

**Mono Basin Regional Planning Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, August 11, 2021, 6:30pm**  
**remote/virtual meeting via Zoom/conference call**

**Members present:** Kevin Brown, Lisa Cutting, Ronda Kauk, Duncan King, Elin Ljung. **Members absent:** None.

**Public attendees & presenters:** Mono County: Scheereen Dedman, Bob Gardner, Gerry LeFrancois, Bentley Regehr. Public: Grace Anderson, Paul Ashby, Jacob Burkholder, Lynn Boulton, Margaret Eissler, Mark Heckman, Mike Light, Chris Lizza, Connie Millar, David Rosky, Jason Small, Margy Verba.

**1. Call to order & pledge of allegiance:** 6:31pm

**2. Public comment:** None.

**3. Review minutes from July 14, 2021:** Duncan moved to approve the minutes, Lisa seconded, motion passed unanimously.

**4. Supervisor Gardner's report:** Had a sudden spike in Covid cases in Lee Vining and June Lake because a lab tech in Valencia had made a mistake and those results were not valid; many people retested and most got negative results. Case numbers are up countywide: a few weeks ago we had 4 cases per 100K, last week 15, now 18; most cases unvaccinated and a few breakthrough cases; two unvaccinated visitors were hospitalized here. Board of Supervisors put into effect the indoor mask mandate (with the exception of eating in restaurants); must keep that mandate in place for three weeks and if numbers go down it could be changed. No restrictions on number of people indoors at one time. Outdoors people should mask if in crowds or in close proximity. Big concern is about children under age 12; 93,000 cases of pediatric Covid nationwide.

Dispersed camping effort brought attention to people camping on County roads and in County Park parking lots, and there was interest in creating a countywide ordinance to ban camping in those areas. Last month the ordinance passed at the Board of Supervisors 3-2 with opposition from Supervisors who were concerned about people living out of their cars though there are many other places where people could do that; there was a technicality with the ordinance and it was passed again; it came up yesterday to be passed again in the consent agenda and it failed 2-2 since one of the Supervisors was absent from the meeting. Bob asked where in Mammoth a parking lot would be designated for people living out of their cars to stay the night. Camping is definitely an issue at Hess Park and County Park in the Mono Basin. A more specific ordinance would probably still be opposed by certain Supervisors because of the symbolic nature of their votes.

Caltrans project starting north of Lee Vining.

**5. & 6. Chair's report & Members' reports:** None.

**7. Inyo National Forest update:** Not present. Bentley will email new ranger Stephanie Heller for next month. Bob is working to organize a reception with the Mono Lake Volunteers to welcome Stephanie.

**8. Mono Basin Fire Safe Council:** Discussion about home hardening. New green waste dumpster was requested for Mono City. Next Fire Safe Council meeting is August 18 at 5:00pm.

**9. Housing subcommittee:** On July 16 Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti came to the Mono Basin and Bob talked with him about a list of DWP-related items, including buying land from LA to support affordable housing; mayor was generally agreeable and mentioned that DWP leases land to municipalities. Bob needs to email his deputy mayors and copy DWP folks to keep that process moving. Meeting in Bishop tomorrow and one of the agenda items is availability of DWP land for sale for affordable housing.

**10. Updates on recall election (Sheereen Dedman):** Tuesday, September 14 is the California gubernatorial recall election. Two questions on the ballot: 1) Do you want the Governor recalled? (yes or no); 2) Who should be governor instead? Regardless of how you answer the first question you can indicate someone for the second question. Ballots are mailing out to all registered Mono County voters on August 16. The state's voter guide has been mailed so people should receive that soon; County voter guide is online at [monocounty.ca.gov/elections](http://monocounty.ca.gov/elections). Traditional polling places around the County will be open on Election Day, 8:00am–5:00pm. Ballots can be returned at polling places the day of, at ballot boxes, or dropped into the mail with a postmark of Election Day or earlier. If anyone wants to be a poll worker that would be welcome. Email [elections@mono.ca.gov](mailto:elections@mono.ca.gov) with questions.

