



**MEETING MINUTES  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF MONO  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Regular Meetings: First, Second, and Third Tuesday of each month. Location of meeting is specified below.  
Teleconference Only - No Physical Location

**Regular Meeting  
January 18, 2022**

9:00 AM Meeting Called to Order by Chair Gardner.

*Supervisors Present: Corless, Duggan, Gardner, Kreitz, and Peters (all attended via teleconference).*  
*Supervisors Absent: None.*

**The Mono County Board of Supervisors stream most of their meetings live on the internet and archives them afterward. To search for a meeting from June 2, 2015 forward, please go to the following link: <http://www.monocounty.ca.gov/meetings>.**

Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor Duggan.

Supervisor Peters:

- *"The time is always right to do what is right." – Martin Luther King, Jr*

**1. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

**Chair Gardner:**

- Announcement regarding Public Comments – At the beginning of a meeting, it would be appropriate for someone to comment on items not on the agenda as well as items on the agenda. This will make it more convenient for members of the public who want to provide Public Comment on an item but do not want to wait through the whole meeting.

**Supervisor Corless:**

- Adjourn in memory of Linda Arcularius, long time former Inyo County Supervisor and regional leader

**Stacey Simon, County Counsel:**

- Urgency Item addition

**Urgency Item Addition to Agenda – Closed Session Item related to Exposure to Litigation:** The Board determined that there is a need to take immediate action with respect to the proposed agenda item, that the need for action came to the County’s attention subsequent to the agenda being posted and therefore, that the Board add the item to the agenda.  
*Authority: Govt. Code §54954.2(b)(2). Note that urgency items may only be added to the agendas of regular meetings, not special meetings.*

**Peters motion. Duggan seconded.**

**Vote: 5 yes, 0 no**

**M22-018**

**Bob Lawton, CAO:**

- Request Item 7E be moved to February 1 agenda

**2. RECOGNITIONS - NONE**

**3. COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

CAO Report regarding Board Assignments

**Bob Lawton, CAO:**

- Preparing for mid-year budget release for the Board on February 22 – CAO Budget team has been meeting with department heads
- Met with candidate for position of Housing Opportunities Manager
- Community Conversation with respect to COVID outbreak – thanked Public Health and Justin Caporusso for putting that together
- Two EOC meetings
- Attended Town/County Liaison Committee meeting

**John Craig, Assistant CAO:**

- Collective Bargaining Negotiating Team
- Organizing the work of the CAO office in the absence of an Assistant to the CAO
- Hopeful to have candidate for Assistant to the CAO brought before the Board in the near future

**4. DEPARTMENT/COMMISSION REPORTS**

**Tony Dublino, Director of Public Works:**

- Boiler failure in Annex 1
- Civic Center snowrails update

**Stacey Simon, County Counsel:**

- Recruitment for Deputy County Counsel

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

(All matters on the consent agenda are to be approved on one motion unless a board member requests separate action on a specific item.)

**A. Board Minutes**

Approval of the Board Minutes from the December 2021 meetings.

**Action:**

- 1) Approve the Board Minutes from the Regular Meeting on December 7, 2021.
- 2) Approve the Board Minutes from the Regular Meeting on December 14, 2021.

**Duggan motion. Kreitz seconded.**

**Vote: 5 yes, 0 no**

**M22-019**

**B. Contract for Legal Services - Indigent Defense**

Departments: CAO

Proposed contract with attorney Josh Hillemeier pertaining to the provision of indigent defense services for Mono County.

**Action:** Approve contract with attorney Josh Hillemeier to provide public defender services in Mono County for a period of two years commencing March 21, 2022, and ending March 20, 2024, and authorize Chair to execute said contracts on behalf of the County.

**Duggan motion. Kreitz seconded.**

**Vote: 5 yes, 0 no**

**M22-020**

**C. Mono County Lactation Policy**

Departments: County Counsel

Proposed resolution adopting a Lactation Accommodation Policy and Request Form and amending Mono County's Personnel Rules applicable to all employee bargaining units to add Section 345 "Lactation Accommodation."

**Action:** Adopt resolution R22-09, adopting a Lactation Accommodation Policy and Request Form and amending Mono County's Personnel Rules applicable to all employee bargaining units to add Section 345 "Lactation Accommodation."

