

**Mono Basin RPAC
Regional Planning Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 10, 2019, 6:30 pm, Lee Vining Community Center**

Members present: Duncan King, Kristie Nelson, Lisa Cutting, Bartshe Miller and Ilene Mandelbaum

Public Attendees and Presenters: Janet Carle, Bentley Regehr, Wayne Beaver, Wendy Sugimura, Elin Ljung, Phil Moores, Cheryl Nelson, Rebecca (last name unknown), Pearl Nelson, Gordon Martin, Santiago Escruceria, and Cory Zila.

1. **Call to Order:** 6:35 pm.
2. **Public Comment:** Janet Carle reported on her and Lynn Boulton's presentation on the Lee Vining Hess Park EV charging station proposal at the recent Board of Supervisors' meeting. The Board unanimously supported the proposal and will vote on it when the detailed plans are available. Ribbon cutting is planned for June 13 during the Climate Seminar. Gordon Martin was introduced as the new Mammoth District Ranger for the Inyo National Forest. He hopes to open the Lee Vining Visitor Center before Easter.
3. **Review Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of March 13, 2019 were reviewed and one change noted: Item 2 line 4 insert 'Park Service' before 'statement'. Bartshe moved and Kristie seconded the minutes be approved with the noted correction. Unanimously approved.
4. **Supervisor's Report:** Chair Lisa read Bob Gardner's report in his absence. Plowing has started on both ends of Tioga Road. No date has yet been set for opening but it will definitely be after Memorial Day and into June. Caltrans will open the pass up to the Park gate when it is safe to do so. The Avalanche road is on DWP not USFS land. Bob is working with Caltrans to assist with the repair. SCE is working to identify locations for boulders along Utility Road to block access and reduce dispersed camping along Lee Vining Creek. USFS has scheduled a briefing on fire ecology in the Eastern Sierra for 9am to 4:30 pm on May 22 in the Mammoth Ranger District auditorium. Sign up by May 8 at <https://fireandforestssn.eventbrite.com/>. A community meeting will be scheduled this summer for residents in June Lake and Lee Vining to learn how to make home more fire resistant.
5. **Chairperson Report:** Lisa Cutting reported she had been unsuccessful on the Avalanche road issue. She and others had attended the Mono County Fisheries Commission meeting on the new California fishing regulations. Very complex and she encouraged concerned individuals to get involved
6. **Member's reports:**
 - a. Ilene Mandelbaum – Encouraged attendance at this meeting for emergency preparedness discussion. Fresh volunteers have been added to the Community Garden effort for this year.
 - b. Bartshe Miller – DWP applied for and received a Temporary Emergency Change Petition for Mono Basin creeks. This will not make any changes in Mono Basin water exports.
 - c. Kristie Nelson – nothing to report
 - d. Duncan King – attended the BOS meeting for the EV charging station agenda item. Very pleased to see the unanimous support expressed by the Supervisors.

7. **Officer Elections:** Bartshe moved and Ilene seconded that the existing officers, Lisa Cutting as Chair, Kristie Nelson as Vice-Chair, and Duncan King as Secretary, be re-elected. Approved unanimously. Among other comments were that the RPAC needs more members.
8. **Update on development projects in the Mono Basin, including Cannabis:** Cory Zila of Tioga Green cannabis retail dispensary distributed a fact sheet and answered questions on his upcoming business to be based at the south end of Lee Vining. He expects to employ 20 staff and hopes to start operations in June/July. Various County and State licenses are currently being sought. Education of customers vis a vis legal and potential illegal activities will be a priority and a strict security operation will be maintained. Traffic safety is following Caltrans recommendations.
Other projects in the Mono Basin – the pre-application by DNS for a transfer station has been pulled – LADWP will be drilling piezo well monitoring stations at 20 locations, 20 and 40 feet deep, for information gathering only, not for water production. Impacts on sage grouse unknown – the draft of the supplemental EIR for the Tioga Inn is currently waiting on Lahontan review. There will be opportunity for public review at the Planning Commission stage later.
9. **Unmet Transit needs:** Phil Moores (ESTA) talked about the ESTA service from Lone Pine to Reno which stops to pick up in Lee Vining at 8: 50am heading north and returns at 4:25pm on Mondays thru Fridays. He requested feedback on unmet transit needs. The service received praise from two RPAC members who had used the service and Phil indicated that it would continue to run in the future as a service to rural communities. He was open to offering stops at other communities if necessary, subject to maintaining the schedule. With changeable weather conditions and passenger loads, he indicated that vehicle flexibility was key to maintaining the service. There is also a Wednesday only service from Bridgeport to Gardnerville, and hopefully to Carson City in the future.
10. **Discussion on Emergency Preparedness:** Ilene led a discussion on the road accident, wind, and blizzard events on February 19, 2019 that led to travelers being stranded in Lee Vining and students being unable to travel home. Pearl recorded the notes for this agenda item. The main challenges faced were communications' issues, the lack of specialized knowledge, unavailability of key people, and access to emergency supplies. More volunteers are required, much more training, and documentation of procedures to be followed. A Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) needs to be established, Wendy will follow up on this with Sheriff Ingrid Braun and Sherryl will follow up with Cathy (Red Cross) on volunteer training. Santiago Escruceria will interface with the Hispanic community to encourage their involvement.
11. **Approval of electric vehicle charging station letter:** Bartshe moved and Ilene seconded that the RPAC approve the letter as drafted by Chair Lisa. Unanimously approved.
12. **Information items and provide direction to staff (Planning):** Nothing to report.
13. **Upcoming agenda items:** Emergency Preparedness, Fire Safe Council.
14. **Adjourn: 8:20 - Next meeting Wednesday, May 8, 2019**