

Mono County Local Transportation Commission

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MINUTES

March 12, 2018
(adopted April 9, 2018)

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: Fred Stump, Stacy Corless, John Peters

TOWN COMMISSIONERS: Sandy Hogan, John Wentworth, Shields Richardson

COUNTY STAFF: Gerry Le Francois, Wendy Sugimura, Michael Draper, Garrett Higerd, CD Ritter

TOWN STAFF: Grady Dutton

CALTRANS: Ryan Dermody, Austin West

ESTA: John Helm

1. **CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chair John Wentworth called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. at the Town/County Conference Room, Minaret Village Mall, Mammoth Lakes. Attendees recited pledge of allegiance to flag.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None
3. **MINUTES**
 - A. Approve minutes of December 11, 2017, (Hogan, Peters, Stump, Wentworth) as amended: Commissioner reports, Wentworth, Town also got ~~fire~~ **CPAW (Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire)** grant out of Montana; Item 6A, fourth graph, Turnaround at bottom of residential Red Fir Road had real concerns **that never materialized.** (Hogan/Peters. Ayes: 4. Absent Richardson & Corless.)
 - B. Approve minutes of January 29, 2018 (*no February meeting*) as amended: Commissioner reports, Richardson, First time **regional** director visited; Wentworth, Met with USDA **rural development. Political emphasis. Item 9B, YARTS,** Short-range transit **planning** is big deal. (Hogan/Corless. Ayes: 5. Abstain due to absence: Peters.)
4. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS: Stump, Hogan, Richardson:** None. **Corless:** She and Supervisor Bob Gardner met with Sen. Kamala Harris' staff, presentation from rural development innovation center. Potential opportunities in transportation. **Peters:** Attended CSAC meetings in Sacramento, Keeler center with Corless. Town Hall meeting at Walker April 11 at 6 pm. **Wentworth:** He and Hogan attended mobility committee meeting of Planning & Economic Development Commission for Walk, Bike, Ride. Town/Mono position for **transportation shared recreation** resources not named.
5. **LOCAL TRANSPORTATION**
 - A. **Proposition 68: California Clean Water & Safe Parks Act:** Gerry Le Francois cited Wentworth for requesting this item. Dollars to agencies, including Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), Wildlife Conservation Board. Looking at wildlife crossing issue. Past letters supporting SB 1. LTC has discretion to be sponsor.
Hogan: Where might we fit? Lot of water stuff. Le Francois: Habitat conservation and connectivity, urban focus. SNC now looking at \$500 mil for projects in Sierra. Town is watershed. Nexus with trails. Helpful to list endorsers.
Richardson: Advocate better than 3% of moneys.
Stump: Moneys from 2014 not being expended. LADWP already indicated not allow ranchers water to irrigate, negative impact on sage grouse habitat. Taking 1,600 acre-feet out of Mono Basin acreage. If entity owns big piece of property, destroying environment.
Corless: Mono Supervisors endorsed Prop. 68.
Wentworth: Start where can start, continue to advocate. Every little step adds up.

COMMISSIONERS

Stacy Corless Sandy Hogan John Peters Shields Richardson Fred Stump John Wentworth

Peters: Lahontan and drainage out of Walker tributaries. Ranchers trying to leverage \$8 mil available through sage grouse restoration project. Regionally, may see greater deliverable on dollars if get on board. Add LTC voice to Supervisors.

Stump: Obtain funding dedicated to local needs. Lack of funding to Sierra as whole in State water.

MOTION: Endorse Proposition 68 as part of strategic endeavor to bring resources to region constituents. (Corless/Peters. Ayes: All.)

Hogan: Northern counties in Cascades? Constantly have to bring up Eastern Sierra at YARTS. Corless: Northern counties lacked support of Prop 68, against CDFW funding. Wildlife Conservation Board. Dam removals, not good relationship with state agencies. Oppose across board something that could potentially reduce local control of land in their counties. Stump: Eastern Sierra not just Mono.

