

01/15/2013

Regular Meeting

ITEM #6a

Board of Supervisors

Strategic Planning

Workshop

(List: Supervisor Alpers)

2013 Goals for Mono County - Tim Alpers, District 3 Supervisor

#1 Review each County department for mandated and public service accountability.

#2 Assure June Mountain Ski Area re-opening for the 2013-14 ski season.

#3 Assist in developing a plan for the June Lake Rodeo Grounds that is complimentary to the community of June Lake and the June Mountain Ski Area.

#4 Initiate the process of developing a long term strategic economic development plan for Mono County.

#5 Realign the County employee organizational flow chart to clearly reflect appropriate employee qualifications, the chain of command and inter-department communication.

#6 Reorganize weekly meetings to promote public attendance and accommodate Supervisor education.

#7 Develop a Recognition of Excellence Program that acknowledges the contributions of our employees and citizens to the improved quality of life in Mono County.

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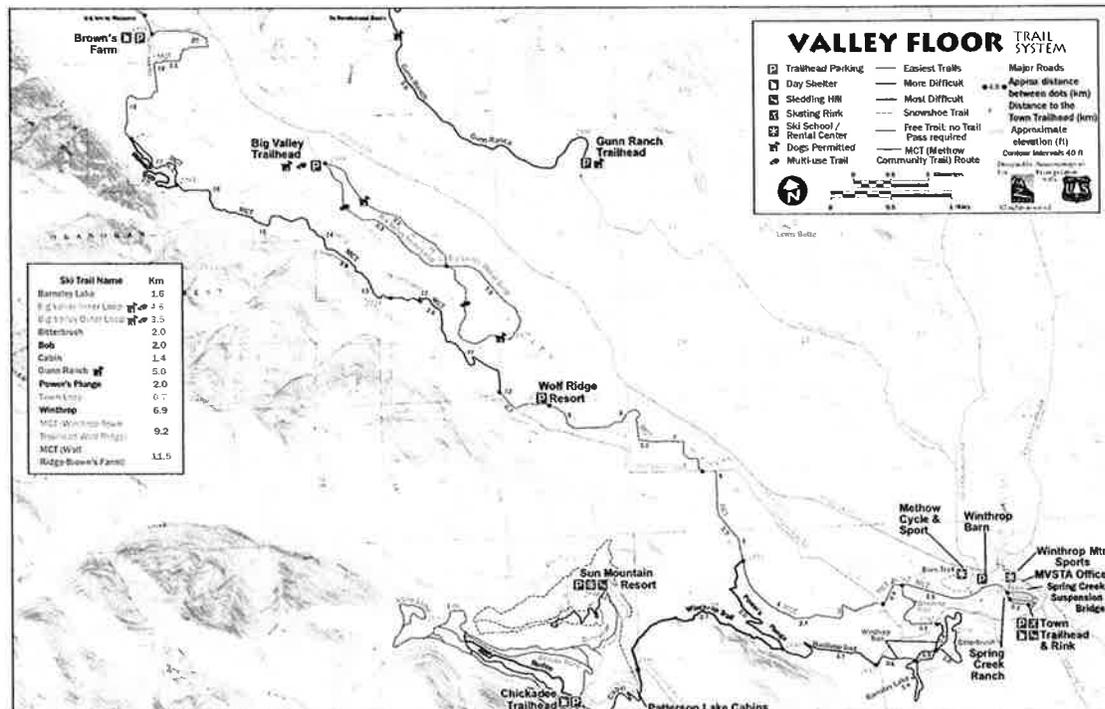
(List: Supervisor

Johnston)

Larry's List
1/15/12

Economic Development

1. Hire the approved intern for Economic Development Department (already budgeted) and pursue non-tourist based economic development facilitation, e.g., digital 395 related business, small environmentally minded small businesses, small resource based businesses (e.g., specialized wood products).
2. Complete downtown parking ordinance revisions (consistent with current general plan provisions), e.g., allow on-street parking to be counted toward parking requirements, form parking districts, etc. Accomplish this BEFORE a comprehensive general plan update, as this is needed NOW to facilitate business development (this has been on the books for 15 years or more!)
3. Consider development of a world class, high quality Bridgeport Valley Nordic Ski Center, similar to Methow Valley in Washington State. This concept or similar idea has been considered fairly recently by the BP RPAC.



