



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Committee Meeting Minutes - Draft

Fish and Wildlife Committee

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

3:00 PM

40 Muir Road, Martinez, CA 94553
Construction Conference Room

ZOOM LINK

<https://cccouny-us.zoom.us/j/83497196908>

| Dial: 888 278 0254 |
Access code: 198675

The public may attend the Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting in person and remotely via call-in or Zoom.

Persons who wish to address the Fish and Wildlife Committee during public comment or with respect to an item that is on the agenda may comment in person, via Zoom, or via call-in. Those participating in person should offer comments when invited by the Committee Chair. Those participating via Zoom should indicate they wish to speak by using the “raise your hand” feature in the Zoom app. Those calling in should indicate they wish to speak by pushing *9 on their phones.

3:00 P.M. Convene Meeting.

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND STATEMENT OF CONFLICT

A member who has a conflict should, prior to consideration of the decision: (1) publicly identify in detail the financial interest that causes the conflict; (2) recuse himself/herself from discussing and voting on the matter; and (3) leave the room until after the decision has been made.

Nicole Balbas, Courtney Coon, Tim Fares, Roni Gehlke, Susan Heckly, Kathleen Jennings, Brett Morris, Olivia Ortega, Danny Pellegrini and Jamin Pursell attended the meeting. Pam Arifian (Napa County, Conservation Division), Carmen Cano, Virgil Chaddock, Michelle Cordis (CCC Flood Control and Water Conservation District), Alex Domeyko (International Bird Rescue), Adèle Ho (Mira Vista Field Stewardship Committee), Phil Kohlmetz (International Bird Rescue), Lilly Lew (Marine Science Institute), Peter Mangarella (John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited), Hilario Mata (City of Pittsburg, Public Works), Robin Mitchell (Mt. View Sanitary District), Bob Peoples, Jill Ray (Office of District 2 Supervisor), Paul Seger (Diablo Water District and Sierra Club Delta Group), Constance Taylor, Jeffry Tibbetts and Ben Weise (Contra Costa Resource Conservation District) attended the meeting. Maureen Parkes (CCC Department of Conservation and Development) attended as staff.

2. REVIEW and CONSIDER APPROVING the Fish and Wildlife Committee Meeting Record for July 16, 2025. [25-3374](#)

Attachments: [7-16-25 Draft Minutes](#)

The meeting minutes were approved as written. (Vote: 8-1-0) Balbas, Fares, Gehlke, Jennings, Heckly, Morris, Ortega and Pellegrini; Abstain: Pursell; Absent: None)

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Includes public comment on topics on the agenda and items not listed on the agenda. The FWC shall also accept public comment on agenda items at the time they are discussed.

There were no public comments.

4. UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (Presented by Staff and FWC Members)

Includes discussion of implementation of actions authorized previously, correspondence received, and upcoming meetings of interest to the FWC.

Maureen Parkes provided the following updates to the Committee:

Michelle Cordis from the CCC Flood Control and Water Conservation District will be available via Zoom during today's meeting to answer any questions the Committee may have regarding the grant applications involving creeks.

Correspondence forwarded to Committee members:

- Emails from Supervisor Candace Andersen regarding the EBRPD Trail Network Expansion at Sycamore Valley Open Space Regional Preserve; Contra Costa Resource Conservation District is recruiting for a community member to fill an open seat on the Board of Directors; and the East Bay Regional Park District Free Fishing Day on August 30.
- Emails from Supervisor Diane Burgis regarding the Delta Stewardship Council announcement that its Delta Science Program will award \$5.9 million to fund eight critical scientific studies in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh over the next three years; Congressman DeSaulnier will host an Environmental Town Hall & Resource Fair in Oakley, and information on the golden mussel and algal blooms.
- Email from Supervisor Shanelle Scales-Preston regarding a Walk & Talk at Radke Martinez Regional Shoreline that she partnered with East Bay Regional Park District.
- Email from Susan Heckly with a link to information on the UC Agriculture and Natural Resources - New Invasive Pests Webinar Mini-Series.
- Email from Abby Fateman with an article on kestrels.

Newsletters and Announcements forwarded to Committee members:

- Bringing Back the Natives - 2
- California Fish and Game Commission - 8
- Golden Gate Bird Alliance - 3
- Greenbelt Alliance - 1
- IPM Decision-Making Subcommittee agenda - 1
- IPM Training Subcommittee - 1
- John Muir Land Trust - 1
- Kids for the Bay - 1
- Lindsay Wildlife Experience - 1
- Save Mount Diablo - 2
- Urban Tilth - 4
- Department of Water Resources - 4

5. CONSIDER the following Consent items:**[TMP-12150](#)**

a) REVIEW and ACCEPT the letter of appreciation from Marine Science Institute regarding the grant they received for their "2025 Delta Discovery Voyage Program" project.

b) REVIEW and APPROVE the request from Kathy Kramer to modify the usage of approved grant funds for the 2025 "Bringing Back the Natives Events" project.

Attachments:[Marine Science Institute Letter](#)[Bringing Back the Natives Request](#)

The Committee reviewed and accepted Item 5a; and reviewed and approved Item 5b. (Vote: 9-0) Balbas, Fares, Gehlke, Jennings, Heckly, Morris, Ortega, Pellegrini and Pursell; Absent: None)

6. REVIEW and ACCEPT the final report from Worth a Dam for their 2025 Beaver dams build neighborhoods: 'Playing with a full deck' project.**[TMP-12148](#)****Attachments:**[Worth A Dam Final Report](#)

The Committee reviewed and accepted the final report. (Vote: 9-0) Balbas, Fares, Gehlke, Jennings, Heckly, Morris, Ortega, Pellegrini and Pursell; Absent: None)

7. DISCUSS the Fall Forum.

The Committee discussed the Fall Forum.

8. CONSIDER the 20 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund applications submitted by August 1, 2025. Consider inviting one or more organizations to the following meeting if the Committee has further questions on their grant proposals. [TMP-12147](#)

Attachments:

[Grant Applications A - J](#)
[Grant Applications K - T](#)
[2026 Grant Summary Spreadsheet](#)
[Worksheet](#)
[2025 Grant Recommendations - for reference only](#)
[2024 Grant Recommendations - for reference only](#)

The Committee reviewed and discussed the grant applications. Several grant applicants were present and provided additional verbal information to clarify aspects of their applications. The Committee directed staff to request additional information for specific applications. Consideration of the grant applications was continued to the next meeting on September 17, 2025.

9. DETERMINE the agenda for the next meeting. The next regular meeting date is September 17, 2025. Possible agenda items for upcoming meetings include:
- 2026 grant application review
 - 2025 Fall Forum planning
 - Informational brochure on invasive species
 - Draft 2025 Work Plan and Annual Report
 - Delta Conveyance Project update
 - Field Trip

ADJOURN