel - CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS. Government Code section 54956.8. Property: APN 024-131-011-000. Agency negotiator: Dave Wilbrecht, Marshall Rudolph, John-Carl Vallejo, and Brian Muir. Negotiating parties: White Mountain Fire Protection District and Mono County. Under negotiation: price and terms of payment.
- 3b) Closed Session--Human Resources - CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS. Government Code Section 54957.6. Agency designated representative(s): Dave Wilbrecht, Marshall Rudolph, Brian Muir, and Jim Arkens. Employee Organization(s): Mono County Sheriff's Officers Association (aka Deputy Sheriff's Association), Local 39--majority representative of Mono County Public Employees (MCPE) and Deputy Probation Officers Unit (DPOU), Mono County Paramedic Rescue Association (PARA), Mono County Public Safety Officers Association (PSO), and Mono County Sheriff Department's Management Association (SO Mgmt). Unrepresented employees: All.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/EMERGING ISSUES

(PLEASE LIMIT COMMENTS TO FIVE MINUTES EACH)

Clay Booher:

- They have an RFP out for expertise to monitor and assist with the digital 395 project. (Supervisor Hansen would like information presented to the RPAC.)
- Radio system support options/how to support in the future? Does the Board want a radio system overview? (Yes, this would be worthwhile.)

Lynda Roberts:

- Notice in both papers and local radio station to advise people about the third meeting occurring in Mammoth Lakes, CA.
- Supervisor Johnston has also sent a letter to the editor regarding this.

Dan Lyster:

- License agreement has been sent to LADWP for a signature to get the Pipeline in. We should get something in return within a week or two. (5 year licensing agreement to be signed by their general manager.)
- He plans on utilizing a grant for partial funding – hope to get pipeline in this year.

Sheriff Scholl:

- Needs a final determination on the FTS IV position – replacing Financial Analyst position in his Department. They are looking at a different classification which will be at a lower salary.
- Marshall Rudolph: Board can't take action in Department Reports, need to be agendized. Should come back to the board no matter what due to hiring freeze in place – even if Board is just backfilling a position.
- Supervisor Hazard – can HR initiate this?
- Supervisor Johnston: since there is a freeze, The Sheriff needs to be prepared to explain why the position should be filled.

Jeff Walters:

- Security Issues – last week did a test on all security buttons in various buildings. These all work and will be tested periodically.
- Deadbolts installed in chambers.
- Looking into how to get out of the chambers in an emergency. A ladder?
- Supervisor Hazard: is there an occupancy limit notice for the board chambers posted somewhere?

Brian Muir:

- Shifting HR system from employee based to position based. Data conversion being done this week. Should go live next week; will make future budgeting easier to estimate.
- This new system should plug some holes, help with security and allow for a lot less paper.

CONSENT AGENDA

(All matters on the consent agenda are to be approved on one motion unless a board member requests separate action on a specific item.)

ELECTIONS

- 4a) Proposed Legislation regarding Reimbursements for Special Elections - Letter of support for proposed urgency legislation introduced by Senator Blakeslee (SB 106) that would require the State to reimburse counties for the cost of special elections proclaimed by the Governor to fill vacancies and held between January 1, 2009, and April, 2011.

M11-47 Action: Authorize Chair of the Board to sign a letter on behalf of the Board of Supervisors supporting the proposed legislation.

Hunt moved; Hansen seconded

Vote: 4 Yes, 0 No; 1 Abstain: Bauer

4b) Election Invoice for Eastern Sierra Unified School District - An invoice for Eastern Sierra Unified School District's share of the election costs for the November 2, 2010, Consolidated General Election. Pursuant to Education Code section 5421, election costs "shall be determined by the county elections official and approved by the county board of supervisors."

M11-48 Action: Approve the invoice to Eastern Sierra Unified School District for its share of the costs associated with the November 2, 2010, Consolidated General Election.

Hunt moved; Hansen seconded

Vote: 4 Yes, 0 No; 1 Abstain: Bauer

REGULAR AGENDA

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (INFORMATIONAL)

All items listed are available for review and are located in the Office of the Clerk of the Board

CLERK OF THE BOARD

5a) No Correspondence

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

6a) Federal and State Budgets (Board Members) - The Board of Supervisors may discuss the Federal budget and the California State budget and potential impacts to Mono County.

Action: None.

Supervisor Hunt:

- We should know more by Thursday.

