

Board of Supervisors Update

April 2016



CAO's Desk:

New and Familiar Faces Join the Team



Please welcome our Risk Manager, Margaret White! Margaret received her Doctorate of Law in 1982 and actively practiced in Orange and LA counties specializing in medical malpractice and personal injury law, including acting in the capacity of Risk Manager of the LA county USC medical centers including LA County General, Hospital, Doheny Eye Institute, Children's Hospital and all mental health facilities. Margaret enjoyed her position as a Deputy Clerk of the Mono County Superior Court for approximately 10 years, leaving to become the Court Executive Officer of Alpine County Superior Court from where she retired.



Jay Sloane is now the administrative services specialist in the administrative office. He joins us with program development experience from the county workforce programs in Social Services.



Our HR Director, Dave Butters, who was introduced in the previous BOS email joined Mono County a few months ago with a wealth of knowledge and experience.

County Counsel

There are two new faces in the County Counsel's office – Steve Kerins and Adrienne Ratner. Steve comes to Mono County from San Diego, where he was an associate with the firm of Walsh McKean Furcolo. Prior to joining Walsh McKean, Steve worked in the Oceanside City Attorney's office and with the City of San Diego. Adrienne also has prior experience representing government clients – as the prosecutor for the Washoe Tribe. Prior to that, she represented plaintiffs in employment-related matters. The County Counsel's office is thrilled to have both new attorneys on board and looks forward to continuing to serve the County and its employees.



Welcome, Adrienne and Steve!

Community Development



Chalfant Valley – On Feb. 22, residents of Chalfant attended a community meeting to discuss a potential groundwater basin adjustment that would subdivide the Owens Valley groundwater basin into two sub-basins. This is an important step in maintaining local control of groundwater in accordance with the newly enacted Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. Supervisor Stump also updated the community on the Cal Fire SRA (State Responsibility Area) fee, ongoing flood mitigation discussions, and the return after many years of a polling place in Chalfant for the upcoming elections. Community Development Analyst Brent Calloway solicited information about unmet transit needs in the community and briefed the attendees on various USFS and BLM planning issues relevant to the Tri-Valley region.

June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee – At its Feb.2 meeting, Supervisor Alpers gave an update on County matters. Jeff Ronci pitched the idea of bringing a skate park to June Lake. Under public comment local resident Jake Suppa expressed interest by several community residents to establish a community garden, and Courtney Weiche reviewed policies for zero- emission vehicles. On March 1 meeting, **John Helm** of ESTA

(Eastern Sierra Transit Authority) solicited input on unmet transit needs and a new June Lake summer route. Members discussed interest in a community garden, and received an update by **Jeff Ronci** on a proposed skate park and by **Courtney Weiche** on development activities at June Lake.

LDTAC – At the Land Development Technical Advisory Committee (LDTAC) meeting Feb. 1 Courtney Weiche summarized a thrift store proposal at Crowley Lake, and Gerry Le Francois reviewed an expanded home occupation in Bridgeport, and an amendment to the Specific Plan for the Tioga Inn near Lee Vining. At meetings March 7 & 21, the LDTAC considered a lot line adjustment at Bryant Field in Bridgeport presented by **Gerry Le Francois**, **Garrett Higerd** and **Walt Lehmann**. Also considered was a proposal to reestablish commercial uses in Bridgeport staffed by **Courtney Weiche**. A lot merger and a variance in June Lake were considered.

Planning Commission – The Planning Commission conducted a rare joint meeting with BOS on Feb. 11 to discuss Transient Rental Overlay Districts (TRODs) throughout the county following a staff review of the situation by Courtney Weiche and Nick Criss. Planning Commission and BOS members weighed in individually with perspectives on what is/is not working. Following public input and a summary of consensus items by BOS Chair Stump, the BOS directed Planning Commission and Community Development staff to confer and draft recommendations for future BOS consideration. The Planning Commission conducted a workshop March 10 to continue discussion of TRODs throughout the county. **Courtney Weiche** and **Nick Criss** presented an overview of Ch. 25 and 26 that define and regulate TRODs and sought input from commissioners on how to refine regulations based on community input on existing and proposed TRODs.

Collaborative Planning Team – At its quarterly meeting Jan. 28, the CPT had an in-depth discussion of erosion control at Tri-Valley and Swall Meadows, with agencies offering assistance but looking to Mono County for leadership. Thanks to Supervisor Stump and Garrett Higerd for their contributions. CDD Intern Jake Suppa, in coordination with Wendy Sugimura, presented a PowerPoint on sustainable agriculture planning. Alisa Ellsworth of CA Fish & Wildlife discussed the California Wildlife Action Plan, and Deb Schweizer of USFS/Inyo outlined Forest Plan revisions and off-highway/over-snow vehicle staging areas.

