

**Mono Basin RPAC  
Regional Planning Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, May 8, 2019, 6:30 pm, Lee Vining Community Center**

**Members present:** Duncan King, Chris Lizza, Lisa Cutting, Bartshe Miller and Ilene Mandelbaum

**Public Attendees and Presenters:** Janet Carle, Bentley Regehr, Wendy Sugimura, Lynn Boulton, Chuck Mairs, Ingrid Braun, Margaret Eisler, and Matthew Paruolo

1. **Call to Order:** 6:37 pm.
2. **Public Comment:** Chuck Mairs introduced himself as the District Commander of CHP based in Bridgeport. Lynn Boulton announced that Zane's memorial will be on June 9<sup>th</sup>. In the Presbyterian Church.
3. **Review Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of April 10, 2019 were reviewed and the following changes noted: Item 8 line 7 change 'DNS' to 'D&S', item 8 line 8 change 'piezo' to 'piezometer' and add 'Long Valley' after well monitoring stations. Bartshe moved and Ilene seconded the minutes be approved with the noted correction. Approved with Chris abstaining.
4. **Supervisor's Report:** Chair Lisa read Bob Gardner's report in his absence. Progress on plowing the Tioga Pass Road continues. Caltrans is at the Yosemite gate and is cleaning up shoulders and doing other work along the road. The Park is around White Wolf and moving along. No date for projected opening but I would hope it would be late May or early June.  
SCE is working on placing boulders along Utility Road to keep campers out. Wayne Beaver may have more information as he has been working with SCE on the locations for the boulders.  
New DFW Fishing Regulations are being proposed. See the CA DFW website for more information about what is being proposed and how to comment. They need specific suggestions, not just general complaints.  
Did we get info. on possible CERT training for LV and June residents? Wendy was checking but I'm not sure where we are on that.  
County Capital Budget includes funds to improve Mono City roads this year. More on timing later.  
Town hall or RPAC meetings will be scheduled this summer on fire ecology, fire prevention, and improving home resistance.
5. **Chairperson Report:** Lisa Cutting reported she had attended the BOS meeting on fisheries issues. Presentations were made by Trout Unlimited, Jeff Simpson from County Tourism and California Fish and Wildlife. The Board requested county staff to develop workshops with Fish and Wildlife to develop options for Mono County. Among the issues identified were winter fishing, angler safety, impacts on fisheries stock, and the proposed change in the opening date.
6. **Member's reports:**
  - a. Chris Lizza – The Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce has sent a letter to California Department of Fish and Wildlife recommending no change in

fisheries regulations. Not broke so don't fix! The Planning Commission held a workshop on Walker Lake re-watering. Potential issue with power lines if the route is changed to cross private land.

- b. Bartshe Miller – Successful town cleanup with a good turnout. Mono Lake Committee commented on the proposed fishing regulations as they affected lower creeks in the Mono Basin below the diversions. Fish population are in process of restoration and it's important for ongoing monitoring that changes are not made.
- c. Duncan King – nothing to report.
- d. Ilene Mandelbaum – nothing to report.

7. **Fire Safe Council:** Nothing to report

8. **Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership:** Matthew Paruolo introduced himself and explained that his position was funded 40% by Mono County and 60% by the Town of Mammoth Lakes. He is currently identifying projects in the areas of trails management, waste management, lake cleanup, fishing line disposal, wayfinding, and campfire management. The Forest Service is currently examining the issue of campfire circles in dispersed camping areas. Another issue is those 'Loved to Death' areas where we need to spread human activities more widely. Matthew would welcome offers of free/volunteer labor – Ingrid mentioned Bridgeport inmates and Bartshe offered MLC Outdoor Education participants. Matthew would appreciate a list of the county's recreation issues from the RPAC.

9. **Emergency Preparedness:** This discussion continued from last month's meeting. Conclusions from February's emergency included: people need to read road signs! The Mono Basin needs a CERT. Road closures are determined by Caltrans and CHP only. The Mono County Sheriff's Department determines when an emergency is declared. A Lee Vining CERT committee is needed, and Lisa Cutting is drawing up a list of volunteers. Does Mono City also need a CERT? Outstanding question on whether there are radios in the emergency trailer, and if so, whether charged.

10. **Main Street Traffic Speed Concerns:** Duncan gave the following background. This topic has been raised many times at RPAC, but the situation seems worse this year. The problems include: big trucks and cars speeding through town, the wide four lane road seeming to invite higher speeds, the poor visibility of the street crossings which have no illuminated signs, speed displays that don't work and so on. This year people seem much angrier about the dangers. There are serious concerns that if nothing gets done to improve the situation someone will be badly injured or killed. Last year a business owner displayed a 'slow down' sign in town, this year citizen actions so far have included people shouting at speeding cars and gesticulating at big rigs speeding through. Personally, I have also made my feelings known through traditional Anglo-Saxon methods of communication. There has also been a suggestion that people might photograph vehicles as they exceed the posted speed limit past the lighted speed displays (IF the signs ever worked properly), and even for people to make and use high visibility signs (lollipops) to carry when using the pedestrian crossings. This indicates the level of frustration that currently exists. We met with Caltrans last year on the future Lee Vining main street rehab project, but this seems to still be years away. There was agreement over the problem of speeding vehicles and some input that also pedestrians should use the crossings and not just jaywalk. County staff offered to

approach Caltrans on the broken speed signs to get them fixed and to investigate the possibility of a High-Intensity Activated Crosswalk beacon (HAWK) at crossings. Funding for these would be an issue. Other actions suggested were for through traffic to use the left lane through town, provision of 'lollipops' (high visibility signs for pedestrians to use on crossings) and more visibility of patrol cars in town and by the school. Sheriff Braun indicated that her deputies would provide this last option.

**11. Information items and provide direction to staff (Planning):** The county expects the Tioga Inn Specific Plan to be released soon. There will be a 45-60-day comment period. There will be a revised workforce residential housing element of 100 bedrooms.

**12. Upcoming agenda items:** Fire Safe Council, CERT subcommittee(s), Identification of issues in recreation, USFS

**13. Adjourn: 8:15 - Next meeting Wednesday, June 12, 2019**

Prepared by Duncan King