

## **Upper Kern Fisheries Enhancement Fund Committee Meeting**

March 14, 2016

Kern Community Foundation, 3300 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 220, Bakersfield, CA 93301  
Conference Call: 661-616-2616

### **MINUTES**

**Present:** Kristen Barnes (Kern Community Foundation), Rachel Evey (Kern Community Foundation), Ernie Rice (Kern River Flyfishers), Wayne Swanson (Kern River Flyfishers)

**Present by Conference Line:** Steve Anderson (Sequoia National Forest), Mark Drew (Cal Trout), Greg Kollenborn (California Department of Fish and Wildlife), David Moore (Southern California Edison), Tracy Purpuro (CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife), Alison Sheehey (Sequoia ForestKeeper), Andy Stone (Sequoia National Forest), Daniel Welsh (US Fish and Wildlife Service)

#### **I. Purpose of Meeting**

This is the semiannual meeting of the committee to consider new proposals, report status of ongoing projects and address needs or opportunities for implementation of the Upper Kern Basin Fisheries Management Plan.

#### **II. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 11:09am. A quorum was present.

#### **III. Reports**

##### **a. Funding**

##### **i. Status of Fund**

The year-end balance (12/31/15) for the Fund was \$3,028,608.58.

##### **ii. Funding available for projects**

The funding available to spend for projects in 2016 is \$118,042.

##### **b. Ongoing Projects**

##### **i. Kern Community Foundation Grant**

Due to the Kern River Rainbow Conservation Strategy currently being revised (see item III.c.i), the facilitated public meeting will take place in 2017 when the Strategy is available for public comment.

For the 2016 Trout Festival on April 30th, the Committee recommended a display to show what projects the Fund has supported and future planned projects. The Foundation will work with the Hyatt Consulting Group (Judy Hyatt) to create and distribute the press release and coordinate with California Department of Fish and Wildlife to showcase improvements made and improvements planned. The Friends of the Hatchery is the organizer behind the Trout Festival.

The press release will include information about hatchery improvements, broodstock collection in spring 2017 (see item III.c.ii), the Conservation Strategy in progress, and the public's anticipated involvement at the 2017 Trout Festival. California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) will distribute its own press release.

##### **ii. Grant for Hatchery Improvements (self-cleaning debris screen)**

Approval is still being processed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Department of Finance. Mr. Swanson volunteered to see whether either of the local flyfisher clubs could accept the grant. The Committee had discussion about absorbing processing fees as a part of making the grant directly to the agency.

##### **c. Special Reports**

##### **i. Status of Kern River Rainbow Conservation Strategy**

The Conservation Strategy is currently going through editing by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The document will then go to the Forest Service and Park Service for review and edits. Final delivery date for public consumption is estimated at spring 2017.

**ii. Brood Stock Collection**

The Park Service has requested an additional year to review and document the project. A memorandum of agreement and permit are also needed to complete this project. Projected collection is now for spring 2017.

**iii. Facilitated Public Meeting**

The facilitated public meeting will be delayed until the Conservation Strategy's completion and availability for public comment.

**IV. New Business**

**a. New Proposals**

**i. Kern River Rainbow Trout (KRRT) Broodstock Development – California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Tracy Purpuro)**

Funding request of \$9,000. Helicopter support for removal of genetically pure Kern River rainbow trout from locations within Sequoia National Park. Helicopter is needed to transport collection gear and fish to and from work sites on Chagoopa Creek and Nine Lakes Basin. Mr. Purpuro clarified that the funding will now not be needed this year because the broodstock projection is slated for spring 2017.

CA Dept. Fish and Wildlife abstained from the vote. Mr. Anderson made motion to defer vote to the future when the funding will be needed. Mr. Moore seconded. Approved without dissent, with the above mentioned abstentions.

Mr. Purpuro will re-submit the funding request when the amount is needed for the broodstock retrieval.

**ii. Restoring Kern River Rainbow Trout and Amphibian Habitat in Osa Creek and Meadow – California Trout (Mark Drew)**

Funding request of \$63,787. The Osa Meadow Restoration Project, in partnership with the Sequoia National Forest, will result in multiple ecosystems benefits, including restoration of Kern River Rainbow Trout habitat and increased greenhouse gas sequestration. The completion of this meadow restoration will be by the end of 2016.

Sequoia National Forest abstained from the vote. Mr. Kollenborn moved for approval of this funding request. Mr. Welsh seconded. Approved without dissent with the above mentioned abstentions.

**iii. Genetic Assessment of Mountain Yellow-legged Frog Populations in Upper Kern Watershed – Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (Danny Boiano)**

Funding request of \$20,170. Project between UC-Berkeley and Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks to support efforts to recover mountain yellow-legged frogs by conducting genetic analysis of tissue samples. Results will be incorporated in the rangewide MYLF Conservation Strategy.

Discussion regarding whether the proposal fits the guiding documents currently in place.

Mr. Anderson moved to defer the vote without prejudice for this proposal. Seconded by Mr. Welsh. Approved without dissent.

A revised and clarified proposal will be requested from Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, specifically to identify the proposal's tie to the Kern Fisheries Upper Management Plan, the Fund's guiding document. The revised proposal may be submitted to the Committee for review at future meetings.

**b. New Chair for the Committee**

Mr. Anderson has been acting as the Chair. His position has changed recently and a new Chair will need to be identified. Kern Community Foundation will fulfill the administrative duties for the Committee.

Mr. Purpuro volunteered to act as the Chair. Mr. Anderson moved for approval of Mr. Purpuro as the Chair. Mr. Welsh seconded. Approved without dissent.

**c. Set next Committee meeting date**

The next Committee meeting will take place on September 19, 2016, at 11am by conference line or in-person at Kern Community Foundation.

A conference call may take place between now and the Trout Festival to clarify the Fund's presence.

**V. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:22pm.