



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

September 21, 2010

9:05 AM Meeting Called to Order by Supervisor Byng Hunt, Chair

Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor Peters

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

John Wentworth, Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access: Talked about a grant from Sierra Nevada Conservancy to be used for planning efforts in the Mammoth Lakes Basin. Three public events are scheduled to discuss the state of the Basin, recreation, and mobility/transportation.

Leigh Gaasch, Mammoth Lakes resident: Asked for Board help with issues in Mammoth Lakes, specifically 1) Mammoth needs an animal control officer; 2) Mammoth needs help educating people about bears; federal grants are available for educational purposes; and 3) Mammoth needs help educating people about driving in the Eastern Sierra.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Supervisor Bauer:

1. Spent time reviewing letters and meeting with people about the Bodie Hills Wilderness Study Area (WSA).
2. Worked on a community organization financial request for June Lake Historical Society.
3. Will present information about the Lee Vining airport at a later time.
4. Will attend the YARTS meeting this week.
5. Will be attending the RCRC meeting.
6. Would like the Air Pollution Control District to schedule a presentation before the Board.

Supervisor Farnetti:

1. Last week reviewed the consultant's draft report about solid waste; they have developed a number of options.
2. Received a tremendous number of emails and phone calls about the release of the Bodie Hills WSA.
3. The Crestview Rest Station is now open, and the new fencing around the County's Lee Vining road shop has been installed.

Supervisor Hazard:

1. Has been dealing with family matters.
2. Yesterday attended the Great Basin Air Pollution Control District meeting.
3. Spoke with Ted Gaines' office about his visit to Mono County on Saturday, September 25th; Gaines will meet with citizens at Crowley Lake Community Center starting at 6:30 p.m. He also plans to meet with people in Mammoth about bear issues.
4. Received an invitation for a White House conference call. Asked Jim Arkens, HR Director, to coordinate this phone call with Dr. Johnson and Lynda Salcido since it pertains to health care.

Supervisor Hunt:

1. Attended Great Basin Air Pollution Control District meeting. Representatives from DWP joined the meeting to discuss dust control on Owens Lake. The group also talked about dust storms at Mono Lake, and awarded bids for three new vehicles. The next meeting will be in Mammoth Lakes.

Supervisor Peters:

1. The speed limit changes have been made in Lee Vining.
2. September 15: Had lunch at the Senior Center in Walker; they continue to make improvements. Spent time at the thrift shop and recycling center; will start the process to update their MOU.
3. September 16: Attended the county picnic in Bridgeport; attended part of the Bridgeport RPAC in the evening.
4. Was in Iowa Friday-Sunday.
5. Yesterday attended the Fisheries Commission meeting. Talked about a variety of possible changes; discussed fish planting. Later in the afternoon, attended the Great Basin Air Pollution Control District meeting.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

- 1) CAO Report regarding Board Assignments (David Wilbrecht)
Receive brief oral report by County Administrative Officer (CAO) regarding his activities.
Dave Wilbrecht was not present. Jim Arkens, Human Resources Director, was present in his place. No report from the CAO's Office.

2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- M10-204** A. Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held September 7, 2010, as corrected.
Farnetti/Bauer, 5-0
Supervisor Bauer: Correction on Page 1, Board Member Report, Bullet Point 1: The global meeting is part of Bullet Point 2.

- M10-205** B. Approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held September 9, 2010.
Farnetti/Peters, 3-0; Abstain, Hazard/Bauer

Closed Session: 9:16 a.m.
Break: 10:13 a.m.
Reconvene: 10:17 a.m.
Lunch: 11:50 a.m.
Reconvene: 12:56 p.m.
Break: 1:59 p.m.

