



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Committee Meeting Minutes - Draft

Fish and Wildlife Committee

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

3:00 PM

40 Muir Road, Martinez, CA 94553
Construction Conference Room

ZOOM LINK

<https://cccouny-us.zoom.us/j/88999953831>

| Dial: 855-758-1310 |

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, Roni Gehlke, Susan Heckly, Kathleen Jennings, Brett Morris, and Jamin Pursell attended the meeting. Olivia Ortega and Danny Pellegrini provided advance notice that they would not be able to attend the meeting. Tim Fares was absent. Joanne Chiu (CCC Department of Conservation and Development), Brian Holt (East Bay Regional Park District), Phil Kohlmetz (International Bird Rescue), Jill Ray (Office of District 2 Supervisor) and Jeffry Tibbetts attended the meeting. Maureen Parkes (CCC Department of Conservation and Development) attended as staff.

- #### 2. REVIEW and CONSIDER APPROVING the minutes for the March 18, 2026 meeting.

[26-2236](#)

Attachments: [March 18, 2026 Draft Minutes](#)

The meeting minutes were approved as written. (Vote 7-0: Balbas, Coon, Gehlke, Heckly, Jennings, Morris and Pursell; Absent: Fares, Ortega and Pellegrini)

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:

- Danny Pellegrini and Olivia Ortega provided advance notice that they would not be able to attend the meeting today.
- The Department determined that the two early grant disbursements previously approved by the Committee could not be issued without executed contracts, and that it was too late in the grant cycle to initiate the contract process.

Correspondence forwarded to Committee members:

- Supervisor Andersen sent newsletters that provided information on developing a restoration plan for the Walnut Creek Watershed, Earth Day events, Sustainability Commission open seats, Mosquito Awareness Week, and Animal Services' new online tool that helps residents report deceased animals on County roads and public property.
- Supervisor Burgis sent newsletters that provided information about the California Coastal Commission Workshop - Stop the Spread by Uninfecting Waterways on April 2, Earth Day Prep - April 22, "Speak About Nature - Marsh Creek Reservoir Restoration & Mercury Reduction Project", open seats on the Sustainability Commission, East Bay Regional Park District Park Explorer April and May 2026 editions, a sip and stroll at Big Break Thursday, April 16, 2026, Save Mount Diablo secures extra protections for Curry Canyon Ranch while generating resources to further its Diablo Range work, Contra Costa Clean Water Program launches community survey, and Delta Life Magazine 2026.
- Supervisor Carlson sent an email regarding Earth Day and John Muir Day.
- Supervisor Gioia sent emails regarding Earth Day events.
- Supervisor Scales-Preston sent newsletters that provided information on the "Rocks and Roots" event sponsored by the Carquinez Regional Environmental Education Center (CREEC), Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) and California Climate Action Corps on March 28, 2026, a walk and talk with Supervisor Scales-Preston at the Waterbird Regional Preserve on April 4th, and information on "Our Neighborhood Trees" a plan to bring more shade and comfort to Contra Costa County neighborhoods.
- An article from Roni Gehlke regarding Nutria.

Newsletters and Announcements forwarded to Committee members:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife - 1
- California Department of Water Resources - 1

- California Fish and Game Commission - 12
- Contra Costa Resource Conservation District - 2
- Contra Costa County Sustainability Team - 1
- Contra Costa Watershed Forum - 1
- Golden Gate Bird Alliance - 7
- Greenbelt Alliance - 3
- IPM Advisory Committee - Decision-Making Subcommittee - 1
- John Muir Land Trust - 2
- KIDS for the BAY - 2
- League of Women Voters - 1
- Lindsay Wildlife Experience - 3
- Marine Science Institute - 1
- Save Mount Diablo - 6
- Sustainable Contra Costa - 1
- The Watershed Project - 1
- Urban Tilth - 5

5. Presentation on the new District Plan that East Bay Regional Park District is developing. (Brian Holt, East Bay Regional Park District)

Brian Holt provided an update on development of the District Plan, including the draft goals, public engagement process, and timeline for completion. He then responded to questions and comments from Committee members. To view the presentation, click on the following link:

<https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/92413/EBRPD-District-Plan-Presentation>

6. CONSIDER the following Consent items:

[26-2237](#)

- a) REVIEW and ACCEPT the letter from SPAWNERS declining their 2025 grant award.
- b) REVIEW and ACCEPT the final report from Lindsay Wildlife Experience for their 2024 “Creating an Interactive Bee Exhibit and Education Programs” project.
- c) REVIEW and ACCEPT the final report from Lindsay Wildlife Experience for their 2025 “The Bear Den” project.
- d) REVIEW and ACCEPT the final report from International Bird Rescue for their 2026 “Ethically and Effectively Resolving Human/Wildlife Interaction Issues in Contra Costa County Through Temporary Emergency Treatment and Care of Injured and Orphaned Wildlife” project.

Attachments:

[SPAWNERS Letter Declining 2025 Grant](#)
[Lindsay Wildlife Experience 2024 Final Report](#)
[Lindsay Wildlife Experience 2025 Final Report](#)
[International Bird Rescue 2026 Final Report](#)

The Committee accepted Items 6a, 6b and 6c on Consent. Item 6d was pulled for

discussion. The Committee accepted Item 6d with the condition that the receipt/invoice for the disinfectant station be provided to staff prior to the next FWC meeting scheduled on August 19, 2026. (Vote 7-0: Balbas, Coon, Gehlke, Heckly, Jennings, Morris and Pursell; Absent: Fares, Ortega and Pellegrini)

7. REVIEW and DISCUSS Fish and Game revenue reports (FY 2025–26 Q1 & Q2). [26-2238](#)

Attachments: [Fish and Game Revenue Report FY 25-26 Q1](#)
[Fish and Game Revenue Report FY 25-26 Q2](#)

The Committee reviewed and discussed the Fish and Game revenue reports.

8. Discuss the 2026 Fall Forum. Consider recommending that the Board of Supervisors authorize the FWC to spend Fish and Wildlife Propagation funds to host the 2026 Fall Forum.

The Committee discussed the Fall Forum and recommended that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Fish and Wildlife Committee to spend no more than \$3,000 to cover facility rental fees, food, dessert, water and event supplies. (Vote 7-0: Balbas, Coon, Gehlke, Jennings, Heckly, Morris, and Pursell; Absent: Fares, Ortega and Pellegrini)

9. REVIEW, MODIFY and CONSIDER APPROVING the draft Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Grant Request for Proposals (RFP) for the 2027 grant cycle. [26-2239](#)

Attachments: [Draft 2027 Grant RFP](#)

Maureen Parkes presented the proposed revisions to the draft RFP. The Committee reviewed and discussed the revisions and approved the RFP for distribution, with the addition of a section outlining the anticipated time frame between grant approval and contract execution. (Vote 7-0: Balbas, Coon, Gehlke, Heckly, Jennings, Morris and Pursell; Absent: Fares, Ortega and Pellegrini)

10. DETERMINE the agenda for the next meeting. The next regular meeting date is August 19, 2026. Possible agenda items for upcoming meetings include:

- 2027 grant application review
- 2026 Fall Forum planning
- Informational brochure on invasive species
- Draft 2026 Work Plan and Annual Report
- Delta Conveyance Project update
- Field Trip

Adjourn