4. Complete the Biomass Feasibility Study. Funding for this has been secured. This study should be completed before actively pursuing the General Plan update. If found feasible, we should pursue additional funding/grants for implementation of a pilot project within two years.
5. Continue efforts to reopen June Mountain Ski Area. Work with local interest groups, US Forest Service, JMSA and others. Purchase the Rodeo Grounds and pursue a trade for the base mountain area. Work with ski area owner (new or existing) to facilitate a reasonably-sized resort development in the base area.
6. Consider extension of water and possibly sewer lines from the Mammoth Community Water District to the Sierra Business Park.

7. Continue working with geothermal companies and other agencies to facilitate replacement of the existing power plant machinery with modern equipment and continue to work to resolve environmentally acceptable expansion of the new geothermal power plant, well field and pipeline.
8. Related to economic development is the need to secure affordable housing for the workforce. The Board should consider re-instituting the County's currently suspended Housing Ordinance which only applies to trophy homes and large scale development projects. Affordable workforce housing remains an essential ingredient to a liveable and healthy community.

Transportation/Safety Improvements

9. Re-initiate and complete the deer fence / grade separation project at Sonora Junction. This was started and materials were purchased by Caltrans but the project was put on hold. Deer are still getting killed and vehicles are suffering extensive damage.
10. Fast forward improvements to the Mammoth Airport Road. Consider interim measures to fill/mitigate large cross cracks. Seek funding and re-prioritize (should have been on the list much sooner). Re-align intersection with Fish Hatchery Road so that Airport Road is main road – F.H. Road tees off it.
11. Create a combined deer, snow, and airport safety fence along SR 203 and Hwy 395 in proximity to the Mammoth Yosemite Airport. This four-pronged project is envisioned to be a combo deer/snow fence along the south side of Hwy 395 from 203 to south of the Benton Crossing Road (would prevent deer from crossing the highway and would help stop wind blown snow from premature closures of the highway during severe winter storms). Under-crossings for deer and other animals would be provided at strategic locations. Deer fencing would be located along the north side of the highways and would also encircle Mammoth Yosemite Airport thus implementing both airport safety and FAA security issues.
12. Pursue the completion of the north Conway passing lane project as a State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) project.

Transportation/Economic Development

13. Design and construct the Tioga Pass Heritage Highway project. This project is a re-configured Caltrans State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) project originally proposed in the 1990s but was over-zealous in it's design (significantly long passing lane in Bighorn Sheep territory). The revised project is envisioned to emulate the "Going to the Sun Road" in Glacier National Park, which would dramatically transform the character of the road from a utilitarian-like eastern entrance to Yosemite National Park, to grand park-like eastern entrance. Special wall treatments, scenic turnouts, and interpretive sites would be included. Nevertheless, safety and functional vehicular improvements (both for vehicles and bicycles) are envisioned. These include much-enhanced rock-fall protection, specially designed (and aesthetic) guardrail installation, and strategically integrated passing / turnout opportunities in already disturbed areas. State "TA" funding (formerly Transportation Enhancement) and possibly SHOPP funding may be available. Conceptually this would become an economically enhancing visitor attraction into itself, much like the Going to the Sun Road in Glacier Park has become.