B. OWP Amendment 02 to 2017-18: Megan Mahaffey described amendment to adjust what thought vs. actual. Trails and asset management system. Wrapped up quarter management plan. Administrative change only.

Le Francois: Consultant in June area.

Wentworth: Meeting with Margie DeRose on spending money this year. Get progress report.

MOTION: Adopt Amendment 02 to the Mono County Overall Work Program 2017-18 that includes minor adjustments to the language of the OWP as well as budget adjustments based on expenditures made to date and anticipated expenditures for the remainder of the year. (Corless/Richardson. Ayes: All.)

C. OWP timeline for adoption of 2018-19 draft: Megan Mahaffey stated Caltrans has draft of complete timeline. No additions to table of contents.

Hogan: Alt **fueling recharging** stations are Tesla only. Need \$200 adaptor.

Stump: Propriety fueling stations. Tesla funded many. Elon Musk noted Tesla hanging on by skin of teeth. Weakness of electric vehicles is differing technology. As move forward, need to insist on rounded system.

Green: Installing chargers from SB 1, already funded.

Hogan: Legal way to resolve.

Green: Close gaps by making 50-mi intervals. Mammoth Lakes to Topaz no logical point on Caltrans property.

Stump: Similar to internet project. Getting all covered takes time. Tesla supports only Tesla. Would not drive electric vehicle as supervisor en route to meetings.

Green: Caltrans not want to get into business **of vehicle charging stations**; helping plant seeds, up to private industry. Thirty sites in California, six in Eastern Sierra.

Next step? Peters: Bridgeport project by Edison. Entities like that natural to create opportunity.

Green: Sites funded by feds, cannot charge for power in locations. Free power now.

Wentworth: When back to LTC? Next month, adoption in May.

6. ADMINISTRATION

A. Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) members: Michael Draper noted advisory group has staggered appointments. MMSA (Mammoth Mountain Ski Area) designee Findley Torrence accepted. Peters: Espinoza is director of senior center in Walker, involved in many community issues.

Draper: Next month public hearing joint meeting SSTAC. Outreach to RPAC communities.

Hogan: Findley moving into transportation? GD: Oversees transportation for MMSA.

Stump: Constituents in District 2 said things brought up, never acted on. Not reasonable to meet. What's the point? Perfunctory check off box, show up, request, get told it's unreasonable to meet. People quit showing up, making comments. Maybe change what's reasonable and what's not. Bureaucratic bottlenecks.

Le Francois: LTC used to devote money to road repair. When do that, must look at transit so not totally focused on roads. Last time LTC took TDA (Transportation Development Act) funds was under Rich Boardman. Every year unmet needs process is typically status quo. Not sure need it from legal standpoint.

Wentworth: Allocate dollars to proposals, or moneys coming out of general budget? Le Francois: LTC has policy on providing new service.

Wentworth: Set reasonable expectations for certain number of dollars to be allocated. People going through exercise with no funding. Hogan: More of communication problem. Stump: Frustration problem, not communication. ESTA presents list of needs; if not reasonable, just fall off. E.g., fifth-day coverage in Walker not reasonable. Gave extra money after people came to LTC. ESTA has limited money, but perfunctory purpose that never results in change. Why keep doing it? RPACs differ across county. Antelope Valley activity significantly greater than District 2. Maybe make optional?

Helm: Regular requirement to make sure no unmet needs exist before spending money on roads. ESTA met RPACs each spring. Antelope Valley wanted Friday service, went away in recession. Request for Friday service, LTC provided service. If not meet State's criteria for unmet needs, LTC can act to provide services.

Wentworth: Effort provides service needs to LTC. Disconnect. Some resources to address as needs come up. Have staff come back with tweaks on expectation.

Hogan: ESTA was new. Opportunity for pilots, knowing risk. No guarantees. Explain at RPAC level.

Le Francois: Matrix of needs, look at criteria.