**Duggan motion. Kreitz seconded.**

**Vote: 5 yes, 0 no**

**R22-09**

**D. Prop 68 Grant Application for Mountain Gate Park**

Departments: Public Works

Proposed resolution Approving the Application for Rural Recreation and Tourism Program Grant Funds.

**Action:** Adopt resolution R22-10, Approving the Application for Rural Recreation and Tourism Program Grant Funds.

**Duggan motion. Kreitz seconded.**

**Vote: 5 yes, 0 no**

**R22-10**

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

Direction may be given to staff regarding, and/or the Board may discuss, any item of correspondence listed on the agenda.

*The Board acknowledged receipt of the correspondence.*

### **A. Governor's Proclamation of the June 7, 2022 Statewide Direct Primary Election**

Departments: Elections

A proclamation by the Governor of the State of California that the Statewide Direct Primary Election will be held throughout the state on Tuesday, June 7, 2022.

### **B. Letter from Range of Light Group concerning Withdrawal from OVGA and Fish Slough Wetland**

A letter from the Sierra Club Toiyabe Chapter Range of Light Group discussing concerns over the Fish Slough wetland should Mono County withdraw from the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority (OVGA) Joint Powers Agreement.

## **7. REGULAR AGENDA - MORNING**

### **A. COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update**

Departments: CAO, Public Health

(Robert C. Lawton, CAO, Bryan Wheeler, Public Health Director, Dr. Caryn Slack, Public Health Officer) - Update on Countywide response and planning related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Action:** None.

**Bryan Wheeler, Public Health Director:**

- Presentation (can be found under Supporting Documents on meeting webpage: <https://monocounty.ca.gov/bos/page/board-supervisors-140>)
- Addressed death that was not counted in numbers

**Supervisor Peters:**

- Coordinate with Paramedic Chief Mokracek to look in to paramedics in North County being able to provide testing opportunities for schools and employees

**Supervisor Kreitz:**

- Concern from constituent regarding party at Canyon Lodge with no masks – upset that schools are closed but indoor unmasked parties are allowed to happen
- Hospital press release after school closure stating that they are able serve everyone, COVID and otherwise

**B. Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Update**

Departments: JEDI

(Scheereen Dedman, JEDI Coordinator) - Update on the proposed Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) training plan.

**Action:** None.

**Scheereen Dedman, JEDI Coordinator:**

- JEDI group meets monthly – focusing on examining practices as an organization through JEDI lens
- Have completed two of the three phases of the Implicit Bias Training

**C. Workshop - County Retiree Health Care Obligation**

Departments: Finance

(Janet Dutcher, Finance Director) - Workshop providing information about the County's Retiree Health Care program, the resulting obligation, status of assets accumulated to pay future retiree health care costs, budgetary impacts, and review of funding policy options.

**Action:** None.

**Janet Dutcher, Finance Director:**

- Workshop – plan description, demographics, valuation assumptions, Net OPEB liability, illustrative scenarios and policy options, next steps

*Break: 10:42 AM*

*Reconvened: 10:51 AM*

**D. Letter to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Regarding the 2021 State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations**

Departments: Community Development

(Wendy Sugimura, Community Development Director) - Proposed comment letter to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF) regarding the November 22 Draft of the State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations. The BOF initiated a 15-day comment period on January 3 and written comments are due Wednesday January 19, 2022.

**Action:** 1) Approve letter and authorize the Chair to sign; 2) Direct staff to submit the approved letter by January 19 deadline.

**Duggan motion. Corless seconded.**

**Vote: 5 yes, 0 no**

**M22-021**

**Wendy Sugimura, Community Development Director:**

- Reviewed proposed comment letter
- Currently no water tank requirements in Antelope Valley

**Kelly Karl, Associate Planner:**

- Reviewed water tank requirements

**Emily Fox, Deputy County Counsel:**

- RCRC entered into litigation – temporary injunctive relief that would keep the comment period open at a minimum, until additional documentation showing adequate compliance with the Administrative Procedures Act and the Public Records Act

#### **E. Amendment to Deputy Probation Officers MOU**

Departments: Probation

(Karin Humiston, Chief Probation Officer) - Proposed resolution amending the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County and the Deputy Probation Officers' Association to to add Special Assignment Pay for Officers providing Batterers' Intervention Services.

**Action:** Adopt resolution amending MOU with Deputy Probation Officers Association to add a provision establishing five percent (5%) special assignment pay for up to three certified officers assigned as Batterers Intervention facilitators.

- Tabled for February 1, 2022 meeting.

#### **F. Request for Letter of Commitment for Project Homekey Grant Application for Mammoth Lakes Housing**

Departments: CAO

(Robert C. Lawton) - Request for a letter of commitment to a Project Homekey grant application for Mammoth Lakes Housing to the State of California. If successful, this project will result in the creation of 14 housing units in Mammoth Lakes, to be owned and operated by Mammoth Lakes Housing. The grant application requires up to a \$1.2m in a local match, currently anticipated as up to a \$700,000 contribution from the Town of Mammoth Lakes and this request for a commitment of up to a \$500,000 contribution from the County.

**Action:** Approve submitting letter of commitment with the following provisions:

- 1) Revise \$500,000 to \$550,000
- 2) Conditioned upon approval by Town of its commitment of \$750,000
- 3) Agreement must come back to the Board prior to dissemination of funds

**Kreitz motion. Corless seconded.**

**Vote: 4 yes, 1 no**

**M22-022**

Roll Call:

Corless - Y

Duggan - Y

Gardner - Y

Kreitz - Y

Peters - N

**Patricia Robertson, Mammoth Lakes Housing Executive Director:**

- Presentation – the need for community housing, 2017 Needs Assessment, effects of COVID, and lifestyle migration, on housing availability, affordable housing waiting list, current opportunity, project timing, grant application details

**Supervisor Peters:**

- Inquired about funding the proposed \$550,000
- Will not support allocating money to this project when there are no plans for any project in North County

**Bob Lawton, CAO:**

- Two funding sources: General Fund contribution of \$400,000 and a share of our State Whole Person Care Grant that has about \$300,000 (\$150,000 has been earmarked for supporting the Housing Opportunities Manager position over the next four years, \$150,000 intended for actual housing opportunities)

*Break: 12:07 PM*

*Reconvened: 12:15 PM*

Moved to Item 10.

**8. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

None.

**9. CLOSED SESSION**

*Closed Session: 12:39 PM*

*Reconvened: 1:44 PM*

No action to report out of Closed Session.

**A. Closed Session - Labor Negotiations**

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS. Government Code Section 54957.6. Agency designated representative(s): Bob Lawton, Stacey Simon, Janet Dutcher, Anne Frievalt, Ryan Roe, and Oliver Yee. Employee Organization(s): Mono County Sheriff's Officers Association (aka Deputy Sheriff's Association), Local 39 - majority representative of Mono County Public Employees (MCPE) and Deputy Probation Officers Unit (DPOU), Mono County Paramedic Rescue Association (PARA), Mono County Public Safety Officers Association (PSO). Unrepresented employees: All.

**B. Closed Session - Existing Litigation**

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION. Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code section 54956.9. Name of case: *Shroeder Muniz v. County of Mono et al.* (DFEH Case No. 202108-14595527).

**C. Closed Session - Public Employee Evaluation**

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION. Government Code section 54957. Title: County Administrative Officer.

**D. Urgency Item**

**Closed Session – Exposure to Litigation**

**10. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

**Supervisor Corless:**

- 1/12 - RCRC Board of Directors Meeting: [https://www.rcrcnet.org/sites/default/files/useruploads/Meetings/Board\\_of\\_Directors/2022/January\\_12\\_2022/BoardMeeting\\_Highlights\\_January\\_12\\_2022\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.rcrcnet.org/sites/default/files/useruploads/Meetings/Board_of_Directors/2022/January_12_2022/BoardMeeting_Highlights_January_12_2022_FINAL.pdf)
- 1/12 - Pathways to 30x30 Advisory Committee Public Meeting. Draft strategy document is still out for public comment, consider county interest in commenting?
- 1/13 - RCRC Wildfire ad-hoc committee meeting, discussion with US Forest Service Region 5 deputy foresters Liz Berger and Tony Scardina Eastern Sierra Climate and Community Resilience Project update meeting; planning a wildfire workshop agenda item for 2/1 meeting
- 1/14 - Town County Liaison Committee: first time this committee has met in over two years; updates on housing, solid waste, radio system; planning joint board/council meeting for March

