



**MEETING MINUTES  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF MONO  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Regular Meetings: The First, Second, and Third Tuesday of each month. Location of meeting is specified just below.

MEETING LOCATION Board Chambers, 2nd Fl., County Courthouse, 278 Main St., Bridgeport, CA 93517

**Special Meeting  
August 23, 2016**

10:00 AM Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Stump.

*Supervisors Present: Alpers, Corless and Stump.  
Supervisors Absent: Fesko and Johnston.*

Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor Stump.

The Mono County Board of Supervisors stream all of their meetings live on the internet and archives them afterward. To listen to any meetings from June 2, 2015 forward, please go to the following link: <http://www.monocounty.ca.gov/meetings>

**1. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

*No One Spoke.*

**2. AGENDA ITEMS**

**A. Comment Letter on the Inyo National Forest Plan Revision & Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

Departments: Community Development

At its August 16 meeting, the Board gave direction for revisions and edits to a draft comment letter prepared by staff. Further board direction and public input is required before the letter can be finalized.

**Action:** Approve and authorize the Chair to sign final letter, as updated by Board direction and discussion, for submittal by the August 25 deadline.

**Corless moved; Alpers seconded**

**Vote: 3 yes; 0 no; 2 absent: Fesko, Johnston**

**M16-181**

**Note: The information below is a summary of what occurred at the meeting. This item is very detailed and complex generating a lot of discussion. To hear this item in its entirety, please view the video on our website at <http://www.monocounty.ca.gov/meetings>**

**Stacey Simon:**

- Gave background on how water rights function on federal land.
- Recommendation of Mill or Wilson Creek might open door to new challenges to County's water rights: we should propose, even as early in this letter, that there be explicit language that states that this designation does not impact water rights. She says this because statements have been made questioning the County's rights. People challenge that county's water rights are valid, you'd want to preserve water rights and existing uses in legislation.
- Secondly, location of where the diversion is at Mill Creek - there's a second point of diversion further downstream. Board should be clear that any designation should be below both existing diversions, perhaps below highway 395.
- Wilson Creek: there have been comments about this as well about potentially adding it as Wild and Scenic River – effects not just river but uses within a ¼ miles range. That needs to be below county's property on Conway so there's no conflicts with potential grazing. But still possible issue with water quality downstream.
- Getting an extension on time is always better; she's just trying to give information/suggestions today so board could act if they chose to.
- Wendy can't change anything to comment letter based on input received AFTER meeting, however receiving that input (at any time) is still helpful.

**Supervisor Stump:**

- Asked questions about Wilson Creek.
- Asked public about nutrient issue and its possible affects; do they feel that County Counsel's suggestions would protect the water rights?
- Interrupted public comment to see if anyone joined meeting that might have any comments on the previous item, the June Mountain support letter – seeing none, returned to public comment for this item.

**Supervisor Alpers:**

- On Conway Ranch, it's pretty cut and dried, herd is right there.
- Feels both streams have tremendous qualities; what about Mono Basin plan and other plans?

**Wendy Sugimura:**

- For clarification, the Fire in Rock Creek started from a mountain bike pedal striking a rock.
- In reference to what County Counsel was saying about Wilson Creek, county has not had a chance to determine (because the staff are not experts) whether or not this type of designation is made. Stacey Simon has done legal research but there are still questions.
- She doesn't feel there's has been enough overall research done to know all answers, implications.

**Tony Dublino:**

- Wilson Creek – Wild and Scenic?
- Questions came to mind – would we be obligated to keep certain amount of water there?
- Additional water quality standards?

**Public Comment Made by the Following Individuals:**

**NORTH COUNTY –**

- Dr. John Boynton (summer resident in Mono Basin)
- Geoff McQuilkin (Mono Lake Committee)
- Joe Bellomo (Mono Basin resident)
- Katie Maloney Bellomo (Mono Basin resident)

**SOUTH COUNTY –**

- Sam Roberts (President, Friends of the Inyo)
- Fran Hunt (Sierra Club)

**Supervisor Comments continued:**

**Supervisor Alpers:**

- Thanked everyone for coming; there's a reason so much time has been spent on this.
- We have two streams that have incredible value to them.
- For comment letter, he'd like to add lower reaches of Wilson Creek, have text put in with illustrating reasons.
- Benefit to both streams and basin would be best.

