

COUNTY OF INYO NATURAL RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MAY 23, 2012 MEETING

MEMBERS:

DOUG HICKS
CARL HOELSCHER
JIM SCOTT
GREG WEIRICK
VACANT

CHAIR

Inyo County Planning Department
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VICE-CHAIR

ALTERNATES:

VACANT
VACANT

STAFF:

JOSHUA HART, AICP
VACANT

PLANNING DIRECTOR
PLANNING STAFF

The Inyo County Natural Resource Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, May 23, 2012, at the Jill Kinmont Booth School George Lozito Conference Room 166 Grandview Drive Bishop, CA 93514.

Chair Hicks called the meeting to order at 5:43 p.m.

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL – Members in attendance: Doug Hicks, Carl Hoelscher, and Jim Scott. Member absent: Greg Weirick.

Also present was Josh Hart, Planning Director.

ITEM 2: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- The pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Hicks.

ITEM 3: 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 were none.

ITEM 4: APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Approval of Minutes from February 6, 2012.

MOTION: Moved by Mr. Hoelscher and seconded by Mr. Scott to approve the Minutes from February 6, 2012.

The Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

ITEM 5: INYO NATIONAL FOREST PLAN REVISION/UPDATE – The Committee received a presentation from staff and U.S. Forest Service representatives regarding the upcoming Inyo National Forest Plan Revision/Update, access issues, and other relevant topics, and consider recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

Staff presented the Forest Service's plans for the upcoming Inyo National Forest Plan Update/Revision, as well as the County's draft priorities for the Plan. Ms. Susan Joyce, Forest Planner with the Inyo National Forest, and Mr. Randy Keller, County Counsel, joined the meeting and the ensuing discussion. The Committee expressed general support for entering into a cooperating agency agreement with the Forest Service, but cautioned that the County should not give up any of its rights. The Committee members discussed the Sierra Cascades Dialog and the Region 5 Memorandum of Agreement. Committee members indicated that the County should reach out to the other counties involved in Forest Plan updates to coordinate. The following discussion revolved around RS2477, how roads are identified, and access issues. The Committee expressed general support for the draft priorities, and requested a timeline of the Update process.

MOTION: Moved by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Hoelscher to recommend that the Board of Supervisors support staff's recommended draft priorities.

The Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

ITEM 6: **INYO RESIDENTS SPEAK FIRST** – Staff discussed and responded to questions regarding County natural resource issues and meeting procedures.

Mr. Randy Keller, County Counsel, described the rationale about why the County had not adopted an Inyo Residents Speak First policy, as the Committee had recommended. He explained that such a policy raised fairness issues, and that Boards and Committees could elect to allow Inyo County residents to speak first on a case-by-case basis, if the specific case warrants it. Committee members expressed concern that many times residents of Inyo County do not have the same voice as others because they do not have time to participate, and pointed out the Travel Management Plan meetings as example.

ITEM 7: **WATER** – The Committee was to receive a presentation from staff regarding water issues in the County, including updates to the Green Book, relations with the City of Los Angeles, and other issues.

Water Department staff was not available, and this item was not heard.

ITEM 8: **OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE GRANT** – The Committee considered correspondence to the California State Parks Off-highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (OHMVRD) and provide input to staff.

The Committee reviewed the draft correspondence prepared by staff, and indicated in general that it appears adequate.

MOTION: Moved by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Hoelscher to support the draft correspondence.

The Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

ITEM 9: **NRAC VACANCIES** – The Committee and staff will discuss current vacancies and recruitment efforts.

Staff updated the Committee regarding upcoming recruitment efforts.

ITEM 10: OTHER UPDATES FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND PLANNING STAFF – there were none.

ITEM 11: SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING – the Committee discussed meeting in early August.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Prepared by:

Joshua Hart, AICP
Staff to
Natural Resource Advisory Committee