Mono Basin RPAC – At its Feb. 10 meeting Supervisor Alpers presented a status report on a variety of matters, including the recent California Public Utilities Commission approval of a grant for Mono City wireless service, noting that Lee Vining was excluded. Erin Noesser of USFS reviewed over-snow vehicle use planning. Paul McFarland reported on Lee Vining PUD rate evaluation status and also presented a detailed annual trails plan that was accepted by the RPAC. On March 9, the RPAC received an update on road projects from Caltrans, a report on digital service and corridor WiFi policy by **Nate Greenberg**, and Simis Ranch street renaming by **Steve Connett**. **Chris Lizza** reviewed bylaw revisions, and **Supervisor Alpers** reported on BOS activities.

The Long Valley Hydrologic Advisory Committee (HAC) met Feb. 10 for updates on USGS data and new monitoring wells. Reports were given on status of CD-IV and related mitigation monitoring programs. Thanks to Nick Criss and Brent Calloway for staff support of the HAC.

Bridgeport Valley RPAC – At its Jan. 21 meeting, the RPAC discussed the High Sierra Snowcat and Yurt operation, and approved a letter of support to the HTNF (Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest). The RPAC also discussed changes to its bylaws based on direction from the BOS, discussed policy language for siting zero-emission-vehicle recharge stations, and continued working on a banner across Main Street. Wendy Sugimura staffed the meeting. Regular meetings for February and March RPAC were canceled. At a Special Meeting March 22, a group of 35 RPAC members received information from BLM on wildland interface fire prevention treatments, and asked plenty of questions. **Alicia Vennos**, **Jeff Simpson** and **Liz Grans** of Economic Development explained Mono Tourism's outreach and efforts to help local businesses thrive.

Local Transportation Commission – The LTC met Feb. 8 to receive an audit and initial Overall Work Program discussion with Megan Mahaffey. Gerry Le Francois reviewed the fiscal challenges of the State's Transportation Improvement Program, the coordination efforts with Caltrans and Inyo and Kern counties on programming partnership projects on the US 395/SR 14 corridor, and presented the Regional Transportation Improvement Program adopted by the LTC. Jill Batchelder presented statistics on ESTA operations. The LTC authorized a letter urging Greyhound Lines to extend connecting service to Mono County via current routes of YARTS (Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System). The LTC met March 14 to conduct a review of the Overall Work Program with **Megan Mahaffey**, receive update on the Regional Transportation Improvement Program by **Gerry Le Francois**,

on the joint workshop on bylaws with BOS.

National award – Wendy Sugimura, team leader for sage grouse conservation efforts to prevent listing sage grouse as an endangered species, traveled to Pittsburgh, PA, to receive a national award from USFS and BLM recognizing Mono County as “conservation leadership partner of the year.” Congratulations to all County staff, RPACs, Planning Commission, Local Transportation Commission, and local, state and federal entities that participated and supported this process.

Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District – The board of directors met March 16 initiating its joint application with Inyo County to divide the Owens Valley groundwater basin into two sub-basins in accordance with the provisions of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Long Valley RPAC – At the March 23 meeting, **Courtney Weiche** provided an update of planning activities, and members discussed bear-proof trash enclosure needs and trail connections.

Perry heads down the hall – It is with sadness that we announce **Tom Perry's** departure from Mono County to assume the building official position with Mammoth Lakes. A huge thanks to Tom for his years of service, particularly the past five years as building official. Best of luck, and we look forward to future collaboration with the Town Building Division.

Economic Development



Mono County trout on the cover!

TOURISM

• **Advertising:**

Television: We partnered on a winter television ad buy with June Mountain on Fox 11 in Reno. Here are the two 15-second spots that ran from end of February for three weeks -- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPjQb_8pPN0 and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fm_Srlhpmms

Print/Social/PR: Fishing season advertising campaign has begun. We secured the cover of California Sportsman's April issue with a photo courtesy of Sierra Drifters Guide Service. We have a full-page ad in that issue, as well as in Western Outdoor News "Eastern Sierra Preview" and "Lakes Guide" issues. To continue to counter drought concerns, our *C'mon Up, the Water's Fine* is a tactical message that shows current photos of our lakes and rivers.

