

Mono County Local Transportation Commission

PO Box 347
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
760.924.1800 phone, 924.1801 fax
commdev@mono.ca.gov

PO Box 8
Bridgeport, CA 93517
760.932.5420 phone, 932.5431 fax
www.monocounty.ca.gov

MINUTES

June 12, 2017
(Adopted October 23, 2017)

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: John Peters, Fred Stump. **ABSENT:** Larry Johnston

TOWN COMMISSIONERS: Dan Holler for Sandy Hogan, John Wentworth. **ABSENT:** Shields Richardson

COUNTY STAFF: Gerry Le Francois, Megan Mahaffey, Michael Draper, Wendy Sugimura. Paul Roten, CD Ritter

TOWN STAFF: Haislip Hayes

CALTRANS: Brent Green, Mark Heckman, Laurie Espinoza

ESTA: Jill Batchelder

GUEST: Megan Foster

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chair John Peters called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. at the Town/County Conference Room, Minaret Village Mall, Mammoth Lakes. Attendees recited pledge of allegiance to the flag.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: Haislip Hayes, Town of Mammoth Lakes, indicated Lakes Basin road is cleared, but no power or water, so USFS has not reopened. Thirty signs ordered, contractor to replace fencing, guard rails. Main Street sidewalk project moving forward, traffic controls upcoming. Horseshoe curb/gutter/drainage project out to bid. Soliciting RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for new airport terminal.

Brent Green, Caltrans, introduced Laura Espinosa from San Diego to replace retired Craig Holste.

3. MINUTES

MOTION: Approve minutes of May 8, 2017, as submitted (*Holler/Stump. Ayes: 4. Absent: Johnston, Richardson.*)

4. COMMISSIONER REPORTS: **Stump:** None. **Wentworth:** Advised Town Council about CTC meeting in fall. Ribbon cutting July 1. Sustainable recreation. Sherwins mountain bike trail. Built using soils we have to USFS guidelines. Trail is cross country, cruising, family-friendly (no e-bikes). Enviro field work this summer. Build trails every summer now. **Holler:** Multi-use trail. July 8-9 trails workshop. Mono funded fire crews on new trail. Walk/bike/ride to Town Council in July. SCE drawing down lake levels at June Lake. Campground/trail closures. **Stump:** Earthquake in 1800s, Agnew dam refurbished few years ago. Sky crane in June Mountain parking lot. **Holler:** No date on campground openings. **Wentworth:** Funding winter sports specialist, USFS liaison with Town, USFS budget cut coming up. **Peters:** Thanked Caltrans crew for SR 108, concerns about pack station. Huge impact for east side when it opens. New striping on Walker Canyon makes big safety difference. Spent time with Rep. Paul Cook, mentioned walk/bike/ride, CTC. Seemed supportive. Thanked Hayes/Dutton for meeting last week to understand Town goings on. USFS/trails: Looking at Humboldt-Toiyabe for assistance, Jeremy Marshall. Proactive approach with Bridgeport winter recreation area, yurt operators who want more for backcountry skiing opportunities in Dunderberg area. **Stump:** Policy differences in USFS regions 5 and 4. Found Humboldt-Toiyabe easier to work with. Inyo increasing mandatory snow coverage for snowmobiles, so decreasing use. **Wentworth:** Inyo staff will have final draft of Inyo Forest Plan by October so decision by early 2018. Get consistent policy framework across Mono. **Peters:** Randy Moore of USFS approved late commercial at Mammoth and Virginia lakes, crew of 40-50.

5. ADMINISTRATION

A. Unmet Transit Needs: Michael Draper mentioned May 8 meeting added new needs to update resolution. Two comments: Walker DAR (Dial-A-Ride) Fridays (unmet, but not reasonable to meet, as not meet farebox threshold), evening service at Mammoth Lakes (nighttime trolley already).

Stump disagreed about Walker, saying it is reasonable to meet. Community relatively isolated, citizens no longer able to drive. Friday Walker Senior Center happening. Lifeline service to some. To maintain healthy community north, should be reasonable to meet. More analysis OK with him. Seniors need support.

Wendy Sugimura quoted "reasonable to meet" in R98-01 with five criteria. LTC could choose to fund it anyway. Legal implication if unmet, reasonable, cannot dedicate funds to local roads.

Stump reviewed categories, no lifeline quality of life reference. Many routes are not cost effective, but considered lifeline service. Maybe amend R98-01 to include quality of lifeline service. Four days/week already failing to meet provisions.

Sugimura noted quality of life is addressed through necessity of life needs. Doing disservice to transportation issue. Look at State law.

Stump was interested in Walker DAR Fridays. Sugimura reminded LTC could fund it.

Holler suggested requesting another \$10,000 at budget time. Sugimura stated budget is zero sum, so if added, drop something else.

Peters wanted to find way to create service even though not sustainable unmet need. Fridays in Walker would be highest day of use. He requested full day Friday. Where would money come from? Sugimura cited LTC budget discussion. Excellent transit service exists in rural area. Don't have economies of scale. Peters affirmed psychological need on Friday. Consistent daily would increase use throughout week. Need is growing, hopefully use would as well.

