

Mono County Fisheries Commission

Regular Meeting

Monday, June 5, 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, Jim King and Gary Jones. Staff present was Dan Lyster and Nancy Alaniz.

IV COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Raven Angeles, IAG reported that IAG and Mono County were served with a letter from Lahontan Water Quality Board requesting a Form 200 from both parties. IAG has completed their form. This form addresses required water quality testing. There was discussion about why so many tests were requested. Angeles also stated that Conway Ranch is still dealing with low water flows and has lost over a thousand pounds of fish due to this issue. There was a subsequent discussion regarding water levels, temperatures and aeration. Recently there were trespassers on the ranch and the Sheriff's Department was notified.

V APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 1, 2013

Motion by Webb to accept the May 1, 2013 minutes. Second by Mueller. Passed unanimously.

VI STAFF/COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

King discussed concerns that he had about the backcountry fishing program and how it may be affected by yellow legged frog management. He said the frogs and fish have coexisted for decades, but now due to a mandate, there have been backcountry waters listed for potential fish removal due to the frogs.

Anthony reported that Supervisor Fesko apologized for not being in attendance, but he had to attend to a friend who was involved in an accident. Sup. Fesko gave information to Anthony to share with the FC. One item was that the BOS approved up to \$20,000 to be spent from the Conway Ranch Fund for a consultant to review Conway Ranch. Sup. Fesko also provided, via Anthony, a clarification of "budget rollovers."

Alaniz reported that she would fulfill her position as FC secretary for up to one more year, but if a replacement for her was located prior to one year, she was willing to vacate her position early.

Lyster reported that he met with representatives of Eastern Sierra Land Trust to discuss the conservation easement. Part of the discussion was the importance of sharing the draft with the FC and the public prior to finalization.

Marti stated he would contact Sup. Alpers regarding input to the hired Conway Ranch consultant.

VII F&W UPDATE

Lt. Dailey, CDFW, introduced himself and gave an overview of warden staffing in the area.

Webb said he contacted Jim Erdman regarding back up wells for the state hatcheries in case there are issues this year with the continued drought. The information is still pending.

Tim Taylor will be at the August meeting to give a report on the bear study status. The samples are currently being tested at UC Davis.

VIII FUND BALANCES

The F&G Fine Fund balance was reported by the Finance Department as \$19,727.02. The MCFC regular budget is \$18,834.34. The Conway Ranch Fund was reported as \$28,695.60.

IX BUSINESS MATTERS

1. Discussion & Possible Action Ref: MCFC FY 13/14 Budget - Marti

Marti asked for input from the commissioners as to how to approach the upcoming budget process. Dunn recommended keeping the discretionary budget as is, then requesting additional funds for specified projects. Mueller agreed with Dunn. Lyster stated that he needed any additional budget information by June 21 so he could prepare and submit the budget by the required timeline. There was consensus in agreement with Dunn's recommendation.

2. Discuss & Possible Action Ref: Hiring of Dr. Jenkins for Consultation – Marti

Dr. Jenkins declined the offer at this time.

3. Discussion & Possible Approval of Funding Request for BFEF (\$8000) - Little

Alan Pottach presented for Little. He reported that he and his wife are in the process of revamping BFEF with increased/improved publicity and family oriented involvement. He readdressed the utility issue. He also reiterated much of the information from the last meeting. A discussion ensued regarding BFEF's budget. Webb asked about the status of tomato bins that were provided by Conway Ranch. Pottach described an agreement he had with Tim Alpers when he was an owner of the ranch. According to Pottach the agreement is no longer being fulfilled by IAG and he believed the bins now belonged to

BFEF. There was another discussion regarding the locations where fish are planted. Mueller complimented BFEF's efforts and said she believed the FC needed to continue to support the group. Anthony stated he had continued concerns regarding bookkeeping and the reporting of electrical usage at the Virginia Creek Settlement.

Motion by Dunn to fund \$4000 from the discretionary fund to BFEF. Second by Anthony. Motion Passed 5-2.

