

Special Meeting**August 20, 2013**

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in special session at the hour of 6:00 p.m., on August 20, 2013, in the Bishop City Council Chambers at 377 West Line Street, Bishop, with the following Supervisors present: Chairperson Linda Arcularius presiding, Jeff Griffiths, Mark Tillemans and Matt Kingsley. Supervisor Pucci was absent. Supervisor Griffiths led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment The Chairperson announced the Public Comment period and there was no one wishing to address the Board.

County Depart. Reports The Chairperson announced the County Department Report period. The County Administrator introduced Mr. Clint Quilter the new Public Works Director to the audience.

Planning/Forest Management Plan Topic Papers Input Mr. Josh Hart, Planning Director, provided an overview presentation on the Inyo National Forest Management Plan and the Topic Papers the Board is asking for input on. He provided some background information, explaining that the Forest Service is required to coordinate with local jurisdictions, and that we are in Phase I of a three phase process, which is the Assessment Phase, with the final document being proposed to be released in 2016. He said that the Topic Papers that are currently out for comment address a wide array of background information about the forest, i.e., socio-economics, biological resources, special uses, issues and trends. He said that the County identified priorities in 2012 that focuses on three main topic areas which are (a) access, (b) vibrant economy, and (c) local culture. Mr. Hart highlighted areas under each of those topics, i.e., protecting roads and trails, identifying roadless areas for removal, planning for conflicts between biological resources and access, supporting consumptive and sustainable uses of the forest that contribute to the County's economy and culture, considering a mitigation bank to provide for mitigation of off forest impacts, protecting local culture, addressing public safety and providing access in the forest for gathering, sightseeing, exploration, camping, etc. Mr. Hart introduced Mr. Jon Kazmierski, Acting Deputy District Ranger, and Ms. Susan Joyce Inyo National Forest Planner. Ms. Joyce reviewed the plan and provided more detail on the Topic Papers, including talking about the goals and objections of the Plan, how the Plan will frame future Forest management, and how the Forest Service must work within existing legal constraints.

The Board heard from the following people:

Mr. Weirick who added to the comment he made at the Big Pine Meeting. He questioned the Forest Services ability to collaborate and some of the terminology and language saying that it was an attempt to scare the public. He addressed the need to protect motorized access, identified the lack of acknowledgement of the guzzlers located in the forests that need to be maintained, and commented that he believes the document is flawed because it doesn't sufficiently address those things like recreational use, motorized access, etc.

Mr. Dick Noles, President of AAPL, thanked the Board for continuing to be the voice of the people in this process. He stressed the importance of protecting multiple use and motorized access. He noted that these activities are of great benefit to the local economy. He also cautioned the Board to ensure that there is protection from future losses of activities on the Forest.

Mr. Steve Toomy talked about economics, noted concern that the County is categorized as not having a specialized economy, and the importance of making it understood that the County depends upon the Forest to provide local economy and a quality of rural life.

Mr. Doug Brown addressed the routes and strongly urged the Board to ensure that there are no more roads closed. He said there is a need to protect the historic uses on the Forest.

Mr. Ken Lloyd, Inyo County resident, questioned the Forest Services mentality regarding multiple use. He stressed the importance of protecting the use of the natural resources that are in the Forests and suggested that the County continue to question the motives of the Forest Service as they proceed in the development of the Plan.

Mr. Dave Tanksley addressed his concerns with protecting access, natural and mineral resources, economics, ingress and egress to private property and land trade ratios.

The Board and staff discussed the importance of protecting the economic value the forest has on the local economy noting the importance of the Gruen + Gruen input.

Mr. John Shepherd addressed comments made earlier regarding access to natural and mineral resources, explaining that if you take minerals out they do not regenerate themselves, saying that it is important to understand the definition of sustainability. He talked about Forest capacity and looking at it from the Forest Services perspective.

Mr. Howard Arcularius addressed the threat of lawsuits, their costs and the impact these lawsuits have on Forest Service and County staff, and that the Plan needs to ensure that lawsuits are kept to a minimum.

Mr. Mark Johnson, who spoke at the Big Pine Meeting added his thoughts about partnerships with the Forest Service and their effectiveness.

The Board Members thanked those who were in attendance and provided closing remarks. The County Administrator also provided closing remarks.

Adjournment

The Chairperson adjourned the special meeting at 7:30 pm.

Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisor

*Attest: KEVIN D. CARUNCHIO
Clerk of the Board*

by: _____
Patricia Gunsolley, Assistant