

BRIDGEPORT VALLEY

Regional Planning Advisory Committee

P.O. Box 347
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
760-924-1800 phone, 924-1801 fax
commdev@mono.ca.gov

P.O. Box 8
Bridgeport, CA 93517
760-932-5420 phone, 932-5431 fax
www.monocounty.ca.gov

Meeting of Thursday, June 21, 2012 7:00-9:00 P.M. Memorial Hall Bridgeport, CA

NOTES

Members present: Jeff Hunewill, Steve Noble, Bob Peters, Benny Romero

Presenters & County staff present: Douglas Power, MCMWTC; Tim Hansen, Supervisor; Scott Burns, CDD

Public present: Laretta Cochran; Tim Fesko; Mike Crawley, USFS

Scott Burns introduced Wendy Sugimura as the new RPAC planner and noted Board direction has been for an RPAC member to serve as the Secretary to take minutes.

1. **Call to Order** by Chair Romero at 7:10 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** led by Chair Romero.
3. **Introduction of new RPAC Planners:** Scott Burns introduced Wendy Sugimura as the new primary RPAC planner, with assistance from Heather deBethizy. Wendy is the project manager for the Bridgeport Main Street Revitalization project, and Heather is the lead on trails.
4. **Public comment** (for items not listed on agenda):
 - a. Mike Crawley: Reported on thinning at Sweetwater Flat for sage grouse habitat improvement, seeking \$ from Nevada for more habitat improvement, this is a busy time. Chair Romero noted he saw a lot of birds and chicks; Mike noted the researchers were reporting poor survival rates this year for the nests. Jeff mentioned he saw a lot of grouse also. Mike noted Bishop BLM is doing the counting, and the USFS will be pushing hard in the next year to improve habitat in light of the impending listing decision by the USFWS next year. Chair Romero suggested a letter from the RPAC following the USFS and BLM findings; Mike requested the public engage/support the USFS projects.

- b. Wendy provided information on the SNC Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program and noted it could provide funding for sage grouse habitat improvement on agricultural land, among other things. Jeff suggested specific ag operators to contact; RPAC expressed interest in distributing to all ag operators via a Lahontan list, Antelope Mutual Water Company (AV), and USFS/BLM permittees
 - c. Jeff: Courthouse trees old, consider planting replacements, something appropriate that would have fall colors. Planning will relay on to Facilities.
 - d. Benny: would like to see 4th of July banner strung across the street. Tony D. had mentioned there would be a lot of red tape with Caltrans; Benny talked to Caltrans and thinks it could be done. Scott mentioned it could be addressed in the Main Street Planning process.
5. **Minutes:** Approve minutes of meeting held May 17, 2012. Corrections: None. (Hunewill/Peters. Ayes 4. Absent: Brillenz, Cole, Huggins, Lehmann.) It was noted that a quorum was not present, and the item was therefore carried to the next regular meeting.
6. **Informational Items:**
- a. **Supervisor's report** (Tim Hansen): Reported on new project manager & GIS staff for County, issues with theater group, and Caltrans may be paving Main Street during 4th of July week. A rumor that AIG would not be planting of trophy trout by AIG before July 4th was mentioned, and Tim wasn't aware of the issue but will look into it. Chair Romero suggested Conway Ranch should be an educational institute – a possible project for the SNC grant.
 - b. **MWTC update:** Reported on Marine Corps activities and training, had approached Western Horseman about an article on mule packing and horsemanship.
 - c. **Fire Safe Council update:** No report.
 - d. **Bridgeport Trails update:** Scott reported the RPAC Resolution went to the Board of Supervisors. A handoff meeting with GIS has occurred to try to develop public materials; Heather deBethizy will be the new County staff heading up trails, in conjunction with other trails projects. Jeff expressed interest in moving forward at a local level, not waiting for a regional effort. Scott clarified a local effort can move forward separately. A current inventory has been conducted, a few landowners still need to be contacted, some public material can be developed, and eventually new trails can be identified. Chair Romero suggested the RPAC keep in mind a connection to Bodie, especially with the number of visitors to Bodie.

7. Discussion / Action Items:

- a. **Review past action items** (Benny): Supervisor Hansen will call Caltrans about paving and bike lane. Staff to review past six months of agendas and bring back a project/action list and status. Bob Peters will write a draft Resolution of Appreciation to Tony Dublino for his hard work.
- b. **Appoint the RPAC as Advisory committee to Main Street Revitalization project and project update:** Wendy provided a handout and brief overview of project status and next steps, and suggested the RPAC serve as the Advisory Committee to the project. Bob thought it was a great idea for RPAC to serve as AC, Supervisor Hansen asked staff make sure the absent RPAC members are informed. Staff will follow up. Scott clarified the grant funding doesn't quite get us to construction documents but we will get as close as possible, and noted the significance of Caltrans' involvement. Chair Romero requested to get it done sooner. General discussion about how to implement a plan followed; Hansen brought up that the potential closure of Bryant Street has not been brought to the RPAC. Scott noted Facilities was the contact for that project, and would be coordinated with on this project. Bob noted a lot of previous work has been done that should be included. General discussion about desired Main Street characteristics were noted, and the charrette format of the project was explained in detail.
- c. **Initial review of regional transportation policies:** Potential policy/project additions include widening Twin Lakes Road to include bike lanes; traffic calming measures such as reducing speed limit to 25 mph, physical re-design of streetscape and road; passing opportunities north and south of town, and coordination with the CHP and Sheriff are missing; include complete streets.

8. Review of meeting and accomplishments:

- a. Bob: Appreciated assignment of Wendy as new RPAC planner.
- b. Jeff: The charrette process is new and sounds exciting.

9. Future agenda items

- a. Appointment of Secretary
- b. Trails: review status and identify next steps and continuing progress.
- c. RPAC letter re: sage grouse based on USFS and BLM findings.
- d. Update from Bodie Foundation Director

10. Adjourn at 9:00 p.m.