**Supervisor Corless:**

- Thanked everyone for all time spent on this.
- She'd like to include both streams.
- Acknowledged Ms. Bellomo's idea – heavy lift effort that needs to come, looking place by place. Suggests county convene in groups, etc. creating positive impact to Mono Basin.
- To Stacey Simon: Is it appropriate to have water rights language in letter to help support letter?
- Under Sustainable Recreation (she attended eastern sierra final collaborative meeting), she would love the County to support desired conditions document in general or at least to reference document specifically. Wants to change wording to "Mono County supports the Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative's Desired Conditions Document." She would be fine with saying Mono County supports "many of the points" in said document.
- Supervisors Alpers and Stump are ok with letter stating "many of the points".
- Extra thanks to Wendy for her work.

**Supervisor Stump:**

- On Page 8 remove the very last portion regarding illegal campfire reference about Rock Creek fire.
- State that the Forest Service should maintain summer home tract service.
- Sand Canyon, in South County, is designated as official OHV area; this ties in to request for more intensive management in communities. Need to strengthen language if this area is fire issue.
- He supports including both Creeks in the letter for evaluation *below* two points of diversion acknowledging that process can take awhile. Include water right protection issue.
- Asked if Supervisor Johnston submit comments on this to either Stacey Simon or Wendy Sugimura before meeting (he had not).

**LAST COMMENTS:**

- **Katie Bellomo:**
  - Drafting suggestion
- **Geoff McQuilkin**
- **Joe Bellomo**

**Supervisor Alpers:**

- Complimented Stacy Corless for taking the lead on this important issue.

**Supervisor Corless:**

- Appreciates board's work on this; they've created a little bit of work going forward dealing with certain advocacy issues.

**Supervisor Stump:**

- Thanked Corless too; appreciates the way she managed first two meetings and the tone.

**Wendy Sugimura:**

Summing up main points to include in support letter:

- Add language relating to Mono County's support for Forest Service to continue existence of summer home tracts (general plan reference).
- Wild and Scenic river – look at language for Mill, adjust and add Wilson Creek.

- Other – local communities, second paragraph, striking last portion about Rock Creek fire and adding pertinent language.
- Note: typo under attachments, number 2 – she'll fix date. Will take liberties at staff level to correct all minor typos and grammatical errors.
- Add Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative Document reference by Stacy Corless (Citizen Suggested Desired Conditions document).

**B. Support Letter for June Mountain Prop 1 Grant Request**

Departments: Board of Supervisors

Sierra Nevada Conservancy – Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program Support Letter for June Mountain/California Trout, Inc. (CalTrout) application for Proposition 1 grant funding.

**Action:** Approve Chairman's signature on letter for support on June Mountain/California Trout, Inc.'s application for Proposition 1 grant funding, incorporating discussed amendments and proposed changes by Dr. Drew.

**Alpers moved; Corless seconded**

**Vote: 3 yes; 0 no; 2 absent: Fesko and Johnston**

**M16-182**

*\*\*This item was taken first at meeting due to staffing obligations.*

**Stacey Simon:**

- Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, which owns June Mountain, is a "source of income" to Supervisor Corless because she has a community property interest in her husband's salary as an employee of MMSA.
- The grant which is the subject of the letter of support, although paid to CalTrout, would indirectly benefit June Mountain Ski Area by paying for the needed removal of dead and dying trees on June Mountain.
- The legal basis for concluding that there is no alternative source of decision is as follows: Three Board members are present at this meeting and needed to make a quorum and to take action (since three votes are required to approve). There is no board meeting at which a quorum could be obtained without Supervisor Corless within the time frame prior to the deadline for submission of the letter of support – which is August 31.

**Supervisor Stump:**

- Recommended that he be allowed to sign letter on behalf of the Board.

**Supervisor Alpers:**

- Julie Brown is new liaison from June Mountain. This issue affects both June Mountain and the community of June Lake, and surrounding areas.

**Dr. Mark Drew:**

- We have matching funding, grant letter will provide leverage for additional funding. Would appreciate Board's support. Inyo Forest and MMSA will also provide matching funds.

**3. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

*No One Spoke.*

**ADJOURNED: 11:47 A.M.**

ATTEST

---

FRED STUMP  
CHAIRMAN

---

SHANNON KENDALL  
ASSISTANT CLERK OF THE BOARD