

Mono County Fisheries Commission
Wednesday, June 4, 2014 ~ 10:00 am
June Lake Community Center, June Lake

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gaye Mueller called meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Commissioner present: Gaye Mueller, Jim King, Dan Anthony, Bob Dunn, and Gary Jones
Staff Present: Jeff Simpson and Stacie Klemm

Others present: John Fredrickson, James Erdman, Steve Marti, and Allen Pottasch

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance led by Chair Gaye Muller

3. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Dan Anthony spoke separately from the commission; Bob Dunn and Dan Anthony felt Mono County needed some ammunition against some of the individuals who are against having a hatchery at Conway. So they, along with Carolyn Webb, drafted a letter along with a petition, they have passed them out throughout business in Bridgeport and Antelope Valley. So far, they have turned in 177 letters to the Mono County Board of Supervisors and now have another 69, with a total of 246 signatures and 35 business left to collect petitions from. They will be picked up in the following week so they can get them submitted to the Board of Supervisors prior to the June 17th board meeting.

Allen Pottasch spoke about BFEF, he read a letter about update of operations. BFEF will continue to hatch and produce fish. Physically they have 4 bins that can operate year round and 1 bin that operates only during the summer months, each tank holds 1500 gallons of water, they have two hatching troughs, and web baskets these allow operation of about 50,000 fish per hatch. The operation is currently a recirculation system which limits them, they have significant costs for operation and maintenance. The operation is being staffed by 4 board members and 2 volunteers. The plan for the next few years is to continue with what they are doing most successfully which is growing them to about 3 to 4 inches and releasing them, they will not be growing as many large fish.

4. STAFF REPORT

Stacie Klemm reported that the Mono County Fisheries Commission website will be updated so members and public can subscribe to receive the agenda and minutes. Once this part of the website is up and going future agenda's and minutes will be sent out through the website prior to meetings.

Jeff Simpson reported budget outlook, budget was recommended by Economic Development to stay the same as last year \$25,000 in discretionary funds. The CAO will next come out with a recommended budget prior to next meeting. Also, he presented the Fish and Game fund request to the Board of Supervisors it was approved 4 – 0 Alpers abstained. Jeff also reported that the Mono County Board of Supervisors meeting of June 17th will be addressing the Conway Conservation Easement and encouraged commissioners to send in comment prior to the meeting.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (4-2-14 & 5-7-14)

April 2nd minutes; motion to approve made by Dan Anthony second by Gary Jones.
Motion passed 5-0
May 7th minutes; motion to approve made by Bob Dunn second by Jim King.
Motion passed 5-0

6. COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Dan Anthony spoke about the importance of having a seven member commission verses the current five member commission. His concerns are that it is difficult to get a quorum with a five member commission and feel it would be very beneficial to get the two vacant commissioner spots filled.

Gaye Mueller shared the fishing brochures with the commission. Gaye requested thought from the commission on distributing some brochures in Inyo County. It was suggested to distribute a few to test the demand.

7. F&G UPDATE

Jim Urdman gave update, Little Walker Lake is going to be approved as the new brood stock lake. Fish will start to be removed from June Lake and moved to Little Walker. Three mud snail surveys have been done at Walker and no snails have been detected. There is concern about water levels in the Walker River and its possible they will have to close fishing in the fall if water levels drop too low. Temperatures and water flow will be monitored in East Walker to determine if fall stocking will be possible.

8. MONTHLY BUDGET UPDATE

- Fish and Game Fine Fund \$10,107.69
- Conway Ranch Fund – No Change
- MCFC regular budget \$1,900.00
- (\$900.00 and \$1000.00 will be paid to invoices leaving exactly \$0.00)

9. ACTION – Approve Draft Thank You Letter to Nancy Alaniz

Motion to approve was made by Dan Anthony, second made by Gary Jones.
Motion passed 5-0.

10. DISCUSSION – Fish Marketing and Promotion

Jeff Simpson reported on how fishing is currently being promoted, the Mono County Tourism Commission has around 200,000 from TOT annually, and a majority of the promotions are around fishing. They attend many trade shows that are fishing only, radio interviews, and press releases. A lot of social media almost 3 million people clicked on the tourism advertisement. This year there was a 2 week television advertisement in Reno prior to fishing opener and two weeks after fishing opener. Targeted promotion around the water levels. We have done promotions called come on up the water is fine. Shows pictures of dates of what our water levels look like, this add ran in Western Outdoor News, Sierra Fisherman and California Fisherman. Biggest attraction is the website 500,000 page views yearly about 200,000 is strictly fishing page views.

11. DISCUSSION – 2014 Mono County Fish Stocking Schedule

Jeff Simpson passed out a draft schedule for commissioners to review, there is a 450lb tank minimum that has been lowered to 400lb per tank. Three loads are going to all the larger bodies of water which is 1200 pounds, the smaller bodies of water such as Robinson Creek are 800lbs, and the Mammoth lakes basin will receive 400lb. All loads will be in the 3 to 5 pound trophy trout range.

12. DISCUSSION – Rush Creek Fishing Regulations

This was a carryover item from a previous agenda. If anyone wants to pursue changing these regulations they would need to speak with Jim Erdman.

13. Discussion - Conway Ranch Easement

Gaye Mueller spoke about Eastern Sierra Land Trust is requesting the commission submits a letter explaining feelings about the Conway Ranch Easement.

14. DISCUSSION- MCFC Letters to Conway Ranch Grantors

Bob Dunn discussed and composed a letter regarding feelings about the Conway Ranch Easement. The commission reviewed a draft letter written by Dan Anthony. The letter is written to support the Conway ranch fish hatchery and support of the RPAC group. After review the commission agreed upon a few revisions and Chair Gaye Mueller agreed to make changes to the letter and send to the Conway Ranch Grantors.

15. CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

No items were discussed.

16. ADJOURNMENT – Next regular scheduled meeting is August 6, 2014.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

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