

Mono County Collaborative Planning Team

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DRAFT MINUTES

January 28, 2021 – 9 a.m.

Members present: Stacy Corless and Bob Gardner – Mono County Supervisors; Sarah Rea – Town of Mammoth Lakes Councilmember; Colonel Daniel Wittman and Douglas Power – Marine Corps. Training Center; Dennee Alcala – Caltrans; Steve Nelson – BLM; Jan Cutts – Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest; Heidi Calvert – CA Fish & Wildlife; Jeff Fitzsimmons – Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board; Lesley Yen, Philip DeSenze and Gordon Martin – Inyo National Forest; Elsa Jimenez- LADWP

Staff present: Wendy Sugimura, Kelly Karl, Matt Paruolo, Liz Grans, Justin Nalder, Becky Peratt

Presenters: Holly Alpert and Rick Kattelmann – Eastern California Water Association; Janet Hatfield – Plumas Corporation

Public: Sandy Hogan, Sherryl Sorensen, Wendilyn Grasseschi

***AGENDA SEQUENCE** (see note below)

1. **CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ATTENDEE INTRODUCTIONS:** Meeting called to order at 9:01am by Supervisor Corless who led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance, and all members present introduced themselves.

**Note, recording began after pledge of allegiance*

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** No public comments

**Items were taken out of order and approval of minutes was moved to the end of the meeting due to the length of the roll call for minutes approval*

3. **MINUTES:** Review/approve draft minutes from April 30, 2020; July 30, 2020; October 29, 2020

4. **INTRODUCTIONS**

- a. Colonel Daniel J. Wittnam, Commanding Officer, U.S. Marine Corps MWTC: Colonel Wittman discussed his background with the Marines, mission of the base, and current base operations.
- b. Lesley Yen, Forest Supervisor, Inyo National Forest: Lesley Yen discussed her background with the Forest Service and focus areas for the new administration that are important to the Forest Service.

5. AGENCY ROUNDTABLE: Agency planning issues and pending projects

- a. Steve Nelson/BLM: Discussed managing COVID and vaccinations, Great American Outdoor Act funding, section 368 corridor review and draft report, the designation of the scenic area in Mono County, and his thanks to those involved in this past fire season.
- b. Jeff Fitzsimmons/Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board: Discussed teleworking impacts, which have been minimal, staff continues to do their work.
- c. Jan Cutts/Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest: Discussed the Bridgeport Winter Recreation area which now has good levels of snow, new staff members and the winter rec crew, housing of seasonal staff during COVID, working on summer staffing and other staffing updates, and projects including the Bi-State Sage Grouse project, the Forest Restoration Project and others. Also discussed the Great American Outdoor Act and hopes for funding for work on trailheads and other projects such as the Buckeye Hotsprings Project.
- d. Heidi Calvert/CA Fish and Wildlife: Discussed staff teleworking during COVID, fieldwork happening safely, and essential services operating with protections and plans for COVID. Also discussed new staff members and retirements. Regarding hatcheries – the NPDS permit from Lahontan is drafted, hatcheries impacted by the bacterial outbreak have been disinfected and are bringing eggs back, might be light the next year or two though. Discussed new regulations for inland trout, draft bighorn sheep management plan, and explained CDFW tribal liaisons and that she is now the tribal liaison for CDFW-6.
- e. Dennee Alcalá/Caltrans: Snow plow operator was hit by avalanche and plunged into Walker River, fortunately only minor injuries and now getting the plow out of the river. Discussed road closures due to current snow conditions, and that the office is open to the public but majority of staff are still teleworking. Received approval from the Board of Supervisors for the SR 120 rescission. Discussed upcoming meetings and the last ATP meeting, the Sustainable Communities Grant application, and comments being accepted on the stage management plan for the state highway system. Discussed project status updates including the pavement project in Benton and the Sonora Junction shoulder project.
- f. Philip DeSenze, Gordon Martin, Lesley Yen/Inyo National Forest: Rock Creek Snow Park is operating, Convict Lake also plans to reopen, both areas are looking to enhance duties and management in the year ahead. McGee Creek – anticipating sale of pack station. Grooming trails but may be delayed due to depth of snow, have new trail system out of the propane tank area being groomed by the Town and will see how it goes, working with the Town to answer Mammoth Mountain's development plan and how it impacts the forest and the private properties they have taken over. Great American Outdoors Act stuff coming up, in the initial stages of planning for Subpart C, the snow plan for the forest. Other projects coming up - will be doing a pilot program to corral wedding traffic and implement a permit system for wedding events and making decisions later in the year on how to manage those permits.
- g. Doug Power/Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Center: As a result of the avalanche shift workers are stuck at base or at home and discussed the impacts of that on the base and base operations. Battalion is currently on the mountain and training but snow is coming down so fast having a hard time keeping a trail open. When training at the base, soldiers aren't at base, they are up on the

mountain 24-7 and keeping a road open for them is a big deal.

