

# Mono County Local Agency Formation Commission

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## MINUTES

May 6, 2015  
(Adopted May 21, 2015)

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**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Fred Stump & Tim Alpers (by phone), Mono County; Jo Bacon, Town of Mammoth Lakes; Earl Henderson & Hank Brown, special districts; John Ross, public member; Bruce Woodworth, alternate public member.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Scott Burns, executive officer; Brent Calloway, analyst; C.D. Ritter, secretary

**GUEST:** Chris Lizza, Lee Vining FPD

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**1. CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Earl Henderson called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. in the Town/County Conference Room, Minaret Village Mall, Mammoth Lakes.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**3. MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** Approve minutes of June 4, 2014, as submitted. (*Brown/Bacon. Ayes: 4. Abstain due to absence: Henderson & Stump.*)

**4. PUBLIC HEARING:** 2015-16 Preliminary Budget

Scott Burns presented a status-quo budget from last year. Special Districts (25) are not well off, so three agreed to split third of funding for special districts. No significant proposals, except Southern Mono Healthcare District providing services in Bishop. Question if written approval is needed. Reviewing SOIs and MSRs, integrating into other planning documents. Release EIR this summer, work with Lee Vining and Mono City FPDs on possible consolidation

**OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT:** Brown: Enough money for consolidation, but mentioned possible grant. Lee Vining FPD = \$27,816, Mono City FPD = \$16,100. Make sure have enough money to cover their expenses.

Burns: Projected to be slow process [consolidation]. Both boards would have to concur. Make sure of comfort level to move forward. The LTC proposed \$10,000-\$15,000 to look at emergency access to all FPD sites. Other sources might provide funding, approaching \$25,000-\$35,000. Might not have to tap separate budget item for it. Also consider consolidation of healthcare, wealthy districts. Normally ask agencies to fund reorganization study; didn't meet income qualifications for CDBG grant.

Stump: List teleconference location on agenda. Have Alpers listen in.

Bacon: Call third meeting if needed for budget amendment. **CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENT.**

**MOTION:** Approve preliminary budget (Stump/Bacon. Ayes: 6-0.)

**5. MEMBERSHIP**

**A. Resignation of public member John Ross:** Initiated recruitment. Thought alternate would become regular member, but law does not allow that. Solicit for regular and alternate members. LAFCO determines who gets appointed. Vote from each entity.

**MOTION:** Accept resignation with regret, initiate public solicitation for regular and alternate, interview June 3. (Bacon/Brown. Ayes: 6-0.)

B. **Public solicitation for vacancy:** Under way.

C. **Appointment at June 3 meeting:** Review letter of interest.

## **6. POTENTIAL MERGER OF MONO CITY & LEE VINING FPDs; REORGANIZATION REVIEW:**

Supervisor Tim Alpers, whose district includes these entities, listened by phone. Burns had conversations with both districts over recent months. One letter focused on grant opportunity (didn't work out). Both districts want more information. Reorganization review/outreach needed at this point. Both recognize it'll take time. Streamlined process if both agree to go forward.

Lizza: Lee Vining fire captain, not representing board of commissioners. Fire fighter for 10 years. Lee Vining covers huge area, get 100 calls/year. In over its head with activity and management deficiencies. Due to lack of population, a merger is appealing. Need to understand the issues, to know what it would mean to merge districts. Lack of resources in both. How could they get equalized? How to manage property tax revenues? No grasp of numbers.

Stump: Contact Roberta Reed for technical assistance, Stump offered to send to Lizza an email.

Lizza: State puts out numbers. Comparing Lee Vining budget to Big Pine, Independence, or Lone Pine, they have more money.

Stump: Inyo decided long ago to disperse tax revenues to districts and is unique for that. Tribal money shows on state support. Bishop Paiute contribution is quite large.

Lizza: Commissioners could not attend meeting. Both FPDs have significant capital needs, but no capacity for grant research. Only solution seems to be a merger. Include Conway and Lundy?

Stump: Only time in Mono history FPD expanded and got prop tax was in June Lake. Could gain more responsibility, but not more revenue.

Brown: Most FPDs in county are dirt poor.

Lizza: Can't even have decent training; at standstill now.

Henderson: Local LAFCOs are urged to consolidate districts.

Bacon: Some money to help learn of options?

Burns: Get in contact with finance staff, find studies elsewhere. Could appoint formal reorganization committee, but staff time is tied up next six months. However, if both districts are ready, could formalize reorganization process. Maybe issues are not that complex.

