

Mono Basin Regional Planning Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 10, 2021, 6:30pm
remote/virtual meeting via Zoom/conference call

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

Public attendees & presenters: Mono County: Bentley Regehr, Wendy Sugimura. Public: Paul Ashby, Stephanie Heller (USFS), Amy Lewis, Ilene Mandelbaum, Connie Millar, John Ljung, David Rosky, Jake Suppa.

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

2. Public comment: None.

3. Review minutes from October 13, 2021: Minutes to be approved at the next meeting.

4. Supervisor Gardner's report: None.

5. Chair's report: None.

6. Members' reports:

Lisa: Mono Basin Housing Committee met last night. Attended part of the most recent Fire Safe Council meeting. Attended redistricting public hearing on Monday. The bear-human management committee met; Lisa is logging and recording incidents that people have experienced with bears so please send her an email if you have anything to report; that committee will present at the next RPAC meeting. [Mono County strategic planning meeting](#) happening on Monday at 5:30pm.

Elin: Attended the redistricting public hearing and the Mono Basin Housing Committee meeting. Will attend the strategic planning meeting.

Kevin: Will attend the strategic planning meeting. There was a recent [article in the Los Angeles Times](#) about the Mono Basin and PM-10 particulate matter generated by airborne dust; the article gets into the relationship between DWP, the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District, and the level of Mono Lake.

Bartshe: Attended Great Basin air quality workshop, which gave a good understanding of lake level and air quality modeling; DWP was not present and did not comment (which was noted), USFS gave a great presentation; next steps TBD but Great Basin board got a good orientation to the issue; there is no route toward compliance except to raise Mono Lake's level, which will also remedy a plethora of other issues caused by a low lake. Work is going forward to put up a fence to protect California Gulls from coyotes; regardless of what this winter brings the lake won't rise in time to protect gulls before nesting season; will be an electric stock fence four feet high with low visibility that went up in 2017 and was very effective; CEQA is nearly complete by State Parks.

7. Inyo National Forest update (Stephanie Heller): In the process of CalRecycle doing a remediation project at the old dump at the Visitor Center they removed in error a berm that was screening the

parking lot from the highway. The Mono Lake Committee is working with CalRecycle on a tolling agreement and settlement to get the berm restored. USFS supports rebuilding the berm; directed CalRecycle to haul dirt now to get the berm rebuilt to its original dimensions and winterized; full restoration and revegetation will have to happen next year. Bartshe added that if a settlement cannot be reached the Mono Lake Committee can file suit against CalRecycle; Michael Hogan who oversaw revegetation for the Caltrans Rockfall Project is now involved. Ilene inquired about another berm that was built in the process and would like a field visit.

Stephanie presented at the Great Basin air quality workshop last week. Discussed the requirements of the Forest Plan and the Scenic Area Plan; given the guidance of those documents USFS can't support anything but natural restoration measures. USFS stance on this is clear: need to see the lake level raised to the legal required elevation.

USFS Forest Leadership Team approved starting a wild horse management plan; initiating the plan will include gathering information, coordinating with partners, starting NEPA process; goal is to move forward with NEPA by end of 2022. USFS has limited capacity and will be asking partners like State Parks and the Mono Lake Committee to help. This very visible issue has been put off for far too long resulting in lots of damage and impacts to partners. Talking with State Parks about getting several miles of fencing around sand tufa and sensitive wetland areas. Unclear why the horses are a USFS issue; the Montgomery Pass Horse Management Unit is in the Bishop and Carson BLM areas yet USFS has management of it; will be coordinating with BLM.

8. Mono Basin Fire Safe Council: Robbie sent out the minutes from the October meeting. Lisa encouraged people to attend and/or sign up for the mailing list to get the meeting minutes and agendas. Question about why the agencies aren't keeping up with the Mono City fire break maintenance; Annamaria Echeverria was working on things from the USFS side but BLM presence and action has faded away. Next meeting is November 17 at 5:00pm.

9. Mono Basin Housing Committee: The committee discussed how a rental incentive structure could be applied; Lisa and Bob will be contacting a Nevada County Supervisor from Truckee about that. Also discussed Mono County's effort to make ADUs easier to build and how the committee could promote them; an update about the prescriptive design process will come to RPAC in the future. Committee will be surveying the community for their thoughts on housing needs/concerns. Stephanie shared that the USFS is initiating a housing needs assessment with Mono & Mammoth districts; will be developing some permanent housing options and sites on USFS land; working with the Town of Mammoth Lakes to lease USFS land to develop housing. Lee Vining Pumice Plant recently closed and may be a place where USFS housing could be located but Scenic Area considerations and multiple owners make it complicated. Mono County is having trouble filling the Housing Coordinator position; steer anyone who wants to apply to Bob.

10. Review and adopt resolution to meet virtually until December 8, 2021 (planning staff): All RPACs are adopting this ordinance to allow for virtual meetings next month. We'll have to re-adopt it at every meeting due to its 30-day limit, which is problematic for many groups subject to the Brown Act; there are efforts to change that at the State level and County Counsel is tracking that process. Motion to adopt the resolution made by Kevin, seconded by Bartshe, approved 4-0.

11. Mono Basin Community Plan Fifth Workshop: At a past meeting Gerry LeFrancois recommended developing a prioritized list of potential transportation/connectivity projects. Kevin will email him again. Should compare the Community Plan with the Local Transportation Plan ([fourth chapter policies](#)) to develop the list; should be ready if the infrastructure bill makes money available. Conway Ranch Shoulder Widening Project was sent out to RPAC list; it's worth making comments about revegetation and dangerous intersections between Highway 395 and Highway 167 and Conway Ranch Road.

12. 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. No updates this month.

D&S Waste disposal site will be at the LDTAC meeting on Monday, November 15; their application for a land use permit and general plan amendment will be accepted. Public comments are allowed at LDTAC but it's simply a step in the process; there will be more public comment opportunities in the spring. Bentley will ask Kevin Brown of D&S Waste to come to RPAC.

13. Upcoming agenda items:

- Mono Basin Community Plan sixth review – transportation items from Kevin, Bentley, Gerry
- Letter in support of federal recognition for the Kutzadika'a Tribe
- D&S Waste presentation if Kevin Brown can attend
- Mono Basin Housing Committee (each month)
- Bear committee report
- Visitor Center berm work
- Possible Lee Vining skate park (November 2021)
- Develop list of prioritized connectivity/transportation projects
- Caltrans: Lee Vining Rehab Project (March 2022)
- SCE: Lee Vining hydro relicensing at next public input stage

14. Adjourned to next meeting, December 8, 2021: 7:46pm