

**Mono Basin Regional Planning Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, April 13, 2022, 6:30pm**  
**remote/virtual meeting via Zoom/conference call**

**Members present:** Lisa Cutting, Ronda Kauk, Duncan King, Elin Ljung. **Members absent:** Bartshe Miller.

**Public attendees & presenters:** Mono County: Scheereen Dedman, Bob Gardner, Bentley Regehr, Wendy Sugimura. Public: Grace Anderson, Lynn Boulton, Kathleen Cecere, Margaret Eissler, John Ljung, Jake Suppa.

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

**2. Public comment:** Scheereen Dedman, Registrar of Voters: There's an election coming up June 7, which is the gubernatorial primary election and election for state-level positions (our new districts are State Assembly District 8, State Senate District 4, and Congressional District 3). Voter info guides will mail out at the end of April; ballots will be mailed no later than May 9. Poll workers desperately needed.

**3. Review minutes from March 9, 2022:** Elin moved to approve minutes as presented, Lisa seconded, Elin and Lisa voted to approve, Duncan abstained.

**4. Supervisor Gardner's report:** Attended the April 26 public meeting about Conway Ranch.

Went to Hawthorne to meet with Supervisor Cassie Hall, Army depot staff, and new demolition contractor. Will be detonating munitions Monday through Friday, 11:00am–1:00pm; working on getting info on Facebook. There won't be any detonations in May and June as the contractors change over. Cannot tell anyone when specific detonations are coming up because it's a security issue. Contractor has 500 employees, depot has 40. Munitions arrive to depot by truck through Nevada, not Mono County. Been destroying munitions since 1928; munitions from WWII are all gone now; destroy stuff that people no longer need and or stuff that has worn out. Agreed to come over in June/July and have a meeting with us. Their staff vacation over here, have a strong bond with the Mono Basin. Bob asked them about the big detonation in January and they didn't really answer. They referenced an old study that says detonations have no effect on Mono Basin; Bob asked if they have been here when stuff explodes (no). Public affairs staff member Debbie Sitten encouraged questions anytime.

Joe Meyer from Yosemite agreed to a virtual call next week with the Lee Vining Chamber and RPAC about plowing process for Tioga Pass. Will give weekly updates after they start to plow on April 15.

Citizens' Wildfire Academy session starts April 18 with Dave Carle. Will be recorded and available later once Bob finds someone to make a web page where presentations can live. Grace Anderson volunteered to pay for the web page fees.

Inyo National Forest is looking seriously at closing the lakebed of Grant Lake Reservoir to all day use and overnight camping this year. Can't drive motorized vehicles where there isn't a road and the lakebed doesn't have roads. The south end of Grant may no longer be filled like it used to be; Inyo needs to decide whether to develop a campground there. The Inyo will be enforcing the ban this year.

**5. Vice-Chair's report:** Thanks to Jake Suppa for attending tonight; Bob mentioned Jake's RPAC appointment will be on the Board of Supervisors' agenda for the first meeting in May.

## **6. Members' reports:**

Elin: Attended Housing Committee meeting and first Wildfire Academy presentation.

Duncan: Nothing to report.

Ronda: Walked down boardwalk below County Park and noticed a bunch of nails sticking up. Is there a Mono Lake Cemetery board or committee? There are lots of old plastic flowers out there that are now trash. Bob mentioned that some cemeteries have volunteer groups that keep them up; Gary Nelson was one interested person.

**7. Inyo National Forest update (Stephanie Heller):** Not present.

**8. Mono Basin Fire Safe Council:** See the meeting minutes online here (Bentley will email them to RPAC list as well): <https://monocounty.ca.gov/rpac-mono-basin/page/mono-basin-rpac-regular-meeting-32>.

**9. Mono Basin Housing Committee:** New Housing Opportunities Coordinator Sanjay Choudhrie joined the meeting last night and talked about his background and opportunities for the Mono Basin. Group still working on community surveys. Planning a community-wide, in-person meeting and/or series of meeting about housing in the summer at the Lee Vining Community Center. Next meeting is Tuesday, May 10, 7:00–8:00pm.

**10. Mono Basin Bear Committee (Margaret Eissler):** Paul McFarland set up an interagency meeting for April 21 to discuss human-bear management and how all partners can work together as a team. The DeChambeau Creek Foundation funded purchase of a bear locker to safely store the community food pantry at the Presbyterian Church.

**11. Approve RPAC letter of support for Kutzadika'a federal recognition:** Discussion about edits. Duncan moved that Elin incorporates RPAC comments and Lisa signs and sends, Elin seconded, unanimous vote in favor.

**12. Review and adopt resolution to meet virtually until May 11, 2022 (planning staff):** Elin moved to approve, Duncan seconded, unanimous vote in favor of adopting the resolution.

**13. Information items (planning staff):** See the project updates chart here: <https://monocounty.ca.gov/rpac-mono-basin/page/mono-basin-rpac-meeting>.

HipCamp: Coming before the Planning Commission on May 19.

Black Point Cinder Mine will be at Planning Commission next week. It falls under CEQA and NEPA since it's on Inyo National Forest land; they've done an environmental impact report that covers both.

A possible moratorium on short-term rentals will be discussed at next Board of Supervisors meeting.

**14. Upcoming agenda items:** Elect Chair and Vice-Chair, Conway Ranch 2022 operation plan; quarterly appearance of all land management agencies; discussion about the role of RPAC/meeting schedule; Lee Vining skate park; Lee Vining hydro relicensing at next public input stage. Try putting standing items below new items for the May meeting.

**15. Adjourned to next meeting, May 11, 2022: 7:27pm**