

COUNTY OF INYO NATURAL RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MAY 14, 2014 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) 872-0382 FAX
inyoplanning@inyocounty.us

ALTERNATES:

JAEL HOFFMAN
VACANT

STAFF:

JOSHUA HART, AICP
VACANT

PLANNING DIRECTOR
PLANNING STAFF

The Inyo County Natural Resource Advisory Committee (NRAC) met on Wednesday, May 14, 2014, at the Inyo County Board of Supervisors Room in the County Administrative Center in Independence, CA.

Walter Sharer, Chair opened the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

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

Also present was Joshua Hart, Planning Director.

ITEM 2: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ITEM 3: ELECTION OF CHAIR – The Committee entertained nominations and conducted an election for the Chair.

MOTION: Chair Sharer nominated Committee-member Sharer as Chair. Committee-member Noland seconded the nomination.

The Motion passed 4-0, with Committee-members Jeffries and Thompson absent.

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

MOTION: Chair German nominated Committee-member German as Vice-Chair. Alternate Committee-member Hoffman seconded the nomination.

The Motion passed 4-0, with Committee-members Jeffries and Thompson absent.

ITEM 5: **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** – 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 6: **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Approval of Minutes from November 20, 2013.

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

The Motion passed 3-0, with Committee-member Noland abstaining, and Committee-members Jeffries and Thompson absent.

ITEM 7: **TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE** – The Committee received an update regarding implementation of the Inyo National Forest’s Travel Management Plan, including the Upper Owens/Bishop Creek Unauthorized Route Restoration project.

Todd Ellsworth, staff from the Inyo National Forest (INF), provided an overview of the implementation of the INF Travel Management Plan and the Upper Owens/Bishop Creek Unauthorized Route Restoration project. Committee-members asked several clarifying questions, and Mr. Ellsworth and the Committee engaged in a discussion of implementation. Committee-member Thompson arrived 5:48 p.m. and joined the discussion. Mr. Ellsworth and the Committee thanked each other for participation in the item.

ITEM 8: **SIERRA NEVADA AMPHIBIANS UPDATE** – The Committee received a presentation regarding the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s proposal to list three Sierra Nevada amphibians and designated Critical Habitat pursuant to the Endangered Species Act and the County’s response.

Mr. Hart explained recent developments regarding the proposal to list the subject amphibians and designate critical habitat, including the final listing rule. Mr. Hart distributed the County’s February 25, 2014 correspondence and emphasized the potentially devastating economic effects that the proposals could cause. The Committee reviewed and discussed the correspondence and the scope of the proposals. Committee-member German suggested that it would be beneficial to obtain the Department of Fish and Wildlife’s endorsement of the specific exclusion areas described in the correspondence.

ITEM 9: **RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT**– The Committee received a presentation regarding the County’s Renewable Energy General Plan Amendment and renewable energy projects in the County.

Mr. Hart provided an overview of recent developments regarding the Renewable Energy General Plan Amendment (REGPA), including the preferred alternative being carried forward from the preliminary public engagement. Mr. Hart described several specific renewable energy projects being considered in Inyo County. The Committee discussed these topics, including the potential size of renewable energy development to be permitted by the revised REGPA.

ITEM 10: SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING – The Committee indicated that either Wednesday or Thursday should normally be acceptable for meetings, and to poll for a meeting date in July or August.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Hart welcomed Mr. Noland to the Committee, and expressed hope that staff could be hired in the near future to assist the Committee. He also indicated that the Adventure Trails Draft Environmental Impact Report is scheduled to be released in several months.

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Prepared by:
Joshua Hart
Staff to Natural Resource Advisory Committee