

# COUNTY OF INYO NATURAL RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MINUTES OF APRIL 8, 2010 MEETING

### MEMBERS:

DOUG HICKS  
CARL HOELSCHER  
JIM SCOTT  
DAVID TANKSLEY  
GREG WEIRICK

VICE-CHAIR

CHAIR

Inyo County Planning Department  
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### ALTERNATES:

DAVID BEAVER  
TYSON SPARROW

### STAFF:

MIKE CONKLIN  
JOSH HART  
SHARON BIRMINGHAM

PLANNING DIRECTOR  
SENIOR PLANNER  
PLANNING COMMISSION SECRETARY

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The Inyo County Natural Resource Advisory Committee met on Thursday, April 8, 2010, at 350 Airport Road (Inyo County Sheriff's Posse Hut) Bishop, CA 93514.

Planning Director, Mike Conklin allowed Senior Planner, Josh Hart to preside over the meeting. Chair Tanksley called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Chair Tanksley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**ITEM 1: ROLL CALL** - Members: Doug Hicks, David Tanksley, Greg Weirick, and alternates David Beaver, and Tyson Sparrow.

Also present were: Mike Conklin, Planning Director; Josh Hart, Senior Planner; and Sharon Birmingham, Secretary.

Absent: Carl Hoelscher and Jim Scott.

**ITEM 2: PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** – This is the opportunity for anyone in the audience to address the Committee on any related subject that is not scheduled on the Agenda.

There were none.

**ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Action Item)** – Approval of Minutes from December 8, 2009.

**MOTION:** Moved by Greg Weirick and seconded by Doug Hicks to approve the Minutes from December 8, 2009 as submitted.

The Motion passed unanimously.

**ITEM 4: ADVENTURE TRAILS COMBINED USE PROJECT** – Presentation by Dick Noles was given to the Committee. Mr. Noles provided information on the All Terrain Vehicle

(ATV) Trail System to salvage some of the roads. The Committee recommended distribution of an Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) survey at the local campgrounds to obtain further data.

**ITEM 5:**     **ADVOCATES for ACCESS to PUBLIC LANDS (AAPL)** –Update and status of the APPL on Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) routes. This item was tabled and will be addressed at a meeting in the future.

**ITEM 6:**     **CALIFORNIA BEEF COUNCIL INFORMATION** – Discussion of county agriculture numbers (Livestock, tonnage/acreage), and the packing industry. Discussion was held as to the timeliness of meetings and grazing. This item will be discussed further at a meeting in the future to provide further information for the committee.

**ITEM 7:**     **DEATH VALLEY EXPANSION** – Report given by Greg Weirick. Discussion was held as to obtaining maps.

**ITEM 12:**    **CALIFORNIA DESERT PROTECTION ACT (Action Item)** – This item was moved up on the Agenda as it relates to Item 7. Review of correspondence dated March 2, 2010 from the Inyo County Board of Supervisors to Senator Feinstein regarding the California Desert Protection Act of 2010 to provide input for an additional follow-up correspondence to the Senator. Senior Planner, Josh Hart discussed and explained the Act as to the designations applied and proposed for Inyo County and the benefits being archaeological resources and the need to be protected and the riparian resources. Discussion was also held as to the designations of concession to not be so restricting. The Committee had an extensive discussion that included the following: On page 3, clarification on prohibited uses. Page five appeared to be double dipping. Page 6, Bonding, Section 206 be removed. Section 202-Same process should be attributable to mineral development which should be included in this category. Section 203-Include Local Government. Section 209-Grant and loan guarantee be available to homeowners, businesses, states, counties. Benefit would be no increase to consumer that is supplying energy to self. Staff agreed to compile comments and send via email for authorization to forward to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

**MOTION:** Moved by Doug Hicks and seconded by Tyson Sparrow to recommend the above suggestions/comments to the Planning Commission for approval.

Motion passed unanimously.

**ITEM 8:**     **BACKCOUNTRY STEWARDSHIP PLANNING PROJECT** – Update was given by Greg Weirick on the progress of this project. The Committee directed staff to request information from the Death Valley National Park on comments received. Senior Planner, Josh Hart informed the Committee that he had requested that he be a participant in the process and will update the Committee at a later date.

**ITEM 9:**     **ROADS Geographic Information System (GIS)** –Discussion was held as to the progress of the GIS transfer of data. The Committee requested that the draft of maps be provided to all committee members.

**ITEM 10:**    **SOLAR DEVELOPMENT IN INYO COUNTY** –Senior Planner, Josh Hart updated the Committee on various project relating to solar energy. The Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (RETI) was discussed, as the transmission lines will have to be upgraded. The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan was explained as a tiering off of RETI, which identifies areas for renewable energy and designation of a conservation area.

**ITEM 11:**     **UPCOMING CONFERENCE IN BERKELEY** – Discussion of budget/funding of possibly sending 2 NRAC members to the Conference and discussion on issues and seminars. It was discussed that at this time there are no monies available in the budget for travel for the committee members.

**ITEM 13:**     **INTRODUCTION LETTERS** – Discussion was held as to the dissemination of information and it was explained by staff that the Committee was an advisory Committee to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

**ITEM 14:**     **RECOMMENDATION FROM NRAC** – Discussion on Recommendation from NRAC for public meetings that residents of Inyo County have the first opportunity for comment at public meetings.

**ITEM 15:**     **DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION** – Discussion on the requirements for providing recommendations to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

**ITEM 16:**     **PINE CREEK VILLAGE PROJECT** – Senior Planner, Josh Hart updated the Committee on the status of the Pine Creek Village Project located in the Rovana area of Inyo County.

**ITEM 17:**     **TASK ASSIGNMENTS** – Chair Tanksley assigned tasks to various members.

Chair Tanksley adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m. to reconvene as necessary.

Prepared by:

[\*Sharon M. Birmingham\*](#)

Sharon M. Birmingham,  
Secretary To  
Natural Resource Advisory Committee