Mono County Facility Enhancements

14. The County's land uses and facilities should set the example for our communities. One enhancement would be to fix the Auchaberry Pit highly eroding slopes (e.g., 2' deep gullies). This would take little in the way of mitigation (re-grade/install erosion control wattles) utilizing money which was set aside for this purpose (under the previous Board, the \$8,000 was placed back in the General Fund).
15. Plant a landscape screen on the south/west side of the Bridgeport Yard to hide the unsightly yard and equipment stored there. This project would also replace non-compatible Dark Sky light fixtures. It would utilize the same plant materials as is used by Caltrans at the landscaped McGee Creek Maintenance Station in Long Valley along Hwy 395. It is also possible that this project could be very cost effective, utilizing small plant sizes and a simple drip irrigation line, all installed as a volunteer community project with Board participation (Board Work Day?).
16. Develop a comprehensive "campus plan" for our public facilities surrounding the County Courthouse. Analysis should include planning for jail expansion with a new concept that utilizes the site adjacent to the existing jail, thus negating the need for an off site/additional courthouse. "Campus" planning should be pursued prior to actively pursuing a comprehensive General Plan update.
17. The Mono County entry signs should be repainted and placed on a periodic maintenance schedule. The wording "Wild by Nature" should be a much lighter color as it is currently dark blue and not easily readable.
18. The landscaping at the Lee Vining Community Center should be completed as soon as possible this summer. This project has lingered for many, many years.
19. The old Sheriff Substation should be taken off the tear down list until there is a bonafide alternative use that would dictate its removal. In the mean time, it should be revitalized with minimalist improvements to accommodate needs of our current caretaker at the site. This would include caretaker access to all of the interior for periodic maintenance, sled storage, tool and related equipment storage. It would also include access for the caretaker to use an existing bathroom room and shower, as well as accommodation for occasional overnight use. Consideration should also be given to utilizing part of the structure for a dog sled museum with improvements furnished by the caretaker. Modifications to the use permit should be undertaken by the County to eliminate previous unneeded and costly requirements. The present lease should be reviewed and modified accordingly. This use represents an important public-private partnership and significant tourist-oriented economic development asset to the region.
20. Pursue the solarization of county facilities. Seed money has been secured via the Clean Air Program Projects Block Grant. Without an extension of time, match-funding opportunities may expire at the end of 2013.
21. As a corollary to the above, the County should not only lead the way in solarization, but encourage private sector development through permanent waiver of building fees for solar projects less than 10 kilowatts in size (this should also be applied to small scale wind projects).

Other

22. The Benton crossing landfill has used only 50% of its permitted capacity, meaning the potential useful life, at existing utilization rates, can be extended at least another 20 years to approximately 2033 or further. This remains the most cost effective method of providing solid waste disposal

services for Town and County ratepayers. Extending the useful life would also allow a longer period in which to collect funds for ultimate closure costs. Therefore efforts should be made to acquire the site from DWP (whose closure date is 2023 or sooner). I believe this could be accomplished through a land trade of property the county owns in the Mono Basin. For the longer term, an existing privately held mine site, in close proximity to the centroid of waste (i.e., the Town), has significant potential for a landfill. This site has the potential to be acquired at no cost and, due to geology, has a natural clay-like liner that could substantially reduce costs.

23. Like many counties in California, an adjunct to the solid waste issue above is that of single use plastic bags. We should support and place in motion an initiative to ban such bags. This idea has recently been raised by a student in the Lee Vining area, championed by others in the community, and has been discussed by the Solid Waste Task Force. It is also widely supported by those concerned with environmental issues surrounding plastic bags.
24. Over the last several years the cost of fuel has continued to increase, and in the long term, there is little doubt that it will continue to increase. For example, gas prices in California were less than \$2.00 per gallon in 2005, just 8 years ago. Today they are double that and in some places in Mono County they are over \$5.00 per gallon. The County currently uses about 200,000 gallons per year equating to about \$800,000 (@\$4/gal). If the trend experienced in the last 8 years continues, the cost of fuel will be \$1,600,000 eight years from now. This escalation potential threatens long-term employee and service levels. To this end, I am suggesting that we initiate a goal to position ourselves for such threat: the target goal is proposed for county gas and diesel usage is a 50% reduction in 5 years or less, starting with a 10% reduction this year.

Good of the Order

25. During the next few months, the primary organizational issue will be the selection of a new CAO and Finance Director. There is also need to consider the organizational structure and staffing in the facilities, engineering, and human resources arena.
26. Over the last two years, I have pushed for training/team building efforts at all levels of the organization. Part of this push is to create an environment for all employees to help weather the current economic situation. In my estimation, current efforts have not been adequate to reach into the whole organization.
27. Related to team building is the need for expanded and on-going recognition programs. Every day, our employees are doing great things and these efforts need much greater recognition and thanks, not just within the organization, but disseminated to the public at large. Mono County can be the best place to work in the region and I firmly believe that the County can be the best example of good government, a government of which voters and residents all can be proud.