Reconvene: 2:15 p.m.
Adjourned: 4:35 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board had nothing to report from Closed Session.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- 3a) Closed Session--Human Resources - CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS. Government Code Section 54957.6. Agency designated representative(s): Dave Wilbrecht, Marshall Rudolph, Brian Muir, Jim Arkens, Rick Scholl, and Mary Booher. 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.
- 3b) Closed Session--County Counsel - CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION. Subdivision (a) of Government Code section 54956.9. Name of case: CalPERS/R.G.Barnes administrative appeal (Case No. 8938).

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/EMERGING ISSUES

Clay Neely, IT Department: 1) Installed a more powerful sound system in the Board Chambers. 2) Update from the Wellness Committee regarding policy of the gym facility in Bridgeport, for use only by employees and family members. Recent request asking for approval to have a live-in partner be given access. Committee recommendation is to not change the policy.

Brian Muir, Finance: Provided a report about the process of applying for a business license, and internal changes to improve the process of sending renewal notification letters.

Jody Henning, Assessor: Had previously notified the Board via email about a survey currently being conducted by representatives from the Board of Equalization. This process occurs every five years.

Lynda Salcido, Health Department: Update about upcoming flu-shot clinics.

Scott Burns, Community Development: Update about upcoming community meetings being conducted by Community Development staff (visioning meetings, meetings to discuss home occupation, and meetings concerning the land tenure effort).

Marshall Rudolph, County Counsel: Provided an update about the success of the County Counsel conference held in Mono County/Mammoth Lakes last week. Alicia Vennos in the Economic Development Office was a big help.

Sheriff Scholl: 1) Deputy at the Academy is doing a great job; he will graduate in January. 2) Department was recently involved in three different pursuits in the County; there were no accidents or injuries as a result of these pursuits. Mono County will update the joint pursuit agreement with other entities (i.e. Bishop and Mammoth Lakes). 3) A helicopter crashed in the Glass Mountains; both victims survived. 4) There was a structure fire in the Virginia Lakes Area.

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.)

CLERK OF THE BOARD

- 4a) No items on the Consent Agenda

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-RECORDER

- 5a) No Correspondence Received

ASSESSOR

- 6a) Pete Eilertsen's Retirement (Jody Henning) - Proposed resolution for Pete Eilertsen.

Action: Adopt resolution acknowledging the retirement of Pete Eilertsen.

Mr. Eilertsen could not be present. Defer item to October 5, 2010.

AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER

- 7a) Walker River Basin Cooperative Weed Management Area (George Milovich) - Discuss letter from Michelle Langsdorf, District Manager for Mason and Smith Valley Conservation Districts, regarding a Memorandum of Understanding for the Walker River Basin Cooperative Weed Management Area.

Action: None.

George Milovich, Agriculture Commissioner: The weed management area is mainly in Nevada, but Mono County works with them to mitigate the problem. They are making progress on the problem, but it is a continual effort. The MOU lists cooperating agencies which enables them to apply for grant funding. The agreement provides funding to the County for work on the borders; Stacey Simon, Asst. County Counsel, has reviewed the MOU. Milovich recommended that the County sign the MOU when it is ready. He will bring the MOU back when it is finalized.

COUNTY COUNSEL

- 8a) ESTA Legal Services Agreement (Marshall Rudolph) - Proposed Agreement Regarding Legal Services to be Provided by the Mono County Counsel's Office

to the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA).

M10-206 **Action:** Approve County entry into agreement regarding legal services to be provided by the Mono County Counsel's Office to the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA), and authorize Board Chair to sign the agreement on behalf of the County.

Peters/ Farnetti, 3-0; Abstain Bauer and Hunt

Since Supervisors Bauer and Hunt serve on the ESTA board, they left the meeting during this discussion and subsequent action.

Marshall Rudolph, County Counsel: This proposed agreement would allow for compensation from ESTA for services provided by the County Counsel's office. This will be a flat rate in the amount of \$1,000 per month. The agreement will be reviewed annually to make adjustments as necessary. The ESTA Board has approved this agreement.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

9a) Appointment of Tourism Commissioners (Dan Lyster or Alicia Vennos) - Proposed appointments to the Mono County Tourism & Film Commission.

