

COUNTY OF INYO NATURAL RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 18, 2014 MEETING

MEMBERS:

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

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ALTERNATES:

JAEL HOFFMAN
VACANT

STAFF:

JOSHUA HART, AICP
DIANE FORTNEY

PLANNING DIRECTOR
PROJECT COORDINATOR

The Inyo County Natural Resource Advisory Committee (NRAC) met on Thursday December 18, 2014, at the Inyo County Board of Supervisors Room in the County Administrative Center in Independence, CA.

David German, Vice-Chair opened the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL – Members in attendance: David German, Doug Thompson, Tom Noland and Alternate Jael Hoffman. Ms. Hoffman participated on the Committee as there were absences.

Also present was Joshua Hart, Planning Director, Cathreen Richards, Senior Planner, and Diane Fortney, Project Coordinator.

ITEM 2: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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.

There was no one from the public wishing to address the Committee.

ITEM 4: APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Approval of Minutes from August 21, 2014.

Committee members indicated that the draft minutes incorrectly omitted Doug Thompson as Members in attendance.

MOTION: Moved by Committee-member Thompson to approve the minutes with correction. The motion was seconded by Alternate Committee-member Hoffman.

The Motion passed 3-0-1, with Committee-member Walter Sharer and Dana Jeffries Absent, Committee-member Tom Nolan abstained.

ITEM 5: RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERAL PLAN AMMENDMENT (REGPA) –
The committee received a presentation regarding the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the REGPA.

Ms. Cathreen Richards, Senior Planner presented the PEIR, Review and Public Comment Process. Committee members asked multiple clarification questions. Committee Chair, Walter Sharer joined the discussion at 5:20 pm. Committee members discussed transmission line capacities; Community/Utility based project; Community projects ability to provide local needs effect on transmission; Current projects are permitting under existing County rules until plan is approved and adopted.

Comments by the committee include:

- There is confusion within the public in understanding the Cap and limits within the individual SEDA'S. Provide individual maps of the SEDA's and show the effect if maximum development allowed.
- No new transmission lines with the Owens Valley
- Prefer solar projects that do not require clearing of the natural brush and plants
- Included additional community input early in zoning amendment request process.

ITEM 6: DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN (DRECP) –
The committee received a presentation regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement and Draft Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan to provide input to the Board and Planning Commission.

Mr. Joshua Hart, Planning Director presented an overview of the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement and Draft Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan and public comment process. Committee members asked multiple clarification questions. The committee discussed with Ms. Richards, Senior Planner & Mr. Hart, Planning Director the concerns of the plan identifying Olancha & Pearsonville as a priority area for acquiring private lands for conservation; the small amount of private land, less than 2%, available in the County; Area surrounding Lone Pine identified by plan for renewable energy projects; lack of clear mapping. Committee member Doug Thompson left the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Comments by the committee include:

- The need for reconciliation and coordination between DRECP and REGPA to align project objectives.
- Improved mapping to match existing development.

ITEM 7: PLANNING DIRECTORS REPORT

Mr. Hart discussed his investigation that found no wind projects are currently proposed in Olancha. A letter of interest has been received from Mr. Earl Wilson for the vacant committee position. The possibility of meeting "satellite" vs in-person was discussed.

ITEM 8: COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORT/COMMENTS

Request by Committee Vice-Chair, David German, for an update of the ATV Adventure Trails of the Eastern Sierra Project.

ITEM 9: SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The committee discussed meeting in March, will poll for meeting date.

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Prepared by:
Diane Fortney
Staff to Natural Resource Advisory Committee

Minutes approved 8/19/2015

Motion to approve by Vice-Chair German.
Vote: 3-2-0 Committee members Sharer & Wilson abstained.