



**MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF MONO
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Regular Meetings: The First, Second, and Third Tuesday of each month. Location of meeting is specified just below.

Teleconference Only - No Physical Location

**Regular Meeting
September 15, 2020**

9:03 AM Meeting Called to Order by Chair Corless.

Supervisors Present: Corless, Gardner, Peters, and Stump (all attended via teleconference).

Supervisors Absent: Kreitz.

All votes were conducted by roll call.

The Mono County Board of Supervisors stream most of their meetings live on the internet and archives them afterward. To search for a meeting from June 2, 2015 forward, please go to the following link: <http://www.monocounty.ca.gov/meetings>.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor Peters.

Supervisor Corless:

- "To pay attention, this is our endless and proper work." – Mary Oliver

1. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None.

2. RECOGNITIONS

A. Presentation of Digital Counties Survey Award to Mono County Information Technology

Departments: Information Technology

(Nate Greenberg) - Each year the Center for Digital Government (CDG) and National Association of Counties (NACo) conduct the Digital Counties Survey. The survey identifies the best technology practices among U.S. counties including initiatives that streamline the delivery of government

service, encourage collaboration and shared service, enhance cyber-security, and contribute to disaster response efforts. Participants in the survey are evaluated among their cohort in five separate population categories based on the size of the county.

This year, Mono County is being recognized as the first-place winner in the up to 150,000 population category.

This item will allow the Board of Supervisors to present the award to the IT Department.

Action: Present the 2020 Digital Counties Survey award to the IT Department.

Nate Greenberg, IT Director:

- Introduced item
- Thanked team for hard work that went into earning award

Supervisor Corless:

- Read Mono County's recognition highlights from Center of Digital Government
- Recognized IT staff

3. COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

CAO Report regarding Board Assignments

Stacey Simon, County Counsel, Acting CAO:

- CAO Lawton is addressing a health issue and will be out of the office. He is expected to return shortly.

4. DEPARTMENT/COMMISSION REPORTS

Ingrid Braun, Mono County Sheriff:

- Creek Fire smoke update
- Creek Fire update meeting tonight (9/15) – Creek Fire Incident Management team, Sheriff, Fire Chief Frank Frievalt, Town of Mammoth Lakes
- Coping with COVID: The New Normal tomorrow night (9/16)

Tony Dublino, Public Works Director:

- Progress Roads Division has made in striping and crack sealing on County roads
- Facilities Division – generators and PSPS infrastructure
- Surplus furniture – Town of Mammoth Lakes to reuse some of the furniture
- Developments underway relating to Solid Waste
- Conway Ranch and recreation items to come in October

Nate Greenberg, IT Director:

- Mono County webpage – Homepage Spotlight, link to Creek Fire Information
- Will be consolidating Creek Fire information coming from the Town and County into one common portal

5. CONSENT AGENDA

(All matters on the consent agenda are to be approved on one motion unless a board member requests separate action on a specific item.)

A. Memorandum of Understanding with the Mono Basin Historical Society

Departments: Public Works

(Joe Blanchard, Pam Smitheman) - Proposed memorandum of understanding with the Mono Basin Historical Society related to its placement and maintenance of structures and personal property, including a new storage shed, at Gus Hess Park in Lee Vining, California.

Action:

(1) Approve County entry into proposed memorandum of understanding and authorize the County Administrative Office to execute a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on behalf of the County with the Mono Basin Historical Society (Historical Society) for placement and maintenance of structures and personal property at Gus Hess Park in Lee Vining, California (Park);

(2) Find that the County's entry into the MOU and the placement and maintenance of a storage shed at the Park is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15303 (Class 3: New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures) and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk's Office

Stump moved; Peters seconded

Vote: 4 yes, 0 no

M20-186

B. Authorization to Bid - Airport Road Rehabilitation Project

Departments: Public Works

(Chad Senior) - This project will rehabilitate failing asphalt pavement on Airport Road and a portion of Hot Creek Hatchery Road, between Highway 395 and the Airport Road intersection. These roadways provide direct access to the Mammoth-Yosemite Airport. The existing asphalt concrete will be recycled in-place for reuse on this project by implementing full-depth reclamation (FDR). This road rehabilitation treatment provides environmental sustainability by reducing the use of natural resources and minimizing fuel consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, and waste disposal. Existing roadways will be widened to provide paved bike lanes. Additionally, roadway drainage, signs, and traffic paint striping will be rehabilitated as part of this project.

