



**Sonoma County Fish and Wildlife Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2011 – 7:00PM**

Commissioners Attending:
Dave Cook
Al Ferris
Jeff Holden
Andy Pozzi
Jo Bentz
Brock Dolman
Crystal Norris
Darius Anderson
Don McEnhill

Commissioners Absent:
Jim Lynch
Caroline Christian

Others:
Jeremy Stinson, State
Susan Kirk, P.L.A.N.
Joan Vilms, P.L.A.N

Chairperson Norris called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Adoption of Minutes

Motion to accept the October 20, 2011 minutes was made by Jeff Holden & seconded by Al Ferris. Motion carried with nine 'Ayes' and two 'Absent'.

Correspondence

The following correspondence was received:

1. Correspondence from the California Fish & Game Commission was received and reviewed regarding various regulatory actions.

Financial Report

In October 2011, the Abalone Fund received \$50.00 from Central Collections for a fiscal year budget balance of \$851.18.

The General Fund received \$2,144.82 from Superior Court, \$136.84 from Probation and \$7,771.85 from the District Attorney's Office with a fiscal year budget balance of \$38,177.86.

Jeff asked how our collection rate was as opposed to previous years. Crystal mentioned it is very slow and that we are probably down, but we have gotten some funds from District Attorney's office. These funds have offset some of the fines we've received in the past but overall our collection rate is down this year.

Andy Pozzi made a motion to accept the financial reports as presented seconded by Jeff Holden. Motion Carried with nine 'Ayes' and two 'Absent'.

Old Business

California State Parks GPS Grant Request, is requesting a grant in the amount of \$2,000.00 for 5 GPS units, Second Reading

Jeremy Stinson, Supervising Ranger with the California State Parks, presented a past grant request in the amount of \$2,000.00 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 commission engaged in a question and answer session with the applicant and asked the applicant to review the total number of units needed and submit a revised request at this November meeting.

Jeremy Stinson reported that upon further investigation he believes the best GPS model for their needs would be the **GPS Units-Garmin Rino 520 HCX**. Jeremy further stated that he spoke with the Dept of Fish and Game and found that they just issued all their wardens a new model that is actually more sensitive over canopy, which is a big concern for the State Parks. The Garmin 520 HCX has the high sensitivity feature, but because it is two or three years old it allows us to get five units, which is perfect. Crystal asked if these older Garmin units will still be compatible in a few years and will match what the Department of Fish & Game has.

Jeremy stated that's the nice thing about this model is that you can plot your team members who have the Rino GPS and they are all compatible. The brand new model the Fish & Game is getting has a built in five mega pixel camera. Which would be nice, but they have cameras. Additionally, newer Fish and Game Garmin models have a digital compass which is also nice, but not necessary for our needs.

Jeremy Stinson commented that Amazon is offering a sim card that they will need for .01.

Andy Pozzi made a motion to approve the grant in the amount of \$2,000.00 including the sim card for \$.01 from the Abalone fund.

Al Ferris asked if we can do that and Crystal Norris explained that there is actually only \$851.18 in the Abalone Fund. Andrew Pozzi asks we take the \$851.18 from the Abalone fund and use the other General fund dollars to fund this GPS purchase.

Al Ferris seconds the motion. Crystal asks if we can take \$850 from the Abalone Fund to make it even? Andy Pozzi agreed, and Crystal communicated that we will have \$1.00 left in The Abalone Fund.

Motion carries with nine 'Ayes' and two 'Absent'. Grant # 159 for \$2,000 was approved with \$1250 from General Fund and \$850 from Abalone fund.

Scholarship Sub-Committee:

Caroline, who was absent, sent a request so see if there are any other Commissioner who are interested in sitting on the committee with her and Al. Jo Bentz volunteers and she will contact Caroline.

Commissioner's Report on CalTIP:

Crystal stated that she talked to Kevin Kreyenbhayen from the Monterey Commissioner about the letter they sent regarding CalTIP program. He provided additional contacts with DFG and CalTIP.

Lt. Jennifer Ikemoto from DFG stated that the CalTIP program is a separate foundation and is in no part connected with the Department of Fish & Game. The Department does occasionally provide case information which a reward may benefit a reward.

Crystal then spoke with Judd Hanna who is with the CalTIP Foundation. He stated that the foundation is a 501c3 organization based in Redding and is not connected to Fish and Game. He stated that 100% of the money goes to rewards and not to administrative costs. They maintain a separate account for rewards monies. Additionally, they support DFG's K-9 unit.

Crystal then asked the Commissioners if they are want to consider a donation to this fund.

Andy Pozzi asked if they are in financial trouble? Crystal reported that they are not in financial trouble and that they have done a few \$1,000 rewards, but again for the most part people don't want a reward they just want to see the person prosecuted. Crystal communicated that CalTIP did share that they would appreciate any money that did come to them but that they weren't soliciting dollars at this time.

Crystal shared that she also found that CalTIP has joined up with The Humane Services with animal abuse and other uses.

After further discussion Andy Pozzi suggests that the commission not participate at this time since there doesn't seem to be a need at this time.

Al Ferris shared his concern regarding the Humane Society portion of the program.

Crystal asked if we want to hold out on this program for the time being. Andy Pozzi and Dave Cook comment that they haven't asked for any money, so at this point it is just a procedural issue. If they do request money in the future, the Commission can address it at that time. Agreement was reached to take no action at this time on this item.

New Business

Susan Kirk, of P.L.A.N, is requesting a grant in the amount of \$5,000 for closing cost on the City of Petaluma's Paula Lane Open Space Land Acquisition.

