



**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.
Teleconference Only - No Physical Location

**Regular Meeting
September 8, 2020**

9:02 AM Meeting Called to Order by Chair Corless.

Supervisors Present: Corless, Gardner, Kreitz, Peters, and Stump (all attended via teleconference).

Supervisors Absent: None.

All votes were conducted by roll call.

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

Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor Gardner.

Supervisor Corless:

- Requested urgency items prohibiting open fires on private property within the unincorporated areas of Mono County and closing County campgrounds due to extreme fire danger.
- "If you're going through hell, keep going." - Winston Churchill

Motion for the Board to determine that there is a need to take immediate action with respect to the proposed agenda item, that the need for action came to the County's attention subsequent to the agenda being posted and therefore, that the Board add the item to the agenda.

Authority: Govt. Code §54954.2(b)(2).

Gardner moved; Stump seconded

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no

M20-178

1. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Jan Cutts, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Bridgeport District Ranger:

- Slink Fire Update

Brook Chadwick, Great Basin Team 6 Incident Commander:

- Slink Fire Update

Gordon Martin, Inyo National Forest Mammoth Mono Lake District Ranger:

- Creek Fire Update
- Forest closures
- Town working with Caltrans to move closure of 203 to Main Lodge
- Conversations with DWP regarding closures

Steve Nelson, Bureau of Land Management Bishop Field Manager:

- Working on a regional open flame prohibition for Central California
- Currently no plans to close campgrounds or public lands

Tony Dublino, Public Works Director:

- County campground update
- There were negative consequences resulting from closures during COVID, reluctant to now recommend closure of parks and associated facilities such as restrooms.

Ingrid Braun, Mono County Sheriff:

- As long as there is a fire restriction in place, feels comfortable allowing people to use County facilities
- Outreach to DWP regarding voluntarily joining fire restrictions

Joe Blanchard, Parks and Facilities Superintendent:

- Agree with both Public Works Director Dublino and Sheriff Braun regarding park closures
- Recommendation is to close the County campground to be consistent with the Forest Service closure, but not the parks

Public Comment:

- Justin Nalder

2. RECOGNITIONS

A. Recognition of Garrett Higerd

Departments: Public Works

(Tony Dublino, Director of Public Works) - Proposed resolution in appreciation and recognition of Garrett Higerd, former Mono County Engineer.

Action: Adopt resolution in appreciation and recognition of Garrett Higerd.

Peters moved; Stump seconded

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no

M20-179

Tony Dublino, Public Works Director:

- Introduced Garrett Higerd

Supervisor Corless:

- Read proclamation

Board members and County Staff expressed thanks to Garrett.

Garrett Higerd, former County Engineer:

- Thanked everyone for the kind words
- Grateful for the team he was able to work with over the years

3. COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

CAO Report regarding Board Assignments

Bob Lawton, CAO:

- EOC calls, extensive planning discussions with Gordon Martin, Frank Frievalt, Chris Mokracek, and Dan Holler
- Economic Recovery Branch meeting
- Community Support Program Plan meeting
- Met with Sheriff regarding jail project
- Weekly meeting with Town and Mountain

4. DEPARTMENT/COMMISSION REPORTS

Ingrid Braun, Mono County Sheriff:

- Very busy Labor Day weekend
- Dispersed camping and illegal campfires
- Would like to work on a solution with Forest Service partners regarding dispersed camping issues

Robin Roberts, Behavioral Health Director:

- The New Normal: Coping in the COVID World every other Wednesday

Justin Nalder, Solid Waste Superintendent:

- Continuing to work on agreements for unincorporated Mono County
- Comprehensive Solid Waste RFP
- Clean up events – September 23-25 “Facelift Eastside”, October 10 at Upper Twin Lakes in Bridgeport

Kathy Peterson, Social Services Director:

- Update of final numbers of evacuees helped at Topaz Lodge – 16 evacuees on August 31, 10 evacuees on September 1
- Thanked Liberty Utilities Community Support Division for donating \$1,000 to the County to help people affected by wildfire

5. CONSENT AGENDA

(All matters on the consent agenda are to be approved on one motion unless a board member requests separate action on a specific item.)

