

# EASTERN SIERRA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

## Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Monday, May 18, 2009

The Board of Directors of the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority, State of California, met at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 18, 2009, at the City of Bishop Council Chambers, 301 West Line Street, Bishop, California. The following members were present: Jeff Griffiths, Skip Harvey, Susan Cash, Vikki Bauer, David Stottlemeyre, Linda Arcularius, John Eastman and Byng Hunt. Director John Eastman led the pledge of allegiance.

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| Public Comment   | The Chairperson opened the public comment period at 5:04 p.m. There was no one from the public wishing to address the Board. Public Comment was closed.   |
| Consent Agenda   | Moved by Director Eastman and seconded by Director Hunt to approve the minutes of the ESTA Board of Directors Meeting of April 17, 2009. Motion carried 6-0, with Directors Arcularius and Cash abstaining.   |
| USFS Challenge Cost Share Agreement Approval- Red's Meadow Shuttle Service | Executive Director John Helm presented an overview of the Agreement with the U.S. Forest Service for the operation of the Red's Meadow Shuttle. Inyo National Forest Supervisor, Jim Upchurch, addressed the Board and stated that the Forest Service was pleased to be in a position to partner with ESTA for the operation of the service. Director Arcularius raised a question regarding the Agreement language indicating that the program revenue structure could be changed in future years. Mr. Helm clarified that it was anticipated that the Forest Service's financial involvement in subsequent years would be reduced or eliminated, as the fare revenue would fully cover the costs of the operation once new capital was procured. It was also noted that the Agreement was for a one-year term and that ESTA was not obligated to any future program revenue structure. Moved by Director Bauer and seconded by Director Arcularius to authorize the Executive Director to execute the Challenge Cost Share Agreement with the Forest Service, for the operation of the Red's Meadow Shuttle route for the 2009 summer season. Motion carried 8-0. |
| MMSA Vehicle Lease, and Ticket Sales Agreements Approval                   | Executive Director Helm presented an overview of the Agreement with Mammoth Mountain Ski Area for the lease of eight buses to operate the Red's Meadow Shuttle. The arrangement calls for Mammoth Mountain to provide the vehicles, parking area, fueling area, and all maintenance for the vehicles. Moved by Director Eastman and seconded by Director Bauer to authorize the Executive Director to execute the Vehicle Lease Agreement with  |

the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, for the lease of eight buses for the operation of the Reds Meadow Shuttle route for the 2009 summer season. Motion carried 8-0.

Mr. Helm provided an overview of the Ticket Sales Agreement with Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (MMSA) for the sale of Red's Meadow shuttle tickets. Mr. Helm confirmed that, due to time constraints, the final Agreement was not available for review by the Board. Mr. Helm described the responsibilities under the Agreement, specifically, that MMSA would sell tickets for the shuttle from their ticketing venues at the Main Lodge area (Adventure Center) and at The Village. The ticket sales would be handled through MMSA's ticketing infrastructure and IT system. Director Eastman commented that the Board understood the overall intent of the Agreement for ticket sales and that he could approve the direction for the Executive Director even though he had not been able to review the final document. Moved by Director Eastman and seconded by Director Hunt to authorize the Executive Director to execute the Ticket Sales Agreement with Mammoth Mountain Ski Area for the 2009 Red's Meadow Shuttle season in an amount not to exceed \$27,840. Motion passed 6-2.

#### Charter Regulations

Jill Batchelder reported to the Board information regarding charter service regulations affecting recipients of federal transit assistance. These regulations prohibit recipients of federal transit assistance from operating charter service except under certain specific exemption provisions. The Board directed staff to look into several options to help fill the need of customers including; contact local shuttle service operations to see if there is interest for them to become a registered charter service provider, contact the registered charter companies to see if there is interest to provide service in this area, request the registered charter providers to approve an agreement which would allow ESTA to provide charter service in this area and, contact congressional representatives to support a petition to the FTA Administrator declaring a hardship.

#### Recess/Reconvene

The Chairperson recessed the meeting at 6:55 p.m. in order to convene the Special Meeting. The Board reconvened at 8:30 p.m. with all Board Members present.

#### Line of Credit Request for Fiscal Year 2009/2010

Moved by Director Hunt and seconded by Director Eastman to approve the draft letter formally requesting participation of the jurisdictions in funding a line of credit to ESTA, and to authorize the Chair to sign the letter on behalf of the Board of Directors. Motion carried 8-0.

CJPIA Certification of Director and Alternate	Moved by Director Cash and seconded by Director Arcularius to authorize Board Chair, Jeff Griffiths, John Helm, Monicka Watterson and Jill Batchelder to represent ESTA with the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (CJPIA). Motion carried 8-0.
Treasurer's Report	Mr. Helm presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of April. The fund balance for the lines of credit has been fully repaid. Overall the expenditures should not exceed the revenues for the 08/09 fiscal year. The Board requested the Budget Policy be reviewed during the June meeting to make certain that the policy as it relates to budget amendments is being followed properly.
Operations Report	Monicka Watterson gave the Operations Report for the month of April. Ms. Watterson stated that several new pages have been added to the Operations Report, which detail the performance of each of the services as compared to the prior year.
Public Meeting Input Results	Ms. Batchelder gave a report to the Board on the Public Input meetings held in Lone Pine, Bishop and Walker. Many of the comments received, both in writing and in person at the sessions voiced concerns that service was going to be reduced or eliminated. Other concerns voiced at these sessions included: fares are too high, request for a mid-afternoon route between Bishop and Lone Pine, request for a route between Walker and Bridgeport to the Pickle Meadows Marine Base, request for more bus availability during peak hours, and request for the fixed route to be wheelchair accessible. Mr. Helm clarified for the Board that the fixed routes are accessible to individuals with disabilities, including passengers who use a wheelchair.
Draft Budget Presentation	Mr. Helm presented to the Board an overview of the draft budget for the 2009/10 fiscal year. The 2009/10 budget will be brought to the Board for approval at the June meeting.
Board Meeting Dates and Times	This item was deferred and will be discussed at the June meeting.
Special Transportation to Board Meetings	This item was deferred and will be discussed at the June meeting.
Reports	Director Arcularius invited everyone to Independence to witness the Whitney Portal Preserve appeal at an upcoming Inyo County Board of Supervisors Meeting.  Director Bauer requested that ESTA enter a trolley in the 4th of

July parade in Mammoth and, if necessary, that this be put on the June agenda.

Director Hunt stated that he will be out of town for the June meeting.

Mr. Helm requested that the Board Members be identified who will participate in the meeting between Terry Gooch Ross and the employees. Directors Harvey and Stottlemyre volunteered to attend the meeting.

Adjournment

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held Friday June 19, 2009 at 11:30 a.m. in the City of Bishop.

Recorded & Prepared by:



Susan Rottner  
Board Clerk  
Eastern Sierra Transit Authority

Minutes approved: **June 19, 2009**