Peters: Maybe expand to include when Red Line service changed. Valuable tool even though not result in funding. Need came out, important to outreach. Maybe on Mono website. Prioritize to make it ongoing throughout year.

MOTION: Reappoint MMSA designee, IMACA, etc. 2) Staff review. stated expectations in light of tech advice to LTC, expand expectations that time is valued and useful. (*Wentworth/Stump. Ayes: All.*)

B. Partnership with federal agencies: Wentworth: Town hopes to identify date of action on shared position. Housing, broadband, etc.

Corless: Mono Supervisors gave direction to spend \$50,000 for recreational partnership with USFS. Wentworth: Agreement ~~not need formal signature~~ will need formal signature but may proceed without formal agreement

C. Commissioner Larry Johnston appreciation: Defer to next month. Johnston was also CDD staff member as well as LTC. Caltrans has some things, will send draft.

D. Resolution for retired executive director Scott Burns: LTC was semi-defunct when Scott Burns arrived, got nasty letter from State. CDD took it on eventually. Walkable communities always important to LTC. Three main folks got MOU process off in 1999.

Wentworth: Bring back next meeting.

7. TRANSIT

A. Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA)

1. **LCTOP (Low-Carbon Transit Operations Program) grant:** John Helm described past efforts. Proposing to pool funds with Inyo over four years to launch electric Dial-A-Ride vehicle in Bishop.

Wentworth: Walk/Bike/Ride interested in how transit works in Lakes Basin in future. How to pilot electrical vehicle. Helm: Direction CA going is only electric in near future.

Wentworth: Get aware of opportunities of cap and trade into Basin.

Helm: LCTOP is based on population. Wentworth: Visitor population much greater than resident. Start thinking of impacts of tourism and how get resources over here.

MOTION: Adopt Resolution R18-02 approving \$43,304 for expansion of Mammoth Express & Lone Pine Express fixed-route services, reduce pass prices on Mammoth Express, purchase electric vehicle, & authorize ESTA's executive director to complete & execute all documents for the LCTOP submittal, allocation requests, and required reporting (*Hogan/Peters. Ayes: All.*)

2. **2016-17 ESTA audit:** John Helm noted information only.

Problems due to multijurisdictional nature? Helm: Challenge is understanding multi nature. No other issues

Inyo or Mono direct involvement? Helm: Inyo auditor/controller office

Hogan: Other contract entities involved? Yes.

3. **ESTA rolling stock modification:** John Helm cited Prop 1B program moneys for transit \$183,000 for Mono buses. Thought two cutaway buses best. But expanded service on 395 routes, lots of mile on those buses. Based on that, recommend purchase bigger buses.

Staying within funding, changing bus types? Yes.

MOTION: Approve PTMISEA rolling stock modification (*Hogan/Corless. Ayes: All.*)

B. Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS): Michael Draper noted intro to consultant on Short-Range Transit Plan. Outreach, get to Eastern Sierra.

Hogan: ~~Supervisors~~ YARTS kickoff meeting met last Friday, minus Corless and Gardner, ~~who were at Mono Supervisors meeting~~. Short notice does not work. Appoint AAC (Authority Advisory Committee) member. Start with last major chapter on government financing with checklist of what's been done. Big unanswered questions. The AAC has 16-17 members, Mariposa Supervisor Rose Marie. AAC used to rubber stamp, want working groups now.

Hogan: Need Eastside working group. Trend toward information giving. Stress using working groups to be prepared to discuss.

Corless: Will ask Cindy Kelly about Eastside meeting with consultants. Present to LTC at least once. Surveys on SR 120 as well as SR 140.

Stump: Bottleneck due to rock slide, strange highway to survey.

Hogan: Consultant is familiar with ESTA, knows of our area. Get RPAC feedback.

Wentworth: Tie in with Town. Draper: Request for data needs by Town.

Wentworth: AAC get in touch with Town. Significant trove of data by end of summer. Surveys on federal lands is tricky. Make sure consultant understands.

