



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

Regular Meetings: First, Second, and Third Tuesday of each month. Location of meeting is specified below.
Teleconference Only - No Physical Location

**Regular Meeting
February 9, 2021**

9:00 AM Meeting Called to Order by Chair Kreitz.

Supervisors Present: Corless, Duggan, Gardner, Kreitz, and Peters (all attended via teleconference).

Supervisors Absent: None.

The Mono County Board of Supervisors stream most of their meetings live on the internet and archives them afterward. To search for a meeting from June 2, 2015 forward, please go to the following link: <http://www.monocounty.ca.gov/meetings>.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor Gardner.

1. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None.

2. RECOGNITIONS - NONE

3. COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

CAO Report regarding Board Assignments

Bob Lawton, CAO:

- Over the last week, participated in meetings on budget development for the coming year, the Economic Recovery Branch for COVID-19, Purple Counties Working Group, Business Roundtable, completed a Trindel course on basics of disciplinary action and documentation, COVID-19 Community Conversation, Antelope Valley RPAC, Workplace Wellness Committee
- Veteran Service Officer update

4. DEPARTMENT/COMMISSION REPORTS

Stacey Simon, County Counsel:

- Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals issued its opinion in the Walker River litigation

5. 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.)

A. Inmate Welfare Fund Annual Report, Fiscal Year 2019-2020

Departments: Sheriff

California Penal Code Section 4025 (e) states: The money and property deposited in the inmate welfare fund shall be expended by the sheriff primarily for the benefit, education, and welfare of the inmates confined within the jail. An itemized report of these expenditures shall be submitted annually to the Board of Supervisors.

Action: Receive the Inmate Welfare Fund Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

Corless motion; Gardner seconded.

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no

M21-39

B. Reimbursement Agreement for Trash and Snow Removal at Civic Center

Departments: Public Works

Proposed Reimbursement Agreement with the Town of Mammoth Lakes pertaining to snow removal and trash service at the Civic Center in Mammoth Lakes.

Action: Authorize Public Works Director to execute 'Town of Mammoth Lakes Reimbursement Agreement' on behalf of the County.

Corless motion; Gardner seconded.

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no

M21-40

C. Letter of Support - Governor's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Expenditure Plan

Departments: Board of Supervisors

Governor Newsom's proposed 2021-22 budget, released in January, includes funding for wildfire prevention and forest health programs along with an expenditure plan for this funding. The Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) is supporting the Governor's proposed Wildfire and Forest Resilience Expenditure Plan, and has asked member counties to send letters of support to the appropriate state senate and assembly budget committees. If passed by the Legislature, the proposal would allocate a total of \$1 billion to forest health and wildfire prevention programs between the current and 2021-22 budget years.

Action: Approve letter to the California Senate and Assembly Budget Subcommittees expressing Mono County's support of Governor Newsom's

proposed Wildfire and Forest Resilience Expenditure Plan.

Corless motion; Gardner seconded.

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no

M21-41

6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Direction may be given to staff regarding, and/or the Board may discuss, any item of correspondence listed on the agenda.

The Board acknowledged receipt of the correspondence.

Moved to Item 9.

A. Letter of Appreciation for Mono County Planning and Building Department Staff

A letter of appreciation for Mono County Planning and Building Department staff from Chalfant residents, Michael Godbe and Dylan Kaufman-Obstler.

B. Letter of Appreciation for Mono County Public Works Staff

A letter of appreciation for Mono County Public Works staff from Paradise Estates resident, Deanna Ing Campbell.

C. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Letter re: Submitted 2020 Eastern Operations Emergency Action Plan Status Report and Annual Update

A letter from Frank L. Blackett, P.E., Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Regional Engineer, to James A. Buerkle, Southern California Edison Company Director of Generation, in response to a letter from Wayne Allen submitting the 2020 Eastern Operations Emergency Action Plan Status Report and Annual Update.

7. REGULAR AGENDA - MORNING

A. COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update

(Robert C. Lawton, CAO, Dr. Tom Boo, Mono County Health Officer) - Update on Countywide response and planning related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including reports from the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Unified Command (UC), and the various branches of the EOC, including Community Support and Economic Recovery, Joint Information Center (JIC), and Public Health.

Action: None.

Bryan Wheeler, Public Health Director:

- PPT presentation (can be found under Supporting Documents on the meeting webpage) – 7-day metrics, school guidelines, vaccination proof of eligibility requirements

Supervisor Peters:

- CSAC Rural COVID Working Group update

B. Mountain View Fire Update and Review of Emergency Declarations

(Justin Nalder, EOC Director) - Review of continuing need for Board of Supervisor's November 17, 2020, Declaration of Local Emergency of and Mono County Health Officer's November 19, 2020, Declaration of Local Health Emergency for the Mountain View Fire.

