



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

Minutes of Regular Meeting

February 28, 2024, 8:30 a.m.

437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite Z, Mammoth Lakes

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 8:38 a.m. in the Council Chamber, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Member Lynda Salcido led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML) Town Manager Dan Holler thanked the ESCOG for the work they had done over the years and announced that he was retiring effective tomorrow and that TOML Admin Services/Finance Director Rob Patterson would step into the position of Town Manager effective March 1, 2024.

Board Member Chris Bubser joined the meeting at 8:40 a.m.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Board Member Lynda Salcido

Seconded by Board Member Karen Schwartz

Approve the Consent Agenda.

For (8): 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, and Board Member Stephen Muchovej

Carried (8 to 0)

4.1 Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 14, 2023

4.2 Adopt a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Adopting Modifications to the Conflicts of Interest Code as Proposed by the Fair Political Practices Commission

4.3 Adopt 2024 ESCOG Meeting Calendar

4.4 Correspondence: Golden State Finance Authority Grant Advance Repayment Letter

5. POLICY MATTERS

5.1 Introduce Tyrone Grandstrand, Mono County Housing Opportunities Manager

Mono County Housing Opportunities Manager Tyrone Grandstrand introduced himself, provided his background information and discussed some of the projects he had worked on since starting in his position with the County.

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

5.2 Receive an Update from Rob Patterson, Mammoth Lakes Admin Services/Finance Director, on the Eastern Sierra Air Alliance

TOML Admin Services/Finance Director Rob Patterson provided an update on potential changes to the governance structure of the Eastern Sierra Air Alliance and discussed potential funding options, expansion, education, and public outreach.

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

5.3 Approve the incorporation of the Town of Mammoth Lakes Project List as an Appendix to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and provide direction to determine appropriate process to incorporate specific projects within the CEDS.

TOML Town Manager Dan Holler outlined the information in the staff report.

There was discussion between Mr. Holler, Executive Director Elaine Kabala, and members of the Board.

Staff was given direction to determine the process necessary to have the Economic Development Administration (EDA) accept the project list, and to work with other jurisdictions to develop similar lists.

Moved by Board Member Lynda Salcido

Seconded by Board Member Stephen Muchovej

Approve the incorporation of the Town of Mammoth Lakes Project list as an Appendix to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

For (8): 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, and Board Member Stephen Muchovej

Carried (8 to 0)

5.4 Receive an Update Regarding the California Jobs First from Stacy Corless, Sierra Business Council Government and Community Affairs Director and Discuss ESCOG Project Priorities for Submission for Catalyst Funding

The Board went into recess at 9:52 a.m.

The Board reconvened at 10:02 a.m.

Sierra Business Council Government and Community Affairs Director Stacy Corless outlined the information in the California Jobs First Update presentation and announced that there was a High Road Transition Collaborative (HRTC) meeting scheduled to be held on Friday, March 1st in Bishop with a virtual option as well.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

University of California (UC) Cooperative Extension Economic and Community Development Coordinator Aaron Wilcher discussed the project list from the CEDS versus CA Jobs First and said that he felt they were good opportunities to continue support of the ESCOG in prioritization of projects and invited further discussion on how to do that as a region.

There was discussion between Ms. Corless, Ms. Kabala, Legal Counsel Grace Weitz, and members of the Board.

Staff was given direction to add specific items to the project submission for catalyst funding.

5.5 Accept and File Final Buttermilk Infrastructure and Recreation Initiative Document and Discuss Future ESCOG Engagement

Executive Director Elaine Kabala outlined the information in the staff report and the Final Buttermilk Infrastructure and Recreation Initiative (BIRPI) Document presentation.

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

Staff was given direction regarding their engagement with the Consensus Management Group and to help facilitate a working group between the user group and landowners of the BIRPI and to limit their engagement thereafter. It was also requested that staff update the ESCOG website with the completed document and to make it clear on the website that the ESCOG had completed their piece of the project and that the ESCOG had limited scope in just the planning phase of the project and that any ongoing staff engagement with the working group would be limited to encouraging them that implementation lies within that group.

Moved by Board Member Stephen Muchovej

Seconded by Board Member Lynda Salcido

Accept and file the Final Buttermilk Infrastructure and Recreation Planning Initiative.

For (8): 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, and Board Member Stephen Muchovej

Carried (8 to 0)

5.6 Approve Contract Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement between the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and the Whitebark Institute of Interdisciplinary Environmental Services for the Provision of National Environmental Policy Act Services for the Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator and Discuss and Discuss Reallocation of CDFW Proposition 1 Grant Funds

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 negotiate with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to reposition the CEQA Funding to support expansion into Mono County and to continue working with Whitebark in Inyo County to ensure that the project moves forward in the Owens Valley as well.

Moved by Board Member Stephen Muchovej
Seconded by Board Member John Wentworth

Approve Contract Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement between the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and the Whitebark Institute of Interdisciplinary Environmental Services for the Provision of National Environmental Policy Act Services for the Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator.

For (8): 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, and Board Member Stephen Muchovej

Carried (8 to 0)

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

Board Member John Wentworth left the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

Inyo Mono Broadband Consortium (IMBC) Eastern Sierra Regional Broadband Coordinator Scott Armstrong outlined the information in the ESCOG Broadband Update presentation.

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

5.8 Executive Director Update Report

Executive Director Elaine Kabala outlined the information in the staff report and reminded the members of the Board to submit their Form 700s prior to the April 1, 2024 deadline. Ms. Kabala reported that she had received two proposals for the part-time administrative support position and said the Board may need to hold a special meeting to finalize an employment contract prior to the next regular meeting in April.

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

5.9 Call for the Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

There was discussion among members of the Board.

Moved by Board Member Karen Schwartz
Seconded by Board Member Lynda Salcido

Appoint Vice Chair Bob Gardner as the Chair of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments.

For (8): 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, and Board Member Stephen Muchovej

Carried (8 to 0)

Moved by Board Member Karen Schwartz
Seconded by Chair Jeff Griffiths

Appoint Board Member Stephen Muchovej as the Vice Chair of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments.

For (8): 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, and Board Member Stephen Muchovej

Carried (8 to 0)

6. BOARD MEMBER/AGENCY REPORTS

Board Member Chris Bubser announced that after ten years of service with the Town of Mammoth Lakes, TOML Town Manager Dan Holler would retire effective tomorrow. Ms. Bubser said that there would be a retirement party tomorrow at 4:00 p.m. at Burgers Restaurant in Mammoth to celebrate him and thanked him for all that he had done for our region.

7. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items requested.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m. to the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on April 24, 2024.

Angela Plaisted, Assistant Clerk