

Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission

<u>Members</u>	<u>MEETING MINUTES</u>	<u>Staff Representatives</u>
Charles Burton, <i>Chair</i> Kimberly Richard, <i>Vice Chair</i> Megan Dameron Leslie Lew Greg Matsumoto Alex Pader Ina Pisani Xuexin (Allen) Xie	SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING Monday, August 25, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. Napa County Administration Building Board Chambers, Third Floor 1195 Third Street Napa, CA	Dana Morrison – <i>Supervising Planner</i> , Conservation Division, PBES <i>Secretary to the WCC</i> Pam Arifian – <i>Planner III</i> Conservation Division, PBES Daniel Zador – <i>Planner II</i> Conservation Division, PBES Laura Anderson - <i>Attorney</i> County Counsel's Office

How to Watch or Listen to the Napa County Wildlife Conservation Meetings

The Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission will meet pursuant to the annually adopted meeting calendar available at the following link: <https://www.countyofnapa.org/2342/Calendar>

The WCC realizes that not all County residents have the same ways to stay engaged, so several alternatives are offered. Remote Zoom participation for members of the public is provided for convenience only. In the event that the Zoom connection malfunctions for any reason, the WCC reserves the right to conduct the meeting without remote access.

Please watch or listen to the WCC meeting in one of the following ways:

1. Attend in-person at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1195 Third Street, Napa Suite 305.
2. Watch on Zoom using the attendee link: <https://countyofnapa.zoom.us/j/87073670597>. Make sure your browser is up-to-date.
3. Listen on Zoom by calling 1-669-900-6833 (Meeting ID: 870 7367 0597).

If you are unable to attend the meeting in person and wish to submit a general public comment or a comment on a specific agenda item, please do the following:

1. Email your comment to wildlife@countyofnapa.org 24 hours in advance of the meeting to ensure that your comment will be shared with all members of the WCC.
2. Use the Zoom attendee link <https://countyofnapa.zoom.us/j/87073670597>. Make sure the browser is up-to-date. When the Chair calls for the item on which you wish to speak, click "raise hand". Please limit your remarks to three minutes
3. Call the Zoom phone number: 1-669-900-6833 (Meeting ID: 870 7367 0597). When the Chair calls for the item on which you wish to speak, press *9 to raise hand. Please limit your remarks to three minutes.

****Please note that phone numbers in their entirety will be visible online while speakers are speaking****

All comments will be heard in the order received.

The above-identified measures meet all legal requirements for participation and public comment, including those imposed by the Ralph M. Brown Act and Executive Order N-08-21.

For more information, please contact the Wildlife Conservation Commission Staff at 707-253-4417 or email wildlife@countyofnapa.org.

1. **Call to Order** (*Chair*)
Commenced at 2:00 pm.
2. **Roll Call** (*Staff*)
All present except Commissioner Dameron (excused).

Note: If requested, the agenda and documents in the agenda packet can be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability. Please contact Pam Arifian at 707-259-5934 or by e-mail at pamela.arifian@countyofnapa.org

3. **Public Comment** (*Chair*) - *None*
4. **Approval of Minutes:** Meeting of April 7, 2025 (*Chair*)
Commissioner Richard made a motion to approve; Commissioner Matsumoto seconded; motion passed 6-0 (Commissioner Lew excused).
5. **Introduction of New Commission Member Leslie Lew** (*Staff*)
Commissioner Lew introduced herself.
Action: None taken
6. **Update and Discussion of 2025-2026 Budget** (*Staff*)
Staff provided an update on the WCC budget of \$75,000 for 2025-2026 grant cycle and a report on the grant fund requests in this cycle.
Action: None taken
7. **Review, Discussion, and Recommendations on Grant Funding Requests for FY 2025-26:**
Allocation of WCC funds from Napa County Board of Supervisors and California Department of Fish and Game fines and settlements, and local fines and settlements that are designated for this purpose (*Staff, Chair*)
 - a. **Napa Wildlife Rescue (NWR)** – Request for funding to support salary of Lead Wildlife Rehabilitation Technician/Education Coordinator and to offset increased costs for food and medical supplies for direct care of wildlife. Proposal meets CDFG Code §13103 criteria (a), (b) and (c). Total request: \$25,000 (Carol Poole)
 - b. **School Garden Doctor (SGD)** – Request for funding to support collaborative effort with educators from three Napa schools to monitor six pollinator habitat sites, including three school-based and three public-access locations in Napa. Wildlife and habitat conservation, species and biodiversity data collection, student and public education. Proposal meets CDFG Code §13103 criterion (a). Total request: \$10,000 (Carrie Strohl)
 - c. **Napa County Resource Conservation District (RCD)** - Request for funding to support the Green Futures program, a high school habitat stewardship program piloted in 2024-2025 with Valley Oak High School to educate and grow stewardship skills, including maintenance and monitoring of 3-acre native oak reforestation plot at Skyline Park. Proposal meets CDFG Code §13103 criteria (a), (e) and (m). Total request \$15,636 (Eric McKee)
 - d. **Carolyn Parr Nature Center (CPNC)** – Request for funding to support outdoor education and conservation, including native, medicinal and pollinator gardens, dedicated wildlife habitat and immersive nature-based educational opportunities supported by interpretive signage throughout. Proposal meets CDFG Code §13103 criterion (a). Total request \$10,300 (Alexander Lyman)

Note: If requested, the agenda and documents in the agenda packet can be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability. Please contact Pam Arifian at 707-259-5934 or by e-mail at pamela.arifian@countyofnapa.org

- e. **American Canyon Community & Parks Foundation (ACCPF)** – Request for funding to support Watershed Explorers (10 fourth-grade classrooms of 305+ students in American Canyon and expansion into Napa (100 students), Watershed Protectors (Pilot new fifth-grade conservation program with 3 classes of 80+ students at Napa Junction Elementary, and Watershed Trainees (at least 9 K-3rd grade classrooms of 260+ students in Napa County). Proposal meets CDFG Code §13103 criteria (a) and (e). Total request: \$20,000 (Janelle Sellick)
- f. **Institute for Conservation Advocacy Research and Education (ICARE)** - Request for funding to support the Salvador Creek Signage Project about the life cycle of salmon and critical habitat - support production costs for two (2) 24-inch x36-inch pedestal signs to be installed by City of Napa Park and Rec Dept at Garfield Bridge. Proposal meets CDFG Code §13103 criterion (a) and (m). Total Request \$8,270 (Chris Malan)
- g. **Napa-Solano Audubon (NSA)** – Request for funding to support one (1) full-time Education Coordinator and three to four (3-4) part-time instructors for school and community programs. Proposal meets CDFG Code §13103 criteria (a) and (e): Total request \$10,110 (Mark Stephenson)
- h. **Land Trust Napa County (LTNC)** – Request for funding to support educational programs on the Mead Ranch Preserve by improving trails and to fund transportation costs for three (3) school buses during the 2025-26 school year. Proposal meets CDFG Code §13103 criterion (a). Total request: \$12,055 (Megan Lilla)
- i. **Sonoma Ecology Center / North Bay Bear Collaborative (NBBC)** – Request for funding to support the North Bay Bear Collaborative in data collection, community engagement and reporting of analysis of black bear fecal samples for estimating black bear abundance and density in Napa County. Proposal meets CDFG Code §13103 criterion (a). Total request: \$7,327 (Wendy Hayes and Meghan Walla-Murphy)
- j. **UC Cooperative Extension Human-Wildlife Interactions (UCCE)** - Request for funding to support salary of a part-time technician to support ongoing research, technical assistance and monitoring of over 100 American Kestrel nest boxes in Napa County, and perform outreach efforts about American Kestrel health and integrated pest management in Napa County. Proposal meets CDFG Code §13103 (e) and (i). Total request: \$10,550 (Breanna Martinico)
- k. **International Bird Rescue (IBR)** – Request for funding for medical supplies and food to support the rescue & rehabilitation of 50-80 aquatic birds from Napa County. Proposal meets CDFG Code §13103 criteria (b) and (c). Total request: \$5,673 (Phil Kohlmetz)

Applicants made brief presentations and responded to questions from WCC. No public comments were received before discussion on the item.

Action: Commissioner Pisani made a motion (Motion 1, below) to allocate 100% of funds to ICARE, NBBC and IBR, and to allocate remaining projects at 47% of funding. Commissioner Matsumoto seconded. Discussion. Commissioner Burton made an amendment to the motion (Amendment 1) to further fund NWR by reducing allocation to ACCPF by \$2,000 and allocate an additional \$2,000 to NWR. Amended motion (Amendment 1) failed 7-0.

Discussion on original motion (Motion 1). Commissioner Pader made an amendment (Amendment 2) to the original motion (Motion 1) made by Commissioner Pisani to take \$500 each from IBR, NBBC, and ACCPF, ICARE and put towards NWR for a total grant allocation of \$74,686. Commissioner Pisani seconded the amended motion; discussion; motion passed 5-2.

Commissioner Pader made a motion to postpone voting on the amended motion so that the floor is open to discuss Commissioner Xie's scoring proposal. Commissioner Richard seconded; motion to postpone passed 7-0.

Commissioner Xie introduced a proposed rating system and calculator, but since it had not been vetted previously or agendized by the Commission, it could not be used for this decision. The Commission requested that Commissioner Xie's proposal be on the agenda for discussion at a future meeting.

Commissioner Pader made a motion (Motion 2) to allocate an additional \$230 to ICARE for a total grant award of \$74,909 (as detailed below). Commissioner Richard seconded the motion. Discussion; motion passed 6-1.

Org.	Request	Motion 1	Amendment 1	Amendment 2	Motion 2	WCC Monitor
NWR	\$25,000	\$11,750	\$13,750	\$13,750	\$13,750	Xie & Dameron
SGD	\$10,000	\$4,700	\$4,700	\$4,700	\$4,700	Pisani
RCD	\$15,636	\$7,348	\$7,348	\$7,348	\$7,348	Richard
CPNC	\$10,300	\$4,841	\$4,841	\$4,841	\$4,841	Pader
ACCPF	\$20,000	\$9,400	\$7,400	\$8,900	\$8,900	Matsumoto
ICARE	\$8,270	\$8,270	\$8,270	\$7,770	\$8,000	Matsumoto & Xie
NSAS	\$10,110	\$4,752	\$4,752	\$4,752	\$4,752	Burton
LTNC	\$12,055	\$5,666	\$5,666	\$5,666	\$5,666	Lew & Richard
NBBC	\$7,327	\$7,327	\$7,327	\$6,827	\$6,820	Lew & Richard
UCCE	\$10,550	\$4,959	\$4,959	\$4,959	\$4,959	Richard
IBR	\$5,673	\$5,673	\$5,673	\$5,173	\$5,173	Burton

Note: If requested, the agenda and documents in the agenda packet can be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability. Please contact Pam Arifian at 707-259-5934 or by e-mail at pamela.arifian@countyofnapa.org

8. **Commission member grant 2025-2026 assignments for monitoring** (*Chair/Commission*)

Action: Commissioners volunteered for monitoring assignments as listed in table above.

9. **Other Updates/Announcements and Future Agenda Items** (*Commission & Staff*)

Commissioners requested discussion of Commissioner Xie's scoring proposal as an agenda item, and to resume the discussion about decision-making process improvements.

10. **Next Meeting Date:** November 3rd, 2025

11. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Pader moved to adjourn, Commissioner Burton seconded; motion passed unanimously.
