

Mono Basin RPAC
Regional Planning Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 8, 2015, 6:30 pm, Lee Vining Community Center

Members present: Ilene Mandelbaum, Duncan King, Bartshe Miller, Paul McFarland, Chris Lizza, Margy Verba and Lisa Cutting.

Public Attendees and Presenters: Scott Burns and Joe Blommer

1. **Call to Order:** 6:39 pm.
2. **Public Comment:** None
3. **Review Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of June 10, 2015 were approved with the following changes – Add to public attendees and presenters Liz Holt and Deborah Hess - item 6b Paul McFarland - delete the words *in line with State requirements* – item 6c Ilene Mandelbaum - change to read *We are raising funds for a drip system for the Lee Vining Community Garden, need help with the weeding, and also help on the committee.* Paul McFarland proposed, Lisa Cutting seconded, the vote was unanimous.
4. **Supervisor's Report:** Tim Alpers was not present.
5. **Chairman's Report:** Bartshe reported that the Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua went well with 296 guests and over 400 attendees and presenters. This past June was the warmest ever and January through June was also the warmest ever recorded in California history.
6. **Member's reports:**
 - a. Chris Lizza: The recent warm weather has prompted record sales for stores in Lee Vining. The Mono Basin Historical Society has had some great meetings recently organized by Historian Dave Carle, who has been working with a summer intern to reorganize the collections. Recent storms have damaged the museum roof which needs \$20,000 for replacement. The Lee Vining Fire Department has taken delivery of a 'new' fire truck donated by a San Diego Fire Department which was taken over by Cal Fire. It is worth \$175,000. The Planning Commission is to deliberate on a Use Permit for Ohanas 395 at June Lake General Store.
 - b. Paul McFarland: Paul asked members to remind all their neighbours on the importance of getting Burn Permits - a recent north shore alarm was sounded when this process was not followed. As part of the Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua is organizing a cleanup in upper Lee Vining canyon on 6/18, on 6/23 a Lee Vining creek trail cleanup, and Friends of the Inyo on 6/23 are doing road work in the Sweetwaters and Virginia Lakes.
 - c. Ilene Mandelbaum: We have funds for a drip system for the Lee Vining Community Garden and are now seeking matching funds. Bears are causing a nuisance with the trash cans in the park.
 - d. Duncan King: Reported on the Bobcat trapping discussion at the recent California Department of Fish and Game Commission meeting in Mammoth.
 - e. Margy Verba: Organized a Mono City meeting on the concerns over power lines in the area and their potential as fire hazards. The suggestions from this meeting will be circulated to RPAC members. Margy is also investigating the formation of a Mono Basin Firesafe Council and Deborah Hess has indicated that funding could be made available to help with this. Also Mono City now has a new Fire Chief, Bev ???
 - f. Lisa Cutting: Nothing to report.
 - g. Zane Davis: Absent.

7. **Mono Rockfall project update:** Joe Blommer reported that the July 4th weekend holiday traffic was handled well by the traffic signal system. Erosion control work on slopes 1 and 2 is now done, and is continuing on slope 5. The large (expensive) crane has now left and 1,000 anchors have been installed. There are 100 more to do and should be finished by the end of the week. A few delays have been caused by the weather – there are now thousands of lightning rods on the slope – but Stage 1 is on schedule for completion by end-July. Stage 2 (slopes 3 and 4) will have less distance between the lights, but will require a third light at the Old Marina junction. A meeting with State Parks is scheduled for developing a contingency plan for this. Unless something weird happens, the project will be finished this season. No repaving of the road surface is planned, but the contractor will make repairs as needed. There are two other Caltrans projects this summer for the area. Repairing 395 from Tioga Pass to the June Lake Water Treatment plant will take 2 months, and remodeling the Caltrans depot in Lee Vining will take 6 months. The entrance to the Lee Vining Creek Trail is washed out – Randy Walker is the initial contact person for this – escalate to John Fox if required.
8. **Fire Safe Council potential grant funding:** (Margy Verba) Partially discussed during 6e – link with the Mono City Fire Department could be considered. Concerns raised over lack of host at Lundy campground and lack of Inyo NF Law Enforcement. Removal of illegal fire rings is encouraged – A Fire Protection Technician (FPT) – Rog Wishowski – lives in Mono City.
9. **Mono Basin Trails Report:** (Paul McFarland)
 - a: *Open Meeting laws and trail committee:* As this activity is a priority under the County Strategic Plan and the Mono Basin Community Plan it seems that the best way to formalize this would be to set it up under the auspices of the Planning Department. This would encourage inter-agency cooperation at all levels. The RPAC will agendaize this for the next meeting and will prioritize issues, identify the appropriate agencies/entities and create a work plan. Trail rehab and maintenance will be high priorities.
 - b: *Lee Vining Creek Trail:* Action already decided to talk with Randy Walker and also to set up a meeting at the trailhead.
 - c: *Trail events update:* The Chautauqua Poole Plant event attracted 14 volunteers who pulled 375# of barbed wire, 1.5 miles of weeds, and 50# of trash. The Nunnatak trail was cleared and Warren Fork cleared of campfire rings. The Lee Vining Creek trail was cleared of 250# of trash at an equivalent savings to the community of \$1,900.
10. **Information items and provide direction to staff (Planning):** (Scott Burns)
 - a. Development activities in the Mono Basin: The June Lake CAC held a TOT event on 7/7 to explain the overlay process. It was very successful and informative. There are still vacancies on LAFCO and the Mono Basin RPAC. County strategic plan meetings have been held at Crowley Lake and Walker. The next will be in June Lake on July 16 from 6-8pm. County budget has hit bottom and we are now seeing a slight rebound except for as State gas tax drop of \$600,000. The Planning Division has been very successful with grants for trails, Fire Councils, sustainable agriculture and sage grouse. County hopes to bring the Strategic Plan EIR to the next RPAC meeting.
11. **Upcoming agenda items:** 1) Mono Basin Trails; 2) Lee Vining Rockfall Project; 3) Fire Safe Council; 4) Bear issues 5) County Strategic Plan?
12. **Adjourn: 8:20 Next meeting Wednesday September 9, 2015**