

Kern County Wildlife Resources Commission

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

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

MINUTES

The Kern County Wildlife Resources Commission met on Wednesday, April 13, 2016. Chairman Bakman presided. Commissioner McArthur was absent.

Present: Bob Bakman, District II; William Cooper, District V; Fred Kinoshita, at Large and Tom Stenson, at Large.

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

Others: There were 4 others present.

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

1. Approval of the Minutes of January 13, 2016

St-Co to approve the minutes of January 13, 2016. All ayes, motion carried.

2. Public Presentations

None.

3. Correspondence – Receive and File

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

4. New Business

- a. District I and IV Commissioner Vacancies – DISCUSS
- Application from David Freeland

The Wildlife Resources Commission received an application from Dave Freeland, who is retired from the Sequoia National Park Forest Service, to fill the vacancy in District I. In a few weeks, the Board of Supervisors will make a decision on whether

or not to accept his application. If it is accepted then we will have a new commissioner at our next meeting.

We have another vacancy in District IV. If anyone has a recommendation for this District, it would be appreciated.

- b. Funding Request – DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATION
 - Andrew Halverson, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - Bedded down deer decoy
 - \$1,846.60

There is not enough money left in this year's fund to pay for the Bedded down deer decoy. Andrew will resubmit the request at the July meeting after our new fiscal year has begun. The request will not be processed until that time.

5. **Advisory Report**

The Central Valley Sportsman Boat & RV Show was held at the Kern County Fairgrounds the weekend of February 26th. Exhibitors included the California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife and the U.S. Forest Service Kern River Ranger District.

On Saturday, April 30th the California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife will host a Trout Fest at the Kern River Hatchery in Kernville for children age 15 and under. Jana Leiran, CDFW interpreter, will be working with the hatchery on the event. We believe this is a good sign and the programs will get more attention from the State. Along with the Trout Fest they are also planning a fish stock which has raised \$25,000.

There is ongoing hunter education training approved by the California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife in Kern County. Check online for dates and times.

On May 14th the Buena Vista Museum of Natural History & Science will host a "Spectacular World of Science". One of the guest speakers will be retired astronaut Col. Richard Searfoss. Another guest speaker will be Vicky Monroe, wildlife biologist, from the dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Central Region.

We have 2 trucks that need batteries. There is some improvement with the vehicle situation. Commissioner Bakman is looking for interagency funding through the California Fish & Wildlife. He is open to any ideas or donations. Director Lerude reminded everyone that any donation over \$2,500 has to be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Erin Tennant, CDFW, works on surveying endangered species. Bill Asserson recommended inviting her to a Commission meeting.

There are four (4) different grants from the NRA. Some of the programs are for a substantial amount of money for sportsmen and youth. It is the only sportsmen organization that is active in Kern County. The grants also helped with fencing in the guzzlers in the Temblors.

There is a small but active group in Ridgecrest called Aguabonita Flyfishers which has a program called "Trout in the Classroom". This is a science program for grades K-12 in the

Eastern Sierra schools that teach the students the importance of our natural resources through the life cycle of the trout. So far over 1,900 students have participated in this hands-on learning experience. Bob recommended that Jack Gotcher get in touch with them.

6. Staff Report

The raccoon eradication program at BVARA has been implemented.

The trout program at BV finishes on Friday, April 15th. The fish came from Idaho this year. Our local fishers are happy with program.

We received notification from the State to shut down the water system at French Gulch. This will affect some restrooms, the cultural center and the campground. We are not sure what will happen.

There is a new water system at Greenhorn Mountain. There is a new owner for the cabins. Improvements have been made at Yenis Hante and Kaweah campgrounds.

The County has asked all departments to implement a 2½% budget cut so far this year with another 2½% cut after July 1st. The County is also working at consolidating departments and the Parks Department may be consolidated with General Services.

The Wildlife Resources Commission budget has increased from last year by \$2,485. The budget for 2016-17 will be \$16,980. Last year it was \$14,405.

7. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Cooper received a call from Julie Stennet from the Dept. of Fish & Wildlife about applying for a trail camera to monitor owls. It would cost approximately \$1,000.

Commissioner Cooper mentioned that an Education Outreach Program was established in 2012 on the Panorama Vista preserve. They provide a Science Day Camp for 6th grade students from underserved schools that have not had the funds to send their students to Camp KEEP. The Edison School District most recently participated in this program. Information stations have been set up along the river below the Panorama bluffs. Two other schools have expressed an interest in participating in the program. The program teaches the children about birds, endangered species, Native Americans who once lived in the area, spiders, snakes, turtles, bees, astronomy, geology, oil and other environmental subjects. It introduces the students to a natural environment and increases their awareness of the balance of nature and the importance of preservation.

A restoration project is going on along the Kern River. The river looks worse than ever especially in the last 2 years. There have been major problems with the homeless encampments along the river.

Governor Brown signed into law the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act which impacts groundwater basins in the State. In Kern County the Indian Wells Valley

groundwater basis was included on the list of critically overdrafted basins.

Work is being done on the property near Buena Vista Lake. There are many burrows in the area and they need to determine what animals are living in the burrows. We are in the process of designing the bird sanctuary.

Beginning in April and continuing until September there will be a study conducted on the leopard lizards. The Roads Dept. is funding the study.

Commissioner Bakman reported that the annual fishing derby at Brite Lake in the Tehachapi area would be cancelled this year as the water and fish levels in the lake are extremely low. They can get fish from Montana but the cost is prohibitive.

At the next Commission meeting in July we will decide on an agenda for our October field trip.

8. Date and Location of Next Meeting

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

9. Adjournment

St-Co motion to adjourn and seconded motion at 7:21 p.m.