Action: Find that there is a need to continue the local state of emergency declared by the Board on November 17, 2020 and a need to continue the local health emergency declared by the Public Health Officer on November 19, 2020 (and subsequently ratified by the Board) as a result of the Mountain View Fire. Continuation of the emergency declarations is necessary for the County's eligibility to receive disaster assistance funds to reimburse on-going expenditures incurred for Category A - Debris Removal and Category B - Emergency Work.

Peters motion; Duggan seconded.

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no

M21-42

Justin Nalder, EOC Director:

- Still in need of declaration of emergency
- Currently in Stage 2 of 3 on recovery efforts
- Heavy snowfall has delayed some operations
- Housing assistance, County infrastructure replacement

C. Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget Calendar

Departments: CAO, Finance

(Janet Dutcher, Finance Director) - Report and discussion regarding the budget calendar, outlining the sequence of events culminating in adoption of the County's FY 2021-2022 final budget.

Action: None.

Janet Dutcher, Finance Director:

- Presented item

Break: 10:53 AM

Reconvened: 11:00 AM

D. Recreation Program Update - Accomplishments and Future Projects

Departments: Public Works

(Matthew Paruolo, Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Coordinator) - Presentation by Matthew Paruolo on current recreation efforts, with

discussion of proposed projects under Proposition 68 funding and the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership.

Action: None.

Matthew Paruolo, Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Coordinator:

- Presented item

E. 2021 Conway Ranch Agriculture Management Project and Lease Agreement

Departments: Public Works

(Justin Nalder, Solid Waste Superintendent) - Proposed Lease Agreement with Hunewill Land and Livestock Company, Inc. pertaining to seasonal grazing of cattle on Conway Ranch in the Mono Basin, related land and water uses, and the minor construction/reconstruction of fences.

Due to their size, all exhibits have been made electronically available on the Mono County website: <https://monocounty.ca.gov/facilities/page/conway-ranch-conservation-easement>

Action:

1. Find that the County's entry into a five-year lease agreement for the seasonal grazing of cattle on Conway Ranch in the Mono Basin, related land and water uses, and the minor construction/reconstruction of fences, is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Class 1: Existing Facilities), Section 15302 (Class 2: Replacement or Reconstruction), or both; and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk's Office;
2. Approve and authorize the County Administrative Officer to enter into a five-year seasonal grazing lease with Hunewill Land and Livestock Company, Inc. for the Conway Ranch Property as presented with the addition of the rodenticide.

Gardner motion; Peters seconded.

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no

M21-43

Justin Nalder, Solid Waste Superintendent:

- Introduced item

Tony Dublino, Director of Public Works:

- Provided context and background on agreement
- Responded to correspondence recently received

Kay Ogden, Eastern Sierra Land Trust Executive Director:

- ESLT does believe that well-managed cattle grazing is consistent with the conservation easement and that it is a desirable land use management tool

Dr. Orrin Sage, SAGE Associates:

- Land management
- Stubble height

Public Comment:

- Lisa Belenky
- Brian Judge
- Ilene Mandelbaum
- Bartshe Miller
- Lynn Boulton

Jeff Hunewill, Conway Ranch Cattle Grazing Operator:

- Addressed comments from staff and public

Board provided staff direction:

- Block the irrigation ditch on Mattly that connects with Wilson Creek
- Address period of time cow feces should dry before irrigation
- Work with Lahontan on water quality baseline and monitoring

F. Ordinance Amending Chapter 13.40 of the Mono County Code - Public Use of Conway Ranch

Departments: Public Works, County Counsel

(Justin Nalder, Solid Waste Superintendent) - Proposed ordinance amending Mono County Code chapter 13.40, Public Use of Conway Ranch, to implement public access restrictions to cattle grazing areas during grazing season.

Action: Introduce, read title, and waive further reading of proposed ordinance.

Gardner motion; Peters seconded.

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no

M21-44

Justin Nalder, Solid Waste Superintendent:

- Introduced item

Moved to Item 11a.

8. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None.

9. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session: 9:24 AM

Reconvened: 9:53 AM

Moved to Item 7A.

Reentered Closed Session: 3:57 PM

Reconvened: 4:31 PM

Nothing to report out of Closed Session.

A. Closed Session - Labor Negotiations

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS. Government Code Section 54957.6. Agency designated representative(s): Bob Lawton, Stacey Simon, Dave Butters, Janet Dutcher, and Anne Frievalt. 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). Unrepresented employees: All.

B. Closed Session - Public Employee Evaluation

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION. Government Code section 54957. Title: County Administrative Officer.

