

**Mono Basin RPAC
Regional Planning Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 10, 2015, 6:30 pm, Lee Vining Community Center**

Members present: Ilene Mandelbaum, Duncan King, Bartshe Miller, Paul McFarland, Chris Lizza, Margy Verba and Lisa Cutting.

Public Attendees and Presenters: Tim Alpers, Courtney Weiche, Ellen King, Joe Blommer, Dave Marquart, Ed and Melanie Parsons, **Liz Holt, and Deborah Hess.**

1. **Call to Order:** 6:35 pm.
2. **Public Comment:** None
3. **Review Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of May 13, 2015 were approved with the following changes – item 5 change lateness to tardiness – 10a change student counsellor to Jamie Godoy. Chris Lizza proposed, Paul McFarland seconded, unanimous with Margy Verba abstaining. The minutes of February 11, 2015 were approved with the following addition to item 6 – Members reports are listed alphabetically and not as presented. Chris Lizza proposed, Ilene Mandelbaum seconded, unanimous with Duncan King abstaining.
4. **Supervisor's Report:** Tim Alpers – at the recent LAFCO (Local Agencies **Agency** Formation Commission) meeting Bruce Woodward was appointed to one of two vacancies. In view of the proposed merger of the Lee Vining and Mono City Fire departments Tim would like to see a Mono Basin representative appointed to the second position. Failing this Vicki Bauer from June Lake has been proposed. The Fish and Game Commission meeting scheduled for 6/11 will be discussing the Bi-state Sage Grouse and the issue of Bobcat trapping. Tim Alpers will be the official Mono County spokesperson. Other current county activities are headhunting a new CAO, strategic planning and 42 ongoing projects.
5. **Chairman's Report:** The Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua is being held next weekend with 350 to 400 attendees and presenters.
6. **Member's reports:**
 - a. Chris Lizza: Attended the Planning Commission meeting where the TOT overlay for the Clark Tract in June Lake was considered. Chris was the lone dissenting vote.
 - b. Paul McFarland: As part of the Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua is organizing a cleanup in upper Lee Vining canyon on 6/18, on 6/23 a Lee Vining creek trail cleanup, and Friends of the Inyo on 6/23 are doing road work in the Sweetwaters and Virginia Lakes. There is also a north county Bird Festival coming up. The Lee Vining PUD has distributed notices requiring water reductions in line with State requirements and is well into a program of picking off water leaks.
 - ~~c. Ilene Mandelbaum: We have funds for a drip system for the Lee Vining Community Center landscaping, need help with the weeding, and also help on the committee.~~ **We are raising funds for a drip system for the Lee Vining Community Garden, need help with the weeding, and also help on the committee.**
 - d. Duncan King: Mono City residents have all received a letter setting out the need for water reductions and ideas to help with this, and there is rising concern over wild fires.
 - e. Margy Verba: Organized a Mono City meeting on the concerns over power lines in the area and their potential as fire hazards and is investigating the formation of a Mono Basin Firesafe Council.

- f. Lisa Cutting: The Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua is holding an end of festival picnic on Sunday 6/21 at County Park which is open to everyone. There is free music with Mumbo Gumbo and Lee Vining High School is providing food, Local organizations are provided with tables for outreach. Discussion on the poor condition of the County Park restrooms followed.
 - g. Zane Davis: Absent.
7. **Mono Rockfall project update:** Joe Blommer reported that the speed restriction in the project area has been raised from 25 to 35 mph, signs for cyclists have been adjusted, and that after errors were observed with the signal lights, the system was rebooted and is now working. In anticipation of holiday traffic issues, on the Monday of the July 4th weekend there will be observers ready to operate manual over-rides of the signals if the queues are not cleared after two signal cycles. Slope 6 status is that 450 anchors have been placed, seeding has occurred along with pine needle mulch and now the mesh will be placed and bolted down. Slope 5 has been cleared of trees and the chipped material will be used for erosion control. Now scaling the big rocks and drilling for the anchors using 2 cranes and 2 spiders. 1,100 anchors will go in this section. Stage 2 will start in mid to late July at locations 3 and 4. Comment on issues with the signal light timing followed and Joe stated that the signal should only turn red after a traffic gap of 6 seconds or a 420 second green signal. The need for a 6am – 7am closure has not yet arisen, and the contractor has said this may not be needed.
 8. **Southern California Edison Powerline Safety Follow-up:** Deborah Hess reported on her 5/18 field trip with two SCE engineers, Bartshe Miller and Tim Alpers. They spent 2 hours in the field and the distribution engineers who came are currently talking with SCE transmission engineers on their findings . On the topic of illegal campfires at the bottom of Lee Vining canyon the consensus was that ‘no campfire’ signs were sufficient and that camping should not be prohibited. Deteriorated power poles do not require NEPA or CEQA approvals. SCE has access to grant funds to assist Firesafe Councils with educational materials and fuel reduction programs. Margy and Deborah will coordinate on this. Lee Vining sub-station is to be upgraded, will remain on the same site, but be located farther from the creek. Bartshe added his comments on the field trip – they looked at old fire spots and the engineers noted his comments. One response was that SCE would be more concerned if issues like these occurred monthly or more frequently. These incidents were just par for the course for power lines. If they made the system safer the power would trip out far more frequently. Ellen King suggested that as we only had distribution engineers visit then we should get some of SCE’s transmission engineers to meet with us. Margy Verba suggested that SCE’s incident logs would be interesting if we could get access to them. She also advertised a meeting for Friday 6/12 at her house to further discuss these issues.
 9. **Consider establishing RPAC trails subcommittee:** Paul McFarland opened this discussion and received interest from Lisa Cutting, Duncan King and Margy Verba in participating. Brown Act issues delayed establishing this subcommittee until more information can be obtained.
 10. **Information items and provide direction to staff (Planning):** Courtney Weiche (in place of Scott Burns) reported
 - a. The General Plan Update is wrapping up and there will soon be a public hearing. In June Lake there are 5 districts of 4 parcels which will be discussed for transient overlays. This will be at the June Lake CAC on 7/7 at 7pm. Ohanas 395 is officially relocating to near June Lake Brewery.
 - b. There are vacancies on Mono Basin RPAC, LAFCO and Mono County Tourism ~~Committee~~ **Commission**.
 11. **Upcoming agenda items:** 1) Mono Basin Trails; 2) Mono Rockfall Project; 3) SCE.
 12. **Adjourn: 8:40 Next meeting Wednesday July 8, 2015**