Hogan: Surveys conducted on bus, not federal land.

Stump: Thanked Hogan for long-term involvement with AAC. Valuable perspective.

Wentworth: Eastside v. Westside pressure. Keep discussions going.

--- BREAK ---

8. CALTRANS

A. Activities in Mono County & pertinent statewide information: Brent Green announced new administration next November, director from District 11. Of 18,000 staff 12,000 could retire within five years. Succession planning includes backfill, a lot of change. Delivery of SB 1 is priority. Legislation takes long time. Special signage this summer. Deliver in 10-yr window: to Caltrans, "deliver" means taking to construction. To lay person, means driving on it. Do what makes sense as a project. Redoing fair and good pavement, terminology being worked out.

MOU projects discussed at CTC townhall. CTC staff said Mono held best-run town hall. Partnerships, claimed Le Francois. Ribbon at Freeman Gulch-1 (FG-1) soon. Kern COG priorities different from Eastern Sierra. All funding in Eastern Kern on FG 1-3, District 9 invests more money. Meeting with COG to show investments on SR 14 and other Eastern Kern projects. Northern Mono projects may involve two to three closures. Almost all are SB 1 SHOPP (State Highway Operation & Protection Program) projects.

Hogan: Maybe fatalities in BP area, keep in mind.

Gardner: Freight study consultant to next LTC for update. Findings not what he anticipated.

Stump: Chalfant left turn on US 6? Green: Top priority to design right now.

Hogan: Explain "delivery" and SB 1 to RPACs. So many steps to get to construction.

Higerd: SB 1 funded project ready: fog seal and striping. CTC requests next budget cycle projects by May 1. Public Works (PW) has five-year road CIP (Capital Improvement Program) proposals to submit. Updating engineering website. Statewide website includes Caltrans and local agency SB 1 projects. Antelope Valley town hall will be outreached by PW. SB 68 is legislative proactive step to support SB 1. On November ballot. LTC letter of support next meeting.

Peters: Dedicate 40% of SB 1 to transportation projects.

West: Working in town on Minaret sidewalk project for ATP (Active Transportation Program) funding, out in several months. Received extra resources for District 9 bike/pedestrian plan. Unsure if hire consultants. Verify assets, coordinate with respective counties to trade GIS data, incorporate local docs in next couple months.

Stump: Allow Caltrans to look at State funding to get bikes off major highways. Lower Rock Creek connection to Tom's Place.

West: Purpose is to incorporate on-highway and off-highway to target for improvements. Could be local assistance project as well as Caltrans.

Wentworth: Analysis of eBikes? Town and MMSA (Mammoth Mountain Ski Area) doing eBike **maps programs**. How to integrate policies. State and federal considerations. Draft of Town's policy soon.

Peters: Concern of CHP for driver frustration/safety aspect of construction. Divert traffic to SR 182? Keep available route through communities wide open and accessible during summer tourist months, not encourage people to skirt towns. Who drives that process? *Emergency closures/detours*.

Green: Short construction window is frustrating. 20-min closure might sound long, but **construction** duration could be shortened by 30-min delays.

Peters: Awareness factor. CHP concerned for safety of construction crews.

Wentworth: Prop 68 on ballot. Staff advise LTC of endorsement. Call Caltrans about visitation traffic. D395 (digital 395) could be candidate for significant carbon reduction, signature project to bring resources from State.

Dutton: Reds Meadow road programmed for construction.

9. INFORMATIONAL: No items

10. **UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS:** 1) Winter debrief; 2) Johnston & Burns resolutions; 3) OWP 2018-19; 4) quarterly reports; 5) Prop 68; 6) unmet needs expectations; 7) future legislative platform (commissioners not staff can lobby); 8) info materials to RPACs on SB 1

11. **ADJOURN** at 11:22 a.m. to April 9, 2018

Prepared by CD Ritter, LTC secretary