M10-207 **Action:** Appoint Andrew Jones and Steve Morrison to the Mono County Tourism & Film Commission for the term beginning October 1, 2010, and ending June 30, 2014.

Bauer/Hazard, 5-0

Alicia Vennos, Economic Development: Two appointees are being recommended, Andrew Jones for June Lake, and Steve Morrison for District 5.

- Supervisor Hunt: Morrison will be a great addition to the Commission.
- Supervisor Bauer, Jones will also be a great addition.

MENTAL HEALTH

10a) Agreement Between County of Mono and ECHO Consulting Services for Software Support, Maintenance and Hosting (Ann Gimpel, Ph.D.) - Proposed contract with ECHO Consulting Services of California, Inc. pertaining to software support, maintenance and hosting.

M10-208 **Action:** Approve County entry into contract with ECHO Consulting Services for Software Support, Maintenance and Hosting, and authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to execute said contract on behalf of the County.

Farnetti/Bauer, 5-0

Ann Gimpel, Mental Health: Last year the County left a multi-county JPA to change to a new company to provide the needed services. ECHO has been a good provider over the last year, and the fee is approximately \$34,000 which is less than half of the cost of the previous contract. The funding will come from Mental Health Services funds. Gimpel recommended Board approval.

10b) Location of the Sierra Wellness Center (Ann Gimpel, Ph.D.) - Presentation by Ann Gimpel regarding the consideration of the best location for the Sierra Wellness Center.

No Motion **Action:** The Board agreed to postpone action until there is a decision from the Town about the marijuana dispensary; asked Gimpel to research other locations that might offer a better rental rate.

Ann Gimpel, Mental Health: Discussed the possibility of moving the Wellness Center since the current location is not accessible to people with disabilities, and the proposed location for a marijuana dispensary is next door to the Wellness Center. Gimpel asked for Board approval to move the Wellness Center to the Sierra Center Mall; the Mental Health Services budget has enough funding to support higher rent. Also, there will be some move-in costs, such as carpet cleaning and furniture moving provided by the Public Works Department. Regarding the current site, there were upgrades made but the cost was in the form of in-kind service. Gimpel filed a letter with the Planning Commission, and will attend the meeting.

- Supervisor Farnetti: The ADA compliance is a big issue, and having County services more centrally located is a benefit. The County has a responsibility to address the ADA issue, so this is not just about the location of a medical marijuana dispensary.
- Supervisor Hazard: This issue may be premature since the Town is still working through the dispensary issue; the Board should discuss this after the Town has made a decision. Gimpel should attend hearings and speak about the relocation costs; someone other than the County should pay those costs.
- Board Members agreed that a decision today could be premature.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - PLANNING DIVISION

11a) Collaborative Planning Team MOU (Scott Burns) - Proposed MOU update for the Mono County Collaborative Planning Team.

M10-209 **Action:** Authorize the Chair's signature on the Memorandum of Understanding updating the composition and functions of the Mono County Collaborative Planning Team.

Hazard/Bauer, 5-0

Scott Burns, Community Development: The Collaborative Planning Team has existed for about 15 years, so the MOU was signed several years ago. The proposed MOU would add the Marine Corps, National Park Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service to the team; also, the proposed MOU has been tailored to reflect actual activities. The Rules of Procedure will be updated so meetings can be held quarterly rather than bi-monthly. Burns asked for Board approval.

- Supervisor Hunt: The refinements will make the organization more effective.

11b) Contract Extension for Rodeo Grounds Specific Plan & EIR (Scott Burns) - Proposed Second Amendment to Agreement Between County of Mono and Pacific Municipal Consultants dba PMC for the Provision of Planning and Environmental Services for the June Lake Rodeo Grounds. Said amendment would extend the term of the current agreement until October 1, 2012.