Stump: Suggestion: Respond in writing to both, obtain resolution from each board, list of questions to be answered, suggestions for seats on governing board (three vs. two), make sure Supervisor Alpers is in loop. Witnessed turf wars, did not want LAFCO to become target if perceived "County is doing something to them."

Lizza: Nobody's taking a position due to multiple issues. Ask for resolution in support of LAFCO assisting to get answers.

Henderson: Consensus of both boards. Not understand how funding is distributed.

Lizza: Boards have been asked, but don't have answers.

Woodworth: Fesko's blue ribbon group involved? Lizza: No.

Burns: Ask for LAFCO technical assistance, solicit list of questions, and provide information on what consolidated government board would look like.

## **7. INYO LAFCO REVIEW OF SOUTHERN MONO HEALTHCARE DISTRICT'S BISHOP SERVICES:**

Scott Burns was contacted in February by Northern Inyo Hospital to convene emergency meeting to consider the matter. Representatives, staff from both hospitals, planning divisions, and both LAFCOs attended. Unclear about NIH's contention that Southern Mono Healthcare District (SMHD) needed approval to provide services. Agreed that Mono counsel would talk to Inyo's counsel, but Inyo didn't want to authorize funding for counsel. Healthcare districts can provide services outside district. Inyo LAFCO provided staff report in packet, directed staff to prepare letter to SMHD that it is subject to requirements of Inyo LAFCO. Letter not yet sent.

Looking at SOIs, our sphere acknowledges providing service in Bishop and Bridgeport. SOI didn't suggest boundary be extended into Inyo, but need to consider regional healthcare system to serve

Eastern Sierra. Existing districts would reorganize into single entity. Northern Inyo Hospital boundaries are incorrect; wants readjustment to serve Chalfant, Paradise, and Swall Meadows. Sphere extends east to state line and north of Bridgeport.

Stump: If extend service, should be SMHD. Burns: Issues cross county lines, so must come to agreement.

Ross: Precedent elsewhere? Burns: Yes. Funding level gets small fraction from property taxes. Could operate as private entities. Healthcare in Mammoth sends to Reno and Bishop. LAFCO originally was involved with infrastructure, so healthcare does not fit in easily. Healthcare district law says it's OK to serve beyond boundaries.

Stump: Potential for head-butting exists. Burns: Mono counsel spoke to Inyo counsel, and both LAFCO staffs want to work together. Competition for orthopedic services is the issue. Not enough patient load to justify both hospitals fully staffing orthopedics.

Stump: If competition improves patient care, I'm all for it. If Northern Inyo Hospital gave permission, it invited this.

Burns: Some agreement, but still sorting out. Agreement would exempt from LAFCO review.

Calloway: If operate out of district, should go through LAFCO.

**8. SPHERES OF INFLUENCE (SOIs) & MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEWS (MSRs):** Brent Calloway recalled looking at reality of updating MSRs, lots of information in them six to seven years ago. Small staff can't devote time now. Requirements in MSR are quite simple in Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg. Most large LAFCOs update only required part.

Model has interactive format. Might need account to get into ArcGIS Online Mono and Mammoth Lakes. Look up Mono LAFCO to see boundaries, districts in county. On/off buttons for items. Instead of paper maps, go to webpage. Mutual water companies are shown on map. MSR button shows dots. Service review determination, SOI findings, SOI recommendations, reorganization recommendation. Land use designations (zoning in town) in county are shown in individual colors. Vacant distinguished from developed parcels. County buildout data with density multiplied by parcel size. Hilton Creek CSD has website link with budgets, ordinances, minutes, meeting dates, General Plan map with fault, flood hazards, avalanche mapping, development credits, Williamson Act contracts, scenic overlay, etc. AB8 is reference to state requirements for secured property tax disbursement. Have all background information, want to ensure words make sense; that's all that needs to change. Haven't reviewed all MSRs this year. Have EIR deadline if want to include MSRs.

Stump: Helpful to list potential changes? Calloway: Some require formal processes. Stump: Most are status quo. Burns: Reorganization is contemplated, could take time. Refinements/adjustments shown on map.

Woodworth: Department of Water Resources has information.

**9. ADJOURN** at 4:27 p.m. to next meeting at 2 p.m. on June 3, 2015.

*Prepared by C.D. Ritter, LAFCO secretary*