

**Mono Basin RPAC
Regional Planning Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 8, 2014, 6:30 pm, Lee Vining Community Center**

Members present: Katie Bellomo, Lisa Cutting, Zane Davis, Tim Hansen, Duncan King, Chris Lizza, Mark Logan, Ilene Mandelbaum, and Bartshe Miller. **Absent:** All present.

Public Attendees and Presenters: Tim Alpers, Joe Bellomo, Scott Burns, Margaret Eissler, Karen Ferrell-Ingram, Jeff Hunter, Jim Leddy, Rick Noles, Steve Parmenter, Will Richmond, Marshall Rudolph, Danna Stroud, Jeff Walters, and Carolyn Webb.

1. **Call to order:** 6:40 pm.
2. **Public comment:** Mark Logan raised questions about the “Bathroom Bill” and problems with Mono County counting the votes. Marshall Rudolph clarified that it was misinformation and that the Secretary of State did not count them. Jeff Hunter with the Bodie Hills Conservation Partnership introduced himself and explained the coalition’s desires for permanent protection of the Bodie Hills.
3. **Review Minutes:** November 13, 2013: Motion by Mandelbaum; second by Bellomo; abstaining Hansen, Lizza, and Logan (absent); passes unanimously.
4. **Supervisor’s report:** Tim Alpers: The new Board had their first meeting yesterday and elected Larry Johnston Chair and Tim Fesko Vice-chair. The legislative platform was approved and the procedural manual was updated. County strategic planning is in progress.
5. **Chairman’s report:** Bartshe Miller: Welcome Duncan King to the Mono Basin RPAC.
6. **Member’s reports:**
 - a. Katie Bellomo: The RPAC is doing good work as evidenced by the recent agenda items and focus on the Conway Ranch issues.
 - b. Lisa Cutting: Nothing to report.
 - c. Zane Davis: Nothing to report.
 - d. Tim Hansen: Nothing to report.
 - e. Duncan King: Pleased to be a member of the RPAC and looking forward to helping out.
 - f. Chris Lizza: No Planning Commission meeting in December. At the November Planning Commission meeting they approved the June Lake Cross-country ski permit and the June Lake transient rental overlay. Planning Commission meeting tomorrow in Mammoth will consider a lot split at Rock Creek Ranch and a workshop on energy efficiency. Lizza then raised the issue of seasonal road closures in the Mono Basin when there is no winter weather. There is less snow than 2 years ago and dry pavement yet the roads remain closed. Lee Vining is losing out on recreational opportunities and business. It’s on the Local Transportation Commission agenda for next Monday.
 - g. Mark Logan: Nothing to report.
 - h. Ilene Mandelbaum: Rena’s Ohanas 395 food truck opened yesterday. Good economic diversity for Lee Vining.
7. **Discuss and make a recommendation to the County for the Lundy Road recreational management (Miller):** The issue that has been discussed at previous meetings is what the winter public works policy should be for the Lundy Road – plowing the road vs. closing the road for skiing opportunities. The RPAC is looking for a balanced, reasonable approach. It was decided that Public Works would plow to the resort if there were no other storms in the immediate future and it was safe to do so. But once the storms started to stack up the upper gate would be closed and no plowing would occur. The County’s management of the Lundy Road is a function of safety (for Public Works employees and the public) and plowing resources/man-hours of Public Works staff. Hansen wanted to know the status of the school signs in Lee Vining and Jeff Walters will look into it.
8. **Update from Local Transportation Commission (LTC) meeting regarding Caltrans’ winter road closure policies (Lizza)** Most of this item covered in Lizza’s report earlier. The

roads in question are 120 East, North June Lake Loop, Tioga 120 West up to the Yosemite gate and through the Park.

9. **Conway Ranch Update: A) Update on conservation easement process, including presentation and discussion of “Conway Ranch Conservation Easement Overview” document prepared by County, and B) Presentation and discussion of “Conway Ranch Aquaculture Site Evaluation and Plan” prepared by consultant Tony Vaught for Mono County (Bellomo, County staff)** Bellomo introduced agenda item with a brief history on the issue: Caltrans’ assertions that Mono County has violated their grant requirements; Mono County’s desire to have Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT) hold a conservation easement; Mono County pays Caltrans \$100K to “buy out” of their restrictions provided ESLT holds the easement; and the Tony Vaught aquaculture report. The concern is that Mono County would be able to do anything on the 75 acres because it may be excluded from the ESLT easement. Discussion centered on the 75 acres – what would be allowed and how would it be protected? The remaining grantors – National Fish & Wildlife Foundation and State Habitat Conservation Fund – are discussing what is acceptable to them for moving forward. The Board of Supervisors will discuss the Tony Vaught report at its January 21 meeting. Marshall explained that the Conservation Easement Overview document would guide the development of the actual conservation easement. The current deadline for completion of the conservation easement is April 1. The deadline has already been extended once and it’s unclear if it could be extended again. RPAC members felt that having management plans for Conway Ranch is very important. This item will be continued at the next RPAC meeting. It’s important that the community weighs in on what is appropriate for Conway Ranch.
10. **Progress Report on the Mono City Emergency Road (staff)** Scott Burns reported that the BLM has completed the environmental documents but wants the County to resolve the gate issue. Then the BLM will release the documents. The County is trying to get a reduction in the mitigation requirement and the pavement requirement from Caltrans which would then allow the process to move forward quicker. Once the document is finalized, the boulders will be removed and replaced with gates. The County needs to resolve the issue of the gates and whether they are breakable emergency gates or non-breakable. The Mono City Fire District has offered \$25,000 to help with the cost of the project. Will be continued on next month’s agenda.
11. **Consider and accept the resignation of RPAC members Steve Connett, Lucy Parker, and Alex Flores.** Motion to accept the resignation of Connett, Parker, and Flores made by Mandelbaum; Second by Lizza; passed unanimously.
12. **Nomination of new officers: Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary.** Motion for Miller for Chair by Mandelbaum; Second by Bellomo. Motion for Hansen for Vice-chair by Lizza; Second by Cutting. Motion for Cutting for Secretary by Mandelbaum; Second by Bellomo. Voting at next meeting.
13. **Information items and provide direction to staff: (Planning)**
 - a. Report of development activities in Mono Basin: The cell tower at the June Lake PUD area is not completed yet but the pole is up. It will be painted a more neutral color before the project is done.
 - b. Other: The Local Transportation Commission meeting starts at 9 am and the winter closure of dry local highways agenda item will be at approximately 10 am. RPAC members are urged to attend. Mono County has submitted comments on the US Fish and Wildlife listing of the Yosemite toad and Mountain Yellow-legged frog. County staff is also preparing comments on the proposed listing of the Bi-State DPS greater sage-grouse.
14. **Schedule next regular meeting:** Wednesday, February 12, 2014
15. **Adjourn:** 9:28 pm.