M10-210 **Action:** Approve County entry into Second Amendment with Pacific Municipal Consultants dba PMC extending the term of the current agreement until October 1, 2012, for the provision of planning and environmental services for the June Lake Rodeo Grounds in an amount not to exceed \$450,597, and authorize Chair to sign Amendment on behalf of the County.

Bauer/Farnetti, 5-0

Scott Burns, Community Development: The original contract was signed in 2007 and will expire at the beginning of October. The cost of the contract will be covered by the deposit that Intrawest paid in advance. PMC is the primary consultant and has been assisting with most of the Intrawest proposal. LANTAC does not see any outstanding issues. There will be another public scoping meeting prior to the project moving forward. A specific plan and EIR will be drafted after the scoping process. PMC will be involved through the public hearing process, and the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors meetings. Burns asked the Board to authorize the second amendment in an amount not to exceed \$450,597.

HUMAN RESOURCES

12a) Human Resources - Management Compensation Policy (Jim Arkens) - Presentation by Mary Booher and Jim Arkens regarding Management Compensation Policy.

M10-211 Action: Approve modifications to the Management Compensation Policy per Board action during budget discussions.
Hazard/Peters, 5-0

Mary Booher, County Administrative Office: The revised management compensation policy includes the Board's decision made during the budget process to make the Assistant Clerk/Recorder's salary 80% of the department head's salary, thus bringing it in line with other assistants' salaries. The revision also notes why the Finance Department assistants are not paid at 80% of their department head, and gives the Board authority to not approve CPI increases.

LUNCH

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No one spoke.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Additional Departments: Public Works

13a) County-owned property in Benton (Mary Booher) - Presentation by Mary Booher regarding county-owned property in Benton where White Mountain Fire station is located.

Action: None (informational only).

Mary Booher, County Administrative Office: Since the senior center services in Benton will now be moved to the community center, the senior center property can be used by the White Mountain Fire Station as they have requested; at one time, they considered taking over ownership. The County owns the property and can transfer it, develop a use agreement or continue to do nothing.

Marshall Rudolph, County Counsel, reiterated the options: 1) retain ownership of the land, and either give up ownership of the building or enter into a use agreement for the building (as is); 2) transfer the land, or make a partial transfer of property; 3) lease the entire property for particular purposes. He asked the Board for direction.

Supervisor Hazard: The senior center is only serving one person, and the cost of making

improvements, including ADA, would be \$450,000. Since the Fire Department would like to use the building as a meeting room, the County should create an MOU for this use, with the condition that they accept the building as is, or they remove the building. He asked staff to follow up with the Fire Department.

Booher: Reiterated the Board's direction to pursue a long-term lease of the land so the Fire Department can use the building, with conditions.

- 13b) Home Health and Hospice for Northern Mono County (Mary Booher) - Presentation by Mary Booher regarding the possibility of Barton Health expanding their Home Health and Hospice services into Northern Mono County.

M10-212 Action: 1) Approve Chair's signature on letter of support to the Board of Directors of Barton Health requesting a 6-9 month trial program in the Antelope Valley, and 2) approve Chair's signature on letter of support to Renown Health requesting Barton Home Health and Hospice be the Beta test site for the Electronic Medical Record System implementation.

Peters/Hazard, 5-0

Mary Booher, County Administrative Office: Barton Home Health and Hospice is interested in expanding services to the Antelope Valley, and would like a 6-9 month trial period. Through this service, the County can obtain data about the utilization of health care services. Barton would also like to be a test site, through their relationship with Renown Health, for electronic medical records. Booher asked the Board to approve two letters of support for Barton Health Care.

Additional Departments: Planning

- 13c) Watershed Coordinator grant application (Mary Booher and Tony Dublino) - Proposed resolution approving application(s) for grant funds for the Watershed Coordinator Grant Program from the State of California Department of Conservation.