MOTION: Approve Resolution R17-05 on Unmet Transit Needs and consider funding source
(Stump/Holler. Ayes: 4. Absent: Johnston, Richardson.)

B. TDA (Transportation Development Act): Megan Mahaffey gave overview. TDA complies with RTP (Regional Transportation Plan), which is broken down into LTF (Local Transportation Funds) and STA (State Transit Assistance). LTF is based on estimate. ESTA did not include Walker DAR (Dial-A-Ride). Approve resolution as is, bring proposal to fund DAR by reserve.

Reserve roll over year to year? *Gets split. Excess allocated to Town & County.*

Authorize full amount for option 1 out of reserve, later decide option 1 or 2? *LTC would allocate portion of reserve for X up to that amount. Could allocate \$20,000 to fund DAR. Or next fiscal year.*

Holler noted no set policy for use of reserve. If move forward, increase ESTA.

Line item to meet need? Could put more in reserve later. *Reserve allocated for specific use (DAR), set aside for up to three years.*

Holler wanted to analyze use, see farebox. Reduce reserve by \$18,000, to ESTA for Antelope Valley.

Gear up by July? *Jill Batchelder noted moving 75% to 100% staffing, could be quick turnaround time.*

For June service? *Batchelder noted July 6 start.* Megan Foster saw enough time to publicize.

If not allocated through ESTA, where is it? *Pull out as separate line item. Current DAR through total service allocation to ESTA.*

Funding start from upstream? SB 1? *New funding source to supplement. Additional funding source would affect overall transportation.*

MOTION: Adopt R17-06 for LTF (Local Transportation Fund) allocation as amended to remove \$18,000 from reserve to allocate toward fifth day in Walker (Stump/Wentworth. Ayes: 4. Absent: Johnston, Richardson.)

Holler mentioned bike path program, connecting elements in it. On-road, separate path, or multi-use path. Leave funding in reserve.

Mahaffey cited \$36,418 for town bike path and \$36,602 for county bike path. Keep separate. Use only for bike/pedestrian.

MOTION: Approve Resolution R17-06 (Holler/Wentworth. Ayes: 4. Absent: Johnston, Richardson.)

MOTION: Approve Resolution R17-07 for STA (State Transit Assistance) allocation
(Holler/Wentworth. Ayes: 4. Absent: Johnston, Richardson.)

C. OWP (Overall Work Program): Gerry Le Francois noted Caltrans changes are incorporated. Access to/from airport, not on site. Can't fund environmental. \$10,000 from Pavement to Trails, now \$15,000.

Any requirements from SB 1? *RPA from state budget. PPM tied to RTIP. SB 1 webinars. Potential new revenue.*

Airport access? Wrap into access road to airports? *RPA to get to facility only, not on site.*

From 395 exit to Town property? *Yes.*

Wentworth stated Mammoth's air quality is tied to NOAA weather station.

Stump noted Great Basin has system to assess PM-2.5 and PM-10, but not complete weather stations. Can't log on to get humidity, wind speed, etc. Requested tie APCD in with remote weather station near Bridgeport for avalanche.

Wentworth suggested Shady Rest **Park** meeting on **grooming** next winter. Agencies need to figure it out. Joint Board of Supervisors/Town Council meeting June 18 will consider resources already queued up around recreation.

--- Break: 10:25-10:37 ---

NOTE: Teleconference to CAO Conference Room in Bridgeport was activated. No one there.

Re-vote earlier motions with Bridgeport input (no one present): Passed all as shown above (*Holler/Stump. Ayes: 4. Absent: Johnston, Richardson.*)

Reapprove minutes with Bridgeport input (no one present): (*Stump/Holler. Ayes: 4. Absent: Johnston, Richardson.*)

MOTION: Approve Minute Order M17-03 for final OWP authorizing \$10,000 from pavement to trails, clean up typos. (*Wentworth/Holler. Ayes: 4. Absent: Johnston, Richardson.*)

6. LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

A. **End-of-winter debrief:** Gerry Le Francois thought August or September. Johnston wanted fall, not winter. Outreach needed.

Le Francois suggested agency participation. Be inclusive. Long meeting. Other entities included Humboldt-Toiyabe, sheriff, CHP, MLPD, agriculture commissioner, ESTA, CPT, Marine base. Dates at next meeting. Agenda? *Agenda plus items.* Site? *Mammoth with teleconferencing.* Actions or info only? Stump: Should be learning. Communications problems on avalanche impact. Closures publicized. How do it differently with pre-staging resources. Institutional knowledge gone after earlier heavy winters, so relearning. Lack of action taking care of roofs resulted in damage.

Peters saw common thread as communication piece. How administer meeting?

Wentworth noted Town has consultant looking at communications program overall. Coordinate to hear input/output. Get trails coordinator.

Peters thought Town/Mono as lead, Stump wanted to break out priorities: health/safety, building effects. Stump suggested CAO/Holler/sheriff/MLPD chief/Caltrans decide on format.