Susan Kirk, P.L.A.N, introduced herself and explains that the land acquisition is with Paula Lane Open Space (P.L.A.N.) and the City of Petaluma. There is a matching grant project with Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District. The City of Petaluma and the non-profit Paula Lane have been working on acquiring a long standing habitat property in west Petaluma for the sale. The property is currently in escrow and the open space sale will close in early 2012. Ms. Kirk states that it is an important piece of land because it is a 100 year piece of land for the indigenous American Badger. The land is a wildlife corridor and will be used for education for both the public and for the schools in the area. Susan Kirk asked the Commission to make a commitment to help with the closing costs and any affiliated fees involved, and that the remaining dollars left over from the grant would be used for a management endowment fund. This Management endowment fund will be implemented to manage the project.

Andy asked for a dollar figure on the closing costs. Susan Kirk shared that she thinks they will be between \$2,000 to \$3,000. Andy asks who is buying the property. Ms. Kirk responds that the City of Petaluma's open space district will place and hold the easement and her P.L.A.N. contract will manage the program.

Andy asks why the closing costs are so high as compared to bank financing closing costs. He believes that since the Open Space District is not doing any financing from the bank then the closing costs should not be more than \$350.00.

Susan commits to research the closing cost question and bring back information to the Commission at the next meeting on January 19, 2011.

More discussion is had regarding the management fund and the homes located on this open space property that will be for rent.

Crystal Norris asked the question "If we don't approve this portion, would our \$5k keep you from the purchase?" "Do you have other avenues to approach for these closing costs? "

Andy mentioned that the property is in escrow, so the closing costs have probably already been figured out.

Susan shared that the sale will close in early January. The conservation easement is being drafted, and we can review at the end of the month. The sale will complete, but responded that it's great that the Commission is receptive to this project.

Crystal commented that the educational components of the project down the road are also an option that the Commission could support. Crystal and others on the Commission agree that they would like to support some of the education components of this grant project.

Jeff shared his concern regarding the Red Fox that are a non-native species currently inhabiting the Paula Lane open space. And the Red Fox impeding the Grey Fox's habitat which would get smaller.

Susan commented that over the period of years they have only seen one red fox that has inhabited the area, but that it is not causing too much problem. Mostly the Red Fox has been moving through the open space on its way to Helen Putnam Park or west Petaluma. The open space is a corridor location north of Helen Putnam. She also shared that they don't have coyotes yet and hope we don't see them. Susan added that the American Badger is the top predator in the area and believes the Red Fox does not hang around too much.

Susan commits to bring a solid estimate of the closing costs and explanation back to the Commission for the January 19, 2012 meeting.

Crystal asked that Susan forward to the Office of the Agricultural Commissioner the estimate about the closing costs by next month so that we can include it in the packet for the next meeting.

Crystal stated that this is the first reading, and the second reading will be heard at the January 19, 2012 meeting.

Reports and Comments

Commission -

Dave Cook reported that as of last month the adult Chinook Salmon counts were at 1,500 last month and this was partially due to no significant rain in the area. Dave shared that they conducted a survey and found 70-75 salmon at various locations around Dry Creek and that they also did a couple of short surveys along Alexander Valley and found only found 1 Salmon. Dave shares that he believes spawning is just getting ready to start. He comments that in the past 10 years spawning began in early November to early December.

Brock Dolman had no reports or comments.

Don McEnhill reported that he attended a conference in Los Angeles last week in which a process that came out of recycled water from the State Water Board and that they received language about trying to address contaminants in water. There was also a presentation from Australian speakers testing human biotics in waste water streams with a focus on human health. The State didn't have funding for this project. However, the Packard Foundation gave a substantial funding grant to the Water Board for this project. The project will use animal cell lines to test for all these contaminate mixtures. They will be screening for actual cellular responses, which they can then correspond it to the cell and the population of the species. The project findings could not only reduce the cost of waste water testing and but could also identify who is dumping contaminants into the water and from which area they are dumping them from. Don shared that he found it interesting that in Australia they had no problem looking into algae, salt water crops, chemicals, and that they are able to look at areas of treatment. From a cost benefit analysis it will tell us a lot about what we will need to do to stop impacting rain water.

Andy Pozzi asked Don Mc Enhill what his guys are doing about the lower Russian River and the failing septics in that area. Don states that a new workshop on AB Regulation will be next week. The workshop will ask that if there is an impaired water body with septics around them that they need to be testing and making sure they are at a certain level.

Joe Bentz commented that she thought the realtor section would begin to comment about this subject from a property rights perspective.

Al Ferris shared a personal comment about his Granddaughter winning the U12 City Cup Soccer Tournament. He also shared that he talked to Feather River Hatchery and they have had nothing but fish, fish, fish, for a total of 33,000 in fall run. The only down side is that there are a lot of jacks with them.

Andy Pozzi commented that he believed that number should be good for the following year.

Jeff Holden had no reports or comments.

Andy Pozzi asked the Commissioners for their input on the Paula Lane Open Space Land Acquisition.

Jeff Holden responded that the thought the cost for supporting open space was inexpensive. Joe Bentz agreed and commented that it is part of the Commission's guidelines on how they spend their money.

Al Ferris commented that he would be more inclined to vote for education over closing costs to support this open space project. Al also shared his concerns with giving funding to the City of Petaluma.

Don McEnhill shared his opinion that The P.L.A.N. group has really polished this project and they have been hard at work on trying to create a good model for the area in Petaluma set aside.

More discussion was held around this project and agreement reached to discuss again at the January 19, 2012 meeting.

Public –

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Melendy
Acting Commission Secretary