

Mono County Fisheries Commission

Regular Meeting

Monday, July 31, 2013 ~ 10:00 a.m.

June Lake Community Center

June Lake ~ California

Minutes of Meeting

I CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

II Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III ROLL CALL

Present were Commissioners Steve Marti, John Webb, Gaye Mueller, Bob Dunn, Jim King and Gary Jones. Staff present was Dan Lyster and Nancy Alaniz.

IV COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Webb reported for IAG that the county trophy stocking and the kids fishing festival stocking were completed on July 26. The next county stocking will be Aug 26.

The Lahontan Water Quality Control Board testing cost IAG \$1274. Maranatha Well Drilling is waiting for the pump for the test well. On July 18 there was a hearing regarding the pending lawsuit by IAG, against the county, where the judge ruled the lawsuit can proceed. Low water flows at Conway Ranch continue to affect the fish and more were lost in July.

Dr. Jenkins asked about the proceedings for the listing of the frog species'. King gave an overview of his understanding of the information which has been discussed at previous meetings. He added that the public comment period has been extended 120 days. There was an additional discussion regarding perceptions of potential effects from the listing.

V APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 10, 2013

Motion by King to accept the July 10, 2013 minutes. Second by Jones. Passed unanimously with Webb abstaining since he was not at that meeting.

VI STAFF/COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Mueller reported that the Kids Fishing Festival went well. There were about 1200 kids in attendance, which was up from 1000 last year. The fish that were provided were at least 15" and 4 lbs. each. Mueller said the Arts Council is looking for another to group to host the event. She said there are many groups involved in the event and she thought a coalition may be beneficial.

Dunn reported on the W. Walker River "How Big is Big" annual event that runs the month of July. The Chamber purchased fish from McFarland at \$4 lb (4-6.4 lbs each.) There were 111 entries, 50 cities, and locals represented. The event was very successful and vitalized the community and its businesses.

There are three future F&G Commission meetings scheduled (Aug 7, Oct 2, and in Nov.) The proposed W. Walker River regulation changes are still pending. Dunn was advised by CDFW that the Oct meeting was the most important and it was recommended that at least one commissioner attend that meeting. Webb added that the Conway Ranch consultant (Tony Vaught) stated he would attend the meetings and provided input.

Lyster said the Conway Ranch draft conservation easement was still be processed and pending approval.

A watermaster contract is being written and pending submittal/negotiations with the potential applicant.

VII F&W UPDATE

None

VIII FUND BALANCES

The F&G Fine Fund balance was reported by the Finance Department as \$10,980.43 (balance after pending expenditures \$4084.34). The MCFC regular budget is pending approval. The Conway Ranch Fund was reported as \$28,695.60 (with \$20,000 encumbered.)

IX BUSINESS MATTERS

1. Presentation Ref: High Mountain Lake Project/Frog Study

Jim Erdman, CDFW, was unable to attend the meeting due to an unexpected emergency. There was discussion on this item under public comment. Mueller added that she felt it was important for the FC to disseminate accurate information on the subject. The only status update on this issue is that the public input period was extended 120 days (until a date in Nov.) Marti suggested that Mono County tourism become involved. Lyster said the information is and has been posted on the County website. Alaniz added that it has been publicized through numerous media sites, including the CDFW website. King added that Cal Trout has remained neutral on the matter. There was a continued discussion and statement of opinions about the necessity of and reasons for the listing.

2. Discuss/Update Strategic Plan - Mueller

Changes noted: update DFG to CDFW; change #8 to “maintain the fisheries management plan”; and state the current dates.

Motion by Mueller to approve, with changes, the 13/14 strategic plan. Second by Dunn. Passed unanimously.

3. Modify FC Management Plan for BOS – Marti

Tabled until next meeting, pending further follow up.

4. Discussion/Possible Recommendation for the Ag Well – Webb

Webb reported that IAG reported that Maranatha has the well pump on order for the test well and it should be received this week. He added that due to the drought and Conway Ranch low water conditions, a decision needed to be made whether to wait for the consultant's recommendations regarding additional wells or should future money be dedicated to an ag well. According to earlier reports, the estimated cost for the installation of an ag well is approximately \$30,000. Webb asked Lyster what he thought the BOS stance would be on this issue. Lyster said based on current budget discussions he believed the BOS would ask the FC to spend their discretionary monies toward the well. Lyster said that some have a feeling that a private entity is being subsidized. Dunn, Webb and Marti felt the ranch could be lost without County support of a well. Marti felt the FC should make a commitment that all of the discretionary money be dedicated to the ag well. Webb, Mueller and Jones agreed with that commitment and they felt the well would improve the County property. Dunn was concerned about using all the discretionary funds because of the possibility of future issues arising later in the year. There was discussion about potential replacement organizations if IAG was unable to continue at the ranch, and the change and support of infrastructure. Lyster commented that a well may require additional permits besides the regular county permit.

Motion by Webb to advise the BOS they are willing to expend \$10,000 from their 13/14 discretionary funds and the earmarked money (rolled over from FY 12/13 discretionary funds) in the Conway Ranch fund (\$4084.34) toward the installation of an ag well and a 25 hp pump for Conway Ranch if the BOS will expend the remaining amount. Second by Jones. Passed unanimously.

5. Discussion & Possible Funding for the Balance of the \$19,000 for the Higher Elevation Lakes - Webb

At the March 11, 2013 meeting the FC approved an expenditure of \$19,150 that was excess funding in the Trophy Trout budget. The funds were to be used to purchase fish for stocking. The consensus was that the lower elevation lakes would be stocked initially with the higher elevation lakes to follow when they were accessible. Alaniz was directed to confirm the remaining funds were still available and the exact amount remaining.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.

The next regular meeting of the MCFC will be held in the June Lake Community Center, June Lake on Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013 at 10 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Alaniz, Secretary