EASTERN SIERRA • CALIFORNIA
COME ON UP
THE WATER'S *Fine!*

OWENS RIVER – March 31, 2016

WEST WALKER RIVER – March 15, 2016 CONVICT LAKE – March 16, 2016 TWIN LAKES, BRIDGEPORT – March 15, 2016

TWIN LAKES, MAMMOTH – March 31, 2016 LUNDY LAKE – March 15, 2016 GULL LAKE – March 31, 2016

Mark the calendar – Saturday, April 30 is Fishing Opener here in Mono County!
 With significant snowpack in the high alpine this winter, water levels are looking great – and once again this year, Mono County will stock over 27,000 pounds of trout in 21 lakes, streams and rivers. Check out Opening Day Derbies and spring fishing events below.

2016 SPRING FISHING EVENTS AND DERBIES

JANUARY 1 – APRIL 17 Topaz Lake Fishing Derby – Topaz Lake • TopazLodge.com
 APRIL 30 Fishmas Day Celebration – Tom's Place • 760-935-4239 • TomsPlaceResort.com
 APRIL 30 Opening Weekend Cash Derby – Convict Lake • 800-992-2260 • ConvictLake.com
 APRIL 30 – MAY 1 WON \$95 Big Fish Sierra Trout Opener – throughout the Eastern Sierra **NEW!**
 APRIL 30 Monster Fish Contest – June Lake Loop • JuneLakeLoop.com
 APRIL 30 – MAY 1 Annett's Mono Village Fishing Opener Derby – Upper Twin Lakes, Bridgeport
 760-932-7071 • MonoVillage.com
 APRIL 30 – JUNE 16 "Round-Up at the Lake" Spring Fishing Derby – Convict Lake
 800-992-2260 • ConvictLake.com

GET HERE FASTER! Fly direct to Mammoth Lakes (MMH) from Los Angeles (LAX):
 MonoCounty.org/Airport

FOR LODGING, FISHING GUIDES, EVENTS, FREE VISITOR GUIDES AND MORE, VISIT:
MONOCOUNTY.ORG 800-845-7922

Print advertising – Fishing Season, 2016

- **Public Relations:** Our Fishing Opener press release went out last week to publications all over the western states. Mono County also got press on several of our main attractions in the following outlets:

Fishing Saddlebag Lake/Lee Vining: <http://www.latimes.com/travel/la-tr-weekend-escape-lee-vining-20160403-story.html>

June Mountain: https://www.yahoo.com/style/less-is-more-small-ski-1360994450751542.html?soc_src=mail&soc_trk=ma

June Lake Winter Festival: <http://www.firsttracksonline.com/2016/02/05/june-lake-winter-festival-celebrates-the-season/> and <http://www.latimes.com/travel/deals/la-june-lake-winter-fest-set-for-feb-27-20160204-story.html>

Wildflowers: <http://www.afar.com/magazine/11-other-places-in-california-to-see-gorgeous-wildflowers>

Bodie: <http://www.nbcbayarea.com/blogs/worth-the-trip/Now-Open-Back-Way-to-Bodie-373410771.html>

Hot Springs: <https://www.theoutbound.com/articles/18-incredible-hot-springs-you-need-to-explore>

U.S. 395: <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/usa/california/eastern-sierra/travel-tips-and-articles/highs-and-lows-of-the-395-road-tripping-down-californias-highway-of-superlatives>

American Snowmobiler/Snowgoer magazines: In March, we hosted a travel writer with these two high-profile sledding publications to show him the high-alpine snowmobile terrain in Mono County. Special thanks to Jimmy Little, our Economic Development, Tourism and Film Commission chair, for giving the writer a wonderful tour of the Bridgeport Winter Recreation Area, (with 3 feet of fresh snow, just in time!), and to Kevin Peterson and Mammoth Mountain Ski Area for accommodating him at Mammoth Snowmobile Adventures. And very special thanks to Sargent Jeff Beard with the Mono County Sheriff's department for taking the writer to some additional areas accessible by snowmobile – his assistance and hospitality were invaluable.

Society of American Travel Writers: We are partnering with Mammoth Lakes Tourism to help host the Society of American Travel Writers (Midwest Chapter), June 9-12. Four different trip itineraries have been created including Mono Lake and Bodie to showcase Mono County to this diverse group of writers. Thanks to our County partners who are providing activities and services!

Travel Professionals/Media: France - Through our membership with the High Sierra Visitors Council, on April 28-30, we are co-hosting a group of French travel industry professionals and media who promote and sell California vacations in France. In May, we are hosting travel professionals from Japan, as well.

