

Mono County Fisheries Commission

Regular Meeting

Monday, February 11, 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 10:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II ROLL CALL

Present were Commissioners Steve Marti, John Webb, Gaye Mueller, Bob Dunn, Gary Jones Dan Anthony and Jim King.

Staff present was Dan Lyster and Nancy Alaniz.

III COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Raven Angeles stated that IAG completed the 2012 census and the National Aquaculture Survey. She gave a reminder about submission for private stocking permits. She reported that IAG was still awaiting the water master payment, gave their annual report to the BOS, and are awaiting confirmation on the stocking budget. She added that Conway Ranch Foundation gave their annual report to the BOS, was still awaiting payment for an invoice and so was delaying the ordering/distribution of brochures.

John Webb stated that Sup. Fesko wanted to attend the MCFC meeting, but had a schedule conflict. Webb asked if it would be possible to accommodate Fesko's future schedule. Alaniz was directed to work with Sup. Fesko to attempt to coordinate schedules.

V APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 7, 2013

Motion by Mueller to accept the January 7, 2013 minutes with the noted corrections. Second by Webb. Passed unanimously.

Noted corrections: Karen Ferrell-Ingram, Executive Director of the Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT), requested to document corrections to comments that were made at the meeting and documented in the meeting minutes. She stated that ESLT does not identify migration corridors and that ESLT relies on biologists to identify those corridors. She said the comment that was made that Byng Hunt and the head of the Mono Lake Committee were on the ESLT Board of Directors was incorrect. She said they are both on the ESLT advisory board along with fourteen others who provide expert advice as needed. Lastly, she stated that she disagreed with the statement that ESLT had a history of taking away access from the angling public.

King noted the year of the minutes needed to be corrected to 2013.

V STAFF/COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Lyster said Mono County is still awaiting a buyout offer from Caltrans. Once it is received the BOS will review it and make a decision. The next BOS meeting will have a closed session to discuss Conway Ranch issues.

Alaniz reported that the MCFC now has a web page on the Mono County website. She will update/maintain the webpage.

Marti reported that he attended the February 5th BOS meeting and shared the bio's of the current commissioners as well as the current Fisheries Management Plan. He said the BOS stated they would like to adopt the Fisheries Management Plan at a future meeting. Marti was pleased with the BOS's reception of the information he provided and the open discussion that was shared.

Anthony reported that he is still working with Jim Erdman, CDFW, to pursue the West Walker River fishing regulation changes. Anthony has received several new and updated support letters regarding the changes. Erdman said they are also contacting local groups to determine their support status.

VI F&W UPDATE

Erdman reported he sent out a bulk mailing for private stocking and derby permits. Erdman updated Anthony on the status of the progress for the West Walker River regulation changes. CDFW will have a booth at Mule Days, along with a small kids' derby. He attended Trout in the Classroom teacher training and received prices for equipment. Webb asked Erdman about a Siskiyou County court ruling regarding 1600 permits. Erdman was not familiar with the ruling and Webb asked him to research it.

VII FUND BALANCES

The F&G Fine Fund balance was reported by the Finance Department as \$19,086.77. The MCFC regular budget is \$22,949.04. The Conway Ranch Fund was reported as \$51,134.20.

VIII BUSINESS MATTERS

1. Create Agenda for Mar 11 meeting with Inyo & Alpine Wildlife Groups – Mueller

The commissioners discussed the meeting format and discussion topics for the Tri-County workshop.

2. Discussion & Possible Action ref: Eastern Sierra Land Trust – Marti

Karen Ferrell-Ingram explained that conservation easements are a collaborative effort between the landowner and the grantor and are tailored to each property and owner. She further explained the procedure for establishing a conservation easement and the landowners' motivating factors. In response to a question regarding the potential for a Conway Ranch easement, she explained that ESLT is available to assist Mono County and Caltrans. However, those negotiations are still conceptual and in closed session. Ferrell-Ingram answered general questions and addressed concerns, but was unable to give specifics for the Conway Ranch since negotiations are still in progress.

Lyster added that Caltrans introduced the ESLT into the negotiations and the County is continuing to pursue the ability to build a hatchery on the Conway Ranch. He answered the commissioners questions regarding the negotiations process and potential situations.

Sup. Alpers stated his ideas for a hatchery.

3. Discussion & Possible Action ref: IAG Contract Balance – Marti

Raven Angeles said she has fish to stock to fulfill the remaining \$29,106.50 of the trophy stocking contract. She said she contacted the Finance Department and confirmed that there was a balance of \$56,256 in the budget. Angeles wanted confirmation that IAG would be paid if they fulfilled the remainder of the stocking contract. Lyster said he assumed payment would be paid since there is a county contract in place.

The commissioners also had a brief discussion about purchasing additional fish with any potential excess funds in the trophy trout budget.

4. Discussion & Possible Action ref: Conway Ranch Hunting Ordinance - Marti

Marti asked Lyster if the Conway Ranch grantors were aware of and/or had any issues with the Conway Ranch hunting ordinance. Lyster was not aware of any issues. Marti asked Lyster to contact the grantors to determine their stance.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

The next regular meeting of the MCFC will be held in the June Lake Community Center, June Lake on Monday, March 11, 2013 at 10 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Alaniz, Secretary

APPROVED