

Kern County Wildlife Resources Commission

Kern County Administrative Building
General Services
3rd Floor Multipurpose Room
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

January 11, 2017
6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The Kern County Wildlife Resources Commission met on Wednesday, January 11, 2017. Chairman Bakman presided.

Present: Dave Freeland, District 1; Bob Bakman, District II; Dave McArthur, District III; William Cooper, District V; Fred Kinoshita, at Large; Jack Gotcher, at Large.

Advisors: Bret Haney, Kern County General Services

Others: There were 5 others present.

NOTE: Ba, Co, Fr, Ki, Mc, and Go are abbreviations for Commissioners Bakman, Cooper, Freeland, Kinoshita, McArthur, Gotcher. As an example, Fr-Ba denotes Commissioner Freeland made a motion and Commissioner Bakman seconded the motion.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. Flag Salute

Commissioner Bakman led everyone in the flag salute.

2. Approval of the Minutes of October 12, 2016

Mc-Go motion to approve the minutes of October 12, 2016. All ayes, motion carried.

3. Public Presentations

Audience member Dennis Fox spoke of an initiative that was passed last November which would require a background check to purchase ammunition in California. Because of the Pittman-Robertson Act there is a 10% excise tax on these purchases and it is going to be large loss to the State in funds. He asked if there was a way to mitigate this? He would appreciate any ideas or suggestions that the Commission would have. The State is suggesting an ID card to purchase ammo and firearms so that a background check would only be required annually or a time limit that that State has chosen rather than being required with every purchase.

4. Correspondence – Receive and File

Go-Co motion to receive and file all correspondence. All ayes, motion carried.

5. New Business

a. District IV and At Large Commissioner Vacancies – DISCUSS

Filling the Commission vacancies will be completed by the Board of Supervisors, not the Commission. The Commission would like to encourage anyone who may be interested in serving on the Wildlife Resources Commission to please apply.

b. BOS appointment of Jack Gotcher as At-large Member to Commission – 12/13/16

We would like to welcome Jack Gotcher to the Commission as an At-large member.

c. BOS Reappointment of David Freeland as 1st District Member to Commission – 12/13/16

We would like to welcome back Dave Freeland on his reappointment to the Commission as a 1st District member.

d. Elect new Vice Chairman due to vacancy

Motion to elect Dave Freeland as Vice Chairman. Co-Go all ayes, motion passed.

6. Old Business

Our remaining fund balance is \$758 unencumbered. At April's meeting we will most likely be presented with some grant requests. We will have more funds allocated by the July meeting. Bret will find out the fund balance by the next meeting.

7. Advisory Report

Tim Holloway, Natural Resource Volunteer Program, reported that the pheasant hunt last November had less participation than the previous year.

We are getting ready for the Boat and RV show and the Trout fest in Kernville. The Trout fest will be sometime in February. Right now they are stocking some of the lakes and bringing the trout in from Fresno.

8. Staff Report

Bob Lerude retired in December. Since then the Parks Department has been merged with General Services. Bret Haney is now in charge of the Parks division which also includes operations, parks, grounds and the park rangers. Administration and Reservations are part of our Revenue division, heavy maintenance is part of our Maintenance division.

The Board of Supervisors has delayed establishing a parking fee at Hart Park. It will be reviewed at the February 7th meeting. It is recommended that the fees will be \$5 daily and \$50 yearly.

An ordinance has been passed to add security screening to the Administrative building at 1115 Truxtun Ave. This should be in place sometime in March 2017.

9. Commission Comments

Commissioner Kinoshita had no comments.

Commissioner Freeland welcomed Jack Gotcher to the Commission. Rain in Kern County has been significant this winter. In Kern River Valley the lake was at approximately 95,000 acre feet, six days later it rose to approximately 149,000. Some of the picnic tables and benches were under water at Riverside Park. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers does not want the lake to go beyond 330,000 acre feet until the dam modification work is completed. The Forest Service Visitor Center located between the main dam and the auxiliary dam will be torn down and a new emergency spillway will be built, the old spillway will still be there and functioning for overflow. The new one is hoped to never be used but in case of an epic storm, it is there. A new Forest Center is being built in Lake Isabella and a new headquarters for the Forest Service is being built on Federal land rather leased land. Hopefully the new offices will serve the public well.

The Fish Derby is on schedule for April 8, 9, & 10. It will be \$30 for individuals and \$65 for families. It is a lot of fun and with the water levels this year it should be a very good fish derby.

The person who set the Cedar fire last summer, who was from Mexico, has been sentenced to 13 consecutive months in Federal prison for a variety of charges related to the fire.

The Kern Valley Habitat Club is disbanding because they are not getting enough volunteers. They are the club who has put on the pheasant hunts in the past. Hopefully some people will step forward to get that up and running again.

There was some flooding on the streets in the Kernville area.

Division Chief, Bret Haney stated that there is quite a bit of ash, soot, and mud flowing in the river this past week from the summer mountain fires. It has impacted Tank Park and Scodie Park with mud flow but has not created any major problems, no damage just clean-up was needed.

Commissioner Cooper reported that they had the Fall Science Camp at the Panorama Preserve. The children went from point to point to learn about each area. Many groups set up educational kiosks. There were approximately 600 participants. On February 24th the science camp will start again. This is an alternative to Camp Keep for the 5th and 6th grade

students as many families cannot afford to send their children there. The preserve consists of 950 acres. The group does a good job on the science camp project.

There has not been any movement yet on the Parkway from the City. It doesn't appear that the City is very interested in the concept.

Commissioner Gotcher thanked everyone for welcoming him and he is looking forward to serving on the Commission.

Commissioner Bakman commented that the Tehachapi and desert area have received quite a bit of rain but there have been no major problems other than some temporary closures. It has been a Godsend that the storms have been spaced out rather than happening one on top of the other. Because there has been quite a significant amount of rainfall with each storm.

There have been a few problems with the wild pigs in the Tehachapi mountain area.

Commissioner Bakman wanted to mention that the State of California Wildlife Conservation Board is considering a grant for the Wildlands Conservancy to eradicate perennial pepperweed in the upper Pleitito Creek followed by plantings of native sting nettle and additional native plant species to expand nesting substrate and habitat features used by the tricolored blackbirds on privately-owned land in Kern County. This area is also known as the Wind Wolves Preserve. There is a natural sump hole filled with spring water that is loaded with tri-colored blackbirds. We have helped the Wind Wolves area in previous years with seed money to help improve habitat. It is a very worthwhile project. The previous owners had scheduled the area to become a toxic waste area because of the non-permeability of the soil. It is nice to see that has been taken over as a project by this non-profit preserve.

10. Date and Location of Next Meeting

April 12, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.
County Administrative building
General Services 3rd floor multipurpose room
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.