A. Board Minutes - August 4, 2020

Departments: Clerk of the Board

Approval of the Board Minutes from the Regular Meeting on August 4, 2020.

Action: Approve the Board Minutes from the Regular Meeting on August 4, 2020.

Peters moved; Gardner seconded

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no

M20-180

B. Board Minutes - August 6, 2020

Departments: Clerk of the Board

Approval of the Board Minutes from the Special Meeting on August 6, 2020.

Action: Approve the Board Minutes from the Special Meeting on August 6, 2020.

Peters moved; Gardner seconded

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no

M20-181

C. Board Minutes - August 10, 2020

Departments: Clerk of the Board

Approval of the Board Minutes from the Special Meeting on August 10, 2020.

Action: Approve the Board Minutes from the Special Meeting on August 10, 2020.

Peters moved; Gardner seconded

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no

M20-182

D. Board Minutes - August 11, 2020

Departments: Clerk of the Board

Approval of the Board Minutes from the Regular Meeting on August 11, 2020.

Action: Approve the Board Minutes from the Regular Meeting on August 11, 2020.

Peters moved; Gardner seconded

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no

M20-183

E. Board Minutes - August 13, 2020

Departments: Clerk of the Board

Approval of the Board Minutes from the Special Meeting on August 13, 2020.

Action: Approve the Board Minutes from the Special Meeting on August 13, 2020.

Peters moved; Gardner seconded

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no

M20-184

F. 2020-21 Appropriations Limit

Departments: Finance

Proposed resolution establishing the 2020-21 Appropriations Limit.

Action: Adopt proposed resolution #R20-82, establishing the 2020-21 Appropriations Limit and making other necessary determinations for the County and for those special districts governed by the Board of supervisors that are required to establish appropriation limits.

Peters moved; Gardner seconded

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no

R20-82

G. 2020-21 Property Tax Rates

Departments: Finance

Proposed resolution establishing the 2020-21 tax rates on the secured roll.

Action: Adopt proposed resolution #R20-83, establishing the 2020-21 tax rates on the secured roll.

Peters moved; Gardner seconded

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no

R20-83

H. Regions I and VI Mutual Aid Agreement for Emergency Medical and Health Disaster Services

Departments: Public Health

California Mutual Aid Region I and VI Inter-Region Cooperative Agreement for Emergency Medical and Health Disaster Services/Personnel/Equipment/Supplies.

Action: Approve County entry into proposed contract and authorize Chair to execute said contract on behalf of the County.

Peters moved; Gardner seconded

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no

M20-185

Break: 10:46 AM

Reconvened: 10:55 AM

6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Direction may be given to staff regarding, and/or the Board may discuss, any item of correspondence listed on the agenda.

The Board acknowledged receipt of the correspondence.

A. Proposed 2020 Heritage Trout Designation – Wolf Creek, Mono County

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) will be proposing new designated Heritage and Wild Trout Waters during the 2020 cycle to the California Fish and Game Commission. One proposed location will be Wolf Creek, Mono County. This Designated Heritage Trout Water would support Lahontan Cutthroat Trout within their historic drainages to provide anglers a unique opportunity to catch native trout in a manner that promotes conservation. Designated Heritage Trout waters are restricted from stocking of hatchery-origin trout and angling regulations are implemented that allow trout populations to sustain themselves through natural reproduction.

Supervisor Peters:

- Requested CDFW come present information about the program to the Board at a future meeting

B. Letter re: DeChambeau Ponds and Wilson Creek

A letter from Hillary Hansen Jones to the Board regarding DeChambeau Ponds and Wilson Creek and comments made by Bartshe Miller, Eastern Sierra Policy Director of the Mono Lake Committee.

C. DeChambeau Ranch/Ponds Illegal Activity Report

Report from Gordon Martin, Inyo National Forest District Ranger, and Thomas Torres, District Wildlife Biologist, regarding DeChambeau Ranch/Ponds illegal activity.

Hillary Hansen Jones:

- Response to Forest Service official illegal activity report

7. REGULAR AGENDA - MORNING

A. Election Update

Departments: Elections

(Shannon Kendall) - Update on November 3, 2020 General Election.

Action: None.

