

Mono Basin RPAC  
Regional Planning Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, May 13, 2015, 6:30 pm, Lee Vining Community Center

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

**Absent:** Margy Verba and Zane Davis.

**Public Attendees and Presenters:** Tim Alpers, Scott Burns, Ellen King, Tony Dublino, Jim Leddy, Joe Blommer (Caltrans), Hope Woodward (USFS), Stacey Corless (County Supervisor) and Ingrid Braun (Mono County Sheriff).

1. **Call to order:** 6:50 pm. Vice-Chairman Paul McFarland opened the meeting in the absence of Chairman Bartshe Miller.
2. **Public Comment:** No comments.
3. **Review Minutes:** April 8, 2015: Accepted with the following corrections. Add *Jerry Hallum* to Attendees. Para 4 change *50 counties* to *58 counties* and *COC* to *LTC*. Para 5 add *in Rush Creek* to end of sentence 3. Para 6e change *COC* to *LTC*. Motion by Lizza; second by Mandelbaum; Passes 4-0 with King and Cutting abstentions. February 2, 2015 minutes to be corrected at next meeting.
4. **Supervisor's Report:** Tim Alpers: Welcomed Supervisor Corless, Sheriff Braun, and county CAO Jim Leddy to the meeting. Jim Leddy is leaving Mono to return to Sonoma County and will be sorely missed. His work in strategic planning has been invaluable and Tim publicly thanked him. Lynda Salcido will be interim CAO while the county looks to hire a replacement.
5. **Chairman's Report:** The chairman arrived and apologized for his lateness.
6. **Member's reports:**
  - a. Zane Davis: absent
  - b. Lisa Cutting: Grant Lake Reservoir is very low. Even though this is a dry year the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) is required to deliver a small peak flow down Rush and Lee Vining Creeks for five days. The Mono Lake Committee has been advocating for DWP to defer delivering the peak flows this year in order to keep that water in Grant Lake. Not releasing the peak flow will keep Grant Lake at a higher level for longer into the summer. Once Grant Lake hits the minimum allowed level of 11,500 acre feet new rules kick in and Rush Creek flows will be reduced to match inflow from the upper watershed. Now that DWP has agreed to deferring the required peak, this reduction in flow is expected to happen in late summer/early fall or hopefully not at all. CalTrout and California Department of Fish & Wildlife have also been involved in this process to minimize impacts to trout this year.
  - c. Margy Verba: absent
  - d. Duncan King: No report
  - e. Paul McFarland: The Lee Vining town cleanup day organized by the LVFD removed 10 illegal fire rings and 300# of trash. The next cleanup will be just before the Chautauqua on 6/18. All Lee Vining water users have received a letter (Thanks to the MLC for their assistance) asking for voluntary water reductions. In line with the Governor's recent statement the LVPUD is taking steps to reduce water use by 25%.
  - f. Ilene Mandelbaum: Introduced Hope Woodward (Assistant District Ranger, Inyo National Forest, USFS) and thanked Jim Leddy for helping bring Mono County into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

- g. Chris Lizza: The fire training exercise at Conway Ranch on 5/9 was cancelled and re-arranged for Shady Rest. LAFCO is working on a merger of the fire districts of Mono City and Lee Vining. The Planning Commission is to hear a special zoning request in the Clark tract of June Lake.
- 7. Conway Ranch status report and update:** Tony Dublino reported on the annual meeting on the Conway Ranch Conservation Easement where he presented the annual report and operations plan. This has also gone to the Board of Supervisors with a suggestion that they might like to issue an RFP for recirculating aquaculture. There was no direction from the board on that at this time but that the proposal should be included in the county plan deliberations.
- 8. Mono Rockfall project monthly update:** Joe Bummer: Emergency procedures were tested this week with a motorcycle accident on [Highway 167](#). In [the](#) future Bridgeport paramedics will respond to incident north of the construction zone. Comments on the delay in the signal turning green led to a speed study and the limit will be raised from 25 to 35 mph. This will [reduce the current wait time](#)~~allow the delay to be reduced~~. Cyclist have a push button they can operate to give them longer to pass through the zone. Motorists must NOT use this as it will cause huge delays for the next oncoming traffic. Radar detection is used to sense traffic so even if a vehicle is not at the line it will still trigger a change. Work has started in the area and nesting birds are not to be disturbed – waiting on the [Caltrans](#) Biologist to give the okay. The cable net needs to be anchored with 3,000 anchors. Crews are currently rock-scaling (8 workers) and jockeying up the hillside. Once the Biologist gives the all clear trees can be removed so that the net can be laid over the top and attached to the anchors. Stage 1 of the project will end in mid to late July and Stage 2 (south end) in early November. Other work in the area is ongoing at the [Highway 395](#) Rush Creek bridge on an improved safety barrier, and paving will be starting on [Highway 395](#) from H120 [West](#) (Tioga Pass) south to the June Lake PUD installation.
- 9. Mono County Strategic Plan:** Jim Leddy: Thanks to supervisors Stacy Corless and Tim Alpers – strategic planning is crucial to the future of Mono County. We are currently collecting all the potential projects and so far have 137 ideas! These will be clustered under “umbrellas” for ease of determining priorities. Thanks also to Scott Burns and his team for their work on this. Big picture elements so far noted are safety welfare, underground power lines, traffic calming, main street appeal, trails, water issues, special districts, social capital, connectivity, Conway Ranch, diversification, strengthening civic engagement...please send more ideas to Scott asap – the main thrust is to determine how many strategic directions a certain project hits so that its priority can be ranked among all the other work that our limited staff and budget allows. There will be a BOS meeting at LVCC from 8-11am on Friday 5/22 to create the project clusters so that county staff can then budget by August. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- 10. Information items:**
- RPAC membership – consider student representation: Bartshe will consult with the High School principal and student counsellor.
  - Report of development activities in the Mono Basin: Scott Burns: The Sage grouse has not been listed as endangered which is very positive for us, and also means the county has to stay active with its local protections. Caltrans has produced its strategic plan which includes targets for street traffic calming.
  - Other: Hope Woodward (USFS) is working with SCE to sort out power line vegetation maintenance procedures. Maintenance does not need NEPA clearance and the USFS can provide letters of approval for work to SCE, but S E does need to

contact the USFS on these issues. The RPAC thanked USFS for the early opening of Lee Vining campground.

**11. Upcoming agenda items:** SCE power line issue follow-up, Caltrans Mono Rockfall project follow up, Strategic Plan. Next meeting Wednesday June 10, 2015.

**12. Adjourn:** 8:25 pm.