Supervisor Hazard:

- Legislature and Governor are at impasse – no decision on budget.
- Will be going into first round of overtime.
- He'll be asking next week for any issues board members would like him to carry to Sacramento.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - PLANNING DIVISION

7a) PUBLIC HEARING--General Plan Amendment 11-001 (Tony Dublino) - General Plan Amendment 11-001 would make exceptions to minimize lot size requirements for large-lot subdivisions that benefit public parks and/or open space.

R11-14 Action: Adopt proposed resolution #R11-14 as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Hunt move, Hansen seconded

Vote: 4 Yes, 1 absent: Bauer

Began at 10:38 a.m.

Tony Dublino:

- First General Plan Amendment of 2011. Usually this type of amendment would not have been presented by itself. Because this is going to help facilitate acquisition of property, owner wanted this amendment prior to closing of escrow.
- This has gone before Planning Commission. No negative comments received to date.
- He asks that the Board consider adopting this plan amendment. One minor change recommended, he passed out new resolution with slight changes.
- Because all sections apply, he included them all.

Supervisor Johnston:

- He thought under environmental section you were supposed to select which category it applies to, not have multiple ones.
- This is a very specific amendment for a very specific issue – he doesn't think we should be writing these into the general plan amendment. He will support it but feels it could have been handled differently.
- This could apply elsewhere in the county.

Marshall Rudolph:

- He thinks it's better to list any exemption that could apply.

Supervisor Hunt:

- Could this apply elsewhere in the county?

Supervisor Hazard:

- He is hoping this is narrow and focused only on this property and doesn't overlap into other areas as he received a few calls from constituents in his district.

Open Public Hearing: 10:46 a.m.

Tim Fesko:

- Member of Antelope Valley RPAC.
- Really wants this to go through.

Close Public Hearing: 10:47 a.m.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- 8a) Mammoth-Yosemite Airport (John Urdi, Executive Director of Mammoth Lakes Tourism; Bill Manning, Town of Mammoth Lakes Airport and Transportation Director; Howard Pickett, Chief Marketing Officer of Mammoth Mountain Ski Area;) - The intent of the presentation is to review the performance of the 2010 summer air service program at MMH; verify the amount owed by Mono County for the summer 2010 air service subsidy; outline the plan for the 2011 summer/fall air service program; request Mono County participation in the support of the subsidy for the 2011 program. This item was agendaized at the request of Supervisor Byng Hunt.

No Motion. **Action:** None.

John Urdi, Mammoth Lakes Tourism (powerpoint, copy kept in today's meeting folder):

Why air is important:

- Significant growth in tourism with a huge economic impact.
- Broadens the economic base for the region.
- "Quality of Life" for residents.

Why Summer/Fall Air is important (year round service):

- Critical to many businesses with year-round operations.
- It's critical to clear perception that you can fly to the area.
- Critical to the "value" of air service for those who depend on it.
- Critical to air partners who can operate more efficiently.

Air is a Revenue Growth Strategy:

- Drives the economic growth and development of the region, increasing the tax base.
- Improves the quality of life for our citizens and makes the area a better place to live, work and invest.
- MMSA is committed to investing in this strategy along with Mono County and the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

Howard Pickett, MMSA

Summer/Fall 2010 Air Service Success:

- Summer flights performed better than expected for our first year.
- Approximately 7,400 enplanements (April – December).
- Like winter, summer flights brought new guests to the area.
- Overwhelming satisfaction with the summer service.
- Local residents using the flights represented 14% of all customers.
- Unprecedented success has put MMH in great position for support.

Summer/Fall 2010 Report Card:

- Summer/Fall subsidy cost is \$590,612, less than lowest estimate.
- Subsidy vs. Budget.
- Short-term, direct economic benefit just for the summer service.

John Urdi

Summer/Fall 2011 Proposal:

- Summer/Fall: April 25 – December 16, 2011 (235 days).
- Expected loads.
- Expected subsidy.

Summer/Fall 2011 Funding Request:

- Mono County, Town of Mammoth Lakes and MMSA split subsidy evenly between three entities.

Why Mono County should Participate:

- Air service is key strategy for growth.
- Investing in growth accelerates efforts.
- Commitment from all parties is important to ensure focus and support for making the service a success.
- Expected summer return is \$5.7 million in direct economic benefit to region.

