

**Mono Basin RPAC
Regional Planning Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 12, 2018, 6:30 pm, Lee Vining Community Center**

Members present: Duncan King, Kristie Nelson, Chris Lizza (from item 9), Ilene Mandelbaum and Bartshe Miller

Public Attendees and Presenters: Wendy Sugimura, Bentley Regehr, Ray Pok, Elin Ljung, Lynne Boulton

1. **Call to Order:** 6:41 pm.
2. **Public Comment:** None
3. **Review Minutes:** Ilene Mandelbaum moved and Duncan King seconded, that the minutes of the meeting of July 11, 2018 be approved. Unanimously accepted.
4. **Supervisor's Report:** Supervisor Gardner was absent.
5. **Chairperson Report:** Wendy Sugimura presented Lisa Cutting's written report.

I attended the first Caltrans Lee Vining Rehab Project workshop held in July (I was unable to attend the August one). I am in communication with Caltrans to identify the next steps for the project.

I attended the August Mono Basin Fire Safe Council meeting. Robbie Di Paolo has offered to lead the group. I encourage everyone to attend and support these efforts.

The Mono Lake Committee is working with Mono County and others on the DWP Long Valley issue and CEQA process.

Thank you to Janet Carle and Mono 350 for the Lee Vining Solar Pavilion. If others agree, I would like to draft a resolution recognizing these efforts and put it on the October agenda for approval.

Lee Vining Creek Trail work has begun. The new route has been flagged and work crews are being mobilized. Thank you to Town of Mammoth Lakes (trail expert), FOI staff (support), Bob Gardner and Tony Dublino (funding and permission request), and DWP (for granting permission). Most of the work will be completed this fall with a final, finishing touches volunteer day to be scheduled after wards.

See everyone in October!

6. Members Reports:

- a. Duncan King – The Caltrans sign on H395 for Old Marina has been relocated to a better position and now gives drivers better information about access to the site. The dirt road from the Forest Service Visitor Center down to the Old Marina is washed out, again. Unclear where the responsibility lies for fixing it, although it is not a county road. The Mono Basin Historical Society GOST event was well attended and coincided with the Grand Opening of the Pioneer Solar Pavilion. The pavilion now provides a shade area for park users as well as information on the pioneer history of the Mono Basin. It was a joint effort by the Mono 350 group and the MBHS, plus a huge amount of volunteer labor. Fully support a resolution from RPAC and the Board of Supervisors to recognize Janet Carle's efforts in accomplishing this.
- b. Kristie Nelson – A bald eagle was found injured near the Lundy Lake resort. It had to be euthanized after it was determined to have been electrocuted and suffered nerve damage. There will be a burn operation in late September/October to remove invasive bassia from gull nesting areas on islands in Mono Lake.

- c. Bartshe Miller – Praise for the citizen efforts in creating the Pioneer Solar Pavilion with a special callout to Janet Carle and Mono County for their efforts. The second Caltrans workshop on the Lee Vining main street rehab was quite well attended, but more emphasis is needed on the area north of town. There is one application (in progress) for the RPAC. The Fire Safe Council effort is developing well (more later in the agenda).
 - d. Ilene Mandelbaum – The VC to Old Marina road issue seems to be exacerbated by drainage issues off H395 – an issue for Caltrans?
7. **Fire Safe Council update:** Bartshe Miller reported that Robbie Di Paolo is now the meeting lead. The meeting of 9/7 was attended by seven people and the Inyo National Forest Fire Prevention officer. Main issues raised were grant opportunities for fuel reduction projects and the possibility of getting SCE to close their property on Utility Road to dispersed camping. Flagged as an agenda item for RPAC due to both fire hazard and waste disposal issues.
 8. **Discussion regarding GBUAPCD monitoring station project and aesthetics:** Postponed.
 9. **Update on SCE substation project and findings for an exemption:** Ray Pok (SCE) reported that the request for treating the ten poles with patina (natina) was approved. The line under H395 would also occur, but undergrounding the creek was not possible and so the existing line over the creek would remain. The pole by the museum had been replaced and no leak from the transformer was found. The soil was tested by their environmental specialist and there was no oil residue. In case of future concerns please call (866) GOT SPILL. On the nesting birds issue, SCE work is only restricted in sensitive habitat areas, and crews receive annual training. For any urgent issues or environmental concerns please call (626) 302-1212. Members reiterated that work is best delayed until end-July/August to safeguard nests. On the 'redundant' line between Lee Vining and Lundy, Ray said that although there are two lines, both are needed. One cannot be shut down because of the need to switch between them to prevent outages in the 'northern territory'. Construction of the Substation will take three years and site preparation will begin this year. On a question about numerous holes at the base of new poles Ray said he would investigate further. The only holes he knew about would be for load testing. Lynn Boulton asked about power supply for future EV charging stations. Beyond requiring a transformer there should be no problem.
 10. **Consider approving letter to SCE regarding downed utility pole safety issues:** Kristie Nelson presented the letter drafted by Chair Lisa Cutting. After long discussion Bartshe Miller proposed and Chris Lizza seconded that the letter be accepted with edits to the last paragraph to not require a comprehensive report but instead prioritize the Mono Basin for implementation of the resiliency program. Unanimously accepted.
 11. **Consider approving a letter to SCE in appreciation of patina pole treatments:** Chris Lizza proposed and Bartshe Miller seconded that the letter as presented be approved. Unanimously accepted.
 12. **Information items and provide direction to staff (Planning):** The Tioga Inn specific plan is not expected before year end 2018. Five STRs approved in June Lake. A pre-approval has been received for a drive through cannabis retail operation in Lee Vining. Most other requests are for agricultural operations in Mono county. Tioga Lodge has been undertaking a state approved restoration plan. The Board of Supervisors is to hold a meeting on Workforce housing.
 13. **Upcoming agenda items:** GBUAPCD. Dispersed camping on SCE land. Pioneer Solar Pavilion recognition.
 14. **Adjourn to next meeting Wednesday, October 10, 2018 – Lee Vining Community Centre.**
 15. **Meeting closed at 8:06pm**

Prepared by Duncan King