Action: Approve bid package, including the project manual and project plans, for the Airport Road Rehabilitation Project. Authorize the Public Works Department to advertise an Invitation for Bids upon receiving authorization to proceed (E-76) from the federal government.

Stump moved; Peters seconded

Vote: 4 yes, 0 no

M20-187

Supervisor Stump:

- Noted Garrett Higerd's legacy is reflected in both Items 5B and 5C

C. Contract Award - Twin Lakes Road Maintenance Project

Departments: Public Works Engineering

(Kalen Dodd) - Agreement with Sierra Nevada Construction, Inc. for the construction of the Twin Lakes Road Maintenance Project (Project No. 9309).

Action:

(1) Identify Sierra Nevada Construction, Inc. of Sparks, NV (Sierra Nevada Construction) to be the lowest responsive bidder for the Twin Lakes Road Maintenance Project (Project).

(2) Approve agreement with Sierra Nevada Construction for the construction of the Project in an amount not to exceed \$467,007.00 and authorize the Public Works Director to execute that agreement on behalf of the County.

(3) Authorize the Public Works Director, in consultation with County Counsel, to administer the agreement with Sierra Nevada Construction, including making minor amendments to the agreement from time to time as the Public Works Director may deem necessary, and issue change orders to the agreement in accordance with Public Contract Code §20142, provided such amendments and change orders do not substantially alter the scope of work, do not cause spending on the Project to exceed the budgeted authority, and are approved as to form and legality by County Counsel.

Stump moved; Peters seconded

Vote: 4 yes, 0 no

M20-188

Supervisor Peters:

- Thanked Kalen Dodd and Public Works for fast tracking the contract

D. FY 2019-20 Year-End Clean Up Budget Adjustment

Departments: Finance

During the year-end process of closing the accounting records, approval from the Board of Supervisors is required when budgeted appropriations are not sufficient to cover actual spending incurred by County Departments and where other administrative remedies to reallocate budgeted amounts within budget units is not available. (Requires 4/5ths approval)

Action: Approve and direct the Finance Director to make the FY 2019-20 year-end cleanup budget adjustments as recommended in Attachment A, or as amended (requires 4/5ths approval).

Stump moved; Peters seconded

Vote: 4 yes, 0 no

M20-189

E. Resolution to Approve Adjustment to Spa Permit Fees

Departments: Public Health

(Louis Molina) - Proposed resolution to provide a prorated fee reduction for Spa Pool Permits for the period of time in which they have been ordered to be closed due to COVID-19 and no inspection or monitoring has been performed.

Action: Adopt proposed Resolution R20-88, authorizing the health department to adjust spa pool permit fees as a result of ordered closure of spas due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stump moved; Peters seconded

Vote: 4 yes, 0 no

R20-88

F. Vista Pacifica Enterprises Contract for Services

Departments: Behavioral Health

Proposed contract with Vista Pacifica Enterprises, Inc. pertaining to the provision of residential behavioral health treatment services.

Action: Approve County entry into proposed contract and authorize CAO to execute said contract on behalf of the County.

Stump moved; Peters seconded

Vote: 4 yes, 0 no

M20-190

6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Direction may be given to staff regarding, and/or the Board may discuss, any item of correspondence listed on the agenda.

The Board acknowledged receipt of the correspondence.

A. Letter from Madeleine "Mickey" Brown re: Assessment Appeals Board Resignation

Letter from Madeleine "Mickey" Brown resigning from appointment on the Assessment Appeals Board.

Supervisor Corless:

- Thanked Mickey Brown for years of service on the Assessment Appeals Board and work in civic engagement
- Requested staff bring back agenda item regarding the Assessment Appeals Board

B. Letter from Abbie Bridges re: Bridgeport Jail

Letter from Abbie Bridges regarding the proposed new jail construction within the town of Bridgeport.

Supervisor Peters:

- Acknowledged that there will be an upcoming agenda item on this topic

C. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Letter re: Southern California Edison Company's Plan and Schedule to Address FERC Comments

A letter from Frank L. Blackett, P.E., Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Regional Engineer, to James A. Buerkle, Southern California Edison Company Director of Generation, in response to a letter from Mr Wayne Allen that submitted a plan and schedule to address FERC comments regarding the Fourth Independent Consultant's Safety Inspection Report for Tioga Main and Auxiliary Dams, which are parts of the Lee Vining Creek Project, FERC No. 1388.