**Supervisor Duggan:**

- 01/12/22 -
  - I participated in the NACO Policy Steering Committee Meeting for Environment, Energy, and Land Use. We saw a presentation on the importance of pollinators and their habitat loss, along with the effects of



parasites, diseases, pesticides, and climate change. Tools and resources are available if you would like to improve your habitat at [www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org). The committee is preparing for the February Legislative Conference and will have calls to discuss resolutions.

- I participated in a Special Meeting with the IMACA Board which included a financial status update and discussion of organizational priorities. Staff departures have facilitated hiring a consultant to assist with billing and revenue collection. Upcoming meetings will include a strategic planning presentation. IMACA provides such a wide range of vital services to the community, opportunities to partner and support programs are key to the continued success of the organization.
- 01/14/222 -
  - I participated in the ESTA meeting along with Supervisor Gardner. Ridership continues to increase, although it is still about 20% off pre-covid levels. Staff is working on updating the design for the bus wraps, using a local designer. ESTA was success in the application of a CALSTART grant and was awarded \$166k (about 89%) towards planning of the Fleet Electrification Feasibility Plan. The timeline runs through March 2024.
- There is a vacancy on the Economic Development, Tourism and Film Commission for District 2. Anyone interested in serving please contact Jeff Simpson in Economic Development.
- I have been asked by Chair Gardner to work with staff and our partners to share news of upcoming retirements, staffing moves, and important changes of interest to our community. If you have someone on your staff that has exciting news to share, please forward it to me. Some updates of note:
  - The Inyo National Forest welcomes Winfred (Fred) Wong as the Mammoth Lakes District Ranger. Fred comes from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as the Assistant Field Manager at the BLM California Ukiah Field Office. He has more than 20 years of federal service with both BLM and the Forest Service.

**Chair Gardner:**

- On Wednesday Jan. 12 I participated in the monthly meeting of the Mono Basin RPAC. Topics at that meeting included an update from our USFS District Ranger Stephanie Heller, creating a Bear Committee to address concerns, and a presentation from our County Community Development staff about ADU prescriptive designs.
- On Thursday Jan. 13 I attended the remote Yosemite Gateway Partnership meeting. We heard a presentation from the recreate responsibly California chapter and received updates from Yosemite Supt. Cicely Muldoon. They are considering continuing the reservation system this year but have not made a final decision. There will be plenty of construction in the Park this coming year, both on roads and in other areas, including a complete renovation of the Tuolumne Meadows campground that will close that campground for the next two years. We should expect some impact from that in Lee Vining canyon and other areas.
- Also, on Thursday I participated in the meeting of the Eastern Sierra Climate and Communities Resilience Project. There was an excellent presentation about how the areas will be prioritized for work as a part of the project planning process.
- Finally, On Friday the 14th I attended the monthly meeting of the ESTA Board. Topics at that meeting included the regular operating and financial reports and approval of the bus purchase contract. ESTA continues to struggle with recruiting and retaining bus drivers.

**Supervisor Kreitz:**

- January 12th, I attended the NACo Community Economic Workforce Development committee meeting. Later that day, I participated in the CCRH Finance Committee budget review meeting. I spoke at the IMACA special board meeting later on Wednesday, supporting their work to preserve the Continuum of Care.
- On Friday, January 14th I participated in the weekly MLH Development and Program Committee meeting. Later, I attended the CCRH Board of Directors meeting. We worked on our REDI program and then held our regular board business meeting. After the CCRH Board meeting, I participated in my first Town-County Liaison meeting. We discussed having a joint meeting between the Council and Board in March.

**Supervisor Peters:**

- No report

Moved to Item 9.

**ADJOURNED AT 1:44 PM in memory of Linda Arcularius.**

**ATTEST**

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**BOB GARDNER  
CHAIR OF THE BOARD**

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**QUEENIE BARNARD  
ASSISTANT CLERK OF THE BOARD**