

Mono Basin RPAC
Regional Planning Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 11, 2018, 6:30 pm, Lee Vining Community Center

Members present: Duncan King, Kristie Nelson, Chris Lizza, Ilene Mandelbaum and Lisa Cutting.

Public Attendees and Presenters: Bob Gardner, Wendy Sugimura, Margaret Eissler, Cal Rossi, Ray Pok.

1. **Call to Order:** 6:38 pm.
2. **Public Comment:** None
3. **Review Minutes:** Kristie Nelson proposed and Duncan King seconded, that the minutes of the meeting of June 13, 2018 be approved with one change, para 4, line 3, change 'insulation' to 'insulator'. Unanimously accepted with Chris Lizza abstaining.
4. **Supervisor's Report:** Bob Gardner reported that Jennifer Halferty has been sworn in as Mono County Supervisor for District 1. Larry Johnston's memorial service will be held 7/21. The BOS lifted restrictions on flavored cigars and cigarillos for 15 months to relieve the economic burden on retailers. Work on the Rush Meadows dam to better meet seismic concerns will take place this summer, meaning more helicopter traffic in the June Lake area. The Board still struggles with LADWP over concerns with the dewatering of the Crowley area. The county's June Lake condo is to be sold and the funds put toward the county's housing program. A letter has been sent to Rep. Paul Cook remonstrating over the separation of families at the US-Mexican border. YARTS is now running twice daily between Mammoth Lakes and the village in Yosemite Valley
5. **Chairperson Report:** Lisa Cutting reported on her attendance at the Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP) meeting at the end of June; funds are available for infrastructure improvements to local water systems. The release date for the Inyo National Forest management plan is 8/3. Work continues to create a conceptual plan to restore the washed-out Lee Vining Creek trail. The Town of Mammoth Lakes has offered assistance and LADWP approvals will be sought to go forward.
6. **Members Reports:**
 - a. Duncan King – The Pioneer Solar Pavilion project has broken ground at Hess Park, foundations dug, and rebar put in place. Concrete is due to be poured 7/12. Funding levels are currently matching price increases. Ben Trefry has created a press release, and is also videotaping the construction process. The speed limit sign at the north end of town, southbound highway 395, is again out of order. Mono City experienced a water outage Monday 7/9.
 - b. Kristie Nelson – Science Friday is to show a segment on California Gulls. There is a possible fire hazard at the dispersed camping area on Utility Road on SCE property. Seems like it's time for a campfire ban in the area and on Forest Service lands.
 - c. Chris Lizza – Friends of the Inyo (FOTI) met with Tammy Randall-Parker, the new Forest Supervisor, and among other things, raised the issue of dispersed camping and fire hazards. Attended the June Lake meeting on the Rush Creek dam system work proposed for this summer. Helicopter traffic and noise should be less than last year. Encouraged Scott McGuire of Mammoth Lakes tourism to attend the next Yosemite gateway communities meeting. Noticed a 70% increase in business this June with the 120 Tioga Pass road into Yosemite National Park open.
 - d. Ilene Mandelbaum – Written to Inyo National Forest and Mono County Sheriff Braun to request the imposition of earlier fire restrictions. The process seems to take far too long after the criteria are met. We need a meeting to get feedback on the process. Maybe we

need a fire prevention banner like Yerington? A candidate is needed to head the Mono Basin Fire Safe Council.

7. **Discussion regarding aesthetic treatment of SCE substation utility poles:** (Ray Pok, SCE) SCE is aware that aesthetics is an issue for Lee Vining and that even though some of the poles identified are outside of the 1,000 foot buffer of the Scenic Area, they will go ahead and patinise or treat the seven poles. Two of the three lines now crossing 395 will be undergrounded. SCE has three new pamphlets which were circulated; Undergrounding, Wildfire Mitigation, and The New Normal...wildfire risk in the face of climate change. SCE crews are in the area upgrading poles and reducing vegetation undergrowth. Please let SCE know of any dead or dying trees which might be a fire risk. SCE is also working with the county to identify critical issues before implementing PSPS (Public Safety Power Shutoff). SCE is also waiting on a circuit map for PSPS to make an impact analysis. Before any PSPS shutoff occurs there is a one hour notification process, but it is unclear how this might work. A question about whether one line out of the two between Lee Vining and Lundy might be shut down in windstorms was unresolved, as was whether insulators could be tested. The possibility of a generator loan service was discussed – the answer was no. If anyone has a specific concern on a pole please send a picture of the pole element plus a photo of the pole number. Tony Dublino (Mono county staff) has a copy of the SCE annual circuit reliability report.
8. **Consider approving letter to SCE regarding downed utility pole safety issues:** Chairperson Lisa Cutting circulated a letter which was approved with the following amendments: emphasize fixing the root problem, improve maintenance, that PSPS should be a last resort, and that there are public awareness and notification issues with the present system. Chris Lizza proposed and Kristie Nelson seconded that the letter be revised according to the discussion and should be addressed to Cal Rossi (SCE).
9. **Consider recommending the Board of Supervisors hold a public hearing on the Caltrans recommendation to change the speed limit on State Route 120 (Tioga Pass) from 50 to 55 mph.** Ilene Mandelbaum proposed and Duncan King seconded that RPAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors hold a public hearing on the Caltrans recommendation to change the speed limit on State Route 120 (Tioga Pass) from 50 to 55 mph. Voting was 4 for, Chris Lizza against.
10. **Consider a recommendation to the Board to prohibit short-term rentals in Mono City:** Discussion took place on this issue at the last RPAC meeting, which resulted in this agenda item. Further public discussion can be made at the planning commission and at a future Board Meeting. Duncan King proposed and Kristie Nelson seconded that the RPAC recommend the Board of Supervisors prohibit short-term rentals in Mono City. Vote was unanimous with Chris Lizza abstaining.
11. **Information items and provide direction to staff (Planning):** None
12. **Upcoming agenda items and events:** On July 24th there will be Lee Vining Street Rehabilitation Workshop #1 from 6pm-8pm in the Lee Vining Community Centre. Workshop #2 will be held during the next scheduled RPAC meeting.
13. **Adjourn to next meeting Wednesday, August 8, 2018 - Lee Vining Street Rehabilitation Workshop #2 from 6:30pm-8:30pm in the Lee Vining Community Center.**
14. **Meeting closed at 8:30pm**

Prepared by Duncan King