



**Sonoma County Fish and Wildlife Commission
Meeting Minutes
February, 2012 – 7:00PM**

Commissioners Attending:

Crystal Norris
Andrew Pozzi
Jim Lynch
Jo Bentz
Al Gerhardt
Jeff Holden
David Cook
Brock Dolman

Commissioners Absent:

Al Ferris
Caroline Christian
Darius Anderson
Don McEnhill

Others:

Sarah Millus
Evan Collins, DFG
Jim Jones, DFG
Steve Riske, DFG

Chairperson Norris called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Adoption of Minutes

Crystal Norris asks if there are any additions or corrections to the November 2011 minutes.

Al Gerhardt asks that the January 2012 minutes be amended to show that Jeff Holden was absent and he did not comment on the financial reports. Also, there were two typos on page four.

Jim Lynch makes a motion to approve the minutes as amended, with a second by Andy Pozzi. Motion carried with 8 'Ayes', and 4 'Absent'

Correspondence

The following correspondence was received:

1. Correspondence from California State Fish and Game Commission.
2. Thank you note from Regional Parks and Wildlife Fawn Rescue.

3. Framed photo and thank you note from Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods and California Parks.
4. Brochures and a letter from the Shared Habitat Alliance for Recreational Enhancement Program.

Financial Report

Crystal states that Item A – Approval of 2012-13 Budget was approved at the January 2012 meeting.

In January 2012, the Abalone Fund received \$75.00 leaving a fund balance of \$152.43 in that account. The General Fund received \$1,276.57 from Superior Court, \$75.11 from Probation, leaving a budget balance of \$37,060.99.

\$43.71 was returned from a 2009 grant to Sonoma State for a Western Pond Turtle project.

Andy makes a motion to accept the financial reports as present and Jeff seconds. 8 'Ayes' and 4 'Absent'.

Old Business

Funding Request Application in the amount of \$2,675.52 from Sonoma County Sheriff's Office-Marine Unit, regarding Russian River Enforcement first reading.

Crystal mentions that she has not heard from Ed Hoener from Sonoma County Sheriff's Department. regarding any additional comment for the funds requested for a second Mokai boat. However, she asks the commission if they would like to make a motion to approve this grant.

Jim Lynch makes a motion to approve the Mokai grant and Al Gerhardt seconds the motion. 8 'Ayes' and 4 'Absent', Grant # 161.

Scholarship Sub-Committee:

Crystal asks about the scholarship committee. Jo Bentz says she will communicate with Al Ferris and Caroline Christian and see if they can move the scholarships forward.

New Business

Audubon Canyon Ranch representative, Sarah Millus, gave a summary report for their 2011 grant on the Heron and Egret monitoring nest site. This Project monitored 30 sites, had 17 active colonies, with 168 visits to the site, over 236 hours with a total of 638 nests. The Commission thanks Sarah for the update on the project.

Board Reports & Comments

Dave Cook: States he is glad to be back, as he was sick for about three weeks and is happy to be well. The Water Agency's rubber dam went down in January, and we have no new info on salmon at this time.

Don McEnhill: Nothing at this time.

Al Gerhardt: Nothing at this time.

Jo Bentz: In January I was at Shell Beach and saw deer swimming out in the ocean, something she has never seen before.

Brock Dolman: I put up eight bird boxes for woodpeckers. I also put up boxes for swallows, as part of our cotton moth program.

Jeff Holden: I have been counting Tiger Salamanders and did not find as many as I thought I would.

Andy Pozzi: Any news on the amount of meetings going on? Crystal reports that we will have ten meetings.

Crystal: Nothing

Steve Riske: Introduces Lt. Jim Jones from Marin County who will be taking over Steve's old duties in the region. Steve reports they hired another warden for the area. However, one of the Napa County wardens is transferring out. The Fish & Game Commission did approve the April-May closure of abalone for Fort Ross area. The closure is from the south end of the park, referred to as Jewel Canyon. New management strategies are needed for different seasons, and it will change how the tags are used.

Don McEnhill asks if for this season you get your tags then the only closure would be for this April-May closure in Fort Ross? Steve confirms this information.

Jim Jones: Introduces himself, stating he has 22 years with the Department of Fish and Game, and prior experience in other counties and task forces. Jim is learning about Sonoma County.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Melendy
Acting Commission Secretary