

Mono County Fisheries Commission

Regular Meeting

Monday, May 1, 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.

II Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III ROLL CALL

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

IV COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Dr. Jenkins commented that he discussed a backcountry fishing application with Jim Erdman, CDFW. Erdman stated that CDFW may be interested in a partnership to accomplish this.

John Frederickson, IAG, commented on concerns about water flow and water availability issues on Conway Ranch and potential detrimental effects on production. Lyster said it was his understanding there was a meeting scheduled with Fred Fulstone to discuss water master issues. Angeles stated concern that issues may arise before a meeting, but Lyster confirmed there will be a meeting prior to any changes. Angeles asked Sup. Fesko's opinion and he deferred to staff. There was additional discussion regarding the potential of drilling well(s) to alleviate the water issues.

V APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 8, 2013

Motion by Mueller to accept the April 8, 2013 minutes. Second by Jones. Passed unanimously.

VI STAFF/COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Lyster reported that the County is in the final processes of finalizing the MOU with CalTrans. It should be on BOS agenda the second meeting in May. The other grantors have been kept apprised of the progress and they would like to see the aquaculture plan in relationship to the barn.

Mueller said she received an update email from Mammoth Tourism and it said that opening day was very successful. Also that the Eastern Sierra Fishing Coalition had stocked 10,000 lbs of fish.

VII F&W UPDATE

Erdman introduced his new supervisor, Heidi Sickler. He also clarified that the previously discussed Siskiyou court case pertaining to 1600 permits. It was a local case that ruled that that landowners (ranchers) did not have to notify CDFW every time they used water pursuant to their water rights. Last, he gave an overview of SB 1148, fisheries management plans, hatcheries and stocking.

VIII FUND BALANCES

The F&G Fine Fund balance was reported by the Finance Department as \$19,697.65. The MCFC regular budget is \$22,949.04. The Conway Ranch Fund was reported as \$25,135.97.

IX BUSINESS MATTERS

1. Discussion/Direction to staff: Creating a time line for starting construction on hatchery building for Conway Ranch – Marti

Marti reiterated to Lyster that the FC would like to be kept apprised of the status with the Conway Ranch MOU. He also wanted information on what details will be needed to pursue the hatchery building for Conway Ranch. Webb discussed writing a letter to Tom Hallenback, Caltrans, to request immediate permission, prior to finalization of the MOU, to drill well(s) on the Conway Ranch. Supervisor Fesko was asked his opinion and he said he would discuss the situation with County Counsel.

2. Discuss Potential Utilization of Dr. Jenkins – Marti

Marti said he spoke with Dr. Jenkins regarding areas of expertise that Dr. Jenkins could be utilized. Dr. Jenkins said he would like to provide assistance to the CDFW in areas that would benefit the FC goals. Mueller suggested utilizing Dr. Jenkins with the cage culture programs. Dr. Jenkins stated he preferred to work in areas of his expertise and interest which is wild trout. Marti suggested using Dr. Jenkins to assist with the fisheries management plan. Erdman felt Dr. Jenkins' assistance would be useful. It was decided this item would be placed on the next agenda.

3. Discussion & Possible Action Ref: W. Walker River Reg Change – Erdman

The Fisheries Management Committee of CDFW presented a proposal for the proposed West Walker regulation changes that have been presented by the FC. The FMC proposed an addition to the FC version of the regulation, to include a five fish bag limit. CDFW Biologist Erdman inquired as to whether this would be acceptable to the FC. Erdman said the FMC's theory was that the fish were stocked and meant to be caught. Dunn stated a concern for the LCT that exist in the W. Walker River and the potential for them being caught and kept. The FC asked Erdman to request that some of the stocked fish in the W. Walker be tagged.

Motion by Anthony to accept the five bag limit, but prefer catch and release no take, and request any data produced by CDFW during the interim period. Second by Webb. Passed unanimously.

4. Discussion & Possible Approval of Funding Request for 26th Annual Kids Fishing Festival – Barlow

Due to a conflict, Mueller recused herself at 12:28 pm. Alan Barlow presented information on the Kids Fishing Festival that is held at Snow Creek Ponds in Mammoth. This is the 4th year that the Arts Council has been hosting the festival; it has been held for 26 years. The Arts Council requested \$2500 this year which is less than it has requested from the FC in years past. Last year there were 1000 kids in attendance and the t-shirts sold out. This year there was increased advertising in the Carson Valley area and general advertising. Measure U donated \$7000 this year.

Motion by Dunn to recommend to the BOS an expenditure of \$2500 from the F&G Fine Fund pursuant to 13103(d) F&GC for the Kids Fishing Festival. Second by Anthony. Passed unanimously.

5. Discussion & Possible Approval of Funding Request for BFEF - BFEF

Alan and Veronica Pottach, acting president, presented for BFEF. BFEF released 100,000 fish last year with stocking provided to Upper and Lower Twin Lakes, Virginia Lakes and Bridgeport Reservoir. The program is run solely by volunteers, with time and money donated by them. There will be 100,000 eggs arriving in July. There is a \$14,000 carryover from last year that will be spent on operations. BFEF has researched solar panels and/or separate meters for the tanks at Virginia Creek Settlement. Either process would cost thousands of dollars, with the solar power necessitating installation across the highway. If it is necessary to install a separate meter, the recommendation is a sub meter. Webb questioned the stocking data for Virginia Lakes and commented that the stocking is only in the reservoir. He also stated a concern that the Bridgeport community is not actively involved in financially supporting BFEF. Mueller stated concern about the loss of eggs last year at the Virginia Creek Settlement. There was a discussion about whether a sub meter would be acceptable to the County for a funding request.

Motion by Dunn to approve \$5000 for BFEF. The motion died for a lack of a second.

The item will be placed on the next agenda for further discussion and pending additional information from the BOS regarding Conway Ranch's water issues.

6. Discussion & Possible Approval of Funding Request by SW Chapter Fly Fishing Federation for Fly Fishing Faire – Mueller

No representative from this group was present. No discussion.

7. Discussion & Possible Approval of Funding Request by Conway Ranch Foundation for Fish Feed (\$6869.50) – Angeles

Angeles said that the Conway Ranch Foundation was requesting the funding for floating and sinking food to feed the fish. She said normally CRF funds their own food but they had a substantial loss of funds (\$6640) last year due to the pipeline project. Marti asked why the funding request was not from IAG. Angeles said CRF normally buys the first load of food to assist in the support of the aquaculture program, but CRF does not have the funds this year to do that. IAG does not have the funding available to buy the food because of the empty raceways during the winter, due to precautionary measures for the new pipeline. Anthony questioned the used of fine fund money for the feeding of private fish, Angeles explained that the fish were going to the public.

Motion by Webb to recommend to the BOS the expenditure of \$6869.50, from the Fish & Game Fine Fund, for the CRF purchase of fish food. Second by Jones. Passed unanimously.

8. Discussion & Possible Approval of Funding Request by Conway Ranch Foundation for Aerators (\$4114.70) – Angeles

Angeles stated the CRF was requesting the money for 5 de-icers that also act as aerators. These products are a better option than straight aerators because they give options for use and will be beneficial during the dry summer that is coming and during the winter. Three are for the A raceway and 2 for the C raceway. CRF and IAG will pay for associated construction costs and electricity.

Motion by Anthony to approve an expenditure of \$4114.70 for the purchase of de-icer/aerators for the CRF. Second by Mueller. Passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm.

The next regular meeting of the MCFC will be held in the June Lake Community Center, June Lake on Wednesday, June 5, 2013 at 10 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Alaniz, Secretary