

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

**Members present:** Lisa Cutting, Margy Verba, Zane Davis, Duncan King, Paul McFarland and Ilene Mandelbaum.

**Absent:** Chris Lizza and Bartshe Miller.

**Public Attendees and Presenters:** Tim Alpers, Scott Burns, Garrett Higerd, Ellen King, Jill Batchelder (Eastern Sierra Transit).

1. **Call to order:** 6:38 pm. Vice-Chairman Paul McFarland opened the meeting in the absence of Chairman Bartshe Miller
2. **Public Comment:** No comments.
3. **Review Minutes:** February 11, 2015: Accepted. Motion by Mandelbaum; second by Cutting. Passes 5-0 with King abstention.
4. **Supervisor's Report:** Tim Alpers: The Board of Supervisors have approved their own Rules of Procedure which might be of use to the RPAC. Tim recently attended the huge Long Beach Fred Hall outdoor show – 300,000 attendees and 1,500 booths. It's a great occasion for Inyo and Mono publicity and Tim gave talks on how the drought was not ruining the eastside as a vacation destination. He also distributed data on Yosemite visitation and emphasized the importance of Lee Vining as a gateway community to the National Park.
5. **Chairman's Report:** The chairman is absent.
6. **Member's reports:**
  - a. Zane Davis: no report
  - b. Lisa Cutting: April 1 is a big day. There will be a joint LA DWP/MLC Mono Lake level reading and if the level (as predicted with some certainty) is less than 6,380 feet above sea-level then Mono Basin water exports to LA will reduce from 16,000 acre feet to 4,500 acre feet. The issue then will be how and when will DWP take this allotment as the level of Grant Lake is so low. Tim Alpers suggested that Lisa come address the Boards of Supervisors on this issue and she said she thought that she or perhaps Geoff McQuilkin (Executive Director of MLC) would be pleased to do so.
  - c. Margy Verba: Reported on the Mono City community meeting she held in February to address fire and power line concerns. 20 residents attended and the issues raised were: a need for a discussion with SCE re arcing/sparking/broken power line caused fires, leaning power poles, transformer incidents, buried power lines versus overhead, County codes on defensible space, mowing of public lands, water infrastructure, campfire danger from Lundy Canyon, Mono City Fire Department vacancies, and better signage for the Fire Escape Route.
  - d. Duncan King: Thanked Margy for organizing the Mono City meeting. Wanted to raise awareness for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife upcoming meetings on bobcat trapping in Mono County.
  - e. Paul McFarland: The Lee Vining town cleanup day organized by the LVFD will be on April 18, starting at 8 am.
  - f. Ilene Mandelbaum: Attended the Pinyon Pine and Sage grouse forum where agencies are promoting the clearance of spreading Pinyon Pine to promote Sage Grouse habitat. This is a complex issue affecting large areas of Nevada and California, including the

Bodie hills. There is specific concern from the Native American communities regarding old stands of Pinyon Pine. Second, a RFP has just been published for the Toiyabe Indian health project to help communities with issues of diet and health. Maybe it is time to reactivate the Lee Vining Community Center committee.

- 7. Unmet Transit Needs Review:** Jill Batchelder (Eastern Sierra Transit) is conducting an unmet needs analysis. Current plan is for 395 service as in 2014, i.e. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8:50 am northbound in Lee Vining and 4:50 southbound, with connections to YARTS. Reds Meadow service will start Memorial Weekend. There is a new non-emergency medical transit service available for out of the area medical appointments, e.g. Reno, Sacramento, Mammoth. The resident needs to recruit a driver and vehicle and reimbursement from a grant is at 23.5c/mile. ESTA also has commuter vans for van pool needs. Up to 14 persons can be accommodated as long as three drivers can be trained and one person is secretary for admin reports. The vans have auto snow chains and bike racks. Costs are dependent on the number in the pool. Requests have been received for Wednesday and weekend service to Reno, but matching grant funds are needed.
- 8. Airport Layout Plan Review:** Garrett Higerd reported on the latest Bryant Field and Lee Vining Airport plans, updated to get the correct physical geometry and show potential for growth. This is required for FAA compliance. Main updates were to show a potential for paved runway expansion by 1,000 feet, a possible new taxiway, an end of runway holding pad, additional hangars, a large helipad for fire helicopters, perimeter fencing, and obstruction lights at the base of Tioga Pass on 120. This plan is for submission to the Board of Supervisors for their approval.
- 9. Review of Mono Basin Plan:** Mono County is working on a strategic plan and would like input from the Mono Basin RPAC. This was deferred for a one hour workshop at the next meeting so that the RPAC could select items from the Mono Basin Community Plan which it felt the county should include. We also felt it would be useful to invite Jim Leddy to the May meeting to discuss this.
- 10. Seasonal Road Closure:** It seems that we need a policy for non-traditional winter road closures, the main opportunities being around the location of closure gates on 158N at Cain Ranch and the lower gate on 120W, Tioga Pass. The Local Transportation Commission is discussing this and will report back.
- 11. Review of RPAC roles, responsibilities and appointment protocols:** Scott Burns provided a number of RPAC related documents for discussion.
- 12. Information items:** None
- 13. Upcoming agenda items:** SCE presentation (1hour), Mono Rockfall project (15mins.), Strategic Plan (1 hour). Next meeting Wednesday April 8, 2015.
- 14. Adjourn:** 8:45 pm.