**11. Updates on SCE substation (Ray Pok):** Not present.

**12. Regional Transportation Improvement Program Updates (Gerry LeFrancois):** Every two years gas tax dollars come back to Mono County to be allocated for future transportation projects within county, town of Mammoth, and Caltrans District 9. For this coming cycle Mono County has \$4.6 million to be programmed over a five year period. Public works and Town staff look at pavement to see what roads are in the worst shape or need a minimum amount of maintenance to extend their life. An example of project is a possible paved bicycle path near Lower Rock Creek Road or a wildlife crossing overpass near the Green Church. Haven't forgotten the potential pedestrian path between Lee Vining and the Mobil station and this funding could apply to that project. RPAC could make a list of potential projects to get into the funding pipeline – future agenda item for RPAC.

**13. Mono Basin Community Plan Third Workshop:** Elin pulled out action items related to housing and those will be absorbed into the housing subcommittee for further action. Elin pulled out action items related to the Kutzadika'a Tribe and she and Ronda will review those. Kevin pulled out items related to transportation and connectivity. Lisa is gathering a list of items to check off the list – will bring that next month.

Kevin: Getting a bike/pedestrian path from Lee Vining to Mono City seems important. Question for Caltrans: any funding opportunities for pedestrian/cycling projects in the state? Kevin also has an SCE nexus for that idea, using the "high road" version of 1N07 behind the elementary school (road is USFS with SCE right of way), which goes for more than three miles. Gerry, Bentley, and Kevin could work on the Regional Transportation Plan connections. There's a path off the highway that connects Tahoe City to Pyramid Lake, so it can be done. Gerry provided [Caltrans' project map](#), requested the community to come up with a priority list of projects.

**14. Information items (planning staff):** See the project updates chart here: <https://monocounty.ca.gov/rpac-mono-basin/page/mono-basin-rpac-meeting>. Reminder: RPAC is not a public comment forum; these updates are for informational purposes only.

- Hip Camp: Finished the draft CEQA document but trying to address some public comment that was received; don't have a date for the project to come before the Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors yet.
- D&S Transfer Station: Pre-application will be at LDTAC on Monday; applying for a zoning change to industrial park to deal with trash and recycling; located just east of the Cottonwood Canyon Road and north of Highway 167; operation taking place right now does not have a record of permits and also applying for an increase in use through this process. Questions and concerns about why a land use designation is most appropriate pathway forward, how potential future uses are being analyzed, ways to address unpermitted use without a zoning change, precedent it would set is concerning. Mono Basin Community Plan Action 1.2 seems relevant here: "Action 1.2: Provide for low intensity uses (e.g., low density residential uses) outside of Lee Vining and Mono City. Higher intensity uses (e.g., limited commercial, industrial, and resource extraction) may be permitted if it can be demonstrated that the use cannot be accommodated in existing community areas, that the use is incompatible with existing community uses, or that the use directly relies on the availability of unique on-site resources. Higher intensity uses should not adversely impact the area's scenic, recreational, historical, and natural resources."
- SCE bathroom at Lundy Dam is locked and as a result the fisherman's trail has become a latrine. Why is it locked? Who has the key? Is cleaning the bathroom the problem? Matt Paruolo has looked into it and Bob will increase the focus on it. SCE should be maintaining and cleaning the bathrooms (should also be maintaining the restrooms in the upper Lee Vining Creek watershed).

#### **15. Upcoming agenda items:**

- Mono Basin Community Plan – fourth review to take place next month
- Housing subcommittee (standing item)
- New Mono Lake District Ranger Stephanie Heller
- Develop list of prioritized connectivity/transportation projects
- Caltrans: Lee Vining Rehab Project, Thin Blanket Project
- SCE: Lundy Dam restroom, Lee Vining hydro relicensing, ongoing substation questions
- Conway Ranch – fall 2021

#### **16. Adjourned: 8:12pm**