

COUNTY OF INYO NATURAL RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FINAL MINUTES OF JULY 14, 2016 MEETING

MEMBERS:

DAVID GERMAN (VICE-CHAIR)
DOUG THOMPSON
TOM NOLAND
DANA JEFFRIES
WALTER SHARER (CHAIR)

Inyo County Planning Department
Post Office Drawer L
Independence, CA 93526
(760) 878-0263
(760) 872-2712 FAX
inyoplanning@inyocounty.us

ALTERNATES:

LINDA EMERSON
EARL WILSON

STAFF:

JOSHUA HART, AICP
DIANE FORTNEY

PLANNING DIRECTOR
PROJECT COORDINATOR

The Inyo County Natural Resource Advisory Committee (NRAC) met on Thursday, July 14, 2016, at the Inyo County Board of Supervisors Room in the County Administrative Center in Independence, CA.

WALTER SHARER, Chair opened the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL – Members in attendance: Walter Sharer, Dana Jeffries, David German, Doug Thompson, Tom Nolan and Alternates Earl Wilson and Linda Emerson. Mr. Wilson participated on the Committee as needed for the Approval of Minutes from December 17, 2015. Ms. Emerson was appointed to the committee on July 12, 2016 by the Inyo County Board of Supervisors.

Also present was Cathreen Richards, Senior Planner and Diane Fortney, Project Coordinator.

ITEM 2: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-Was recited by all

ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENT – This was the opportunity for anyone in the audience to address the Committee on any related subject that was not scheduled on the Agenda.

New Alternate Committee member Linda Emerson was introduced, and Doug Thompson's reappointment was announced. There was no one from the public wishing to address the Committee.

ITEM 4: ELECTION OF CHAIR – The Committee entertained nominations and conducted an election for the Chair.

MOTION: Moved by Committee-member Jefferies to re-elect Committee member Sharer as Chair, seconded by Committee-member German.

The Motion passed 4-0-1, with Committee-member Sharer abstaining.

ITEM 5: ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR – The Committee entertained nominations and conducted an election for the Vice-Chair.

MOTION: Moved by Committee-member Nolan to re-elect Committee member German as Chair, seconded by Committee-member Sharer.

The Motion passed 4-0-1, with Committee-member German abstaining.

ITEM 6: APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Approval of Minutes from June 9, 2016 meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Committee-member German to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Committee-member Thompson.

The Motion passed 4-0-1, with Committee-member Nolan abstaining.

ITEM 7: APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Approval of Minutes from December 17, 2015 meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Alternate Committee-member Wilson to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Committee-member German.

The Motion passed 3-0-3, with Committee-members Nolan, Thompson, Jeffries abstaining.

ITEM 8: INYO NATIONAL FOREST, DRAFT FINAL FOREST PLAN REVISION AND DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DEIS) - The Inyo National Forest recently completed a Draft Forest Plan Revision and accompanying Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). They were released for public review and comment on May 27, 2016. Comments will be due on August 25, 2016. Staff has reviewed these documents and compared their content with the comments, and County priorities submitted to the Forests throughout the planning effort, and provided an analysis. Staff is asking the NRAC for input to include in the Draft comments that will go to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.

Committee Member Nolan is concerned that FEN identification will cause delays in grazing permit issuance.

Committee Member Thompson commented that ROS is outdated and should be rewritten, plan should allow for forecasted increases in visitation by adding group campsites. Concerned, Wild & Scenic Rivers' designation would completely block access into some canyons limiting recreational use. Requested County include examples of how additional recreational site availability could provide use and pull visitors away from protected or endangered areas.

Committee Member Jeffries commented that mining resources should remain available and not changed to wilderness. Due to the increase in visitation expected in the plan additional recreational area should be included not taken away.

All Committee Members requested the addition of Partnering for recreational improvements and sighted successful projects that have been completed in other forests.

Public Comment: Mr. Earl Wilson expressed concern that controlled burning did not included guideline for meeting EPA requirements.

ITEM 9: PLANNING DIRECTORS REPORT

The Flyer for the upcoming North Sierra Highway Corridor & Specific Plan Kick-Off meeting on July 21, 2016 was handed out to committee members.

ITEM 10: COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORT/COMMENTS

Committee members discussed highway widening project in the Olancha area. Committee member Thompson reported the project was delayed due to need for Cal-Trans to complete additional EIR.

ITEM 11: SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The committee scheduled a poll for the next meeting in early October.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Prepared by:



Diane Fortney
Staff to Natural Resource Advisory Committee

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Approval of Minutes from July 12, 2016 meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Committee-member Wilson to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Committee-member Thompson.

The Motion passed 4-0-2, with Committee-member Jeffries and Sharer absent.