

**Mono Basin RPAC
Regional Planning Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 6:30 pm, Lee Vining Community Center**

Members present: Lisa Cutting, Bartshe Miller, and Kristie Nelson

Public Attendees and Presenters: Bob Gardner, Kody Messerschmidt, Phil Moores, Paul Ashby, Michael Draper, Gerry Le Francois

1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:** 6:35 pm.
2. **Public Comment:** Kody Messerschmidt, INF deputy District Ranger, announced updates from Inyo National Forest which included a new staff hire from the Tahoe region that will replace her as DDR. She delivered some staffing updates, including that the INF does not have staff available this year to man the kiosk at South Tufa, though someone will pick up \$ in iron ranger and check on conditions there. Another control burn behind the Mono Craters area is planned, so locals may see some smoke from there. The USFS has a team working on Covid-19 contingencies, and still figuring out how the agency will approach manning visitor centers, etc. late this spring/summer. There's a chance they will remain closed.
3. **Approve Minutes: Feb. 12, 2020.** No quorum, postponed
4. **Supervisor Gardner report:** Yesterday BOS held a briefing on Covid-19. So far there are no known cases in Inyo or Mono Counties, so the county has not (yet) declared a state of emergency. Declaring a state of emergency would also discourage tourists, which is viewed negatively. Monohealth.com is the reference website for the best up to date information on Covid-19 for Mono County. Walker/Coleville is having a hospice training for volunteers on 4/30 and 5/1.
Bartshe asked about contingency plans such as threshold sizes for gatherings, and whether the County and town of Mammoth are coordinating responses. Bob said at this point there are only hypothetical scenario plans, and these topics are being discussed. The health dept. is primarily in charge, and it is hoped that there will be consistency in how guidelines are carried out.
5. **Chairperson Report:** Lisa (vice-chair as Duncan was absent) announced that Caltrans had installed pedestrian safety features in Lee Vining including flashy pedestrian lighting on X-walks, new safety signs, and they fixed the speedometers. Yay! The RPAC wants to write a thank-you letter in response. Lisa also attended the 3/3 Tioga Inn meeting which was informative and she thanked the county staff for that.
6. **Member's reports:**
 - a. Bartshe – Echoed Lisa's support of the Tioga Inn meeting. He also announced State Parks was hiring a LE ranger for the Mono Basin area (a position which has not been staffed in a number of years). The Mono Lake Committee canceled their Wild and Scenic Film Festival due to the virus; other events being re-evaluated
No other member comments
7. **Fire Safe Council Update:** Bob gave an update on the most recent meeting. The MBFSC continues to work on grants, and there is a new approach for fire safe grants that take a regional approach – i.e. one grant can fund multiple FSC's in one region to consolidate and streamline efforts. Four things are happening this spring: there will be a full time green waste dumpster

available in Mono City, which costs \$150 per emptying. An old fire truck with a fire safe message banner will sit on the south end of Lee Vining. The MBFSC will host a home hardening seminar from Cal Fire, and there will also be wood chipper days in addition to the green waste dumpster.

8. Inyo National Forest Updates: Kody discussed how the INF has gotten the ball rolling on the feral horse issue. Some funding with enterprise agencies will fund an AML (Appropriate Management Level) report which assesses carrying capacity estimates. There will be an inter-agency meeting to discuss feral horses and once the agencies are equipped with sound data and information, there will be a public meeting. Joey Swisher is a point person on this.

9. Housing sub-committee report: Members of the subcommittee and Bob Gardner have met with DWP and the school board to discuss the possibilities of obtaining land parcels in Lee Vining for a workforce housing project. DWP is very supportive of selling land (at market rates) and options are available in town. The school board, however, was not particularly interested in selling their parcels for housing development. They feel the number of students in the schools are already maxed out and worried a new development could increase the student population above what they can adequately handle. They were also concerned with lack of public/parent support for such a development on school land.

10. 2020 Census Update: Michael Draper of Mono Co. announced that PO box holders (i.e. the Mono Basin community) will not get census material in the mail, so are encouraged to fill out the information online at 2020census.gov. - materials go online March 12. Census workers will be going door to door to collect information, and no citizenship questions are on it.

11. Discussion of unmet transit needs: Phil Moores of Eastern Sierra Transit Authority announced new routes and changes over last year, much of the changes in response to RPAC and community input. The usual Bridgeport to Gardnerville route is extended now to Carson City. There will be a weekly run from Walker to Mammoth (especially useful on traffic court days, which it will run on traffic court days). This new run needs further publicity. An additional stop *may* be added this summer to the Tioga Inn. There will be a public meeting and comment period for ESTA pricing. ESTA is always open to accommodating individuals who have specific transport needs (elderly/disabled people who need rides to the doctor, etc.)

12. Information Items: Tioga Inn has been discussed extensively but remains one of the biggest projects the region has seen in a long time. June Lake has some modest redevelopment projects. Meeting on-site parking is a challenge.

13. Future agenda items: The Mono Basin RPAC would like to agendize updates on both Conway Ranch and what is going on with Mono County dumps (Benton Xing and Pumice Valley) – though thought these would be best in 2 – 3 months. Other than that the usual standing agenda items

Adjourned 7:45pm until next meeting 8 April 2020

Respectfully submitted – Kristie Nelson