Shannon Kendall, Clerk-Recorder-Registrar:

- Everyone will be receiving vote by mail ballots, they will go out by October 5

- Still need poll workers
- All six polling locations will be open on Election Day from 7AM-8PM

Scheereen Dedman, Assistant Clerk-Recorder-Registrar:

- Registration is higher than the last election
- Social Media accounts @MonoCountyElections

B. COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update

(Robert C. Lawton) - Update on Countywide response and planning related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including reports from the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Unified Command (UC), and the various branches of the EOC, including Community Support and Economic Recovery, Joint Information Center (JIC), and Public Health.

Action: None.

Bob Lawton, CAO:

- Stepping up Latinx outreach efforts
- Employee health screenings
- Mammoth Hospital status is green
- No positives in the most recent round of tests
- Plans for winter activities

Dr. Tom Boo, Mono County Health Officer:

- Mammoth Hospital anticipating positive test results from visitors recently tested
- Nothing to affect County's status on State's tiered system
- California Department of Public Health has hired a former health officer to be a liaison to counties

Justin Caporusso, Public Information Manager:

- The press release for the order regarding employee screenings will be going out later today

Alicia Vennos, Economic Development Director:

- Attending Cal Travel meetings – Travel and Tourism Advocacy Association for California. There is a group of primarily high-altitude destination resorts concerned about outdoor dining only restrictions and they are working on plans for the winter.

C. Permit Fee Adjustment for Spas and Pools

Departments: Public Health

(Louis Molina) - Proposed resolution: Permit Fee Adjustment for Spa Pools Ordered Closed Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Action: No action. Consensus from Board to move forward with proposed resolution.

Louis Molina, Environmental Health:

- Introduced item

D. Letter of Support - Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act

Departments: Board of Supervisors

A letter from the Mono County Board of Supervisors to Senator Dianne Feinstein supporting the Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act.

Action: No action. Consensus from Board to move forward with sending letter of support.

Supervisor Corless:

- Introduced item

E. Mono County Public Employees - Proposed Revision to Personnel Rule 330(C)

Departments: Human Resources/CAO

(David R Butters) - Proposed resolution of the Mono County Board of Supervisors Amending Mono County Public Employees Union Personnel System 330(C) to clarify when employees may respond to local emergencies by performing volunteer fire fighting/search and rescue services during their regular work hours without loss of pay.

Action: Adopt proposed resolution of the Mono County Board of Supervisors Amending Mono County Public Employees Union Personnel System 330(C) to clarify when employees may respond to local emergencies by performing volunteer fire fighting/search and rescue services during their regular work hours without loss of pay.

Stump moved; Peters seconded

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no

R20-84

Dave Butters, HR Director:

- Introduced item

F. Employment Agreement - County Counsel

Departments: Human Resources/CAO

(David R Butters) - Proposed resolution approving a contract with Stacey Simon as County Counsel, and prescribing the compensation, appointment and conditions of said employment.

Action: Announce Fiscal Impact. Approve Resolution #R20-85, approving a contract with Stacey Simon as County Counsel, and prescribing the compensation, appointment and conditions of said employment. Authorize the Board Chair to execute said contract on behalf of the County.

Fiscal Impact: Total cost for the remainder of fiscal year (2020-2021) will be \$286,201 of which \$177,000 is annual salary and \$109,201 is the cost of benefits. The cost for a full fiscal year would be \$290,563 of which \$180,000 is annual salary and \$110,563 is the cost of benefits. This salary increase is not budgeted, and we will need to look for budget savings or contingency during the mid-year budget adjustment process.

Kreitz moved; Gardner seconded

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no

R20-85

Bob Lawton, CAO:

- Introduced item

8. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None.

9. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session: 12:10 PM

Reconvened: 1:02 PM

Nothing to report out of Closed Session.

A. Closed Session - Labor Negotiations

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS. Government Code Section 54957.6. Agency designated representative(s): Bob Lawton, Stacey Simon, Dave Butters, Janet Dutcher, and Anne Frievalt. Employee Organization(s): Mono County Sheriff's Officers Association (aka Deputy Sheriff's Association), Local 39 - majority representative of Mono County Public Employees (MCPE) and Deputy Probation Officers Unit (DPOU), Mono County Paramedic Rescue Association (PARA), Mono County Public Safety Officers Association (PSO). Unrepresented employees: All.