D. 2019-20 Grand Jury Report and Response

The 2019-20 Mono County Grand Jury Final Report is the product of concentrated group effort and contains recommendations for improving various aspects of governmental operations. When it is completed, the Final Report is submitted to the presiding judge of the Superior Court. After release by the court, it is directed to agency representatives for review and response and to the communications media.

Supervisor Corless:

- Thanked Grand Jury for their work

Stacey Simon, County Counsel:

- Explained requirement for Board response

E. Letter re: US Forest Service Illegal Activity Report

A letter from Hillary Hansen Jones to the Board regarding the USFS Illegal Activity Report on the September 8, 2020 Board of Supervisors meeting agenda.

Supervisor Corless:

- Noted that the water management item will be on the October 6 agenda

7. REGULAR AGENDA - MORNING

A. Update on Wildfires and Review of Open Fire Ban and Campground Closure

Departments: Board of Supervisors

(Various) - Update and discussion regarding status of wildfires across the State and in Mono County. Weekly review of need for Urgency Ordinance Prohibiting Open Fires on Private Property Within the Unincorporated Area of Mono County and Closing County Campgrounds Due to Extreme Fire Danger.

Action: None. If Board takes no action, then prohibition and closure remain in effect.

David Easton, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Bridgeport Ranger District Fire Management Officer:

- Slink Fire update
- Region 4 forest closure on Bridgeport Ranger District on California land and Carson Ranger District in Alpine County has been rescinded. Will not extend, but assessing on daily basis.
- Region 5 extended their forest closure until September 21 or until rescinded
- Stage 2 fire restrictions

Lindsey Steinwachs, Inyo National Forest Deputy District Ranger:

- Creek Fire update
- Extended forest closure through September 21

Frank Frievalt, Mammoth Lakes Fire Chief:

- Creek Fire update
- Reiterated the fire has not passed any of the decision points

Ingrid Braun, Mono County Sheriff:

- Evacuation warning notification
- Encourage extension of Urgency Ordinance for several weeks due to fire risks

Supervisor Gardner:

- Link closure of Lundy Campground to campgrounds in Inyo

Public Comment:

- Tajia Rodriguez
- Barb Bushnell

There was consensus to not terminate the ban on open fires on private property and direction was given that Lundy Campground be reopened when the Inyo National Forest opens its campgrounds.

Gardner moved; Peters seconded

Vote: 4 yes, 0 no

M20-191

Break: 10:26 AM

Reconvened: 10:32 AM

B. Election Update

Departments: Elections

(Shannon Kendall) - Update on November 3, 2020 General Election.

Action: None.

Shannon Kendall, Clerk-Recorder-Registrar:

- All ballot boxes have been delivered except for Mammoth Lakes
- Public Works has been securely installing them at their designated locations
- General voter informational flyer just mailed out
- Overseas voters received access codes to their remote ballots yesterday (9/14)
- Voter Guides go out 9/24
- Vote by Mail ballots go out 10/5

- Invite any Board members to do a walkthrough of Elections Headquarters to see process and equipment

C. COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update

Departments: CAO

(Robert C. Lawton) - Update on Countywide response and planning related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including reports from the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Unified Command (UC), and the various branches of the EOC, including Community Support and Economic Recovery, Joint Information Center (JIC), and Public Health.

Action: None.

Dr. Tom Boo, Mono County Public Health Officer:

- One new case in Mono County
- Hospital remains quiet, capacity is normal
- Ongoing discussions at the State about additional metrics related to health equity and testing rates – may not be applicable to Mono County as a small county
- Moving to new tiers – decision made by the State, will be looking at previous week's data

Justin Caporusso, Public Information Manager:

- Next COVID Community Conversation is 10/1, moving to monthly format, first Thursday of the month
- Coping with COVID is this Wednesday evening (9/16)

D. CARES Act Spending Plan - Community Support Programs

Departments: Finance, CAO

(Janet Dutcher, Kathy Peterson, Alicia Vennos) - The Board received a presentation about the proposed CARES Act spending plan on September 1, 2020. Since then, spending projections have been updated resulting in \$250,000 available for community support programs. Staff recommend using these funds for a Right to Recover program, Latinx outreach, and a Small Business Grant program. Recommended program statements are included and County staff will make a presentation about each and answer questions.

