

Approved Meeting Minutes of the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee on October 16, 2013

Introductions. Martha Berthelsen, Susan Heckly, Kevin McIlvenna, Brett Morris, Daniel Pellegrini, and Scott Stephan introduced themselves. James Hale, Kathleen Jennings, Webb Johnson and provided advance notice that they would not be able to attend the meeting. Jeff Skinner was absent. Larry Gaines (Agricultural – Natural Resources Trust), Nancy Wenninger (Mount Diablo Audubon Society) and Nicole Kozicki (California Department of Fish and Wildlife) attended the meeting. John Kopchik and Maureen Parkes (CCC Department of Conservation and Development) attended as staff.

Review/Approve minutes from the August 21, 2013 meeting. The meeting minutes were approved as written.

Public comment. None

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

- Maureen Parkes informed the committee that Kathleen Jennings, Webb Johnson and Jim Hale provided advance notice that they would not be able to attend the meeting today.
- John Kopchik updated the Committee about the ten year anniversary of the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (SB107) and the 30th anniversary of the first Habitat Conservation Plan which was celebrated on October 2nd at Roddy Ranch.

Review letters of thanks and appreciation from 2013 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund grant awardees. The Committee reviewed the letters.

Review and accept the progress report from the Friends of Alhambra Creek and consider a request for an extension of time for completing their 2012-2013 Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund grant for their Alhambra Creek/Botanical/Habitat Trail project. The Committee reviewed and accepted the progress report and granted the request for an extension of time for completing the project.

Review and accept the final report from the Mt. View Sanitary District on their “Understanding Movement Patterns and Habitat Use by Western Pond Turtles in a Constructed Wetland” project. The Committee reviewed and accepted the final report.

Review letter of thanks and accept the final report from the Agricultural – Natural Resources Trust of Contra Costa County on their Riparian Restoration and Swainson’s Hawk Nest Improvement on Kellogg Creek project. Larry Gaines, representing the Agricultural – Natural Resources Trust of Contra Costa County gave an informative overview, reported a 98% success rate on revegetation and answered questions regarding the project. The Committee reviewed the letter and accepted the final report.

Consider developing an outline for recommendations and/or white paper on cats and wildlife.

Nancy Wenninger informed the Committee that she will be speaking at the Mount Diablo Audubon Society regarding outdoor cats and their impact on wildlife on November 7th at 7 p.m. at Heather Farm. The Mount Diablo Audubon Society has developed a brochure regarding outdoor cats and she will bring it to the next FWC meeting.

Continue to discuss the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Request for Proposals (RFP) application packet and grant process. Authorize staff to circulate the RFP application packet. The Committee discussed in detail changes to the RFP requiring more accountability from grant recipients. Staff stated that they felt that the proposed changes were necessary to comply with Accounting Best Practices. The Committee authorized staff to circulate the RFP application and packet and will assess the effect that the changes have on the submittal of applications.

Review draft 2013 annual report to the Board of Supervisors. The Committee reviewed the draft annual report and requested that staff add the volunteer work that members do in the community.

Continue to discuss the Wildlife in Your Backyard brochure. The item was continued.

Discuss outcome of the September 26, 2013 Fall Forum and consider plans and potential speakers for next year. The Committee discussed the outcome of the Fall Forum: the success of the Mobile Fish Exhibit, the good attendance and the great food prepared by Danny Pellegrini and his crew. They set September 25, 2014 as the tentative date for the next annual Fall Forum.

Determine the agenda for the next meeting. The next regular meeting date is November 20, 2013. Possible agenda items for upcoming meetings include:

- Presentation by the East Bay Regional Park District on the Movement Patterns and Habitat Use by the Western Pond Turtle project (November 2013)
- Consider developing recommendations and/or a white paper on rodenticide use in the County.
- Presentation on problem weeds.

Adjourn