



**Sonoma County Fish and Wildlife Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2011 – 7:00PM**

Commissioners Attending:

Andy Pozzi
Al Ferris
Jeff Holden
Jim Lynch
Jo Bentz
Dave Cook
Crystal Norris

Commissioners Absent:

Brock Dolman
Darius Anderson
Caroline Christian
Don McEnhill

Others:

Doris Duncan, SCWR
Danielle Mattos, SCWR
Kristen Reeder, SCWR
Jeremey Stinson, State Parks
James Reed, DFG
Dagny Thomas, SCWA
Carole Balala, Fawn Rescue
Steve Risk, DFG

Chairperson Norris called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Adoption of Minutes

Motion to accept the September 15, 2011 minutes with a correction that a quorum was ultimately reached by the late appearance of a Commissioner was made by Jim Lynch seconded by Al Ferris. Motion carried.

Vote: 7-0-4

Correspondence

The following correspondence was received:

1. Correspondence from the California Fish & Game Commission was received and reviewed regarding various regulatory actions.
2. Correspondence from Monterey County Fish & Game Commission was received and moved to New Business for further discussion and action by the Commission.

Financial Report

In September 2011, the Abalone Fund received \$75 from Central Collections for a total fiscal year fund balance in amount \$799.68. The General Fund received Superior Court revenues in the amount of \$1544.02, Probation revenues in the amount of \$221.98 and District Attorney revenues in the amount of \$6571.85. The General Fund incurred an expense in the amount of \$3750.00 for Grant No. 155, Hedgerows for Habitat-Phase II.

A motion to accept the financial reports as presented was made by Jim Lynch and seconded by Al Ferris. Motion carried. Leaving a fund balance of \$54,795.46

Vote: 7-0-4

Old Business

Doris Duncan, Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue, Microchips and Isolation Area Upgrades – Second Reading.

Doris Duncan, Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue, presented a revised grant request with a reduced total request from \$8304.00 to \$5308.00 for microchips and isolation area upgrades. The Commission engaged in a question and answer session with the applicant:

Dave Cook requested additional information about the isolation area upgrades. Doris Duncan explained that the improvements included pouring concrete pads and adding/replacing fencing. The improvements would allow easier cleaning, better sanitation and more secure environment for isolated/quarantined animals. Doris Duncan further explained that the grant request was for materials only, as the Graton Day Labor Center had agreed to donate the labor.

Al Ferris questioned the need for the concrete pads and what the size of the pads was planned to be. Doris Duncan explained that the concrete helped with sanitation and also helped prevent injury to staff from slip and falling on unstable/uneven surfaces. Doris Duncan further explained that the concrete pads would be the size of the existing pens.

Jo Bentz asked for further detail as about the sharpness of AVID needles being listed as a con. Danielle Mattos explained that while the needles were not as sharp as other products, the other benefits including that the product will work with SCWF's existing scanners, outweighed the inconvenience of the shortcoming of the needles and didn't cause the animals additional pain. Doris Duncan offered to show a video of the procedure, but the Commission declined as it was only viewable on a small laptop screen.

Motion to approve the revised grant request in the amount of \$5308.00 made by Al Ferris and seconded by Jeff Holden. Motion carried. Grant will be number 157 and will be dispersed from the General Fund.

Vote: 7-0-4

Carole Balala, Wildlife Fawn Rescue, Taxidermy Project for Wildlife Education Program – Second Reading.

Carole Balala, Wildlife Fawn Rescue, presented a grant request in the amount of \$1800.00 for a proposed Taxidermy Project for Wildlife Education Program. The Commission engaged in a question and answer session with the applicant. Motion to approve the total grant request in the amount of \$1800.00 made Jim Holden and seconded by Jo Bentz. Motion carried. Grant will be number 158 and will be dispersed from the General Fund.

Vote: 7-0-4

New Business

California State Parks GPS Grant Request, First Reading

Jeremy Stinson, Supervising Ranger with the California State Parks, presented a grant request in the amount of \$2000.00 for the purchase of seven GPS units that will assist State Park Peace Officers (SPPOs) in the enforcement of Marine Protected Areas along the Sonoma County coastline. The units can also be used to aid the SPPOs with enforcement and rehabilitation efforts related to illegal marijuana cultivation. The Commission engaged in a question and answer session with applicant and directed the applicant to review the total number of units needed and submit a revised request by the first week in November.

Correspondence from Monterey County Fish & Game Commission

The Commission reviewed and discussed the correspondence which urged all Fish & Game Commissions throughout the State to contribute financial support to the CALTIP program. While there was general support of the suggestions, the Commission agreed that Chairperson Norris would contact the Monterey County Fish & Game Commission and CALTIP for more information and would report out at the next meeting before any action was taken.

Reports and Comments

Commission

Jo Bentz had no reports or comments.

Crystal Norris reported that she attended Board of Supervisors meeting with Jim Lynch where former Fish & Wildlife Commissioner, George Schneider, was honored. Crystal Norris also thanked Dagny Thomas for her years of service providing support to the Fish & Wildlife Commission.

Jim Lynch reported that he was excited that duck season was scheduled to open on October 22, 2011 and he expected it to be a good season. Jim Lynch also reported that his son received a conditional job offer with the Department of Fish and Game.

Jeff Holden reported that his boat was not repaired so he had not been able to fish. His expected repair costs are between \$15,000 to \$20,000 and he indicated that he might get rid of the boat.

Dave Cook reported that as of October 19, 2011 over 1700 adult Chinook salmon had been counted at the SCWA's inflatable damn and fish ladder site in Forestville. He speculated that it could be a good year for salmon. Dave Cook also announced that he had achieved one of his personal goals of spearing a halibut over the summer.

Andrew Pozzi had no reports or comments.

Al Ferris reported that he attended a very successful and well attended festival in Oroville and the staff at the Oroville hatchery were disappointed that more people could not visit the hatchery. He also expressed discontent over the release of the Casa Grande students' fish. Various Commissioners and members of the public echoed his concerns.

Public

Steve Riske, DFG, reported that interviews were being conducted on October 21, 2011 for the North Bay Lieutenant; that a new DFG Office was opened at 5355 Skylane Blvd; and that an update on the Abalone die off would be forthcoming soon with some potential longer closures of the Abalone Season.

James Reed, DFG, reported that he was also looking forward to duck season and had also attended the Oroville festival.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Anderson
Acting Commission Secretary