Mono Basin RPAC Regional Planning Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, February 11, 2015, 6:30 pm, Lee Vining Community Center

Members present: Lisa Cutting, Zane Davis, Tim Hansen, Chris Lizza, Mark Logan, Ilene Mandelbaum, Paul McFarland, Bartshe Miller, and Margy Verba. **Absent:** Duncan King. **Public Attendees and Presenters:** Tim Alpers, Scott Burns, Jim Leddy, and Dave Marquart.

1. Call to order: 6:34 pm. The group observed a moment of silence in honor of Don Banta.

2. **Public comment:** Dave Marquart: Expressed concerns related to fire danger in Mono City and SCE power lines in light of the Swall fire. Mono City residents would like for a SCE representative to attend a future RPAC meeting to hear the community's concerns.

- 3. Review Minutes: October 8, 2014: Correction to 6a. add "including Mono City residents getting stuck in traffic lines and not being able to get to Mono City to be able to evacuate" to the first sentence. Correction to 6i. not a firebreak but "the trails to access the fire area that Friends of the Inyo worked on". Motion by Hansen; second by McFarland; abstaining: Cutting, Logan, Miller, and Verba. Passes unanimously. November 12, 2014: Correction to 5b. change "anniversary" to "birthday of mother". Motion by Mandelbaum; second by Logan; abstaining: Cutting, Davis, Lizza, McFarland, and Verba. Passes unanimously.
- 4. **Supervisor's report:** Tim Alpers: Introduced new District 5 supervisor Stacy Corless. Jim Leddy: The Board adopted rules and procedures to operate within and a new legislative platform. Swall Fire update: 39 homes were lost and 4 fire fighters sustained injuries. No pets were lost. 500 fire fighters responded to the blaze. Now the County is working with State agencies to reestablish life for the victims. This involves toxic waste clean-up and other debris removal. The Bridgeport fire happened on the same day but no homes were lost. Kudos to all County staff in dealing with both incidents both in the moment and afterwards especially Dale Schmidt, Robin Roberts, Ingrid Braun, and Mike Moriarty. Verizon and SCE have been busy replacing 55 lost power poles.
- 5. Chairman's report: Bartshe Miller: Expressed concern over the wind event and resulting fires. Since 2003 Bartshe has documented 7 incidents near or adjacent to Mono City and Lundy Canyon. Alerted everyone that after serving for 4 years tonight is his last meeting as Chair of the RPAC.

6. Member's reports:

- a. Lisa Cutting: Attended the Conway Ranch Workshop that the Board recently had.
- b. Zane Davis: Also concerned with wind and power lines in Mono City. Conveyed Mono City resident's concern with speed limit in Mono City. Jeff Walters is looking into the issue.
- c. Tim Hansen: Thanks to Bartshe for serving as Chair for four years. Mono City Fire Road is a good accomplishment but Mono City needs a generator to be able to keep the water running in the event of an emergency. Given the status of Katie Bellomo not being confirmed for another term, Tim resigned stating that he cannot continue with the RPAC like nothing has happened.
- d. Duncan King: Absent.
- e. Chris Lizza: Mono County did an outstanding job with both fires thank you. No Planning Commission meetings for January or February. Don Banta's death is a big loss for the community of Lee Vining.
- f. Mark Logan: Don Banta was an amazing individual. The situation regarding Katie Bellomo is hard to take. Her not being reappointed is wrong and disturbing. What is the purpose of the RPAC? Scott Burns' response: The RPAC is advisory to the Board of Supervisors on planning issues and development review. Gives recommendations on County Plans, General Plans, Mono Basin Area Plan and review and comment on other agency plans. Mark responded that in response to what happened to Katie Bellomo he is resigning from the RPAC.
- g. Ilene Mandelbaum: Very distressed about the situation regarding Katie Bellomo and wants to know what the correct process for reappointment is for members. Is it appropriate to discuss this during open session in a Supervisor's meeting? Jim Leddy response: Appointments must be done in open session. "Safe harbor" protects people making comments that help inform the process. Ilene requests a future agenda item to explain exactly the process for appointment and

reappointment to the RPAC. And what is the correct process for soliciting new RPAC members? And what is expected of an RPAC member?

- h. Paul McFarland: Paul commended the County dispatch system for dealing with two critical issues at the same time and doing so despite communication systems being down due to power outage. Captain Booher's response in Bridgeport saved over 65 homes.
- i. Margy Verba: Margy's first meeting. She shares concerns related to power lines and Mono City danger.
- 7. Mono County Strategic Plan (Jim Leddy, CAO). Jim distributed the current version of the Mono County Strategic Plan which can also be found on the County website. The planning process began in January 2013 and has involved all Mono County staff. Jim is in the process of going to all the RPAC meetings to get feedback on the plan in relation to the current County budget. The plan will be a guiding document that helps direct County staff actions and helps to make difficult decisions in tight budget situations. The plan will be reviewed annually and updated as needed. The Mono Basin Community Plan will roll up to this plan and the Mono Basin Area Plan will roll up to the County General Plan. At the next meeting, Jim would like the group to discuss a priority list hopefully derived from the Community Plan.
- 8. **Conway Ranch status report.** The Board discussed the draft Annual report for 2014 and draft Operations Plan for 2015. Fish-rearing will not be happening this year on the Conway Ranch property. Irrigation and sheep grazing will occur as usual. The County will begin to monitor water quality and quantity to the extent that they can given limited financial resources. The old Specific Plan for 690 residential units and golf course needs to be repealed and that will likely happen through the adoption of the new General Plan. The Mono County General Plan EIR will be finished this spring and likely adopted this summer.
- 9. Airport Layout Plan review (Garrett Higerd). Postponed until next meeting. Cutting requested that Garrett provide an update on the revegetation status at the Lee Vining Airport.
- 10. Nomination and election of new officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary. After much discussion, the slate of officers that was agreed upon was Chair: Bartshe Miller; Vice-Chair: Paul McFarland; Secretary: Duncan King. The group unanimously approved these new officers.
- 11. Information items and provide direction to staff: (Planning)
 - a. Consider acceptance of Mono-Yosemite Trail final report. Scott wanted focused feed-back from the RPAC and the consensus was that the plan was a good first step albeit a scaled-down version from the original goal of connecting Mono and Yosemite. The plan will keep the community engaged with potential opportunities and focused on required maintenance. It supports goals in the Lee Vining Community Plan. And it will benefit residents of Lee Vining and Mono City and be of value to visitors.
 - b. Authorize letter of support for broadband grant application for Lee Vining/Mono City. The County wants to apply for a grant supporting infrastructure improvements through RACE Communications. Improvements would include hard-wire, underground connection to individual homes. Consensus from the RPAC was yes.
 - c. Report of development activities in Mono Basin: Fresno will now be part of the YARTS system starting this summer.
 - d. Other: None.
- 12. Upcoming agenda items: Mono Rockfall Project (Caltrans)
- 13. Schedule next regular meeting: Wednesday, March 11, 2015.
- 14. Adjourn: 8:50pm