- h. Sarah Rea/Town of Mammoth Lakes: The stay-at-home order was lifted so trying to navigate with lodging operators and Dr. Boo's health order. Have come to agreement that lodging can be at 70 percent of lodging with 24 hours in between. Commend Town staff on working with the community to come to this compromise. Will be working with restaurants next.
- i. Wendy Sugimura/Mono County Staff: Discussed the General Plan Amendment and the update to the Safety Element, and discussed development applications in process (which are more recreation oriented than in the past). Also discussed the Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District, Sustainable Groundwater Management Agency and the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority— still involved in groundwater management in the area. Sage Grouse - interagency effort to discuss management on LADWP lands.
- j. Bob Gardner/Mono County Board of Supervisors: Discussed upcoming Dispersed Camping Summit, meeting to discuss short term strategy for this season and long term strategy for policy and regulations.
- k. Stacy Corless/Mono County Board of Supervisors: Discussed the upcoming Eastern Sierra Interpretative Association meeting – Beth Pratt, wildlife conservation expert with NWF, will be presenting, and there will also be representations from the Wildlife Stewardship Team to discuss the 395 wildlife crossing and fundraising for the project. Also discussed upcoming racial equity trainings and working towards equity in everything we do as local government.

Break from 10:46 to 10:56

6. WILDFIRE UPDATE

- a. Regional Forest and Wildfire Capacity Program (RFWCP) and the Inyo National Forest Eastern Sierra Climate and Communities Resilience Project (aka the Mammoth Donut)
 - i. Holly Alpert and Rick Kattelman/Eastern California Water Association - RFWCP: Discussed the RFWCP and the grant that ECWA received from SNC. The RFWCP is a new state program aiming to build capacity for wildfire resistance and ecosystem health. The grant covers all of Mono County and parts of Alpine and Inyo. Discussed how they want to build this capacity and goals. Have a set of projects ready to go if/when state funding is available, but let them know if there are any local projects they are not yet aware of.
 - ii. Janet Hatfield/Plumas Corporation – ESCCRP (aka “the donut”): Discussed the Eastern Sierra Climate and Communities Resilience Project, including the area of the project, what's proposed, goals of landscape restoration, and the SNC grant timeline.
- b. Mountain View Fire – Coordination, Recovery & Housing
 - i. Justin Nalder/Mono County – Discussed the fire incident and recovery efforts, implementation of the emergency operations center, mission objectives and the three-stage approach to achieve those objectives. Phase 1 is complete and looking towards Phase 2 but the storm delayed that – will be 3 to 4 months of work once the ground is uncovered. Also discussed funding for housing for those displaced by the fire and have come up with an intermediate housing plan, and cost recovery.

Before moving on to the next item, Chair Corless noted that we had missed an agency update from Elsa Jimenez from LADWP. Elsa informed the meeting that she would be replacing Michael Grayheck moving forward and discussed requests that have been made, expansion of activities at local facilities, and noted that snow surveys will be rescheduled for next week.

7. DISCUSSION OF VISITATION MANAGEMENT UNDER COVID RESTRICTIONS

- a. Stacy Corless/Mono County Board of Supervisors – Suggested that at the April meeting to invite ESSRP to discuss COVID issues and visitation. There is much overlap in these meetings and rather than say the same thing at two meetings, remove redundancies. Will look to streamline and combine efforts in the April meeting.
- b. Matt Paruolo/Mono County – Discussed his BoS report for February 9 on recreation projects currently being undertaken.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Will have an item on recreation and visitation management and partnering with the ESSRP group, and maybe another wildfire project update.

9. ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 29, 2021, at 9 a.m.

Note that minutes from previous meetings were not taken up for vote during this meeting.

Submitted by Becky Peratt, clerk