1) **Introductions.** Martha Berthelsen, Clark Dawson, Roni Gehlke, Susan Heckly, Derek Jansen, Brett Morris, Daniel Pellegrini and Scott Stephan attended the meeting. Kathleen Jennings and Jeff Skinner provided advance notice that they would be absent. Lia Bristol (Office of Supervisor District IV), Betsy Burkhart (CCTV), Stefani Buzzard (No Kill Contra Costa County), Jimm Edgar and Nancy Wenninger (Mount Diablo Audubon Society), Rick Golphin (CCC Animal Services Department), Darcee Guttilla, Karen Kops (Homeless Animals Response Program [H.A.R.P]), Lisa Kirk (Homeless Animals Lifeline Organization), Wendy Lambis, Julie Linford (Outcast Cat Help), Jill Ray (Office of Supervisor District II), Linda Rodgers, Adithya Sambamuthry, Ted Shapas, Susan Smith and Jill Wiseman attended the meeting. John Kopchik and Maureen Parkes (CCC Department of Conservation and Development) attended as staff.

2) **Review/Approve minutes from the May 20, 2015 meeting.** The meeting minutes were approved as written.

   **Vote:** 6-0
   **AYES:** Dawson, Gehlke, Heckly, Janson, Pellegrini and Stephan
   **NOES:** None
   **ABSENT:** Jennings and Skinner
   **ABSTAIN:** Berthelsen and Morris

3) **Public comment.** There were no public comments.

4) **Updates and announcements from staff and FWC members.** Includes discussion on implementation of actions authorized previously, on correspondence received, and on upcoming meetings of interest to the FWC.

   Maureen Parkes informed the Committee that Kathleen Jennings and Jeff Skinner provided advance notice that they would not be able to attend the meeting today.

5) **Review information regarding potential impacts of outdoor cats on wildlife.** The FWC will review materials submitted in 2013 and receive new information from presenters and commenters. Susan Heckly (FWC member) will speak and provide information. There will be presentations from:

   - Stefanie Buzzard, No Kill Contra Costa County
   - Lisa Kirk, Homeless Animals Lifeline Organization (H.A.L.O)
   - Julie Linford, Outcast Cat Help

   The Committee will invite input from other invited guests, including representatives from the County Animal Services Department and the Mount Diablo Audubon Society, and from the public. The Committee reviewed the information provided in the agenda packet and received new information provided by meeting attendees. A list of the speakers is provided on the next page.

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*A list of documents and speakers’ comments with web links to the documents is attached and available online at: http://ca-contracostacounty2.civicplus.com/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/3464. Related information provided to the FWC on free-roaming cats is also included.*
Speakers:

- Susan Heckly (FWC Member) spoke regarding the impacts of outdoor cats on wildlife and stated that cats are one of the most serious threats to the health and integrity of native wildlife populations and natural ecosystems; and that controlling cats at the local level will give a large measure of relief to vulnerable urban and suburban wildlife populations. (a link to her comments is provided on the attachment).
- Stefanie Buzzard (No Kill Contra Costa County) spoke regarding the No Kill movement and stated that they support trap-neuter-return and return-to-field programs (a link to her comments is provided on the attachment).
- Julie Linford (Outcast Cat Help) spoke regarding their trap-neuter-return policy and their return-to-field program (a link to a letter from Outcast Cat Help is provided on the attachment).
- Lisa Kirk (Homeless Animals Lifeline Organization [H.A.L.O]) spoke about contributing factors to the overpopulation of cats in Contra Costa County, and what other agencies and organizations are doing to reduce cat populations (a link to her comments is provided on the attachment).
- Nancy Wenninger (Mount Diablo Audubon Society) spoke regarding the impact of outdoor cats on wildlife and suggested the possibility of a cat sanctuary.
- Darcee Guttilla spoke regarding trap-neuter-release programs and her thesis work on the effects of sterilization on movement, home range behavior, and habitat use of feral cats on Santa Catalina Island.

6) Review and consider authorizing staff to send a letter to the Mount Diablo Audubon Society regarding the “We Love Cats! and Birds, too!” brochure. Nancy Wenninger, Mount Diablo Audubon Society, apologized for the additional message added to the brochure and stated that she misread the Committee’s level of support regarding the brochure. The Committee reviewed a draft letter and authorized staff to send the letter to the Mount Diablo Audubon Society.

Vote: 8-0
AYES: Berthelsen, Dawson, Gehlke, Heckly, Janson, Morris, Pellegrini and Stephan
NOES: None
ABSENT: Jennings and Skinner
ABSTAIN: None

7) Review and accept the final report from Lindsay Wildlife Experience for their “Protecting California’s Wildlife Through Treatment & Rehabilitation” project. The Committee reviewed and accepted the final report.

Vote: 8-0
AYES: Berthelsen, Dawson, Gehlke, Heckly, Janson, Morris, Pellegrini and Stephan
NOES: None
ABSENT: Jennings and Skinner
ABSTAIN: None

8) Review and accept the final report from the East Bay Regional Park District for their “Status of Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse in the East Bay Regional Park District & The Movement Patterns and Habitat Use of the Western Pond Turtle (Actinemys Marmorata) in Freshwater Ponds” projects. The Committee reviewed and accepted the final report.

Vote: 8-0
AYES: Berthelsen, Dawson, Gehlke, Heckly, Janson, Morris, Pellegrini and Stephan
NOES: None
ABSENT: Jennings and Skinner
ABSTAIN: None
9) Review and accept the final report from Save Mount Diablo on their Marsh Creek – Morgan Territory Habitat Restoration Project. The Committee reviewed and accepted the final report.

   Vote:  8-0
   AYES:  Berthelsen, Dawson, Gehlke, Heckly, Janson, Morris, Pellegrini and Stephan
   NOES:  None
   ABSENT:  Jennings and Skinner
   ABSTAIN:  None

10) Discuss the 2015 Fall Forum and consider plans and potential speakers. The Committee discussed potential speakers and methods to display the exhibits provided by grant recipients.

11) Continue to discuss and consider action on the Internal Operations Committee (IOC) comments and requests at their December 1, 2014 meeting listed below:

   • Suggest three top priorities for the upcoming Board of Supervisors Discussion Item. The Committee discussed their priorities and directed staff to prepare a draft board order for their review.

   • The IOC expressed a need for multilingual signage and better collaboration with law enforcement agencies, the court, and community cultural organizations on enforcement issues and education surrounding fish and wildlife practices of people of different cultures that may be in violation of local fish and game laws. The Committee decided to add a paragraph to the 2016 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Grant Request for Proposal that they wish to fund one or more projects that increase collaboration with law enforcement agencies, the court, and community cultural organizations on enforcement issues and education focusing on communities that may be unaware of local fish and game laws. Projects that provide multilingual signage and educational materials would be encouraged.

12) Determine the agenda for the next meeting. The next regular meeting date is July 15, 2015. Possible agenda items for upcoming meetings include:

   • Discuss potential field trips
   • Discuss Wildlife in Your Backyard brochure
   • Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund RFP
   • Consider developing recommendations and/or a white paper on rodenticide use in the County
   • Presentation on problem weeds

Adjourn

The Committee Chair may alter the order of agenda items at the meeting. Please contact Maureen Parkes at 925-674-7831 / maureen.parkes@dcd.cccounty.us (or Abigail Fateman at 925-674-7820 / abigail.fateman@dcd.cccounty.us) at the CCC Department of Conservation and Development if you have questions about the Fish & Wildlife Committee or desire materials related to this agenda. The FWC will provide reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities planning to participate in this meeting who contact staff at least 72 hours before the meeting.