Action:

- (1) Approve the proposed CARES Act spending plan, the Right to Recover program, the Latinx outreach proposal, and the Small Business Grant Program, as presented or revised.
- (2) Authorize the County Administrative Officer to shift funds between spending categories if one area has unspent funds.

Stump moved; Gardner seconded

Vote: 3 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain

M20-192

Janet Dutcher, Finance Director:

- Introduced item

Kathy Peterson, Social Services Director:

- Right to Recover Program – assists individuals who do not have access to unemployment insurance or paid sick leave, are COVID positive, and unable to work.

Dr. Tom Boo, Mono County Health Officer:

- Recognized problem that economics can be a barrier to individuals being asked to isolate or quarantine

Alicia Vennos, Economic Development Director:

- MONO C.U.R.E. (County Unified Recovery Effort) – provides assistance to businesses in unincorporated Mono County dealing with financial hardship due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Justin Caporusso, Public Information Manager:

- Efforts to connect with Latinx community and population

E. Funding Mammoth Lakes Recreation Clean-Up Events

Departments: Economic Development

(Jeff Simpson) - Presentation by Jeff Simpson regarding a \$5,000 expenditure from the Fish and Game Fine Fund to Mammoth Lakes Recreation for organized clean-up events of fish and wildlife habitat locations.

Action: Approve the recommendation by the Mono County Fish and Wildlife Commission for a \$5,000 expenditure from the Fish and Game Fine Fund to Mammoth Lakes Recreation for clean-up events.

Gardner moved; Peters seconded

Vote: 4 yes, 0 no

M20-193

Jeff Simpson, Economic Development Manager:

- Introduced item

Matt McClain, Mammoth Lakes Recreation Executive Director:

- Reviewed clean-up events

Supervisor Corless:

- Acknowledged Erica Johnsen, founder of Sierra Trash Eliminators

F. Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) Fiscal Services Agreement

Departments: Finance

(Janet Dutcher) - Proposed contract with the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) pertaining to the provision of fiscal services to the ESCOG by Mono County.

Action: Approve County entry into proposed contract and authorize Chair to execute said contract on behalf of the County.

Peters moved; Gardner seconded

Vote: 3 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain

M20-194

Janet Dutcher, Finance Director:

- Introduced item

8. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None.

Moved to Item 12.

9. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session: 11:55 AM

Reconvened: 1:00 PM

Nothing to report out of Closed Session.

A. Closed Session - Public Employee Evaluation

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION. Government Code section 54957. Title: County Administrative Officer.

B. Closed Session - Exposure to Litigation

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION. Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Government Code section 54956.9. Number of potential cases: 2.

THE AFTERNOON SESSION WILL RECONVENE NO EARLIER THAN 1:00 P.M.

10. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None.

11. REGULAR AGENDA - AFTERNOON

A. Census 2020 Update

Departments: CAO

(Emilio Vaca, Deputy Director of Outreach - Census 2020) - Census 2020 update for Mono County by Emilio Vaca, Deputy Director of Outreach.

Action: None.

Emilio Vaca, Deputy Director of Outreach:

- Presentation
- Addressed extension

Supervisor Gardner:

- Accuracy with second homeowners
- Double counting

Supervisor Stump:

- Assignments of local workers

- Tribal partners

Supervisor Peters:

- Disconnect between what is happening on the ground and the database
- Kudos to Supervisor Kreitz for census work

Supervisor Corless:

- Help to improve the system for next census

Break: 1:43 PM

Reconvened: 2:01 PM

B. Presentation - Moving Towards Equity: Understanding the Impact of Racism in Communities

Departments: Board of Supervisors

(Dr. Jei Africa (Marin County), Robin Roberts (Behavioral Health), Kasandra Montes (Behavioral Health), Sheriff Ingrid Braun, Jazmin Barkley (Probation)) - Presentation by Dr. Jei Africa on the impacts of racism on communities, and a discussion of how Mono County can address these impacts.

Action: None.