DISCUSSION -

John Urdi:

- Airline requires line of credit.
- Will negotiate with fuel prices (with airlines) as much as possible.
- The crowding at the airport is being addressed, looking at adding a sprung

structure to use as a holding area.

- Mountain paid \$130,000 this past winter for subsidy.
- He feels that consistency issues with aircraft will continue to improve the more the pilots land in Mammoth.

Supervisor Johnston:

- Asked if Brown Act issues are resolved with Supervisors Bauer and Hazard.
- He knows Supervisor Farnetti stepped down previously.

Marshall Rudolph:

- In response to a question by Supervisor Johnston regarding whether there were Brown Act concerns pertaining to Supervisor Hazard's or Bauer's participation in this matter: those are not Brown Act issues, but rather a conflict of interest issue.
- He doesn't see any conflicts of interest for Supervisors Hazard or Bauer the way this item has been framed.
- In response to a comment by Supervisor Johnston that Supervisor Farnetti had recused himself from similar matters, he doesn't see a legal necessity for Supervisors Hazard or Bauer to recuse themselves here, although Supervisors can always choose to recuse themselves from various issues if they wish.

Supervisor Hunt:

- He thinks we should be a player in this because we stand to benefit from it.
- He believes we need to help fund the economic engine that's "keeping us alive" so to speak, especially in economically stressful times.
- Interested in line of credit Mountain is giving. Fuel costs?
- If we go into an agreement, will it be for specific subsidy or are we opening up ourselves to 1/3 commitment no matter what?
- Safety issue with terminal, is this a concern?
- Two issues up front we should be concerned with: equity and financially – are there grants or other funding sources out there? He's not fighting the air service idea; the circumstances right now are extremely difficult.

Supervisor Hansen:

- He has flown to LAX on Mammoth airlines.
- He agrees with it being year round, not stopping and starting.
- He doesn't think he can support it right now due to economic crisis we are in and also due to the area of his district.

Supervisor Johnston:

- Would have liked to have entire packet of information ahead of time, doesn't feel comfortable making such a large decision having just now seen the information.
- Is not happy with the way first agreement was structured with the county being on the hook FIRST.
- He wants to see what the initial \$45,000 has gotten Mono County, more statistics that this has had a positive effect on property sales, TOT, etc.
- Overriding question is how much government should subsidize private business (i.e. airlines)?
- In Town, they are in a better position to subsidize due to TOT, etc.
- Mono County Tourism wrote a letter that they fully support this but didn't offer a way to pay for it. Perhaps the 1% that Tourism receives from taxes?
- He thinks it's great if a funding source can be found, thinks it's bad timing.

Supervisor Hazard:

- He's divided on this issue. He thinks if we are going to have air service, needs to be year round.
- Conflict of Interest issue; this conversation needs to be tourism based.
- We need to reach out to markets that want to recreate here in the summer. We have also not made any effort to touch the international markets.
- He worries about the consistency of the flights and diversion of flights. We need multi ticket packages; what about changing leasing options, going to a smaller airplane during certain times?
- He can't support \$250,000 or more on this while paramedic services are suffering.
- He wants to pass this back to Economic Development and Tourism Commission to get additional details on this issue.

Dan Lyster:

- Any interest in forming a sub-committee? (Board wants them to do what they need to. Supervisors Hazard and Hunt will participate on such committee if necessary.)

Public Comment:

Jimmy Little, Chair of Tourism Commission:

- Their support letter was not intended to give a dollar figure.
- We can either be aggressive in this economy or pull it all back.
- We are not supporting private business, he sees it as encouraging people to come here and spend money.
- County does need to be a participant; we need to be building relationships.

Danna Stroud, Tourism Commission:

- The letter sent by Tourism Commission was encouraging Mono County to establish clear relationships with Mammoth Lakes Tourism and Mammoth Mountain Ski Area.
- We have the opportunity right now to analyze how to strategize our summer service.
- This has the opportunity to develop growth in the tourism industry for all of Mono County in the next 5-10 years. She encourages Board to be at the table and to put some investment into this effort.
- She welcomes the opportunity for the tourism commission to be as involved as possible.

Tim Fesko, Coleville (business owner):

- It's not government's duty to support private business by guaranteeing them a profit.
- He got online and checked out the flight prices. There was a deal going on from San Jose to Mammoth but the county has to pay the subsidy difference.
- Discussed numbers/prices/costs.

