



# CALIFORNIA'S GREAT BEYOND

**MONO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM & FILM COMMISSION**  
PO BOX 603 | MAMMOTH LAKES, CA 93546 | 800-845-7922 | MONOCOUNTY.ORG

## MINUTES

Regular Meeting via Teleconference\*  
Tuesday, April 26, 2022 – 10:00 A.M.

\*As authorized by Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-25-20, dated March 17, 2020, and continuation pursuant to AB 361, this meeting will be held via teleconferencing with members of the Commission attending from separate locations. There will not be a physical location of the meeting open to the public. This altered format is in observance of recent recommendations by local officials that certain precautions be taken, including social distancing, to address the threat of COVID-19.

Teleconference call-in information for Commissioners and members of the public is as follows, via Zoom:  
<https://monocounty.zoom.us/j/9162299631>. Meeting ID: 916 229 9631

If you are experiencing technical issues trying to connect to the meeting, please contact Jeff Simpson: [jsimpson@mono.ca.gov](mailto:jsimpson@mono.ca.gov) / 760-924-4634 or Alicia Vennos: [avennos@mono.ca.gov](mailto:avennos@mono.ca.gov) / 760-709-1149.

NOTE: The public will be able to comment during the meeting; instructions will be provided. If you wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item *before* the meeting, please submit your comment via email to [Lgrans@mono.ca.gov](mailto:Lgrans@mono.ca.gov) or [Jsimpson@mono.ca.gov](mailto:Jsimpson@mono.ca.gov) before 9:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting. Thank you.

NOTE: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact us. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the County to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting (See 42 USCS 12132, 28CFR 35.130).

### 1. Call to order.

Chair McQuilkin called the meeting to order at 10:03am.

### 2. Introductions and announcements – Welcome to new Commissioner Florene Trainor.

Chair McQuilkin welcomed new Commissioner Trainor, owner of Flo's Diner in Chalfant Valley, former Caltrans Public Information Officer, and Chalfant Valley/Eastern Sierra resident for over 30 years.

Commissioners McQuilkin, Walsh, Wells, Trainor, Burkard, Morrison

Other: Bentley Regehr (Mono County Community Development), Emily Crocetti (The Sheet News), Ken Brengle (Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce)

### 3. Opportunity for the public to address the commission on items of interest of the public which are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. Speakers may be limited in speaking time depending upon the press of business and number of persons wishing to address the Commission. No public comment.

### 4. Findings Relating to the Holding of Remote Meetings Under AB 361

Find that: (1) The Proclamation of State of Emergency issued by Governor Newsom on March 4, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic remains in effect; (2) Local Public Health Officials have recommended measures to promote social distancing; and (3) As a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees. Accordingly, meetings of the Economic Development, Tourism, and Film Commission may be held remotely in accordance with the requirements set forth in subdivision (e) of Section 54953 of the California Government Code.

Motion made by Burkard, second by Morrison, to approve the findings. Verbal roll call: Commissioner Morrison – yay; Commissioner McQuilkin – yay; Commissioner Wells – yay; Burkard – yay; Commissioner Walsh – yay; All in favor, no abstentions; findings approved 5-0.

**5. Approval of the minutes of the January 26, 2022 special meeting and the March 29, 2022 regular meeting.**

Motion made by Wells, second by Walsh to approve the minutes of the January 26 and March 29 meetings. Verbal roll call: Commissioner Morrison – yay; Commissioner McQuilkin – yay; Commissioner Wells – yay; Burkard – yay; Commissioner Walsh – yay; All in favor, no abstentions; minutes approved 5-0.

