

**Mono Basin RPAC**  
**Regional Planning Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, June 13, 2018, 6:30 pm, Lee Vining Community Center**

**Members present:** Duncan King; Kristie Nelson; Bartshe Miller; Ilene Mandelbaum and Lisa Cutting

**Public Attendees and Presenters:** Bob Gardner; Wendy Sugimura; Bentley Regehr; John Ljung; Wayne Beaver; Mark Heckman, Austin West & Florene Trainor, Caltrans; Patti Hamec-Christensen

1. **Call to Order:** 6:35 pm.
2. **Public Comment:** Patti Hamec-Christensen presented the work of the Northern Mono County Hospice (NMCH), a community-based volunteer program providing end-of-life care and support. Volunteers from NMCH do not provide medical services but help terminally ill individuals and their families experience the end of life together in the comfort and security of their home. They provide palliative and supportive care to the patient and family, coordinate with other services to facilitate day-to-day care, and promote death with dignity. 3-4 volunteers are being sought in each community and training is available July 12-14 in Walker and Bridgeport. Contact Patti at (760) 809-1489 or at [pitenpat@yahoo.com](mailto:pitenpat@yahoo.com) for more details.
3. **Review Minutes:** Kristie Nelson proposed and Bartshe Miller seconded, that the minutes of the meeting of May 9, 2018 be approved. Unanimously accepted with Ilene Mandelbaum abstaining.
4. **Supervisor's Report:** Bob Gardner reported on his interactions with SCE subsequent to the recent wind event and power outage. It lasted from 5pm to 10am the next day and was due to an insulation failure and a line dropping. According to SCE their system worked...in that the power was cut off and there was no fire. The county has received two short term rental requests and commercial cannabis permits are now available. Bob Gardner reported that the county base budget for 2018/19 has been approved. Stacy Corless has been re-elected as Supervisor of District 5 and Jennifer Halferty elected for District 1. The County is using its recreational budget to install an urgently needed temporary replacement restroom at Navy Beach.
5. **Chairperson Report:** Lisa Cutting reported on a proposal to rehab the washed-out Lee Vining Creek trail. Funds are being sought to pay for a trail crew and DWP approval will be required. The recent SCE outage should be on the agenda next month and the RPAC should document the recent history in a letter to SCE. The Inyo National Forest representative has again been unable to attend this meeting. The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua is being held this weekend. Town is already filling with the record number of 333 registrants.
6. **Members Reports:**
  - a. Kristie Nelson – Very concerned that the SCE inspections are not detecting problems ahead of time.
  - b. Bartshe Miller – Of special concern with this SCE power outage was that the wind was not that strong, and that where the issue occurred was on the one old pole in a line of new ones. The Mono City and Lee Vining Fire Commissioners are to hold a joint meeting at 5pm on 7/19/2018 on the concept of merging the two Fire Districts at the Lee Vining Fire Hall.
  - c. Duncan King – The Pioneer Solar Pavilion project has broken ground at Hess Park. \$10k is still required for project completion and donations would be welcomed.
  - d. Ilene Mandelbaum – FSC report will be under agenda item 7.
7. **Fire Safe Council report:** (This agenda item was discussed after item 8.) Ilene reported on the low participation at the last meeting and on the need for admin support in the local Fire Departments. Discussion centered on the need for a point person to spearhead the FSC agenda. Merged Fire

Districts might assist in both these issues. We should also encourage the Forest Service and BLM to impose campfire restrictions as soon as possible. A new grant period opens in August and priority is for a plan of action to be determined for this. Bob Gardner brought new Smokey Bear posters for posting in town and Campfire Safety leaflets to be distributed with firewood sales.

8. **Main Street Rehabilitation Project update:** (This agenda item was discussed before item 7.) Austin West and Mark Heckman (Caltrans) presented the plan for public input to the project. Dates proposed for workshops were 6/25 and 7/24 from 6pm-9pm in the LVCC. The June date was considered too soon even with a mailing to PO Boxes and an email blast to the RPAC mailing list, especially as the first meeting was to examine the survey and comments so far, when the survey has not yet been distributed. The July date was considered feasible, and Lisa Cutting and Austin will determine a better alternate date for the June meeting, maybe using the July RPAC date of 7/11, or even an early August date. The survey is now live as is the project website. There will be project publicity during the Chautauqua weekend. A one on one approach to businesses in town was also recommended, as was offering food/drink to attract more workshop participants.
9. **Consider approving letter of appreciation to Caltrans for rehab project process:** Wendy – this is to thank Caltrans for the opportunity for input and will be ready for the next meeting.
10. **Consider approving letter to SCE regarding utility poles:** Bartshe Miller proposed and Duncan King seconded that Lisa Cutting's excellent letter requesting 'treated poles' be accepted with the following amendments – 'compliment' be changed to 'complement', and an extended CC list be added. Approved unanimously.
11. **Recap discussion of short-term rentals in Mono City:** The result of the informal meeting held in Mono City was total unanimity that short-term rentals not be allowed. A formal resolution on this will be presented at the next RPAC meeting.
12. **Information items and provide direction to staff (Planning):** No new items. The Tioga Inn supplemental development will be subject to an EIR on which there will be a future public comment period. There are no plans for grazing on Conway Ranch this summer. Kristie Nelson has received a Jeff Maurer grant for a butterfly survey on Conway Ranch. The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is available on the county website for comments up till 7/31.
13. **Upcoming agenda items:** Letter to SCE re power outage, letter to Caltrans re rehab project, and Short-Term Rentals in Mono City.
14. **Adjourn: 8:30 - Next meeting Wednesday, July 11, 2018**

Prepared by Duncan King