Howard Pickett:

- Cleared up some comments.
- Whether or not WE support these airlines doesn't matter to the airlines, they'll just fly elsewhere. If we don't support the subsidy, we don't get the service.

LUNCH

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No One Spoke.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - PLANNING DIVISION

9a) Antelope Valley RPAC Appointments (Scott Burns or Tony Dublino) - As recommended by Supervisor Hansen, consider appointments of three new members to the Antelope Valley RPAC.

M11-49 Action: Appoint Steven Rhodes, John Peters and Laurretta Cochran to the Antelope Valley RPAC.

Hansen moved; Johnston seconded

Vote: 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain: Bauer

Tony Dublino:

- Explained that this item was pulled from last week's consent item and placed onto this agenda for today's meeting.
- The Antelope Valley RPAC does not have terms. They are appointed until they resign or are removed

Supervisor Johnston:

- He thinks we should change the enabling legislation.
- He thinks the number should be capped at 11 members and there should be terms with expiration dates.
- He thinks there should be a future discussion.

Marshall Rudolph:

- He will bring more information back to the board.
- He canvassed all RPACS and see what they were doing and what they desired to do. You could change it and put terms and limits, but the RPACS voiced that they want to do what they've been doing.

Supervisor Hazard:

- He believes this is a local debate for the RPACs.

PUBLIC WORKS

10a) Walker Ball Field and Auchoberry Pit Discussion (Jeff Walters) - At the February 15, 2011 Board of Supervisors meeting the Board requested Public Works agendize a discussion regarding the Walker Ball Field and the Auchoberry Pit project expenses. The Walker Ball Field project is complete while the Auchoberry Pit project may have some future expenses required to satisfy the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act and Mono County Code.

No Motion. **Action:** None.

Jeff Walters:

Auchoberry Pit

- Discussed nature of the item before the Board. The Board has asked for an update on the expenses associated with this project.

- The history of this project was detailed. Money that has been spent was discussed as well as the potential for additional funds to be spent. Any additional funds will be brought back to the Board at a future time.

Walker Ball Field

- Discussed the expansion of the Walker Ball Field, the MWTC was going to provide a lot more assistance than they were able to provide.
- Went over initial funding allocations and additional ones that came up during the history of the project.

Tim Fesko (detailed handout with monetary figures are kept in the folder for today's meeting):

- He originally brought this up to the Board two months ago.
- Asked for explanation of Solid Waste reimbursement on Ball Field.
- Discussed Minute Order for Auchoberry Pit and the amount that was originally approved to be spent on it; he went over various figures.
- Fence vs. grading project – it would have been a fraction of a cost to do the fence vs. the very large amount spent on the grading.
- Not about whether or not a project was done; it comes down to costs and what was approved.
- We went through mid-year budget last week and he asked at that time about various costs for upcoming projects.

Mary Booher:

- Before this project was started, the Board's policy was to give the Board the total up front cost.
- The costs associated with these projects depict accounting mechanisms.

Dave Wilbrecht:

- Went into ball field project with "good faith" perspective.
- Made a decision to use our staff vs. waiting to see if the Marine Base could provide additional assistance.

John Peters:

- He made the presentation initially about the Ball field.
- He thinks the ball field has taken an unfair hit regarding accounting mechanisms, etc. The Boosters have held up their end of the deal; he appreciates all the county has done.
- He doesn't want the ball and chain of the ball field project to be drug into future community projects.

Supervisor Hazard:

- The County did want to become more transparent at that time.
- Bottom line – they created a facility that was asked for by the community, the county had to take up slack to finish the field.
- He thinks they did right by the community, the kids, and the county.

Supervisor Hunt:

- County overruns are always a concern; he doesn't want to make excuses.
- The Auchoberry Pit was purchased initially for \$24,000 and was well worth it; additional monies spent will ultimately be well worth it.
- Ball field was pretty much on budget – to him the partnerships that this project experienced are wonderful.
- No apologies.

Supervisor Hansen:

- He thinks that these two projects are something the community should be proud of.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- 11a) Bodie Hills Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (Supervisor Hap Hazard) - Consider and discuss a compromise proposal developed by Supervisor Hazard pertaining to the Bodie Hills Wilderness Study Area. Consider and potentially approve a letter to Congressman McKeon supporting that proposal.

No Motion. Action: None.