**6. Monthly financial/budget report.**

FY 22-23 Budget Calendar update:

Ms. Vennos reported that third quarter review is coming up Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, budget and spending is on track, and staff has no adjustments or requests. Budget planning for FY 22-23 due on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Staff will meet with CAO to discuss department’s budget units (tourism, economic development, fish enhancement, community support). Requesting \$300,000 for tourism budget as TOT is projected to be about 10% higher than expected this year. Requesting \$80,000 for economic development budget, used to promote and support small businesses. Same requests for \$100,000 for fish stocking investment in the fish enhancement. We receive a portion of the fines that CDFW collects each year, current balance of the fish and game fine fund is about \$65,000. Fish and Wildlife Commission typically requested and used those funds, but since the Commission was dissolved, will be working on creating a grant program like the community support grant programs. Possibly requesting more budget for a part-time assistance. Ms. Vennos will follow up and send a link to the strategic plan update. The preliminary budget adoption is scheduled for June 21<sup>st</sup>, with any modifications considered on July 8<sup>th</sup>, and the final budget adoption on August 16<sup>th</sup>.

**7. Economic Development and Tourism report – information on current or emerging issues, including but not limited to:**

- a. Update on the Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF) program  
Mr. Simpson noted the State is still working on revisions to the program. Informational meeting tomorrow, but exact parameters have not been released.
- b. Report on regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) program sponsored by the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC).  
RCRC has applied for EDA money to create the CEDS, waiting for approval.
- c. Report on the regional Business Resource Center facility and grant, administered and coordinated by Inyo County  
Ms. Vennos has continued to attend meetings.
- d. Update regarding Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) CARES Act – CV1, 2, 3 for Microenterprise Financial Assistance Program for small businesses  
Mr. Simpson noted that all money will be expended with the few businesses left in the queue.

**8. Film Commission update on film production in Mono County, permitting issues, and other film-related updates – Alicia Vennos/Steve Morrison**

Ms. Vennos seeing an uptick in inquiries. Commission Morrison was busy in March but slowing down in April and May. Continuing to explore partnership with USFS where the county can assist with the film permit application intake process to help speed up the turnaround time.

**9. Fisheries Report, including California Department of Fish & Wildlife news release regarding outbreak of *Lactococcus petauri* bacterial infection at two CDFW hatcheries (<https://wildlife.ca.gov/News/new-bacterial-outbreak-confirmed-at-two-eastern-sierra-fish-hatcheries>) – Jeff Simpson**

Mr. Simpson reported on the CDFW's announcement. The Mono County stocking program has started, all main and accessible bodies of water have been stocked. Others will be when accessible. Stocking ends mid-July because of temperatures and water levels. The Mono County Fishing Map has been updated, with changes to the sustainable fishing section, promoting catch and release and leave no trace/mountain manners. Tangle-free waters – Mammoth Lakes Recreation has installed PVC tubes to recycle fishing line (only, no other trash). QR code will geolocate you and give regulations for your current location. Visit Bishop hosted fishing summit – marina operators, CDFW, etc. to talk about what's new for fishing this season.

**10. Moratorium on New Short-Term & Transient Rentals (STR) – Report and discussion on proposed ordinance to temporarily suspend County permitting of new short-term or transient rental operations of residential units. - Alicia Vennos / Community Development staff**

**Action:** Discuss issue and potentially draft letter to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) expressing concerns/questions/recommendations to submit for Board consideration prior to the STR Moratorium public hearing at the May 3, 2022 BOS meeting.

Bentley Regehr presented the proposed moratorium and the options that the Board of Supervisors will consider at their May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Staff and the Commissioners discussed the options and agreed to draft a letter to the BOS explaining the moratorium should not be County-wide and should instead be focused on communities where STRs are more of an issue.

**11. Project status update, including collateral, public relations, advertising/social media, websites, California's Great Beyond brand video, and tradeshow/conferences.**

CA Great Beyond promotional video is almost complete, and will be advertised on TV. BLM will work with us on revising the Backroad Tours Guide.

**12. Commissioner reports. Commissioners are invited to share EDTFC-related information and reports, announcements, and updates from their respective districts/communities.**

Commissioners gave brief updates related to business and tourism in their respective districts.

**13. Call for agenda items for next regular meeting.**

Short term rental moratorium update.

**14. Adjourn the meeting and reconvene in regular session at 10:00 a.m. on May 24, 2022.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:33am.