

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

Members present: Duncan King, Lisa Cutting and Bartshe Miller (No quorum!)

Public Attendees and Presenters: Bentley Regehr, Margaret Eisler, Wendy Sugimura, Wayne Beaver, Bob Gardner and Jake Suppa

1. **Call to Order:** 6:42 pm.
2. **Public Comment:** None
3. **Review Minutes:** No quorum so review of May minutes deferred to next meeting.
4. **Supervisor's Report:** Bob Gardner reported the Tioga Green retail cannabis application will be decided at the next BOS meeting. Interested parties should get together before then if they wish. Mr. David Strelneck has offered to mediate. Approval of the county budget is also on next week's BOS agenda. TOT and Sales Tax are up but expenditure still exceeds income. There is 15% in the Reserve Fund. Tioga Pass opened last Monday. The Tioga Inn Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) is available for public comment and there will be a public meeting on this at 6:30pm on July 30th in the LVCC. The county's letter re Mill Creek/Wilson diversion system was deferred for further changes.
5. **Chairperson Report:** Lisa Cutting reported she had attended the Planning Commission meeting in June. There is an upcoming workshop on the Tioga Inn SEIR – please spread the word. There is a grazing allotments proposal out for public comment until 8/6 in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. One of the four allotments is partly in the Mono Basin.

Special plea – We need better commitment by RPAC members to attend the meetings. Please text or call the Chair if unable to attend. We also need more RPAC members AND better attendance by the community. Discuss on next agenda.

6. **Members reports:**
 - a. Duncan King – Was unable to attend the FSC but did go to BOS for Tioga Green agenda item. Solar Pavilion Summer Performance start this coming Saturday with Bodie 601, the first of three concerts and two film showings.
 - b. Bartshe Miller – Thanks to staff and chair for setting up the Tioga Inn workshop and please include a link to the SEIR document when mailing out info. The Mono Lake Committee has purchased 9 six-foot tables for use in the LVCC. Once they have county I/D (Tony Dublino) they will be transferred to that site. The county came some months ago to the RPAC to discuss rules and regulations re cannabis businesses. There was no strong opinion one way or the other and RPAC did not vote on the issue(s) but deferred to the county. It needs to be noted that the RPAC is an advisory body that does not evaluate development applications and does not have the responsibility of recommending on them. It does however help the county develop rules about that apply to development applications. Late reactivity is a problem when the planning process is followed. The recent problem could have been avoided

with more community involvement in the early discussions. A future agenda item should be the RPAC composition and how to encourage new members. **County staff input** – the public had opportunities at the RPAC to weigh in on the rules for cannabis business applications in the county at the RPAC, and on the recent Tioga Green application at the Planning Commission stage, and at the BOS. There have been many opportunities for input.

Other discussion – In the future, maybe if the county wants input on a policy, they could hold a specific community meeting. The Tioga Green business owner asked to, and did attend, an RPAC meeting to share his plans. Finally, to reiterate, the RPAC's role is to help the county establish policy.

7. **Fire Safe Council:** Chair Lisa Cutting reported that two successful chipping days were held recently in Mono City and another is planned in the Fall. The FSC is working on grant proposal(s) but really needs a good grant writer. SCE is holding a meeting on 7/17 at the Mammoth High School, 6:30-8:30, on the emergency shutdown process (PSPS). The Mono City Fire Department is holding an appreciation BBQ on 8/18 at the Fire Hall in conjunction with the Lee Vining Fire Department.
8. **Main Street speed concerns and potential crossing flags:** Caltrans was unable to attend this meeting but plan to be at the next RPAC meeting to address this and give updates on the Main Street rehab project. Rumble strips requested. CHP and Mono County Sheriffs have been giving very noticeable attention to speeding vehicles. Flags for pedestrian visibility on crossings are in progress.
9. **Workshop - Cannabis odor mitigation (this item taken after item 10):** Jake Suppa gave a very detailed explanation of the issues and the potential objective methods of dealing with odor mitigation. Every new planning application is required to include an odor mitigation plan. A specific request was input on where the odor threshold level should be set. The scale runs 2-60 and California counties and other communities are running around 7. The RPAC, noting that we have great air locally, suggested that on that basis, we set our level at less than 7, maybe around 5.
10. **Update and discussion on Utility Road SCE Signage(this item before item 9) :** In a letter SCE responded negatively to a request to allow day use in the area. Signs have been illegally removed from the area and recently LVFD responded to a fire in the 'campground' area. The Mono Basin FSC has requested priority action in removing illegal camps.
11. **Information items and provide direction to staff (Planning):** There is some exploratory mining possible in the Bodie hills, and possible hydropower applications in the White Mountains area and the Owens Gorge. The BOS has sent a letter of concern to FERC regarding the latter.
12. **Upcoming agenda items:** Fire Safe Council, CERT subcommittee(s), Identification of issues in recreation, Caltrans, RPAC Bylaws and membership.
13. **Adjourn: 8:08 - Next meeting Wednesday, August 14, 2019**

Prepared by Duncan King