



# MINUTES

**Ecosystem Connectivity Mitigation  
Advisory Committee (EMAC)  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, August 26, 2019  
10:00 AM**

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

## **CYMPO Ecosystem Connectivity Mitigation Advisory Committee**

Chair	Tammy DeWitt, City of Prescott
Vice-Chair	Elizabeth Johnston, Arizona Game and Fish
Member	Chuck Budinger, ADOT Northwest District
Member	Francisco Anaya, Prescott National Forest
Member	Ron James, Private Citizen
Member	J. D. Greenberg, Private Citizen
Member	Deb Pastor, Private Citizen

### **1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

- Member Budinger absent
- Member James absent

### **2. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES**

Member Greenberg provided review of conversations she held with CYMPO staff and Alvin Stump, ADOT Northwest District Engineer. Noted that Mr. Stump advised funding for a potential underpass for the Highway 69 Widening Design project would need to be collected within the next few months to be incorporated into the design phase of the project.

Introductions were made around the room:

- Allison McCarthy, CYMPO
- JD Greenberg, EMAC
- Tammy DeWitt, City of Prescott, EMAC
- Elizabeth Johnston, Arizona Game & Fish, EMAC
- Deb Pastor, EMAC
- Francisco Anaya, Prescott National Forest, EMAC
- Daniel Harmonick, CYMPO
- Gary Worob, Greater Prescott Outdoors Fund
- Valarie Isly, Granite Dells Preservation Foundation
- Tom Slaback, Sierra Club
- Jenny Cobb, Great Ole Broads for Wilderness
- Jeff Gagnon, Arizona Game & Fish
- Scott Sprague, Arizona Game & Fish

**3. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 24, 2019 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION**

Vice-Chair Johnston motioned to approve the June 24, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Ecosystem Connectivity Mitigation Advisory Committee. Member Greenberg seconded the motion.

**VOTE**

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 5, 2019 WORKING GROUP SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION**

Vice-Chair Johnston motioned to approve the August 5, 2019 Working Group Session Meeting Minutes of the Ecosystem Connectivity Mitigation Advisory Committee. Member Greenberg seconded the motion.

**VOTE**

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

**5. UPDATE OF STATEWIDE WILDLIFE-VEHICLE MITIGATION PLAN**

*(John Wennes, ADOT MPD)*

Mr. Wennes explained the Statewide Wildlife-Vehicle Mitigation Plan is anticipated to be advertised in September. Explained a Technical Advisory Committee will be established and anticipates the study will take the majority of year 2020 to complete. As part of the study, the consultant will be asked to recommend potential funding sources.

Member Greenberg inquired if the number of vehicle/wildlife collisions on SR69 between Prescott Lakes Parkway and Frontier Village will be updated in this study. Mr. Wennes confirmed yes, the consultant will be updating collision data.

Mr. Wennes explained that in the America's Transportation Infrastructure Act, \$250 million is allotted to "Wildlife Crossing Safety" over 5 years, and CYMPO would be potentially eligible to receive a portion of this funding.

**6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO RECOMMEND WILDLIFE CONNECTIVITY AND COLLISION MITIGATION OPTIONS FOR HIGHWAY 69-WIDENING DESIGN**

Mr. Gagnon noted examples of potential funding sources: Habitat Partnership Committee, Mule Deer Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Federation, Arizona Parks Recreational Trail Program.

Member Greenberg explained previous conversation held with Mr. Stump and noted that when looking at an underpass or overpass, the land on either side of an over/under pass would need to be protected indefinitely. Madam Chair DeWitt explained the use of the land would have to be proven to provide the best value to State Trust Land.

Member Greenberg inquired about study that is being conducted in Flagstaff which involves reflectors to reduce collisions with elk and deer. Mr. Gagnon explained the study is not yet complete, but that this approach does not solve the issue of connectivity.

Madam Chair DeWitt noted that any recommendations from the EMAC need to be presented to the TAC at its September 5 meeting.

Member Greenberg inquired of Mr. Wennes if ADOT has available staff to write grant applications. Mr. Wennes suggested contacting Mr. Stump to see what district resources are available. Madam Chair DeWitt noted the Tribe would be a possible resource as well.

Member Pastor inquired how to involve the public of the issue. Member of public, Valarie Isly, requested information be made available to share throughout the community. Madam Chair DeWitt explained the EMAC is an advisory committee and is required to follow the committee structure outlined in CYMPO Bylaws. The EMAC must gain approval from the CYMPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Executive Board prior to beginning a public outreach initiative.

Member Greenberg inquired about a way to set up a structure to collect donations for the project. Madam Chair DeWitt noted this will be discussed with the TAC.

Mr. Harmonick suggested the EMAC develop a list of mitigation options based on funds available to bring to the TAC. Mr. Sprague, AZ Game & Fish, explained an underpass or overpass is essentially the only effective option for wildlife to safely migrate. Mr. Gagnon, AZ Game & Fish, noted wildlife detection systems have not proven to be effective, and that an expanded culvert with funnel fencing is the minimum solution for safe crossing.

Ms. DeWitt noted that these recommendations will be discussed at the TAC meeting on September 5.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT 11:20 PM**

*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.*