C. Closed Session - Exposure to Litigation

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION. Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Government Code section 54956.9. Number of potential cases: one.

THE AFTERNOON SESSION WILL RECONVENE NO EARLIER THAN 1:00 P.M.

10. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None.

11. REGULAR AGENDA - AFTERNOON

A. PUBLIC HEARING: Application for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) CARES Act Funds

Departments: Economic Development

(Jeff Lucas, Community Development Services; Alicia Vennos/Jeff Simpson, Economic Development) - Public hearing regarding request to approve by resolution an application for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Cares Act Funds, Rounds CV2/CV3 in the amount of \$234,654 for a financial assistance program for small business in Mono County.

Action: Conduct public hearing. Approve an application for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Cares Act Funds in the amount of \$234,654 for an assistance program for Mono County small businesses.

Public hearing opened: 1:10PM

Alicia Vennos, Economic Development Director:

- Introduced item

Jeff Lucas, Community Development Services:

- Funds are specifically designed to provide assistance communities impacted by COVID-19, focusing on business assistance

No Public Comment.

Public hearing closed: 1:26 PM

Kreitz motion; Gardner seconded.

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no

R21-13

Break: 1:28 PM

Reconvened: 1:45 PM

B. Budget and Fiscal Policy Workshop

Departments: CAO, Finance

(Janet Dutcher, Finance Director; Megan Mahaffey, Accountant II) - Conduct budget and fiscal policy review workshop to discuss current policies, possible changes to existing policies, and recommendation of new policies. This workshop will review a recommendation to replace the existing budget policy with an updated framework and the addition of a separate General Fund Contingency Policy. No changes are recommended at this time to the County's Debt Policy.

Action: None.

Janet Dutcher, Finance Director:

- Presented item

C. 2020-21 Mid-Year Budget Requests and Recommendations

Departments: Finance

(Janet Dutcher, Finance Director; Megan Mahaffey, Accountant II) - Present mid-year budget requests from Departments, discuss, and advise Board regarding staff recommendations.

Action: Approve recommended mid-year budget adjustments, as presented (4/5th vote required).

Gardner motion; Peters seconded.

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no

M21-45

Janet Dutcher, Finance Director:

- Presented item

12. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Supervisor Corless:

- RCRC/Golden State Natural Resources board meeting--progress continues on development of facilities

- Federal Highways Administration meeting re: Reds Meadow Rd project status--at "100 percent stage," held this stakeholder meeting at the request of stakeholders, despite requests, seems that it's past the point of any possible revisions/adjustments.
- YARTS Strategic Planning meeting, looking continually to maintain services and fiscal sustainability.
- Behavioral Health Advisory Board meeting
- Coming up: RCRC/CSAC redistricting webinar for county elected officials and staff, Friday March 5, first of two parts, stay tuned for more information.

Supervisor Duggan:

- 2/3/21
 - CSAC Rural Caucus – I attended the CSAC Rural Caucus where counties exchanged ideas and experiences with COVID-19- 19 vaccine rollouts.
 - LVHAC – After the CSAC Caucus I attended the Long Valley Hydrologic Advisory Committee. Various agencies made presentations on groundwater monitoring and well development activities.
 - MLT Board Meeting – I participated in the Mammoth Lakes Tourism Board of Directors meeting. Presentations included the financial audit for 2019-20, a review by department on Budget Variance for Q1 & Q2. Updates were also giving by Board members representing Mammoth Mountain Ski Are, Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce and Mammoth/Yosemite Airport.
 - Department Meeting: Behavioral Health –To achieve my goal of meeting with each county department in the first 60 days of my term, I met with Behavioral Health Director Robin Roberts and Amanda Greenberg. I want to familiarize myself with their programs and goals and I look forward to observing their outreach and offered my assistance in any way I can help.
- 2/4/21
 - NACo National Membership Call – I attended a call hosted by NACo with Eduardo Cisneros, White House COVID-19 intergovernmental affairs director, and Dr. Bechara Choucair, White House vaccinations coordinator, on the latest efforts to provide federal support to counties for ongoing COVID-19 mitigation and vaccination efforts.
 - Lee Vining High School Annual Speech Contest – I participated as a judge for the contest where over 50 students participated with original speeches throughout the day, culminating in the top 7 participants competing on the topic of “Where Are We on the Path of Equality for All in Our Nation?” The speeches were outstanding, providing insight and perspective on equality by race, ethnicity, gender, and more. It was an honor to participate and I encourage everyone to watch the video at the link. [LVHS Speech Contest 2021 - Final Round - YouTube](#).
- 2/5/21
 - Mono Lake Kutzadika Tribal Meeting – I attended the meeting of the Mono Lake Kutzadika Tribe along with Vice-Chair Gardner.
 - COVID019 Vaccine Clinic – Mammoth Lakes – I volunteered with MLT at the Vaccine Clinic last Friday. Thanks to Mono County Public Health and Green Fox Events who dealt with a lot of confusion on eligibility and residency issues. They handled all situations very professionally and we were able to serve everyone in a timely manner.
- 2/8/21

