



**Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) - Joint Powers Authority (JPA)**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting**

**December 14, 2023, 8:30 a.m.**

**Dual Locations: Bishop Council Chambers and Mammoth Lakes Council Chambers**

**Bishop Council Chambers 377 West Line Street, Bishop, CA 93514**

**Mammoth Lakes Council Chambers 437 Old Mammoth Rd., Ste Z Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546**

Members Present: Chair Jeff Griffiths, Vice Chair Bob Gardner, Board Member Trina Orrill, Board Member Lynda Salcido, Board Member John Wentworth, Board Member Chris Bubser, Board Member Karen Schwartz, Board Member Stephen Muchovej

---

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. in the Bishop Council Chambers, 377 West Line Street, Bishop, CA.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board Member Karen Schwartz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no comments given at this time.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Jeff Griffiths requested that Items 4.1 and 4.2 be taken separately.

**4.1 Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 19, 2023.**

Moved by Board Member Stephen Muchovej

Seconded by Board Member Lynda Salcido

Approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 19, 2023.

For (7): Chair Jeff Griffiths, Vice Chair Bob Gardner, Board Member Trina Orrill, Board Member Lynda Salcido, Board Member John Wentworth, Board Member Karen Schwartz, and Board Member Stephen Muchovej

Absent (1): Board Member Chris Bubser

Carried (7 to 0)

#### **4.2 Adopt a Resolution for an Updated Conflict of Interest Code**

Legal Counsel Grace Weitz requested that this item be pulled from the agenda due to communications with the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) which resulted in the need for a 45 day public comment period prior to approving the Resolution to Adopt an Updated Conflict of Interest Code.

### **5. POLICY MATTERS**

#### **5.1 Introduce Aaron Wilcher, UC Extension Economic and Community Development Coordinator**

University of California (UC) Cooperative Extension Economic and Community Development Coordinator Aaron Wilcher spoke about his position with the Cooperative Extension program under the UC Agriculture and Natural Resources and reported that he would be working with both Inyo and Mono Counties on educational programs related to community and economic development, grant support, and planning.

Board Member Chris Bubser joined the meeting at 8:37 a.m.

There was discussion between Mr. Wilcher and members of the Board.

#### **5.2 Receive a Presentation on the Buttermilk Infrastructure and Recreation Initiative Final Deliverable**

Executive Director Elaine Kabala provided an overview of the Buttermilk Infrastructure and Recreation Planning Initiative (BIRPI) and introduced Alta Planning + Design Senior Associate Landscape Architect Tim Bevins and Principal James Powell.

Mr. Bevins and Mr. Powell outlined the information in the BIRPI PowerPoint presentation.

There was discussion between Alta Planning + Design staff, Ms. Kabala, and members of the Board.

**5.3 Receive an Update Regarding the Community Economic Resiliency Fund (CERF) from Stacy Corless, Sierra Business Council Government and Community Affairs Director**

Sierra Business Council (SBC) Government and Community Affairs Director Stacy Corless announced that SBC would be officially rebranded to California Jobs First (CERF) in January. Ms. Corless outlined the information in the Eastern Sierra CA Jobs First Region ESCOG Update PowerPoint presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

UC Extension Economic and Community Development Coordinator Aaron Wilcher asked Ms. Corless to speak about the sector trainings that California Jobs First (CERF) would provide in the future.

There was discussion between Ms. Corless, Executive Director Elaine Kabala, and members of the Board.

**5.4 Adopt 2024 ESCOG Meeting Calendar**

Executive Director Elaine Kabala outlined the information in the staff report.

There was discussion between Ms. Kabala and members of the Board.

Staff was given direction to work on securing a location to allow for future meetings of the ESCOG to be held on the second Wednesday of the month at 8:30 a.m., with the next meeting scheduled to be held in the City of Bishop Council Chambers on February 14, 2024.

**5.5 Discuss ESCOG JPA Core Competencies and Strategic Priorities**

Executive Director Elaine Kabala outlined the information in the staff report.

Board Member Muchovej left the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

There was discussion between Ms. Kabala and members of the Board.

**5.6 Inyo Mono Broadband Consortium Activities Report Provided by Eastern Sierra Regional Broadband Coordinator Scott Armstrong**

Eastern Sierra Regional Broadband Coordinator Scott Armstrong outlined the information in the Broadband Update PowerPoint presentation.

There was discussion between Mr. Armstrong and members of the Board.

## **5.7 Executive Director Update Report**

Executive Director Elaine Kabala provided updates on the following projects: The Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project (ESCCRP) a.k.a. The Donut Project, the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), the Buttermilk Infrastructure and Recreation Planning Initiative (BIRPI), the Towns 2 Trails Project, and the Caltrans Highways to Boulevard Grant.

There was discussion between Ms. Kabala and members of the Board.

## **6. BOARD MEMBER/AGENCY REPORTS**

Chair Jeff Griffiths requested that future meetings have twenty minutes set aside for Board Member/Agency Reports.

Board Member John Wentworth reported that the Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML) had a Short Term Rental (STR) Moratorium on Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Certificates in place, and announced that TOML was in the process of hiring a new Town Manager.

Board Member Chris Bubser announced that TOML expected to receive a letter from the State for the major portion of the funding for Phase 2B, the King Fisher, at The Parcel in Mammoth which would provide seventy-six additional units, bringing the total new affordable housing units in Mammoth to over one hundred and sixty upon completion.

Board Member Karen Schwartz announced that the City of Bishop's newly appointed Mayor was Jose Garcia and their new Mayor Pro Tem was Karen Kong. Ms. Schwartz reported that the Bishop Christmas Parade and business event was a success, said that the Friends of the Fair hosted an Academy Street party, and said there were several other successful parties the same night. She announced that the City of Bishop had won an award from American Planning Association for their Downtown Specific Plan, and said that they had authorized a contract to start working with a lobbyist.

Mr. Wentworth announced that TOML's new Mayor was Bill Sauser and their new Mayor Pro Tem was Chris Bubser.

Vice Chair Bob Gardner reported that Mono County Chief Administrative Officer Sandra Moberly was doing a great job.

Board Member Lynda Salcido spoke about the current issues at the Bridgeport Post Office and the possibility of moving the office to a new location. Ms. Salcido

reported that she had attended the County's Christmas Party yesterday, and said the County did not advance the moratorium on multi-family short term rentals.

Chair Jeff Griffiths announced that Inyo County Assistant County Administrator Sue Dishion was retiring and the County's other Assistant County Administrator Meaghan McCamman was going out on maternity leave for six months. He said that the County would be hiring another assistant.

There was discussion among members of the Board.

**7. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

This item was taken out of order.

There was discussion among members of the Board, no items for future agendas were requested.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m. to the Buttermilk Restroom Ribbon Cutting at noon, following which the ESCOG would adjourn to the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on February 14, 2024.

---

Angela Plaisted, Assistant Clerk