Action: None.

Mary Booher, County Administrative Office: Mono County has learned of grants available for a watershed coordinator position. The grants require a 25% match, which would total \$75,000 per grant; 15% can be in-kind, with the remainder being a cash match. The grants have other specific requirements that may be burdensome administratively or financially. The County can apply for one grant, or separate grants for the various watershed areas. Applications are due by October 12th and the grants will be awarded next spring.

Tony Dublino, Community Development: Other agencies have applied for the grants. The state requires that certain work be done and objectives met, which focus on conservation. The grants are coming through the Department of Conservation and not through the IRWMP process. The intent is that the grants will provide seed money to perpetuate the position.

The Board discussed the pros and cons of the grants, and decided to move forward with the application knowing that the County is not obligated to accept the grant(s).

Booher will bring the item back to the Board on October 5th.

- 13d) Budget Committee Update (Mary Booher) - Presentation by Mary Booher regarding Budget Committee Update. The Board may also discuss state budget issues.

Action: None (informational only).

There is no new information pertaining to the State budget.

Mary Booher, County Administrative Office: Gave a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the budget tiers (copy on file in Clerk's Office). The committee will further subdivide Tier 3 (beneficial services). She reviewed the Tier 2 services and how they support mandates (Tier 1); the committee will incorporate the Board of Supervisors' mandates into this list.

PUBLIC WORKS

- 14a) Auchoberry Pit Grading Project Status Update (Jeff Walters) - Auchoberry Pit rough grading has been completed. The slope was graded to improve its appearance and to mitigate safety concerns.

Action: None.

Jeff Walters, Public Works: Provided before and after photos of the grading work. Auchoberry Pit was intended to be used as a gravel pit when it was acquired in 2007; however, material has not been taken out. Due to the steep face, the pit was considered to be dangerous; grading was determined to be the best way to mitigate the problem. The project also included compaction and other means to resolve safety issues. The site is much approved and minimal danger exists. There are options listed in the staff report about the ultimate use of the property. Retaining this as a potential future use would be wise since the material has value. The slopes and grades could be maintained if the area is mined. One potential issue with the improved grade is the site may attract more OHV use.

- 14b) Airport Engineering Services for Bryant Field and Lee Vining Airport (Jeff Walters) - Proposed contract with PBS&J to complete airport engineering services pursuant to previous contracts that were not completed due to weather and grant funding delays.

M10-213 Action: Authorize the Public Works Director to execute and administer a Master Agreement, including tasks one through four, with PBS&J for consultant engineering services associated with Bryant Field and Lee Vining Airport.
Bauer/Peters, 5-0

Jeff Walters, Public Works: The item before the Board is an agreement for continuing engineering services with PBS&J for work to be done at Bryant Field and Lee Vining Airport. Remaining work at Bryant Field includes general engineering as needed and some design work pertaining to alteration of nearby roads and creation of a new access strip. Lee Vining requires installation of lighting fixtures and soil stabilization and re-vegetation. The County's share of the cost will be \$20,807, which will be reduced if state funding is provided. Generally, the project is nearly complete.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- 15a) Release of Bodie Wilderness Study Area in Mono County (Supervisor Peters) - Discuss a proposed resolution supporting the enactment of the "Mono County Economic Development Act of 2010" for the release of the Bodie Wilderness Study Area in Mono County (legislation to be introduced by Congressman Buck McKeon).

M10-214

Action: Take no action.

Hazard/Farnetti, 3-2; Opposed, Bauer/Peters

Supervisor Peters read prepared comments (on file in the Clerk's Office). The main points include the following:

- Not here today to debate nor approve a mining operation.
- If the Board approves the resolution supporting Congressman McKeon's bill (H.R. 6129), future uses of the Bodie Hills will be subject to review and approval by the BLM, which will include public input from Mono County and all interested groups.
- The bill calls for release of the WSA because of potential for mineral exploration and motorized recreation; Bodie Hills has been identified by BLM as not suitable for wilderness designation.
- If mineral exploration occurs, the mining company will be required to protect the environment during and after exploration, extraction and reclamation; financing of reclamation must be guaranteed by bonds.
- Mono County needs long-term economic stimulus.
- Public lands, plants, wildlife, water, and historic attractions must be protected; protection can be provided at the same time the economy can become more productive.