Here's your new favorite fishing spot in California: Lee Vining



By **Hugo Martin** · Contact Reporter

MARCH 31, 2016, 7:00 AM

If you've ever driven Highway 395 to Yosemite or Reno, you have zipped past Lee Vining, Calif., a hamlet of about 200 on the shores of Mono Lake. Like most anglers and outdoor enthusiasts who love the Eastern Sierra, I've thought of Lee Vining largely as a spot to fill my gas tank or stock up on bait. But while researching new fishing spots — trout season opens April 30 in Mono County — I discovered that Lee Vining is a prime launching point for a weekend of angling at a nearby ring of secluded and serene



ADVERTISEMENT

In Case You M

Social Media: Last month our Facebook page reached a million people, with 125,000 video views and 6,500 new fans, bringing the total fanbase to over 86,500! Instagram is growing steadily, too -- now over 4,000 followers -- and we have started a Snapchat account to reach the youth audience. Follow us on Snapchat under the username: MonoCounty. Also, please check out our Sonora Pass snowmobiling VLOG: <https://youtu.be/8ECldjxc4A>. Also – be sure to see the new Facebook emoticons and what they mean here in the Eastern Sierra!

Explaining the New Facebook Emoticons



I like Fishing
the Eastern
Sierra



I LOVE
fishing the
Eastern
Sierra



I catch so
many fish in
the Eastern
Sierra



Look at this
HUGE fish I
just caught



I've already
caught my
limit today



That monster
trout just
snapped my line

Tradeshows: The busiest part of the 2016 tradeshow season has concluded! Staff represented Mono County at three Travel & Adventure Expos in the Bay Area, Los Angeles, and San Diego, as well as at the International Sportsmen's Expo in Sacramento and both Fred Hall Fishing Shows in Long Beach and San Diego. Thanks to Supervisor Tim Alpers for working the Fred Hall show in San Diego, and to Jeff Simpson and Liz Grans for making presentations and being on the panel discussions at the fishing shows. And big thanks to volunteers, Pam Hamic and Chris Long, for representing Mono County at the Reno Outdoor Expo! Attendance was up significantly at all shows and folks seemed excited to learn about and visit Mono County this year! We distributed thousands of Visitor Guides and collected hundreds of names for our data base, thanks to great giveaway prizes donated by many generous and supportive stakeholders.

Website: Our new tourism website is a huge project but it is coming together – design concepts and wireframe have been approved; we are now working on the site map which will add 50 new pages of content to the new and much improved tourism website.

Historical Societies Grant Fund: Grant funds were allocated to five local historical societies for various projects – Mono County Historical Society, Bridgeport (\$870.00 for production of annual promotional calendar); Mono Basin Historical Society, Lee Vining (\$1,377.00 for website development); June Lake Loop Historical Society, June Lake (\$1,377.00 for website development and purchase of inventory software); Southern Mono Historical Society, Mammoth Lakes (\$1,376.00 for fundraising event); Historic Benton Hot Springs (\$1000.00 for fundraising event).

FILMING

Commercial productions have been steady this winter, thanks to our region's ability to provide snow on the ground and as backdrop. A high-profile television series is currently scouting now to film two full episodes in Mono County in early May. Check out the links to some of the commercials filmed here in recent months – see if you can identify the locations:

Toyota Rav4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T-zhF0s5Vvw&feature=youtu.be> and <http://www.ispot.tv/ad/Atno/toyota-rav4-hybrid-wolf-pack-featuring-james-marsden>

Toyota Tacoma: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9JfK4UtkNw&feature=youtu.be> (Mono County locations begin at about 45 seconds)

Apple: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YRRBs71p7II>

Alicia Vennos, as film commissioner, will be representing Mono County at the upcoming [Film in California Locations Conference](#) at CBS Studios, May 21. She was also elected to the Board of [Film Liaisons In California Statewide \(FLICS\)](#), an organization made up of the state's 44 film commissions, and which supports and promotes filming in California.

FISHERIES

The 2016-17 Mono County stocking schedule is complete and we will be stocking 24,000 pounds of Trophy Trout from opening weekend through November 15. Kudos to Jeff Simpson for juggling that enormous and complex task!

Next Fisheries Commission meeting will be May 4th at 10am at the June Lake Community Center – agenda attached; all are welcome.

Opener is Saturday, April 30th. Western Outdoor News is sponsoring a new fishing derby for opener weekend, called the “395 Big Fish Sierra Trout Opener” – more info at <http://tinyurl.com/hvuxdek>.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Staff gave a presentation on the department’s Economic Development and Tourism initiatives at the Bridgeport RPAC meeting in March. The meeting was very well attended, and although there was not enough time for a formal discussion and workshop, the response was positive and another meeting has been organized by the community for local business owners and residents on April 13th.
- Staff will be meeting with the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (GoBiz) on April 20th in Sacramento to learn more about small business support, investment opportunities, and programs that GoBiz offers rural regions. The following day, April 21st, we are presenting “all things Mono County” to 40-50 Visit California employees as part of their “Destination Third Thursday” program at the Visit California offices in Sacramento.

Staff is attending the annual [California Association for Local Economic Development Conference](#) on April 26-28. Jeff Simpson, as our CALED ambassador, will be making a presentation as part of a panel on social media.

- The next Mono County Economic Development, Tourism & Film Commission meeting will be May 31, 2016 in Bridgeport (Twin Lakes Annex) at 10:00 am, (the April meeting has been canceled).

Testimonial video series: We are working on a series of testimonial videos featuring small business owners who have recently purchased or opened businesses in Mono County. The first video is complete and stars the Sullivan family who bought Twin Lakes Resort in Bridgeport... Password to view the “Go To Video” link below is tlprofile. Thank you to Misti and Tim Sullivan and kids for their time and help with the interview. Feedback is welcome and appreciated!

Shining a spotlight on the beautiful new flooring in Memorial Hall!



Public Works

- The Facilities division is well into the Memorial Hall remodel project which includes a complete remodel of the upstairs restrooms to meet accessibility requirements, as well as a complete facelift of the upstairs including a new stage. Staff discovered a beautiful floor underneath the old carpet and the decision was made to refinish instead of covering with carpet. (See attached photo, it looks awesome) There is also remodel work being done downstairs as well as installing a new elevator.
- Mono Lake Park is getting a much needed facelift with new siding, doors, deck repairs, paint, and some work on the interior of the restrooms. This is phase one of a larger project at the park.
- Staff is working diligently on putting the final touches on the permit application and ultimately the Request for Bid on the Bridgeport Biomass project with thanks to Paul Roten and Jason Davenport for their extra effort on this project.
- There are also several CDBG funded restroom projects that are scheduled for this construction season including; Benton Park, Gull Lake Park, and Crowley Lake park. The Walker Park restroom has already been completed.

Contact: Joe Blanchard 760-932-5443

Social Services

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month!

20 Ways of Preventing Child Abuse & Neglect

1. The Child Help USA Hotline offers 24-hour crisis telephone assistance for individuals under stress. Telephone counseling is available in 140 languages 800-422-4453. The Wild Iris hotline is also available 24 hours at 877-873-7384.
2. Organizations such as Parents Anonymous offer self-help groups for parents seeking support and positive parent strategies at www.parentsanonymous.org.
3. The Mono County [Child Abuse Prevention Council](#) has resources available locally to help families.
4. Parents who ask for help in getting housing, food, transportation, and/or health care protect their families from stress.
5. Being connected to family and friends by sharing celebrations and day-to-day problems makes families stronger.
6. Families who use a family physician and healthcare provider, also known as a medical home, promote good health and children are screened for normal developmental milestones on an ongoing basis.
7. Parents who encourage, listen, and accept expression of emotions help their child to develop healthy self-esteem about themselves and in relation to others.
8. Parents who learn about and practice safe nonviolent forms of child discipline become positive role models for their children.
9. Learning what is normal with their child's development helps parents accept their child as they are and decreases frustration from unrealistic expectations.
10. Parents that utilize recovery programs for alcohol or drug abuse learn to stay clean and stay connected with others.
11. Parent education classes teach parents the benefits of bonding, understanding, and accepting their children's personalities.
12. High quality preschools teach children social skills and build self-esteem.
13. Fathers who connect with their children form strong family bonds.
14. Parents can learn ways to calm a crying baby and manage feelings of frustration when a baby is inconsolable.
15. Parents can investigate child care provider for any history of abusing children. Use Trustline to check out child care providers 800-822-8490.
16. Parents can ask for help when depressed or stressed by life's challenges.
17. Parents learning about child safety in the home can prevent accidents and increase awareness of the environment.
18. Parents can use community services such as respite care and home visiting services to strengthen parental resilience when times are tough.
19. Communities can support families by providing free or low-cost activities that encourage parent/child interactions.
20. Community networks collaborating with each other facilitate ease of referrals and obtaining ser-





Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy
(OCRA)

*County of Mono Department of Social Services
452 Old Mammoth Rd, 3rd Floor Suite 307
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546*

Presentation Agenda

Mario Espinoza, J.D.

Thursday, May 5, 2016 10:30 a.m.

Please forward this invite to anyone you may think would be interested in attending.

For more information on the Office of Clients' Rights please visit their website at:

www.disabilityrightsca.org

www.disabilityrightsca.org/espanol