B. **CTC (California Transportation Commission) subcommittee:** Gerry Le Francois spoke with Kern COG (Council of Governments), Caltrans District 9. CTC commissioners accustomed to urban/suburban format, sales tax revenue, self-help counties. West has different uses. Economic Development could do piece on tourist impact. Land use component. Economic struggle with revenue. Highlight Bridgeport Main Street, Lake Mary Bike Path, Rock Creek Road, Convict Lake Road, and Digital-395 broadband capacity.

Tack on stuff northbound? *Show improvements on MOUs.*

Wentworth mentioned netting going up at Olancho/Cartago. Le Francois reminded Inyo/Mono paying for project. Lots to highlight.

Le Francois suggested subcommittee: Wentworth, Peters, Courtney Smith, Kern COG, ESTA, Caltrans, and USFS. Local sales tax measures, tourist trips. Bring dollars outside pot of CTC money.

Stump wanted to let CTC know what Mono *doesn't* have – light rail, high-speed trains. Maximize what we do have; e.g., interconnectivity via ESTA from Reno to Lancaster to LAX. Local forethought. Importance of MOU projects someplace else.

Green stated Caltrans chief deputy and others may attend.

7. TRANSIT

A. **Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA):** Jill Batchelder quipped, "Welcome to grant season."

1. **MOTION:** Approve Resolution R17-09 for 5311 for 2017 apportionment funds of \$76,622 (*Holler/Wentworth. Ayes: 4. Absent: Johnston, Richardson.*)

2. **MOTION**: Approve Resolution R17-10 for 5311 for 2018 apportionment funds
(Holler/Wentworth. Ayes: 4. Absent: Johnston, Richardson.)
3. **MOTION**: Approve Resolution R17-11 for 5311f funds (Holler/Wentworth. Ayes: 4. Absent: Johnston, Richardson.)
4. **MOTION**: Approve Resolution R17-12 for FY 2016-17 Transit System Safety, Security & Disaster Response Account Program allocation \$11,350 to solar real-time route information signs
(Holler/Wentworth. Ayes: 4. Absent: Johnston, Richardson.)

ESTA updates: Bishop Creek route twice daily. Mammoth Express to extend lower rates, increased ridership.

B. Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS): Michael Draper spoke with Dick Whittington, who had 1,300 reservations for 395 corridor. Cancellation notices up till June 24 due to pass closure. Nice thank-you letters on refunds. Most reservations on 395. Looking at obligations if high camps and stores not open. Green Bridge project outside El Portal has no structural problem.

8. CALTRANS

A. Activities in Mono County & pertinent statewide information: Laurie Espinosa stated still snowing on SR 108; SR 120 both sides reached crest last week; guardrail repair, rocks/debris cleanup, cornice, avalanche potential; large slide at Olmsted Point, trees to be removed; SR 203: snow removal beyond lodge starts today. SR 158: water on road last week due to water release.

Wentworth noted crushed structures at Tioga Pass Resort, so won't open at all.

Green indicated Walker canyon project started today. SHOPP (State Highway Operation & Protection Program) presentation in Sacramento on snow blowers, lively debate whether snow blowers are exempt from requirements. Work with manufacturer to upgrade equipment. Designed for clearing driveways, not "Sierra cement."

Stump identified primary pollutant as wood smoke or dust caused by wind. Stationary agriculture equipment exempted. Can be advocacy in Sacramento by local APCD (Air Pollution Control District). Equipment not right for job.

Green mentioned district directors met last week, unknowns on SB 1. Anticipate more accountability. Show SB 1 working. Images of 395 road conditions, do periodically. Most projects require extensive environmental review. Not to fruition till November 2018 election when repeal could come up. Get as many projects as possible. No money to support work crews until November. Use overtime as mechanism to develop projects. Highway maintenance is robust program. Prioritization of projects: Espinoza noted hiring plan, training, etc.

Green clarified Ryan Dermody handles planning, LTC interaction, whereas Espinoza heads operations. Philosophically, each team has its mission. Projects: maintenance or active transportation? Gray area on stewardship, cost. FHWA (Federal Highway Administration) liaison Fast Act levels should remain. TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grants \$500 million not selected yet by FHWA (Federal Highway Administration).

Wentworth stated projects are queued up, looking at public/private funding. Sidewalks on 203, with efforts beyond highway considered. If housing is issue for Caltrans, contact. Holler mentioned housing needs assessment. Stump thought housing seemed to focus on buildings, not infrastructure, jobs, etc.; e.g., McGee Creek station. No easy solution to infrastructure due to cost.

Construction time frame? Delays? Green stated Caltrans will try not to overlap projects, limit blackout dates like July 4. Maybe stuck in several delays.

Peters wanted to get word to local communities on SR182 option.

9. **INFORMATIONAL:** Mono Basin Stewardship meeting in Lee Vining, June Lake Trails Day.
10. **UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS:** 1) CTC; 2) winter debrief; 3) quarterly from DPW; 4) ESTA Gray Line; and 5) DAR Walker recap.
11. **ADJOURN** at 11:45 a.m. to July 10, 2017

Prepared by CD Ritter, LTC secretary