Supervisor Corless:

- Introduced item

Ingrid Braun, Mono County Sheriff:

- Thanked everyone involved, this is something that we need to continue talking about and keep in the forefront of our minds. Always strive to be your better self.

Robin Roberts, Behavioral Health Director:

- Thanked everyone for attending this important conversation and for the continued work it will take to deal with equity issues in Mono County.

Dr. Jei Africa, Marin County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Director:

- Presentation

Kasandra Montes, Behavioral Health:

- Cultural Outreach Committee through Behavioral Health department, working with tribal members, Latino community. Work on framework to present to other departments as well as throughout the County.

Jazmin Barkley, Probation Officer:

- Thanked participants for attending, taking in all the information knowing it's a hard subject and being open to change.

Yvon Guzman-Rangel, Social Services Eligibility Specialist:

- Lack of health resources in community – optometrist, dental services

Brianna Cuellar, Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce:

- Working on being more inclusive in putting out publications that are available to Spanish-speaking community

Nate Greenberg, IT Director:

- Ways to improve or increase diversity amongst teams

Sofia Flores, Behavioral Health Case Manager:

- How can leadership make the space safe for line workers to speak up

Charlotte Lange, Mono Lake Kutzadika'a Tribal Chairperson:

- Interested in being a part of committee

Michael Jones, Community Development Permit Technician:

- Requested recommendations for other resources

Supervisor Gardner:

- The first step for good mental health is acknowledging the problem, whether an individual acknowledgement or institutional acknowledgement.
- Recommends forming a committee today to deal with this

Supervisor Stump:

- We need to model behaviors ourselves. The policies of this County need to be oriented to model those behaviors. Encourage integration of staff at all levels.

Supervisor Peters:

- Need a way to get to families and kids early, get them involved in the community
- Wednesday night socials held by Behavioral Health
- Resources for the youth

Tajia Rodriguez, Behavioral Health and First 5:

- Strategies to increase interest of members of community about interplay between structural racism, institutional racism, implicit bias, etc. What path to take to eliminate the racial disparities.
- Planting seeds with the kids changes the future

Supervisor Corless:

- Suggestion to bring back resolution – commit to this work and forming a committee, GARE model to provide a framework, capturing ideas heard today.

12. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Supervisor Corless:

- Last Wednesday, we had a Golden State Natural Resources Board meeting. This is the affiliate organization of RCRC that's looking at developing biomass utilization, producing pellets to clear forests out of undergrowth and help rural economies. Approved business plan and budget.
- On Thursday the 10th, Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board of Directors meeting.
- Friday the 11th, RCRC Executive Committee meeting focused on search for president/CEO of organization.
- Forest Management Taskforce meeting, statewide entity looking at forest management and health projects
- Supervisor Gardner and I participated yesterday in Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership meeting. Thursday evening, 9/17, the Sustainable Tourism and Recreation Initiative is having a virtual meeting to look at project ideas that have been submitted so far across the Eastern Sierra on public lands.

Supervisor Gardner:

- None.

Supervisor Peters:

- CSAC rural caucus COVID-19 working group
- LTC meeting – Tuolumne County item to join the YARTS JPA

Supervisor Stump:

- 9-10: Owens Valley Groundwater Authority - Due to plan preparation time constraints the OVGA will resume monthly meetings. The next meeting is 10/8. Much more going on there than I have time to report on now. I suggest an OVGA status update from Aaron Steinwand after the new Supervisor is seated.
- 9-14: Local Transportation Commission - Resolution of appreciation for Garrett Higerd. Report from Cal Trans on using cell phone data to determine visitor counts and points of origin. Their contractor is trying to figure out how to track European cell phone technology. Cal Trans said that they were re-looking at the need to connect the Tioga Inn project area with Lee Vining. Nothing definite currently.
- Many emails of concern about fires, smoke and different orders issued by FS Region 5 and the H/T Forest. Thanks to Inyo Forest Supervisor John Smith for taking the time to answer some questions from me on Sunday. Region 5 Order extended through today. Forest Supervisor Smith said, via email, that he is considering an Extension Order just for the Inyo National Forest if the Regional Order is allowed to expire.

Moved to Item 9 - Closed Session.

ADJOURNED AT 4:07 PM

ATTEST

**STACY CORLESS
CHAIR OF THE BOARD**

**QUEENIE BARNARD
SENIOR DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD**