



MINUTES

**Ecosystem Connectivity Mitigation
Advisory Committee (EMAC)
Regular Meeting
Monday, June 24, 2019
10:00 AM**

**Yavapai County Development Services
Training Room
1120 Commerce Drive
Prescott, AZ 86305**

CYMPO Ecosystem Connectivity Mitigation Advisory Committee

Chair	Kendra Bull, Prescott National Forest
Vice-Chair	Tammy DeWitt, Yavapai County Development Services
Member	Chuck Budinger, ADOT Northwest District
Member	Elizabeth Johnston, Arizona Game and Fish
Member	Ron James, Private Citizen
Member	J. D. Greenberg, Private Citizen
Member	Deb Pastor, Private Citizen

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Madam Chair Bull- absent. Proxy Francisco Anaya present.
Member James- absent
Member Pastor- absent

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

No announcements or updates were provided.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 25, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

Member Budinger requested correction be made to the spelling of his last name.

MOTION

Member Greenberg motioned to approve the March 25, 2019 Ecosystem Connectivity Mitigation Advisory Committee (EMAC) meeting minutes. Member Johnston seconded the motion.

VOTE

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

4. RE-ELECTION OF OFFICERS WITH DEPARTURE OF CHAIR KENDRA BULL

MOTION

Member Greenberg nominated Vice-Chair DeWitt to become Chair of the EMAC. Member Johnston seconded the motion. Vice-Chair DeWitt nominated Member Johnston as Vice-Chair. Member Greenberg seconded the motion.

VOTE

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

5. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO JOIN THE STATEWIDE WILDLIFE-VEHICLE MITIGATION PLAN

Mr. John Wennes, with ADOT Multimodal Planning Division, explained the Statewide Wildlife-Vehicle Mitigation Plan is a state-wide plan not specific to CYMPO. Currently developing the structure of stakeholders to participate on the committee. Ultimately would like to bring consultant on board. Estimated plan will be a yearlong project, and major goal of the plan is to produce project that can be submitted to ADOT's Planning to Programming process. Member Budinger inquired if the FHWA wildlife team will be involved. Mr. Wennes requested Member Budinger forward more information. Member Greenberg noted that including the FHWA could assist in potential funding opportunities. Member Greenberg suggested potentially raising money by creating a state license plate dedicated to wildlife collision mitigation. Member Greenberg also suggested making webinars available for Statewide Wildlife Vehicle Mitigation Plan meetings to allow for more participation.

Member Greenberg recommended looking at enhancing the way in which wildlife vehicle accidents are assessed and suggested a statewide inter-agency training for accurate reporting of wildlife vs. livestock accidents. Vice-Chair DeWitt requested this agenda item reappear on the next agenda as an update item.

Jeff Gagnon, AZ Game and Fish, explained ADOT has combined wildlife and livestock collisions into the same data. Member Budinger inquired about the wildlife collision reporting app Game & Fish is creating. Mr. Gagnon explained the app is still in the creation process, but is near completion. Mr. Gagnon, noted ADOT data has been the only consistent data source of wildlife collisions.

6. REVIEW OF HIGHWAY 69-WIDENING DESIGN KICKOFF MEETING

Mr. Bridges reviewed the SR69 Feasibility Report with committee and explained obstacles to be considered during yearlong design phase. Committee members discussed possible wildlife collision mitigation options such as medians, signage, fencing, and culvert. Member Greenberg suggested looking into partnerships for potential funding opportunities. Vice-Chair DeWitt suggested looking into partnership opportunities with Sun Corridor Trail and possible funding provided to the state for the trail.

Mr. Gagnon explained wildlife detector signs tend to create a hazard of motorists stopping on the side of the road to look for wildlife.

Mr. Bridges explained the existing culvert will likely be extended for the widening of Hwy 69 and suggested looking into improving the lighting of the culvert. George Sheets, with the City of Prescott Planning and Zoning Commission, noted that the condition of the current culvert should be addressed, and this project could provide opportunity for potential improvements that would accommodate pedestrian and wildlife traffic.

Mr. Bridges noted that 528 out of 1,600 comments CYMPO has received as part of public involvement for the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan are wildlife-related comments. Mr. Bridges suggested scheduling a Working Group Session in July to further review mitigation options in preparation for the next Hwy 69 design meeting. Meeting date to be scheduled.

7. CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

This item is to provide an opportunity for presentation of comments by the public on subjects *not on the agenda*. Individuals wishing to address the Committee need not request permission in advance and are limited to three (3) minutes.

8. ADJOURNMENT 11:45 AM

CYMPO endeavors to make all public meetings accessible to persons in need of foreign language assistance or with disabilities. Please call (928) 442-5730 or e-mail Allison.McCarthy@yavapai.us, 72 hours prior to the meeting to request a reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting.