

Approved Meeting Minutes of the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee on February 20, 2019

3:00 p.m. Convene meeting.

- 1) **Introductions and Statement of Conflict.** A member who has a conflict should, prior to consideration of the decision: (1) publicly identify in detail the financial interest that causes the conflict; (2) recuse himself/herself from discussing and voting on the matter; and (3) leave the room until after the decision has been made.

Judy Bendix, Roni Gehlke, Susan Heckly, Kathleen Jennings, Nicole Kozicki, Brett Morris, Daniel Pellegrini, Heather Rosmarin attended the meeting. Clark Dawson and Jeff Skinner and provided advance notice that they would not be able to attend the meeting. Helen Fitandes (The Watershed Project), Jacob Gonsalves (California Department of Fish and Wildlife), Tim Jensen (Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District) and James Roberts (Marine Science Institute) attended the meeting. Maureen Parkes (CCC Department of Conservation and Development) attended as staff.

- 2) **Review/Approve minutes from the January 16, 2019 meeting.** The meeting minutes were approved as written.

Vote: 7 - 0
AYES: Bendix, Gehlke, Heckly, Kozicki, Morris, Pellegrini and Rosmarin
NOES: None
ABSENT: Dawson, Jennings and Skinner
ABSTAIN: None

- 3) **Public comment.** Includes public comment on topics on the agenda and items not listed on the agenda. The FWC shall also accept public comment on agenda items at the time they are discussed.

Tim Jensen from the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District updated the FWC on the following:

- Flood Control is restarting the Streamside Management Program for Landowners. This allows any property owner or community group in the County (including cities) to get free advice on how to address creek bank failure, erosion, and flooding. To kick off the program, community workshops were held in Concord and San Pablo. The program brochure is attached.
- Flood Control has two major creek restoration projects: Lower Walnut Creek Restoration north of Highway 4 in Pacheco, and Three Creeks Parkway Restoration on Marsh Creek near Sand Creek and Deer Creek in Brentwood. Both projects have partners and grant funds to add habitat improvements and public access to what would normally be a single purpose flood control project. Both projects are scheduled to start construction in 2020.
- Flood Control is partnering with the Walnut Creek Watershed Council to do an Arundo study and removal project that they hope can be expanded to the entire Walnut Creek watershed. Over 250 sites have been mapped, two volunteer removal days have been held, and removal methods are being studied.

- 4) **Updates and announcements from staff and FWC members.** Includes discussion of implementation of actions authorized previously, correspondence received, and upcoming meetings of interest to the FWC.

Maureen Parkes updated the FWC on the following:

- Jim Dawson and Jeff Skinner provided advance notice that they would not be able to attend the meeting today.
- At-large Alternates may vote in the absence of another At-large member.
- The 2019 FWC grant recommendations are scheduled to go to Internal Operations Committee on Monday, April 8th at 1 pm.
- Staff received notice that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife received payment in the Tong case and that \$150,000 would be directed to the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund.

Correspondence items forwarded to the Committee:

- Emails from Committee Members
 - February 8, 2019 Sacramento Bee Article on Nutria from Jeff Skinner
 - February 12, 2019 News Release: Governor Newsom Ends Twin Tunnels from Heather Rosmarin
- California Fish and Game Notices (10)
- IPM Committee email
- Newsletters and Announcements
 - Bay Area Monitor Monitor and Notes (3)
 - Urban Tilth – upcoming events and a survey on Wildcat Creek 2018
 - Lindsey Wildlife Experience Conservation Speaker Series - Joel Reynolds Defending the Sea (2)

- 5) **Review and accept the final report from Contra Costa Resource Conservation District for their 2018 “Morgan Territory Pond 7 Project Phase 2” project.** The Committee reviewed and accepted the final report.

Vote: 8 - 0

AYES: Bendix, Gehlke, Heckly, Jennings, Kozicki, Morris, Pellegrini and Rosmarin

NOES: None

ABSENT: Dawson and Skinner

ABSTAIN: None

- 6) **Continue to discuss outcome of the September 13, 2018 Fall Forum and consider plans and potential speakers for 2019.** The Committee discussed possible options for speakers and set September 19, 2019 for the 2019 Fall Forum.
- 7) **Continue to consider the 13 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund applications submitted by January 7, 2019. Consider making a recommendation to the Internal Operations Committee of the Board of Supervisors on this matter.** As per a memo dated January 18, 2011, a member provided disclosure regarding potential or perceived conflict of interest. Kathleen Jennings disclosed that she is a Board member on the Peyton Slough Wetlands Advisory Committee, an organization that has a relationship to Mt. View Sanitary District which had applied for a grant. The FWC approved the following 11 recommendations on the 2019 grants and authorized staff to provide a report to the Internal Operations Committee on this matter. A copy of the memo provided to the IO for consideration at their April 8, 2019 meeting is attached.

- 1) Appropriate \$3,572.00 to The Regents of the University of California for their Native Bees in Urban Brentwood and Agricultural Brentwood project to conduct research on native bees and their role in providing pollination services in the Brentwood area. Partial funding is recommended and may only be used for travel, materials and supplies as outlined in the grant application Project Budget. [5 ayes/3 noes]

Ayes: Gehlke, Heckly, Kozicki, Morris and Pellegrini; Noes: Bendix, Jennings and Rosmarin; Absent: Dawson and Skinner; Abstain: None

- 2) Appropriate \$2,895.00 to Contra Costa Resource Conservation District for their Sacramento perch: from watersheds to classrooms, and back! project. The program provides for restoration of Sacramento perch in the Bay Delta System and will engage approximately 225 students with inquiry-based learning, as well as hands-on, experiential learning. Funds will be used for supplies for aquariums, and supplies for spawning and food acclimation. [8 ayes/0 noes]

Ayes: Bendix, Gehlke, Jennings, Heckly, Kozicki, Morris, Rosmarin and Pellegrini; Noes: None; Absent: Dawson and Skinner; Abstain: None

- 3) Appropriate \$12,500.00 to International Bird Rescue for their Resolving Negative Human-Wildlife Interactions (AKA Urban Wildlife Conflicts) project. Funding will be used to offset nutrition, medicine, and veterinary medical supply costs for birds admitted from Contra Costa County to the San Francisco Bay-Delta Wildlife Center located in Cordelia, California between April 1 and December 31, 2019. [8 ayes/0 noes]

Ayes: Bendix, Gehlke, Jennings, Heckly, Kozicki, Morris, Rosmarin and Pellegrini; Noes: None; Absent: Dawson and Skinner; Abstain: None

- 4) Appropriate \$1,025.00 to Worth a Dam for their Treasure Hunt for the 'Lost Key to the Waters' project to support a learning activity at the 12th Annual Beaver Festival in Martinez. The project will teach children and parents the essential benefits of a beaver pond. Funds will be used for various supplies, directional sign flags, exhibit location map, bronze keys, chalk and soft pastels. [8 ayes/0 noes]

Ayes: Bendix, Gehlke, Jennings, Heckly, Kozicki, Morris, Rosmarin and Pellegrini; Noes: None; Absent: Dawson and Skinner; Abstain: None

- 5) Appropriate \$6,000.00 to Kids for the Bay for their Watershed Action Program project to fund eight (8) local bay and delta field trips (school bus transportation) for students and teachers from low-income Contra Costa County schools, which will teach students about the scientific principles of fish and wildlife conservation, as well as help to improve the health of fish and wildlife habitats in Contra Costa County through Environmental Action Projects and trash clean-ups. [8 ayes/0 noes]

Ayes: Bendix, Gehlke, Jennings, Heckly, Kozicki, Morris, Rosmarin and Pellegrini; Noes: None; Absent: Dawson and Skinner; Abstain: None

- 6) Appropriate \$2022.30 to Greens-at-Work/Berkeley Partners for Parks for their City of Richmond Adopt-a-Spot Rehabilitation Project (Richmond/CA) project. Work will include fencing part of the site to deter trash from blowing into Hoffman Marsh, filling in and maintaining native plant vegetation, and conducting public outreach. Funds will be used for bamboo fence panels, steel stakes/rebar, tools + tie wire, native plants, soil and gloves. [8 ayes/0 noes]

Ayes: Bendix, Gehlke, Jennings, Heckly, Kozicki, Morris, Rosmarin and Pellegrini; Noes: None; Absent: Dawson and Skinner; Abstain: None

- 7) Appropriate \$4,804.82 to Marine Science Institute for their 2019 Delta Education Equipment project to support their Delta Discovery Voyages program. Funding will be used for new Samson ropes for mooring their 90-foot research vessel at the Antioch Marina, which is used to deliver STEM and environmental education to CCC 5th grade students. [8 ayes/0 noes]

Ayes: Bendix, Gehlke, Jennings, Heckly, Kozicki, Morris, Rosmarin and Pellegrini; Noes: None; Absent: Dawson and Skinner; Abstain: None

- 8) Appropriate \$10,000 to the Regional Parks Foundation for their Kids Healthy Outdoors Challenge (KHOC) program. This program promotes outdoor education and play while also supporting the delivery of third-grade curriculum. Funds will be used for bus transportation, teacher's guide, student booklets and teacher orientation (supplies and lunches). [8 ayes/0 noes]