Board Comments:

- Supervisor Hazard: Agrees with the right to drill and explore the area, whether the area remains under the WSA or not. The Board should demand that the remaining WSAs in Mono County be resolved; mining has been linked to this issue, but the issue is about resolving WSAs. Other areas in the County are being explored for economic development, which may include wind power and geothermal power.
- Supervisor Farnetti: Not in favor of putting all WSAs on the table and prefers to focus on this specific issue. Mining and potential development can occur in a WSA; the WSA affords additional protection. The Bodie Hills area adds to the economy in the form of tourism and recreation, and mining may not be totally compatible with these other activities. He is not against mining but wants to ensure that solid environmental regulations are in place to protect the resources.
- Supervisor Bauer: Deferred her comments until after the public addressed the Board.
- Supervisor Hunt: Read from a prepared statement (on file in the Clerk's Office). The main points include: 1) The title of the legislation is misleading since it implies a county-wide effort for economic development. 2) This legislation came before the Board quickly and without the County's usual public process, and it appears that this legislation is being pushed through. 3) This action seems to be premature since mining interests are allowed to explore and examine opportunities in a WSA. 4) The question of short-term versus long-term benefits needs to be explored. 5) The public needs a better understanding of the proponent's project. 6) It appears that the legislation would prescribe diminished regulation over mineral exploration that would likely cause irreparable damage to the natural beauty of this area.

Stacey Simon, Assistant County Council: Researched the requirements for mining in WSA areas and mining in non-WSA areas, and provided a chart comparing these requirements (chart on file in the Clerk's Office). Basically, exploration can be conducted on WSA lands; the questions are to what degree and scope, under which regulations, and whether or not a

company is grandfathered. Also, impacts cannot be of a different type than those already occurring.

Public Comments: Opposing

- Frank Stewart, Mono County resident: Opposes the bill.
- Sydney Quinn, 40-year resident: It is shortsighted to release the WSA; more public process is needed. Opposes the bill today.
- Wayno Urbansa, Friends of the Inyo and property owner in Mono: There has been a lack of public notice and comment period. He has formed a group to work with Mono County to review sustainable outdoor recreation economies. Opposes release of the WSA.
- Stacey Corliss: Friends of the Inyo, and Mono County resident: Presented photographs of the area to show the natural values of the land. Opposes the legislation.
- Steven McLaughlin, resident: Oppose releasing the WSA without thorough examination of public trust values; action today is premature.
- Mary Kay Prentice, Sierra Club of the Eastern Sierra: The issue requires more time for review so the two sides can find a way to work together; opposes the bill.
- Bill Mitchell, resident of Bishop: Opposes the bill; the resolution is premature since the mining company can continue to explore. It will be better for the Bodie Hills area if mining is conducted under more restrictions.
- James Wilson, Bishop, Friends of the Inyo, Eastside Sports: Opposes the bill; it is premature and unnecessary, and the process is faulty.
- Herb Benham, resident: This was very sudden; he asked the Board to be wary.
- Lyn Inoyou, Bridgeport business owner: Opposes releasing the WSA; has concern about unregulated activity.
- Janet Carl, Mono City resident: Opposes the bill and the suddenness of it. The public needs to know more.
- Jack Shipley, Mono City resident: Has concern about the negative impacts of mining. Keep the WSA until the issue is fully studied.
- Sally Miller, Wilderness Society: Action today is premature (BLM has not seen any plans from the company); Cougar Gold should show why they can't operate under the WSA. This lacks public process.
- Mark Langer, supervisor for State Parks: They are concerned with any negative impact, and want Mono County to be protective of Bodie State Park.
- Maurice Anderson, Bridgeport homeowner: This bill is being rushed through without adequate public process. Action today is premature.
- Mike Painter, from San Francisco: Encouraged the Board to not vote for the release of the WSA.
- Larry Johnston, Supervisor Elect District 1: Recognizes the economic issues of Bridgeport, but doesn't believe mining will change the current situation. Exploration can continue in the WSA. This process needs to slow down.

