

Kern County Wildlife Resources Commission

**Kern County Parks and Recreation Department
Administration Office
2820 M Street
Bakersfield CA 93301**

**January 13, 2016
6:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

The Kern County Wildlife Resources Commission met on Wednesday, January 13, 2016. Chairman Bakman presided. Commissioners Stonebarger and Matney were absent.

Present: Bob Bakman, District II, Dave McArthur, District III; William Cooper, District V; and Fred Kinoshita, at Large.

Advisors: Robert Lerude, Kern County Parks and Recreation Department.

Others: There were 7 others present.

NOTE: Sto, Ba, Mc, Ma, Co, Ki and Ste are abbreviations for Commissioners Stonebarger, Bakman, McArthur, Matney, Cooper, Kinoshita and Stenson. As an example, Sto-Ba denotes Commissioner Stonebarger made a motion and Commissioner Bakman seconded the motion.

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

1. Approval of the Minutes of October 14, 2015

Mc-Co to approve the minutes of October 14, 2015. All ayes, motion carried.

2. Public Presentations

None.

3. Correspondence – Receive and File

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

4. New Business

Appoint new officers:

- Chairman – Mc-Ki to elect Commissioner Bakman.
- Vice Chairman – Co-Mc to elect Commissioner Stenson.
- Secretary – Ba-Co to elect Commissioner Kinoshita.

Ba-Co to approve election of officers. All ayes, motion carried.

5. **Advisory Report**

Ben Lewis, Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, reported that the bear issues have dropped off. There was only one report of a bear cub that got stuck in a dumpster in Hume Lake and accidentally got transported to Fresno. But we called out the team to dart him and take him back to Hume Lake.

Vicki, the Unit Biologist, has not returned from sick leave yet. Hopefully she will return within 4-5 months.

There was a good turnout for the Upland bird hunt, attendance was 85-90% for the Bakersfield Family Hunt-up but the Women's Hunt attendance was down about 50% due to rain.

The snow pack is ahead of schedule.

We are hopeful that the quail count will rise closer to the average amount.

We will be starting Pronghorn counts at Tejon Ranch.

Jack Gotcher from the Natural Resources volunteer program reported that 12 volunteers, including himself, worked at the Salmon Fest on the San Joaquin River. They relocated approximate 6 vehicles and serviced an ATV for their use.

Assistant Chief John Baker made a briefing for the Downtown Rotary. We visited Bishop to see about organizing a volunteer group, after the weather breaks, for the hatchery and river for natural fish re-population.

The Kernville Hatchery will be attempting to get up and running again. There is quite a bit of work to be done. The Sportsman Show will be supporting that. We will have a shooting gallery and that sort of thing. Commissioner Bakman suggested that they can use some of the Work Release prisoners and the Youth Crew from Camp Owen to assist with the labor needs. They have worked out well for other programs and is an inexpensive source of labor. They must have strict supervision. They are trying to procure another vehicle. In the meantime, Andrew has been letting them use one of his spare vehicles.

Bill Asserson, Fish & Game retiree, reported on a news article from where a hunter shot a mountain lion near Weston, Idaho and turned it over to the state wildlife biologists at the Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game for examination. They stated they had never seen such a bizarre abnormality before. Teeth were protruding from hard tissue on the left side of the mountain lion's forehead. They speculated that it may have been from either a rare tumor or a conjoined twin that died in the womb.

6. Staff Report

Advisor Bob Lerude reported that fishing is up significantly at Buena Vista. They had imported trout from Idaho since they were not available from our regular sources. He reported receiving a couple of recent phone calls regarding bird hunting at Lake Ming. Someone also called to complain that some ducks had been shot there. There is no hunting in any of the County parks. More information regarding a wildlife trip will be on the next agenda for April 13th.

We will be contracting with Wildlife Services (State agency) to eradicate some of the raccoons at Buena Vista.

Bob received a notice yesterday that the County is going to cut 1% from all the departments who receive General Fund money for the remainder of the fiscal year and another 1½% at the beginning of the new fiscal year in July. This is due to the loss of oil revenue. Currently, our budget year doesn't look very good.

7. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Cooper reported that the Audubon Society & the Kern River Parkway Foundation are hoping to find some wildlife habitat value to the 130 acres of property on the east end of Buena Vista lake. We are looking at a possible habitat for the tricolored blackbird and blunt nose lizard. An inquiry was made regarding the money donated by CALM for the stainless steel holding cages for coyotes with sarcoptic mange. This is a condition that is usually aggravated by drought conditions. It is highly contagious to canines. The Kit fox population on the bluffs appears to be down quite a bit.

Commissioner Bakman reported that the Tehachapi area has been quiet. He stated that there was a news article where the first wolf pack in many years has been seen in Northern California. There are 5 new cubs. We have received quite a bit of moisture recently. The elk herd at Stallion Springs looks healthy. The condor population is strong. There are some wild hog problems in the area. They removed all of the dead trees at Tehachapi Mountain Park and it looks much better there now and should help prevent problems during the fire season.

8. Date and Location of Next Meeting

April 13, 2016 at 6:00 pm., Public Services Building, 2700 M Street.

9. Adjournment

Ba-Mc motion to adjourn and seconded motion at 6:33 p.m.