

COUNTY OF INYO

NATURAL RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 12, 2011 MEETING

MEMBERS:

DOUG HICKS
CARL HOELSCHER
JIM SCOTT
DAVID TANKSLEY
GREG WEIRICK

CHAIR

VICE-CHAIR

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ALTERNATES:

DAVID BEAVER
TYSON SPARROW

STAFF:

JOSHUA HART
DAN STEWART

PLANNING DIRECTOR
PLANNING STAFF

The Inyo County Natural Resource Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, October 12, 2010, at 301 Line Street (City Council Chambers) Bishop, CA 93514.

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

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; Steve McLaughlin, of the Owens Lake Master Planning effort; and Bernadette Lovato, BLM.

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 April 21, 2011

MOTION: Moved by Mr. Tanksley and seconded by Mr. Hoelscher to approve the Minutes from April 21, 2011.

The Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

ITEM 5: RENEWABLE ENERGY – The Committee received a presentation from Mr. Josh Hart, Planning Director, about recent renewable energy issues and developments, including utility-scale renewable energy, distributed generation, and incentives for renewable energy development.

ITEM 6: **PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT)** – The Committee received a presentation from Mr. Hart and discussed the Department of the Interior’s PILT program with regard to Inyo County lands.

ITEM 7: **WILDERNESS RESOLUTION** – The Committee discussed wilderness issues, including Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) and current legislation and proposals regarding wilderness and WSAs, considered input from the Board of Supervisors, and recommended to the Board of Supervisors a draft resolution regarding wilderness designations and WSAs in Inyo County, including additions from Mr. Tanksley and Mr. Hicks to strengthen the resolution.

MOTION: Moved by Mr. Hicks and seconded by Mr. Tanksley to recommend the Board of Supervisors draft a resolution regarding designation of additional wilderness in Inyo County.

The Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

ITEM 8: **OHV GRANT** – A representative from the Sheriff’s Department was unable to attend the meeting, however Mr. Hart informed the Committee that Planning Staff has reviewed the Sheriff’s proposal and is planning on applying for a similar OHV grant through California State Parks grant during the next cycle.

ITEM 9: **ALABAMA HILLS** – The Commission received an update from Mr. Hart regarding the Alabama Hills Stewardship Group’s work on a federal designation for the Alabama Hills.

ITEM 10: **DIGITIZED MINERAL MAPPING** – The Committee received an update from Mr. Hart regarding the County’s mineral mapping. Staff informed the Committee of the recent efforts to archive BLM’s mining GIS data for potential future uses.

ITEM 11: **POINT OF ORDER IN PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION OF MEETINGS** – The Committee discussed the order of speaking at public meetings and how other counties have adopted ordinances that give Inyo County residents priority when speaking at public meeting. The Committee discussed potential recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

MOTION: Moved by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Tanksley to recommend the Board of Supervisors draft a resolution granting local citizens priority when speaking at public meetings.

The Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

ITEM 12: **OTHER UPDATES FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND PLANNING STAFF** – Mr. Tanksley inquired into the de-listing of the Mojave Ground Squirrel. Ms. Bernadette Lovato, BLM, explained to the Committee that the Mojave Ground Squirrel is listed in California as a threatened species and is not listed federally.

Mr. Tanksley inquired into the BLM’s Crown Jewel Wilderness designation efforts in Inyo County. Mr. Hart replied that the BLM asked for input for wilderness designations within Inyo County, and the County replied that there were no areas suitable for the wilderness designation. The BLM responded by including zero additional lands into wilderness.

Mr. Scott inquired into the County’s truancy policy. Mr. Hart informed the Committee that he is unaware of the current policy, but he would check into the matter.

Chair Hicks adjourned the meeting at 7:06 p.m. to reconvene on January 18, 2012.

Prepared by:

Dan Stewart,
Staff to
Natural Resource Advisory Committee