- LTC – I participated in the Local Transportation Meeting Commission Chair Kreitz and Commissioner Peters.
 - Highlights we the review of the 2021-22 Overall Planning Work Program and an in-depth financial report that included the Independent Auditor’s Report for year ending 6/1/20.
 - Ashley Helms from Inyo Public Works provided an update on the progress at the Bishop Airport. Runway pavements improvement have been made and required emergency vehicles have been ordered. Environmental reviews and CEQA documents have been drafted and are to be reviewed on 2/28. Pending all permits and review, the Bishop Airport could be ready for limited service by December 2021.
 - ESTA plans to operate services as last year despite reduced revenues. Reds Meadow shuttle operations will depend on COVID-19 restrictions; a decision will be deferred to later in the spring once more information is available.
 - Caltrans District 9 staff is in the planning stage of the Benton Paving Project. I will be working with them to facilitate community outreach and gather input from the Tri-Valley area prior to the plan development. Public Comment will close in March and the plan should be finalized by June 2021.
- MC Behavioral Health Advisory Board – I attend the MCBHAB meeting yesterday at the invitation on MCBH.
 - Permanent housing for Behavioral Health residents has been approved in conjunction with the Parcel project.
 - Cultural Outreach Committee will be expanding its members to include more community partners.

Supervisor Gardner:

- Last Wednesday Feb. 3 I participated in two calls, the first with the NACO Public lands Committee and the second with the CSAC Rural Caucus.
- Also, on Wednesday I joined the June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee for their monthly meeting. We discussed the impact of the snowstorm the prior week, planning for an electric vehicle charger in June Lake, and other issues.
- On Friday Feb. 5 I participated in the Kutzadika Tribal Council monthly meeting. The tribe continues to be quite active in the Mono Basin. We also discussed the status of their Federal tribal recognition bill, which was introduced last September by then Rep. Cook, but has not been reintroduced by our current Rep. Jay Obernolte.
- Yesterday with Supervisor Corless I participated in a special meeting of the YARTS Board. Our purpose was to focus on strategic planning for the future of the YARTS system, including service routes, bus purchases, county participation, and contract details.

Supervisor Kreitz:

- On February 3 I attended the CSAC Rural Caucus where the primary discussion was around COVID19. The group did review a draft resolution to support racial, equity, diversity and inclusion. No vote on the resolution was entertained.
- I participated on a CSAC HLT Policy Committee executive team and staff meeting with California Senator Scott Wiener on housing policy and budget priorities for the year. I thanked Senator Wiener for co-authoring SB5 Housing Bond Act funding and encouraged him to support a \$10 billion ask and to work with the labor trades and unions for a win-win solutions for both them and the development of affordable housing.

- That evening I watched the COVID Community Conversation.
- Monday, January 8th was the regular Mono County LTC meeting. The Commission reviewed the draft 2021-2022 Overall Work Program. We received an update on the Inyo County Airport project from Inyo County Public Works staff Ashely Helms. The airfield has been largely rehabilitated and is expected to get approval for commercial air service by mid-summer. Then it would be up to Sky West and United Airlines to determine when to begin services.

Supervisor Peters:

- Also attended CSAC Rural Caucus meeting on the 3rd – meeting dedicated to vaccine/vaccine rollout and implicit bias
- Economic Recovery Branch of EOC – continuing to discuss how to deal with tiers and how to assist businesses
- On the 4th, met with Social Services Director Kathy Peterson, with her guidance, we have prepared and submitted an interim policy resolution in the Human Services and Education Committee at NACo
- Met with Jan Cutts, Bridgeport District Ranger
- Met with Mountain Warfare Training Center – talked about ongoing training
- On the 4th, attended the Antelope Valley RPAC – continue to talk about fire recovery, Caltrans gave a presentation on upcoming construction season and avalanche
- NACo National Membership call
- Met with CSAC Rural COVID Working Group
- On the 8th, attended LTC, received update on Bishop Airport
- Attended and led NACo futureproofing subgroup of broadband working group
- Tonight, Mountain View Fire relief fund will have meeting
- Reminder that there will be an update on the Bridgeport Jail Project at the Bridgeport RPAC tonight

ADJOURNED AT 4:31 PM

ATTEST

JENNIFER KREITZ
CHAIR OF THE BOARD

QUEENIE BARNARD
SENIOR DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD