

## MINUTES

### **EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE KINGS RIVER FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

**FEBRUARY 14, 2024**

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#### **Call To Order**

Minutes of the Executive Policy Committee (ExCom) of the Kings River Fisheries Management Program (KRFMP) convened at the offices of the Kings River Conservation District (KRCD) and Kings River Water Association (KRWA) in Fresno, California, on Thursday, February 14, 2024, at 3:00 p.m., with Chairman Steven Haugen presiding.

#### **Roll Call**

Members Present: Steven Haugen (KRWA), David Merritt (KRCD), and Gerald Hatler (California Department of Fish and Wildlife - CDFW)

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Brian Beal, Binu Brar, Soua Lee, Matthew Meadows, Robert Moeller, Bailey Routt, and Lori Werner

#### **Public Comment Period**

Public Advisory Group (PAG) Chairman, Robert Moeller, reported the fisherman on the Kings River have been happy with the amount of fish being caught. He has not received any negative comments from the public over the last several months.

#### **Committee Member Comment Period**

No comments from Committee Members were provided.

#### **Minutes Approval**

Minutes taken from the September 21, 2023 KRFMP ExCom Meeting were considered.

*Upon the motion of David Merritt, seconded by Gerald Hatler, and unanimously carried by roll call vote, the minutes were approved as corrected.*

#### **Executive Officer Report**

Haugen provided a brief update on the current fishery flows and water conditions. Temperature ranges and flows are good, allowing the normal supplemental stocking program to take place.

#### **Public Advisory Group Report**

No report was provided.

**Financial Report**

KRCD Controller, Binu Brar, presented KRFMP financial reports dated September 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024, for the fiscal period of June 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

*Upon the motion of David Merritt, seconded by Gerald Hatler, and unanimously carried by roll call vote, the financial report was approved as presented.*

**Technical Steering Committee Reports**

**CDFW Stocking:** Brian Beal with CDFW reported they have released much larger fish into the Kings River system primarily due to the decreased availability of catchables. Thus far, CDFW has stocked 8,300 pounds of trophies and approximately 9,000 pounds of catchables. Their typical annual allotment is around 18,000 pounds of catchables and 5,000 of trophies; however, due to this year's production issues, Beal believes CDFW will stock 14,000-15,000 pounds of catchables and 10,000-12,000 pounds of trophies by the end of the season. In conclusion, CDFW will meet their annual allotment, but it will consist of much larger fish in comparison to previous years.

Additionally, Beal reported CDFW released 25,000 unmarked subs in January 2024. He mentioned the reports he has received from our local anglers remain positive.

**KRFMP Supplemental Stocking Program:** KRCD Supervisor of Water Resources, Soua Lee, reported KRFMP has been stocking fish since November 2023, totaling around 14,000 pounds of fish to date, averaging 2.83 fish per pound. In addition, KRCD has released 6,558 pounds of fish to date, averaging 3.00 fish per pound.

**Kings River Clean-Up:** Lee announced the Kings River Clean-Up group has partnered with the Yosemite Climbing Association for their Fresno Facelift event on February 17, 2024. The group will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Tioga Sequoia Brewery in Downtown Fresno. She added the clean-up events continue to be successful. The group has received much praise from the local community regarding how much cleaner the shorelines and parks are in comparison to previous years.

**Enhancement Project Planning:** Lee reported KRCD continues to look for grant funding opportunities to aid our enhancement projects. She will keep us posted on their progress. Merritt added the Kings River Conservancy recently reached out to KRCD to find out how they can assist with applying for grants for the KRFMP enhancement projects, specifically in reference to the Thorburn Channel. The Conservancy may have different opportunities available to them that the district is not able to access.

2023-2024 Planned Incubator Operations: Lee reported KRCD has placed 150,000 eggs into the incubator building thus far. The losses appear to be of normal rates and water quality through the recent storms has remained clear. Lori Werner has been running several tours over the last few weeks with local high schools and colleges. She is doing an excellent job in working with and educating the local community. The next round of eggs is scheduled to arrive on February 28, 2024, with an anticipated release of April 2024.

**Other Business** No other business was covered.

**Adjournment** The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

**Next Meeting** The next KRFMP ExCom Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 3:00 p.m., at the KRWA office.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bailey Routt  
Kings River Water Association  
*Executive Administrative Assistant*