

# COUNTY OF INYO

## NATURAL RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF APRIL 21, 2011 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:**

JOSHUA HART  
DAN STEWART

PLANNING DIRECTOR  
PLANNING STAFF

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The Inyo County Natural Resource Advisory Committee met on Thursday, December 16, 2010, at 300 Mandich (Department of Water and Power) Bishop, CA 93514.

Chair Tanksley called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Chair Tanksley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**ITEM 1: ROLL CALL** - Members: David Tanksley, Doug Hicks, Carl Hoelscher, Jim Scott, and Greg Weirick.

Also present were: Josh Hart, Planning Director; Dan Stewart, Planning Coordinator; Kammi Foote, Inyo County Clerk-Recorder; Debbie Lyons, USDA Forest Service; Steve McLaughlin, of the Owens Lake Master Planning effort.

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

**ITEM 3: 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 4: ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR** – The Committee will entertain motions to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair.

Moved by Mr. Weirick and seconded by Mr. Scott to nominate Mr. Hicks for Chair and Mr. Tanksley for Vice-Chair.

The Motion passed unanimously.

**ITEM 5: APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Approval of Minutes from December 16, 2010

**MOTION:** Moved by Mr. Tanksley and seconded by Mr. Hoelscher to approve the Minutes from December 16, 2010.

The Motion passed unanimously.

**ITEM 6:**     **US FOREST SERVICE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING** – Debbie Lyons, U.S. Forest Service Staff updated the Committee regarding transportation planning programs currently underway, including Mount Whitney Portal Alternative Transportation Systems and Regional Transportation Planning. The Committee inquired about several details of the feasibility study to be conducted this summer by the Forest.

The Committee thanked Ms. Lyons for her time.

**ITEM 7:**     **ECONOMIC CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND FORM 700** – Kammi Foote, Inyo County Clerk-Recorder gave an informational presentation regarding the County’s conflict of interest policies and regulations, and information for completing the required Form 700.

The Committee thanked Ms. Foote for her time.

**ITEM 8:**     **WILDERNESS RESOLUTION** – The Committee will discuss wilderness issues and consider recommending to the Board of Supervisors a draft resolution opposed to new wilderness designations in Inyo County.

**MOTION:** Moved by Mr. Hicks and seconded by Mr. Hoelscher to “table” the wilderness issues and consider recommending to the Board of Supervisors a draft resolution opposing new wilderness designations in Inyo County at the next NRAC meeting.

**ITEM 9:**     **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS AND BACKCOUNTRY STEWARDSHIP PLAN** – Mr. Hart presented to the Committee a presentation regarding the Plan.

The Committee expressed concern over many aspects of the Plan including: the willingness of the National Park to rehabilitate access roads after natural disasters, specific definitions (i.e. “modern humans”), the *need* of the proposed infrastructure, dispersed backcountry camping, and mineral resources lost to the Park specifically the Santa Rosa Plateau gold resource.

**MOTION:** Moved by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Tanksley to suggest the Board of Supervisors to actively seek coordination, rather than just comment.

**ITEM 10:**    **OWENS LAKE MASTER PLAN** – The Committee received a presentation from Mr. Hart regarding the Plan. Steve McLaughlin, of the Owens Lake Master Planning effort, also entertained questions from the Committee. The Committee posed questions regarding property rights on the lake and possible alternatives.

**ITEM 11:**    **OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE GRANT APPLICATION** – The Committee received an update from Mr. Hart regarding the County’s application to the California State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division Grants Program. The Committee was informed that two comments were received on the grant application.

**MOTION:** Moved by Mr. Tanksley and seconded by Mr. Weirick to request Staff to continue moving forward with the application process.

**ITEM 12:** U.S. FOREST SERVICE PLANNING RULE UPDATE – The Committee received a presentation from Mr. Hart regarding the Forest Service’s proposed Planning Rule and Environmental Impact Statement. Mr. Hart also informed the Committee that comments on the EIS are due May 16, 2011. Mr. Hicks commented that outdoor recreational vehicles are often excluded from the Forest Planning Process. Mr. Tanksley commented that he would like to see economic impact analysis included in the planning process.

**ITEM 13:** ALABAMA HILLS AND CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT – The Committee discussed the proposed Alabama Hills Scenic Area and the California Environmental Quality Act. Mr. Tanksley reiterated his opinion that the CEQA process should have been conducted. Mr. Hart reiterated his opinion that the Alabama Hills Scenic Area designation is not considered a project under CEQA guidelines.

**ITEM 14:** WILDERNESS STUDY AREA AND ROADLESS AREA RELEASE ACT – The Committee receive a presentation from Mr. Weirick regarding Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) and roadless areas. Mr. Weirick informed the Committee that Congressmen McCarthy and McKeon are drafting a bill to release wilderness study areas administered by the Bureau of Land Management that are not suitable for wilderness designation.

**ITEM 15:** EASTERN SIERRA ADVENTURE TRAILS – The Committee received an update from Mr. Weirick regarding the Eastern Sierra Adventure Trails project.

**ITEM 16:** OTHER UPDATES FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND PLANNING STAFF – Mr. Tanksley expressed his distaste for the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, due to the fact that public employees are paid to hunt and kill as many Mt. Lions as were once permitted by the public hunters.

Mr. Scott inquired about the Committee’s request to the Board regarding allowing Inyo County residents to speak before non-residents of the County. Mr. Hart commented that the Board had not changed their procedure.

Mr. Hart informed the Committee of the CRHMFA program, which is a homeowner program encouraging homeowners to make energy efficient home renovations.

**ITEM: 17** After a discussion of availability, it was determined that the next meeting would be tentatively scheduled for June 9, 2011.

Chair Hicks adjourned the meeting at 8:58 p.m. to reconvene on June 9, 2011.

Prepared by:

Dan Stewart,  
Staff To  
Natural Resource Advisory Committee