Motion by Mueller to recommend to the BOS the expenditure of \$4000 from the F&G Fine Fund to fund BFEF for eggs and food (pursuant to 13103(d) F&GC). Second by Webb. Passed 4-3

3. Discussion & Possible Approval of Funding Request for Test Well Upgrades by Conway Ranch Foundation (\$9250) - Frederickson

A test well exists at Conway Ranch and the Conway Ranch Foundation was seeking funding to upgrade it to a regular well. The improvements would provide water to cool the water temperatures for two raceways. Maranatha Well Drilling estimated the well production as 75-160 gpm. The request was to cover the labor, pump, tree and hose. Frederickson reported that the Conway Ranch Foundation has put almost \$231,000 back into the ranch. Dunn asked about the potential for salinity in the water. Frederickson and Webb said the reason the test well was drilled in its location was to give the best chance for water quality and production.

Motion by Dunn to approve \$9250 to improve the test well to fully operational. Second by Anthony. Passed unanimously.

5. Discussion & Possible Approval of Funding Request for the Kids Fishing Festival (\$1500) - Mueller

Mueller distributed a letter from the Mono Council for the Arts requesting funding. This issue was previously discussed and \$2500 was awarded from the F&G Fine Fund. \$1000 of the \$2500 was used to purchase fish for the festival. However, the other \$1500 was needed for the purchase of t-shirts for which fine fund money cannot be used. The Arts Council requested \$1500 that can be used for t-shirts.

Motion by Dunn to approve \$1500 from the discretionary budget for the Kids Fishing Festival t-shirts. Second by King. Passed unanimously (Mueller abstained.)

6. Discussion & Possible Action Ref: Drilling of Agricultural Well Capable of Producing 2-3 CFS, 10" Casing – Marti

Marti said he placed this agenda item because Conway Ranch will be in need of an

alternate water source if the water flows continue to diminish and with the continued drought. Frederickson stated Maranatha quoted approximately \$30,000 for the installation of an agricultural well. Dunn felt the recently hired consultant for Conway Ranch may suggest the addition of a well. He felt the well issue should be addressed now so funding will be in place. Based on the effects of the drought on surrounding properties, Webb felt the test well will not be enough to supply the ranch. Mueller asked if this was premature, prior to the consultant's recommendations. Dunn and Webb stated that the fish are an investment and with a lack of water there could be a significant loss of fish. Frederickson said that when he and Alpers started the ranch there was discussion of the need for a well as an alternate water source. Marti asked Lyster for placement on the BOS agenda and he asked Frederickson for estimates from Maranatha.

Motion by Dunn to recommend to the BOS the installation of an agricultural well on the Conway Ranch. Second by Webb. Passed unanimously.

7. Discussion & Possible Action: Water Master for Conway Ranch - Marti

Marti said he has concerns about how the current irrigator, Fred Fulstone, is managing and irrigating water on the ranch. Marti said Fulstone took a backhoe and changed water flows to the aquaculture area and he has failed to follow direction regarding the water management. Webb reported that he has had recent issues with Fulstone's work and it affected the Webb's personal property. There was a gopher and sediment problem in a ditch adjacent to the Webb's property. Fulstone was directed to address the gophers and sediment and during the process Fulstone widened the ditch in addition to the discussed work. Webb also pointed out that the settling pond has not been properly managed and there was a discussion on how to remedy it.

Motion by Anthony to recommend to the BOS, by letter, the termination of the watermaster contract with Fred Fulstone. Second by Jones. Passed unanimously (Webb abstained).

8. Discussion & Possible Action of Balance of MCFC Budget (\$5884) – Webb

The remaining balance was corrected to \$5584.34. Webb wanted to determine a way to earmark the remaining funds for an agricultural well for Conway Ranch. Webb suggested donating the money to the Conway Ranch Foundation. Alaniz suggested a fund transfer, from its current County account to another County account (Conway Ranch Fund). Lyster felt the second option would be more proper. Lyster said he would need to check with the Finance Department. Dunn and King opined they wanted to purchase fish

MCFC Minutes – June 5, 2013– Page 5

with the remaining monies. Marti felt Lyster should check with the Finance Dept. about the fund transfer. After further discussion it was determined that the money may possibly be transferred but not expended since the item had not been properly noticed for an expenditure. Lyster was going to make an inquiry to the Finance Dept. about the fund

transfer with a specific earmarking.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:06 pm.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Alaniz, Secretary