B. Closed Session - Public Employee Evaluation

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION. Government Code section 54957. Title: County Administrative Officer.

THE AFTERNOON SESSION WILL RECONVENE NO EARLIER THAN 1:00 P.M.

10. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None.

11. REGULAR AGENDA - AFTERNOON

A. Budget Public Hearing and Planned Adoption for FY 2020-21

Departments: Finance, CAO

(Janet Dutcher, Robert Lawton, Megan Mahaffey) -

Public hearing and adoption of the 2020-2021 County of Mono Recommended Budget, as presented or amended. The Mono County Recommended Budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 is available on the Mono County Website: **[2020-21 Recommended Budget for Adoption](#)**

Recommended Action: 1. Conduct public budget hearing. 2. Adopt resolution R20-86, A Resolution of the Mono County Board of Supervisors Adopting the Final Mono County Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, as presented or amended.

Janet Dutcher, Finance Director:

- Introduced item

Public Hearing opened: 1:10 PM

Public Comment:

None

Public Hearing closed: 1:11 PM

Gardner moved; Peters seconded

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no

R20-86

B. List of Allocated Positions for Fiscal Year 2020-21

Departments: Administration

(Robert Lawton, Janet Dutcher) - Proposed resolution to adopt the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Position Allocation List for positions classified in the Recommended Budget.

Action: Adopt Resolution R20-87, Adopting a Schedule for Position Classifications in Conjunction with the Adoption of the 2020-2021 Budget.

Gardner moved; Kreitz seconded

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no

R20-87

Janet Dutcher, Finance Director:

- Introduced item

C. Urgency Item

Departments: Board of Supervisors

Urgency items prohibiting open fires on private property within the unincorporated areas of Mono County and closing County campgrounds due to extreme fire danger.

Action: Adopt proposed urgency Ordinance ORD20-09, Prohibiting Open Fires on Private Property within the Unincorporated Areas of Mono County and Closing County Campgrounds Due to Extreme Fire Danger.

Kreitz moved; Gardner seconded

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no

ORD20-09

12. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Supervisor Corless:

- On the 20th, we participated in the NACo meeting with Congressman Cook regarding the public lands payments to counties
- The next week, I participated in the Mammoth Voices Leadership Academy
- Invited to a meeting on the 27th with Los Angeles Department of Water and Power regarding sage-grouse conservation in Long Valley and the need for them to follow up on a letter they wrote to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. From here on out, Community Development Director, Wendy Sugimura, will participate on behalf of Mono County.
- RCRC Executive Committee Meeting focused on recruitment of new CEO and President for RCRC
- Was out a few times over the last few weeks trail hosting in the Mammoth Lakes Basin as part of the Mammoth Lakes Trail System Trail Host Program.
- The Wildlife Stewardship Team that is working on wildlife fencing or system to prevent vehicle wildlife collisions met last Thursday. Unfortunately, CalTrans was not selected to move forward in the grant process with the Wildlife Conservation Board.
- Participated in another Coping with COVID meeting
- Spent a lot of time over the weekend communicating with people about what was going on with the fires, visitation, and related issues.

Supervisor Gardner:

- On Thursday August 27 I attended a meeting of the County Treasury Oversight Committee. We reviewed current investment reports, which were included in today's agenda. It is important to note that the current increase in the stock market does not really translate into increased investment returns for the County portfolio. This is because of low interest rates and appropriate restrictions on County investments.
- The last three weekends the County has supported an outside information table at the Mono Basin Visitor Center. Staffed by Mono Lake volunteers properly masked and distanced, these volunteers have provided information to from 100 to 400 visitors daily. The Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association (ESIA) also opened its bookstore Saturdays and Sundays, providing tourists with opportunities to buy books about the area and other items.
- On Wednesday Sept. 2 I attended a meeting of the Mono County Fish and Wildlife Commission. Topics discussed included a report from the CA DFW on the status of their fish hatcheries, proposed regulation changes, and other issues.
- Also, on Wednesday Sept. 2 I attended the June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee meeting. Topics at the meeting included an update on improving Suddenlink service, information about the June Lake Public Utility District, a COVID update, and elections information.
- On Friday Sept. 4 I attended a meeting of the Kutzadika Tribal Council. Topics discussed included the continued effort towards formal Federal recognition of the tribe, comments from the tribe about the Tioga Inn project, and other various tribal activities and concerns. The Kutzadika Tribal Council is also interested in suggesting opportunities to rename selected landmarks in Mono County to acknowledge and recognize the history of native people in our area.