Supervisor Hazard:

- He put today's item onto the agenda; a potential compromise.
- Is going to explain what has changed since the February 15th meeting.
- This is not an informational gathering; it's a discussion from where the Board left off, strictly a discussion of the WSA.
- This is two separate issues: it's a WSA resolution and not a mining issue.
- At Feb. 15th meeting, we heard two Board members want further WSA protection and two that were supporting the release. He spoke last and stated he would work with legislature and stakeholders but he has since changed that position.
- He was not in support of 100% release or 100% protection.
- BLM's position states: more indicators point to release than protection; this is why he's proposing a potential compromise.
- We have between now and August to piggyback onto legislation being written.
- We could potentially lose our voice with redistricting. A lot of people think there's no rush.
- He felt it was time to step up and make some decisions. He feels he's a pivot vote; only way to resolve this is to stand up and be accountable.
- He explained map (previously distributed) and the area he suggests as new proposed wilderness. This is an area that will always be protected. The area where mining is proposed is not as close to Bodie as some might think.
- He thought the lengths that BLM and Cougar Gold went to in the initial drilling were very thorough. The mine issue can be dealt with over a period of time, the release of the wilderness area cannot.
- He thinks the mine needs to do extensive testing. The public will still have a lot of opportunity to comment on the drilling itself.
- He doesn't like the mine or its operator. Solid answers were not provided. He has not seen any positive impact as of yet on this community. He doesn't think the financial numbers presented are supported.
- Cougar Gold has a lot of steps to go through (NEPA, CEQA, etc.). We need to act now on the Wilderness Study Release issue.
- He's going to ask staff to write a letter at some point. Today, he's not looking at anything but discussion.

Supervisor Johnston:

- He's not sure why we're here today.

Supervisor Hansen:

- He doesn't know why we're talking about a mine or cyanide, etc.

- This is not about mining; it's about the Wilderness Study Area.

Supervisor Hunt:

- This was listed as a 20 minute item today; should be more like 20 years.
- The land is valuable; he doesn't want to limit any of it.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

From Bridgeport:

Benny Romero

- No comment, just question. He found out we have other WSA's up there, do we?

Ed Inwood:

- Spoke about a BLM Notice of Proposed Action.
- Map on p. 20 of BLM document, problem addressed on p. 2, p. 5-10.
- What is the difference between the mustard and the green colors on Supervisor Hazard's map?

Rose Marie Willemann:

- She appreciates Supervisor's trying to separate the mining and the WSA issue.
- Asked questions about what Cougar Gold would be required to do in order to do exploratory mining.
- We don't have to make decisions now.
- "Wilderness, they're not making it anymore".

John Peters:

- The WSAs need to be dealt with now; we don't need another 20-year drawn out process.
- This needs to be moved forward expeditiously, we have the opportunity to deal with it now.

Jan Huggans:

- She read her letter to the Board (on file in our packet).
- She supports release of Wilderness area but expects a lot of study prior to mining.

Maurisa Anderson:

- Hasn't seen anything in writing; she thinks Cougar Gold is going to do open shaft mining.

Al Annett:

- Handed out a letter to the Board, nothing really new and the same points keep coming back.
- To him, whole issue is economy. A lot of people expressing opinions don't have any investment in the outcome.

Ilene Mandelbaum:

- She handed out examples of what it would look like to do what Supervisor Hazard is proposing. Open shaft/cyanide mining: is this what we want?
- Instead we could be looking at a continuation of what we have and is a boost to our economy.
- She wants to get to the discussion of Economic Development.

Jeff Hansen:

- He didn't come to talk about Cougar Gold; he came to discuss WSA issue.
- He feels the meeting needs to be reigned in a little and focused more on the issue at hand.

Lynn Inouye:

- She doesn't feel these are two separate issues; Cougar Gold put this in our laps.
- The release of the WSA would change what the mine could and could not do in

that area.

- She wants to know how the boundaries in the proposal came about.
- Urges Board to honor public opinion process.

Steven Fulstone:

- One of three largest property owners in Bodie Hills.
- This proposal can financially affect him and his ability to run livestock.
- The BLM has not recommended this become a Wilderness area. If it becomes a Wilderness Area it will affect Sage Grouse rehabilitation.
- We do not need WSA in the Bodie Hills.

Caroline Crawford:

- Mining pollutes water sheds.
- There is no way an open shaft/cyanide mine won't cause leakage.