Ayes: Bendix, Gehlke, Jennings, Heckly, Kozicki, Morris, Rosmarin and Pellegrini; Noes: None; Absent: Dawson and Skinner; Abstain: None

- 9) Appropriate \$21,580.00 to The Watershed Project (TWP) for their Water Quality Monitoring in Contra Costa County project. Funds will support TWP's third year of their county-wide creek monitoring program. TWP will continue all aspects of the monitoring program while expanding their network, making their data available through California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN), and deploying monitoring loggers at certain sites. Funds will be used for monthly monitoring equipment, Water Reporter app to publish data, test kits, testing samples at Enthalpy Analytical, ID bug samples and a Water Quality Monitoring Design Course. [8 ayes/0 noes]

Ayes: Bendix, Gehlke, Jennings, Heckly, Kozicki, Morris, Rosmarin and Pellegrini; Noes: None; Absent: Dawson and Skinner; Abstain: None

- 10) Appropriate \$2,867.66 to the City of El Cerrito, Operations + Environmental Services Division for their El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental Resource Center - Hillside Habitat Restoration Project. The project will improve the native plant habitat on the hillside nearest to the El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental Resource Center benefitting the Bay Area wildlife that depend on the native species habitat for food and shelter. Funds will be used for landscape staples, weed barrier landscape fabric, plants, compost, seeds, and refreshments for volunteers and interpretive signage. [8 ayes/0 noes]

Ayes: Bendix, Gehlke, Jennings, Heckly, Kozicki, Morris, Rosmarin and Pellegrini; Noes: None; Absent: Dawson and Skinner; Abstain: None

- 11) Further, the FWC also recommended that within a year of grant funding approval, or within one month of project completion, whichever comes sooner, recipients must submit a final project report which includes invoices and receipts documenting how funds were spent and the results of the project. Details will be outlined in the grant award packet provided to all successful applicants. [8 ayes/0 noes]

Ayes: Bendix, Gehlke, Jennings, Heckly, Kozicki, Morris, Rosmarin and Pellegrini; Noes: None; Absent: Dawson and Skinner; Abstain: None

The FWC did not recommend funding for the following 2019 grant applications:

- 1) The City of Lafayette Creeks Committee's Lafayette – Creek Interpretation and Education Signage project, which was a request for funds to design, fabricate and install two interpretive wayside panels in Lafayette community parks near downtown Lafayette. The FWC discussed the grant application and decided it did not demonstrate it would provide as much benefit to fish and wildlife as other grant applications. A motion was approved to not recommend funding. [7 ayes/1 noes]

Ayes: Bendix, Gehlke, Jennings, Heckly, Kozicki, Morris and Pellegrini; Noes: Rosmarin; Absent: Dawson and Skinner; Abstain: None

- 2) Mt. View Sanitary District's MVSD Pollinator Garden project, which proposed to deter ground squirrels from the turf and un-landscaped areas around the Administration Building with native and Mediterranean plants. The FWC discussed the grant application and decided there was significant uncertainty whether the project would reduce the ground squirrel population. A motion was approved to not recommend funding. [6 ayes/2 noes]

Ayes: Bendix, Gehlke, Heckly, Kozicki, Morris and Pellegrini; Noes: Jennings and Rosmarin; Absent: Dawson and Skinner; Abstain: None

- 3) California Native Grasslands Association's Grassland Monitoring Workshop: Methods and Techniques for Vegetation and Wildlife Monitoring project. The FWC discussed the grant application and decided it was not as competitive with other grant applications in its benefit to fish and wildlife or the number of people reached. A motion was approved to not recommend funding. [8 ayes/0 noes]

Ayes: Bendix, Gehlke, Heckly, Jennings, Kozicki, Morris, Pellegrini and Rosmarin; Noes: None; Absent: Dawson and Skinner; Abstain: None

- 8) **Determine the 2019 FWC meeting schedule.** The remainder of the 2019 FWC meetings will be held on May 15, July 17, September 19 (Fall Forum) and November 20.

Vote: 8 - 0

AYES: Bendix, Gehlke, Heckly, Jennings, Kozicki, Morris, Pellegrini and Rosmarin

NOES: None

ABSENT: Dawson and Skinner

ABSTAIN: None

- 9) **Determine the agenda for the next meeting.** The next meeting is to be determined. Possible agenda items for upcoming meetings include:

- Election of Officers
- Web Page Review
- IPM Update
- Draft Annual Report/Work Plan
- 2020 Grant RFP
- Discuss Fall Forum

Adjourn