Supervisor Kreitz:

- On September 3rd, I attended the Mammoth Voices Town Council Candidate Forum. I appreciate the opportunity provided to learn more about the four candidates for the two seats. I thank them all for running for office!
- Also on September 3, had a call with some of the organizers of the Proposition 15 campaign. Proposition 15, if passed, will increase property taxes by removing Proposition 13 protection on commercial property valued over \$3mm and unsecured property over \$500,000. Proceeds from the increased taxes and revenues would be significant for our local schools.

Supervisor Peters:

- 8/20: Chair Corless and I participated in the virtual fly-in with Congressman Cook
- 8/20: Attended NaCO west region meeting
- 8/25: Tourism Commission
- 8/26: Human Services and Education NACo meeting
- 8/28: Resiliency Advisory Board NACo meeting
- 9/2: Fisheries Commission meeting, Economic Recovery Branch meeting. Acknowledged Alicia Vennos and Jeff Simpson for their continued coordinated effort to have the Economic Recovery Branch meetings be a County-wide meeting with Chambers and business leaders, with representation from the Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mammoth Mountain.
- 9/3: CSAC Board of Directors meeting, Community Conversation, Antelope Valley RPAC meeting - requested letter of support from the Board for the recruitment and retention of a law enforcement officer on the Bridgeport Ranger District.
- 9/4 and 9/6: Slink Fire stakeholder meetings
- ESUSD is planning to return to in person classes on September 23

Supervisor Stump:

- 8-25 - CSA 1 - The CSA voted to purchase a pressure washer for use by Public Works to help maintain the Crowley Community Center Campus. They also approved a 10 year improvement plan which includes further Community Center Improvements, redo the County Tennis Court behind the Sheriff Substation, and a bike / pedestrian connector trail between Lower Rock Creek Road and Crowley Lake Drive near Toms Place.
- 8-26 - Tri Valley Water Commission - The Commission is scheduling a presentation from Cal Fish and Wildlife for their next meeting on Fish Slough Concerns.
- There were, perhaps are still, problems getting the Bishop School District to deliver lunches to their students that live in the Tri Valley. Those students live inside the Eastern Sierra School District and the two Districts had not communicated with each other on how to handle lunch delivery in the era of Covid. These lunches are for those that qualify for free or reduced priced lunches. I want to thank Kathy Peterson, Stacey Adler, and the Inyo Office of Education for working on resolving this. Also, Mono County IT has communicated with the Inyo County Office of Education on what Mono could do in the Tri Valley to improve wi/fi access for those needing it for remote learning.
- I also want to thank Supervisor Kreitz for working on the Census item that we heard today. It all started as a result of a Census Worker that lives in Chalfant that contacted me because she is not being allowed to work in any Tri Valley Community leaving those Communities under-counted. Problem seems to be extended to other areas of the County.

- 9-3 - Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District - The final action required by that Board to enable Mono County to appoint an alternate GBUAPCD Board representative was taken. The Mono Board now needs to make that appointment and notify the Air District. Discussions continue with DWP on water efficient methods to meet the Court ordered dust mitigation on the Owens Dry Lake.
- 9-4 - Agenda review for the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority. Next meeting Thursday 9-10.
- 9-4 - On site meeting with INF White Mountain District Ranger Phillip DeSenze, Nancy Fiddler and Rhonda Duggan to discuss trash and debris issues at the shooting area on Forest Service land between McGee Creek and the BLM Crowley Lake Campground. Thank you to Phillip for coming up and to Rhonda for attending. A big thank you to Nancy for being part of the Sierra Trash clean up group and identifying this site as one requiring attention.

ADJOURNED AT 1:45 PM

ATTEST

**STACY CORLESS
CHAIR OF THE BOARD**

**QUEENIE BARNARD
SENIOR DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD**