

# Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Members</u></b></p> <p>Terry Scott, Chair ***</p> <p>Stephen Orndorf, Vice Chair ***</p> <p>Alex Pader Ina Pisani Vic Nienu Kimberly Richard Greg Matsumoto Liesl Wolf</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>MINUTES/ACTION SUMMARY</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Monday, July 9, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.</b> <b>Napa County Administration Building</b> <b>Human Resources Training Room</b> <b>1195 Third Street, Room 103</b> <b>Napa CA</b></p>	<p><b><u>Staff Representatives</u></b></p> <p>Brian Bordona - <i>Supervising Planner</i> Engineering &amp; Conservation Div., PBES <i>Secretary to the WCC</i></p> <p>Daniel Zador - <i>Planner</i> Engineering &amp; Conservation Div., PBES</p> <p>Kyra Purvis - <i>Planner</i> Engineering &amp; Conservation Div., PBES</p> <p>Laura Anderson - <i>Attorney</i> County Counsel's Office</p>
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1. **Call to Order** (Chairman) – 3:03 p.m.

*Members Present: Stephen Orndorf, Greg Matsumoto, Terry Scott, Vic Nienu, Ina Pisani, Kimberly Richard, Alex Pader arrived at 3:27*

*Members Absent Excused: Liesl Wolf*

*Members Absent:*

*Staff Present: Brian Bordona, Daniel Zador*

2. **Public Comment**

In this time period, anyone may comment to the Commission regarding any subject over which the Commission has jurisdiction, or request consideration to place an item on a future Agenda. No comments will be allowed involving any subject matter that is scheduled for discussion as part of this Agenda. Individuals will be limited to a three-minute presentation. No action will be taken by the Commission as a result of any item presented at this time.

*Outcome: No comments received.*

3. **Approval of Minutes**

Meeting of April 4, 2018

*Outcome: Steve Orndorf moved to approve minutes. Motion seconded by Greg Matsumoto. Motion Passed 6-0.*

4. **Introduction of New Commission Member Liesl Wolf, Youth Rep (Chair/Commission & Staff)**

*Outcome: Liesl was unable to attend this meeting. Discussion completed.*

5. **Update and discussion of the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year budget (Staff)**

*Outcome: Staff Brian Bordona updated the WCC on current available funding for fiscal year 2018/19, not including possible rollover funds that would be available if some of the previous year grants are not submitted for reimbursement. The Auditors Office reports a current unencumbered balance of over \$50,000 which would be enough to cover the total request. Discussion completed.*

**6. Review, Discussion and Recommendations on Grant Funding Requests for FY 2018-19: allocation of WCC funds from California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) fines and settlements, and local fines and settlements that are designated for this purpose (Commission)**

*Outcome: The Commission heard each grant request individually, as follows:*

- a) **Napa-Solano Audubon** (total funding request \$8,000): Sally Baumer – Sandy is the president of Napa-Solano Audubon. Project would maintain and expand the position of Educational Coordinator to enable the continued development of curriculum, up to 20 hours a week, up to eventually a full-time position. Crystal DeMarco is the education coordinator. Activities will include expansion of equity in birding program and citizen science programs. Steve asked how they plan which schools and classroom to visit. They use public records and survey teachers and administrators to determine which classrooms are interested. They have also received funding from the National Chapter, from memberships, and festival fundraisers that also raise awareness. Commission members emphasized that due to limited funding available, the majority of this grant funding should be spent in Napa County. Motion made by Kim Richard to fund 8,000 for the project. Motion seconded by Ina Pisani. Motion passed 6-0. Sandy said she document that the funds would only be spent in Napa County. Alex Pader abstained.
- b) **Land Trust of Napa County** (total request \$13,000): Mike Palladini - Request for funding for post-fire monitoring on the Foote Botanical Preserve. The October 2017 North Bay fires greatly affected the Land Trust Preserves. A total of 4 preserves were burned including 3,400 acres of land, including the Sutro Preserve, the Foote Preserve, the Archer-Taylor Preserve, and the Hill Property. Mike provided a presentation that highlighted the post-fire recovery and the monitoring follow-up. Vegetation and wildlife movement are being tracked since the fire. Napa Botanical Services (Jake Rugyt) has consulted for their field monitoring including studying plants that are very rare and barely known about and documented in Napa County. Mike showed rare plant photos including obligate fire seeders which are plants and mosses that only bloom after fires including the Fire Poppy which was only documented once before after a historic fire. Mike discussed the specifics of projects such as trail improvements, invasive species removal, erosion prevention, and protection of rare species. Land Trust has partnered with American Conservation Experience, and Americorps. Grant funding would be matched with Preserve Management funds and staff costs would be paid by the Land Trust. Mike answered questions including about partners. Motion made by Steve Orndorf to fund \$13,000 for the project. Motion seconded by Alex Pader. Motion passed 7-0.
- c) **Napa County Resource Conservation District (RCD)** (total request \$13,716.50): Guadalupe "Lupe" Garcia for Eric McKee - Request for funding of Napa Youth Stewardship Council, an extracurricular environmental stewardship leadership club for 20 Napa County high school students. Lupe is the Conservation Program Assistant and she explained where the stewardship program started. RCD started a pilot program integrating LandSmart and the new Youth Council. Lupe completed her discussion Frances Knapczyk assisted in answered questions about the RCD program. Motion made by Steve Orndorf to fund \$13,716.50 for the project. Motion seconded by Vic Nienu. Motion passed 7-0.

d) **Napa Wildlife Rescue** (total request \$13,270): John Comisky - Request for funding of a part-time education coordinator to manage outreach, give educational presentations, train volunteers, and create educational materials (\$12,500), and for the purchase of large incubator for orphaned opossum litters (\$770). John shared information about Napa Wildlife Rescue, the only permitted wildlife rescue organization in Napa County. John reminded the commission about similarity between the core mission of the Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission and Napa Wildlife Rescue. John reminded them of the global survey completed about three years ago by the World Wildlife Fund. The survey found between 1970 and 2010, 52% of the world wildlife population disappeared. Since then the number has likely increased, and several thousand animals likely suffered from the fires. Whatever wildlife we have now is thus even more important than ever before. This grant focuses on education, which in turn hopefully would focus on prevention. John said the love for wildlife is at the base of all their efforts and their desire to educate people about wildlife. John shared a favorite quote of his from Helen Terwilliger, a naturalist: "Teach people to love nature. People will take care of what they love." John shared stories about red-tailed hawks that have recently been shot by people as well as people killing opossums. John discussed changing people's perspectives about wildlife. John emphasized how they are trying to increase their public profile. John discussed the advice they give on the hotline, and campaigns against harmful activities, including harming trees during nesting season, and applications of rodenticides. John discussed their ambassador animals, which can help people learn more about wildlife. John shared that the number of raccoons, opossums, and raptor patients have been the most they have ever seen, and thus the ability to promote the organization has decreased because they have so many patients to rehabilitate. So they are requesting funds for 16 hours a week at \$16/hour. These educators must also be trained with the Ambassador Animals before they can promote the animals. They are also requesting the opossum incubators. Kim Richard expressed her support and love for opossums. Steve had questions about the rehabilitation process. Vic Nienu thought they are important but felt they should be doing a better job getting volunteers without pay. He said he called them with a lead on a qualified potential volunteer recruit, but they didn't call back. So he directed that person to the Napa Solano Audubon instead. John said they have not received enough volunteers, so the rehabbers are working with the animals with all the time they have. They are working beyond the hours of a normal volunteer. Thus there is nobody that is left over that is available to promote the program. He apologized for the breakdown in communication and said he willing to provide him his phone number. John, answered Steve's question that their phone number, (2 plus 2 equals 4, and HAWK) is the number to call (224-HAWK). That number is manned by volunteer rescuers that are paid on stipend at ~\$9/hour. Motion made by Kimberly Richard to fund \$13,270 for the project. Motion seconded by Alex Pader. Motion passed 6-1, with Vic Nienu in dissent.

Total funding was recommended at \$47,986.50. Discussion completed.

**7. Commission member grant 2017-18FY assignments for monitoring** (Chair/Commission)

Outcome: Members began to choose which projects they would like to monitor. Kim Selected the Wildlife Rescue. Steve selected the Land Trust project. Vic selected the RCD project. Ina selected Audubon. Alex offered to assist Kim in Wildlife Rescue. Discussion completed.

**8. Other Updates/Announcements and Future Agenda Items** (Commission & Staff)

*Outcome: Staff and commission discussed field trips opportunities. Staff suggested we would pick a date for one field trip of interest. Alex Pader shared information about potential future CalFire grants for fire prevention and education coming up. Staff and Commission tentatively suggested October 15, 2018. Discussion completed.*

**9. Next Meeting Date: (see calendar; October 15, 2018)**

Field trip to be determined, starting at 1195 Third Street, Napa, CA.

*Outcome: Discussion completed under previous item.*

**Adjournment at approximately 4:59 pm**

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