

Mono County Fisheries Commission

Regular Meeting

Monday, March 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 10:05 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II ROLL CALL

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

Attending workshop guests: Inyo County F&W - Bruce Ivey, Doug Brown, Joe Pesci; Cal Trout - Andrew Skaggs; Friends of the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery – Ted Pederson; CDFW - Jim Erdman; Biologist – Dr. Tom Jenkins; and IAG/CRF - Raven Angeles.

Staff present was Dan Lyster (departure 1 pm) and Nancy Alaniz.

III COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

IV APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 4, 2013

Motion by Mueller to accept the February 4, 2013 minutes. Second by Anthony. Passed unanimously.

V STAFF/COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Lyster stated that the discussions with Cal Trans were moving in a direction toward an agreement. He explained the pipeline project to the workshop guests.

Alaniz reminded the commissioners that they needed to complete the Form 700 by April 1.

VI F&W UPDATE

None – see below

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

Marti reported that the trophy stocking budget has an excess of \$19,150 after paying the current year's IAG stocking contract. Marti suggested using half of the money to provide additional stocking to the waters where marina operators participated in the boat raffle, sponsored by the Eastern Sierra Fishing Coalition. Angeles stated the waters that were open would be stocked with raffle fish on the Monday/Tuesday prior to fishing opener. The other waters will be stocked when the waters open. Webb suggested 2/3 of the remaining half to be stocked in the higher country lakes that normally open later and the other 1/3 to be stocked in the West Walker. Alaniz was directed to contact the Finance Department to confirm the availability of the funds. Lyster stated he would contact County Counsel to determine if there are contract caps that would need to be addressed.

Motion by Dunn for conceptual approval for the expenditure of \$19,150 in excess funds that exists in the trophy trout fund, contingent upon confirmation of availability and the appropriate process for expenditure. Second by Webb. Passed unanimously.

2. Workshop with Alpine and Inyo Fish & Wildlife Commissions – Mueller

Note: Alpine County Commissioners were not in attendance.

- a) Jim Erdman, CDFW, gave an update on stocking by the CDFW, hatchery production, Lahontan Cutthroat recovery, and regulations.
- b) Mueller, with assistance from Angeles, gave an update on private fish stocking. Inyo County representatives also spoke about stocking in their county. Also discussed was the effects of whirling disease on the raising and stocking of fish, and the effects of SB1148 on stocking.
- c) Discussion and update about Conway Ranch, the Bell Pipeline, and fish quality. Also discussed was the importance of fish stocking to the local economy.
- d) Discussion and update on the history and status of the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery and the activities of the Friends of the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery. Also discussed was the Fish Springs well pump.
- e) Discussion of hunting and its effects on the economy. Parts of this discussion included the effects of mountain lions on deer populations, reduction of the numbers of hunters, and bear numbers.

- f) Discussion of the elimination of the Al Taucher Committee, the political effects of environmental groups on hunting and fishing, and the politics of the Fish and Game Commission and Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- g) Discussion and update regarding the Trout in the Classroom program.
- h) Discussion regarding the Mono County Fisheries Commission Management Plan and how to proceed toward implementation.

Following the workshop, the commissioners discussed the Conway Ranch, Cal Trans and Eastern Sierra Land Trust.

Webb commented that although the FC had been told that the Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT) was not actively involved in the negotiations, between Cal Trans and the County, regarding the Conway Ranch; he received information that the ESLT has been actively meeting with Tom Hallenback (Cal Trans) and Mono County. He added that he received information that the deal was complete and he was concerned that the FC did not have the opportunity to provide input during the process, since the agreement could negatively affect the county and its operations. He added that the agreement was going to the BOS in a draft plan; then it would be forwarded to the FC for input. Marti asked the commissioners for their input regarding the situation, adding that the BOS were having a meeting the following day and he planned on attending. Dunn was concerned about the legal details and land use of the ranch if ESLT took control. He added that the FC should have been involved in the process and he was concerned that the negotiations were in closed session. Mueller supported the use of the ESLT and felt the land use of the ranch would be clarified. Anthony was concerned that the future could not be foreseen as to the land use needs of the ranch. Marti was concerned that the county was going to buy back property then be forced into an agreement with ESLT and he did not foresee a gain by involving the ESLT. King felt that the ESLT agreement could be positive for the development of the ranch and did not see a negative impact.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.

The next regular meeting of the MCFC will be held in the June Lake Community Center, June Lake on Monday, April 8, 2013 at 10 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Alaniz, Secretary