Public Comments: Supportive

- Tim Hansen, resident: Previous mining interests could have improved the economic situation in Bridgeport. An economy based solely on tourism is narrow. Multiuse is the best use.
- Annie Reaveley, resident of Walker, teacher in Bridgeport: The area needs economic development.
- Mike Mooney, resident: Concerned that land will be locked up. The area in question is not wilderness quality.
- Benny Romero, Bridgeport property owner: Mining in Nevada has helped the local communities; there are enough regulations in place without needing the WSA.
- Jan Huggins, property owner in Bodie Hills: Bridgeport will benefit economically.
- Ed Inwood, Bridgeport: The County Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance many

years ago about mining restrictions to ensure protections. These issues have been discussed for many years.

- Roxanne Bullie, Bridgeport resident and business owner: Asked the Board to support release of the WSA to open area to more recreation.
- Mary Booher, Bridgeport resident: Not all mining towns are unattractive; there are good mining towns. Round Mountain, Nevada, is a great mining town.

The Board also received 208 letters opposing the resolution, 61 letters supporting the resolution, 1 letter requesting they take no action, and 1 letter asking the Board to use thoughtful planning.

Board Follow-up Comments:

- Supervisor Bauer: Agrees with the need to find balance. Mono County is not the final decision maker on mining or the WSA. Bodie seems to be a place for mining, and should honor the mining history. This particular area has roads and many, many mining claims, so there is existing use; a BLM document indicates this is not suitable for a wilderness area. The impact to the local community needs to be given high value. Does not agree with the expediency of this legislation but supports the resolution.
- Supervisor Hazard: No one has indicated that the resolution is time sensitive. This issue is not black and white. The non-WSA status seems to have more restrictions for post-mining operations. The mining company has not made a presentation before the full Board about their operation. This process does not conform to Mono County's public process. Economic development is important, but the issue has not been fully explored. Supports no action today.
- Supervisor Farnetti: Any Board action is premature. This request appears to be a thinly disguised way to make mining easier in the Bodie Hills. No mining plan has been submitted; the release of the WSA is not necessary to explore and develop. The Bodie Hills are a sensitive area, and everything needs to be done in an environmentally-sound way. He called BLM to find out if they heard about the meeting; they knew about it but were asked not to attend, being told it was probably not necessary. Does not support the release of the WSA.
- Supervisor Peters: Was not pleased with the speed of this process when asked by Congressman McKeon's office to present this, but thought it was necessary to respond to the Congressman. Agrees with many of the Chairman's comments, but the issue is about releasing the WSA and not about mining. Cougar Gold had meetings in Bridgeport a few weeks ago at which time they talked about their plans; Peters did not know then that this legislation was planned. The company wants the WSA released in order to drill 200 additional holes in 500 square feet; they believe this will give them enough information about whether or not to pursue mining. Peters does not believe releasing the WSA will give up controls imposed by BLM; there is still a lot of process to come. Supports releasing the WSA and moving forward with the public process.
- Supervisor Hunt: Stands by his opening statements; there are other ways to address economic issues. Supports taking no action today. Encouraged people to write to Congressman McKeon to express their concerns since he has initiated the legislation.

ADJOURN: 4:35 p.m.

ATTEST:

BYNG HUNT, CHAIR

LYNDA ROBERTS
CLERK OF THE BOARD

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