

Mono Basin RPAC
Regional Planning Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 10, 2013, 6:30 pm, Lee Vining Community Center

Members present: Katie Bellomo, Steve Connett, Lisa Cutting, Alex Flores, Chris Lizza, Mark Logan, Ilene Mandelbaum, Bartshe Miller, and Lucy Parker. **Absent:** Zane Davis.

Public Attendees and Presenters: Tim Alpers, Joe Bellomo, Heather deBethizy, Ryan Dermody, Karen Ferrell-Ingram, Tom Hallenbeck, Tim Hansen, Byng Hunt, Aaron Johnson, Duncan King, Dan Lyster, Rick Noles, Lauren Porter, Marshall Rudolph, Vianey White.

1. **Call to order:** 6:38 pm
2. **Public comment:** a) Chris Lizza – What is the status of Tioga Pass opening and the plowing plan? Tim Alpers will give update in his report.
3. **Minutes: February 13, 2013.** Motion to approve – Chris Lizza; second – Ilene Mandelbaum. Approved unanimously. **March 13, 2013.** Motion to approve – Mark Logan; second – Steve Connett. Approved unanimously. Abstaining: Lisa Cutting, Chris Lizza, Ilene Mandelbaum.
4. **Supervisor’s report:**
 - a. Tim Alpers – a) Tim reported on the June Mountain public hearing meeting that the Supervisor’s had on Tuesday. June will reopen July 1 for the summer season. Mammoth will spend \$500-750K this summer on improvements including repaving the parking lot. J1 will be replaced and snowmaking will be part of the operation. Mammoth will work with the community on a community development plan that will address the Rodeo Grounds. Tim was not able to attend the ski area peer tour but is planning to go to the same resorts this summer to see them during their summer operations. b) Per Jeff Walters NPS is not planning to start plowing Tioga Road until 5/15 because of budget cuts. Mono County Public Works has offered to help the Park. Lee Vining and other Eastern Sierra businesses are urging the County and NPS to reconsider this plan and start earlier given what little snow there is up there.
5. **Chairman’s report:** No report.
6. **Member’s reports:**
 - a. Katie Bellomo: No report.
 - b. Steve Connett: No report.
 - c. Lisa Cutting: Attended the Mono County Fisheries Commission meeting Monday and the Inyo Forest Planning meeting last week in Bishop.
 - d. Zane Davis: Absent.
 - e. Alex Flores: No report.
 - f. Chris Lizza: Urged the County to open Highway 395 “spur “ roads: Lundy, Virginia, Tioga as soon as possible. Planning Commission meeting will consider a specific plan amendment to the Rock Creek Ranch project. Also considering establishing a transit overlay district to allow for nightly rentals.
 - g. Mark Logan: Tioga Pass (first gate) will be open for fishing opening season, possibly the week before. Caltrans is doing rock scaling up there right now.
 - h. Ilene Mandelbaum: Urged Caltrans to open the lower Tioga Pass gate for winter recreational pursuits. On March 11th she attended a roundtable meeting of community gardeners from Lone Pine to Benton to Walker to discuss regional food sourcing. At the May RPAC meeting there will be a Mono Lake / Yosemite Trail update and workshop for the public to attend.

- i. Lucy Parker: Is searching for a new place to live. Please give her any leads you may have for a new rental.
7. **Presentation of proposed Mono County/Caltrans MOU for Conway Ranch.** Marshall Rudolph gave an outline of the proposal that would transfer grant obligations from Caltrans to Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT) by establishing a conservation easement. This mechanism would allow Mono County to pursue additional but limited improvements related to the fish rearing operation. Currently there are three entities that have oversight as part of the grant funding used to purchase Conway Ranch – Caltrans, Department of Parks and Recreation, and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Caltrans asserts that the County has violated certain grant restrictions and requirements and is therefore at risk legally. If the County and Caltrans can come to agreement on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) components then the easement with ESLT can move forward on the Caltrans parcel. The other grants and associated oversight would remain for the other parcels on the Conway Ranch and the Mattley section. Tim Alpers explained the history of the fish-rearing operation on Conway Ranch and offered his support for this being the best way to move forward quickly. Tim wants to bring in an expert to access the fish rearing operation and make recommendations for a long-term plan. Byng Hunt expressed his support for this solution as a way to keep open space and habitat protection on Conway Ranch while also allowing the County to pursue fish-rearing, an important component to Mono County's economic stability. Marshall let everyone know that this will be a public process and all documents drafted will be available for public review and comment. RPAC members and the public raised concerns related to: access, historic uses, riparian restoration, agricultural uses, wetland mitigation, water delivery efficiencies, and visual impacts related to new proposed infrastructure.
8. **Lee Vining Community Center subcommittee update (Bellomo, Cutting, Mandelbaum).** Ilene is meeting tomorrow at the Lee Vining Community Center with Joe Blanchard to develop a landscaping work plan. The alleged outstanding money owed the County has been resolved and a volunteer agreement has been drafted that will allow volunteers to help with landscaping.
9. **Review of Mono Lake Cemetery draft site plan (Vianey White, Mono County Public Works).** The County is currently using ground penetrating radar to find all unmarked graves at the Mono Lake Cemetery. So far there are 28 unmarked graves. Vianey solicited help from long-time Lee Vining residents to get additional information on the cemetery. Once the site plan is done, she will return to the RPAC with a complete plan and the County ordinance supporting the plan. The goal is to get as many plots as possible in the cemetery without interfering with walkways and access issues for equipment. It was suggested that Vianey contact members of the Mono Lake Cemetery subcommittee directly to close the loop on the plan.
10. **Review 2013 items on RPAC Work Plan (Mono County staff).** Heather reviewed the top priorities of the 2013 workplan and point-people were identified for each area. The groups were urged to start meeting outside of normal RPAC meetings.
11. **Information items: (Planning)**
 - a. Report of development activities in the Mono Basin – Nothing.
 - b. BLM Bodie Hills Upland Vegetation Restoration Project – The deadline to comment on the plan is April 22, 2013.
 - c. Mono City Emergency Road update - BLM will release the Record of Decision on the Mono City Emergency Fire Road in two weeks.
 - d. Other – Mono County has received a cell tower application from Verizon to be placed at the June Lake PUD site off of Highway 395.
12. **Schedule next meeting:** Wednesday, May 8, 2013.
13. **Adjourn:** Approximately 9:15 pm.