Mike Mooney:

- Here to talk about the WSA. He wants the area in question taken out of Wilderness Study Area.
- If you are going to redraw the lines, we'll have to restart the process again.

Ernie Paine:

- He's frustrated and disappointed, but not surprised about the suggestion of this compromise.
- He thinks we can do better.

Mark Westerlund:

- Currently lives on Aurora Canyon Road, one of the main access points to this area.
- He sees the traffic up in that area.
- The BLM has already done an extensive study to release this as a Wilderness Area. The lines should not be redrawn.

James Wilson:

- Representing Friends of the Inyo.
- He has a personal interest in the Bodie Hills for over three decades.
- The mine IS a pivotal thing in this discussion.
- The land doesn't belong to BLM; it belongs to the American people.

Stacey Westerlund:

- She attended the public meeting Cougar Gold held after the Board meeting on the 15th of February.
- This is the first time she's heard about open pits and cyanide.
- Cougar Gold promised was that they put millions of dollars into our land and that they would like to spend more.
- She thinks WSA should be released.

Sally Miller:

- She was at the town hall meeting.
- She is interested in having appropriate conversations about mining and about resolving the WSAs.
- She's interested in full open disclosure.

Jimmy Little:

- One positive thing about mining issue is it might solve problems that have been around for a long time.
- The need to protect Bodie is appreciated but a Wilderness Study Area is probably not necessary; this is a multi-use area.

Drew Foster:

- He was at town hall meeting in February and all he heard was hot air.
- He hasn't seen that the people in Mono County do things hastily.
- Doesn't think this proposal is a realistic one.
- He doesn't want to see mining in this area.

- How does Bodie Hills fit into the long term goals?

Brad Sturdivant:

- Is there going to be a vote today?
- Maybe local residents need to sit down and have a conversation before this goes to the next level.
- What's the hurry?

Benny Romero:

- There is a man in Washington, Bob Addy who is the director of BLM. He would be a good contact and avenue.

Winne Benti:

- She feels this might be rushed due to pressure from Cougar Gold.

Lauretta Cochran:

- Mark Wallace sent a letter to be given to each Board member.
- She read the letter to the Board Members, giving a copy to the clerk.

From Mammoth Lakes:

Dave Herbst:

- He doesn't think the mining issue is being properly answered.

Malcolm Clark:

- Doesn't think the Board should reward Cougar Gold by releasing the WSA.
- Does not want to be rushed.

Sydney Quinn:

- She appreciates Supervisor Hazard's discussion but it makes her extremely concerned.
- Cougar Gold has not been forthcoming. She and her husband support maintaining the WSAs. Releasing even a portion of the WSA could be a dangerous slope.

Sharon Clark:

- She is offended with Cougar Gold.

Wilma Wheeler:

- Opposes the release of the Wilderness area. Doesn't think a gold mine would provide a secure future.

John Dittli:

- Is there some other reason that the proposed area would be release except for mining?
- We have to have faith in future government.

Board Discussion after Public Comment:

Supervisor Hunt:

- He enjoys every area of the Eastern Sierra; he wants to maintain the use he currently enjoys.
- He appreciates Supervisor Hazard's efforts but thinks it is rushed and that it needs to go through a process.
- He is not ready to vote on anything today; he's absolutely against any change in the WSA status today.
- Informed public that Supervisor Bauer was absent today.

Supervisor Hansen:

- He thanked some of the Bodie Hills property owners that pointed out some things.
- Read definition of compromise – he doesn't see concessions being made.

- If he were to vote today, he would not have supported it.

Supervisor Johnston:

- He's troubled that we're here again. There was no concurrence, vote or anything else at the February 15th meeting.
- This proposal is only one person's view of what should be done. It doesn't reflect the opinion of the Board nor does it involve a compromise.

Supervisor Hazard:

- At the 2/15 meeting he laid in hard to the Federal Legislators for not stepping up.
- He believed this was time sensitive; he was in error that there was a bill currently in existence.
- He believes there's still a 45 – 60 day window to take something forward.
- He's not opposed to letting the public have their say, the problem is that there are unknowns if we don't do something.
- He doesn't want this back at the Board without some type of significant change.
- Attempted resolution, it did not work. As far as he's concerned, issue is dead.

ADJOURNMENT

ATTEST:

DUANE "HAP" HAZARD, CHAIR

SHANNON KENDALL
SR. DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

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