



## FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Minutes of the April 20, 2006 Meeting

Attending  
Members

Jim Lynch  
Al Ferris  
Pierre Gadd  
Dave Cook  
Andrew Pozzi  
Jo Bentz  
Brock Dolman  
Ned Hill  
Crystal Norris  
Dennis Rosatti  
Martin Bauman

Absent  
Members

Jeff Holden

Others

Alida Morzenti, The Bird Rescue Center  
Martha Bentley, The Bird Rescue Center  
Jim McCray, Sonoma County Regional Parks  
Brandon Bredo, Sonoma County Regional Parks  
Michael Chiesa, Sonoma County Regional Parks  
Dave Hillendahl, visitor  
Jen Jenkins, Sotoyome RCD  
Lisa Correia, Sonoma County Ag Commissioner  
Deanna McAulay, Ag. Commissioner's Office

Chairperson Crystal Norris called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Crystal announced that the scholarship applications failed to make it on the agenda tonight, so we will discuss the scholarships under New Business tonight.

### **Adoption of Minutes**

A motion to accept the March minutes was made by Pierre Gadd with a second by Jim Lynch. Motion carried.

### **Correspondence**

The following correspondence was received:

1. Resolution from Sonoma County Board of Supervisors appointing Ned Hill to the Commission from the First District. Crystal welcomed Ned to the Commission.
2. Thank you letter from Bodega Land Trust thanking the Commission for the grant that was funded for the Salmon Creek Watershed Volunteer Monitoring Program.
3. Crystal reported the Board of Supervisors did approve the transferring of money from the General Fund Reserve to the General Budget for the Fiscal Year 05/06 as well as a transfer within the Abalone Fund Reserve to the Abalone Budget for Fiscal Year 05/06.

## **Financial Report**

The Abalone Fund in March received \$461.24 from collections and \$225.00 in court revenues with a fund balance of \$38,384.24. The General Fund received in January \$1,555.03 in court revenues with a fund balance of \$182,004.78. Motion to accept the financial reports as presented was made by Al Ferris with a second by Jim Lynch. Motion carried.

## **Old Business**

Crystal Norris reminded the Commissioners to fill out the Form 700, Statement of Economic Interests, currently due to the county. Andy Pozzi stated he had turned his Form into the Community Development Commission (CDC). Crystal asked if everyone saw the requirement for an ethics course? Yes, they all did see that. The group inquired if Lisa could check on that requirement. Lisa stated she would look into the issue.

Lisa Correia, Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner, was present to discuss the budget and the deadlines imposed by the county. She stated that prep work begins in January for the next Fiscal Year (FY), which leads to a proposed budget submitted to the Board of Supervisors in March. When there is a request during a FY, the office must submit an agenda item to the Board of Supervisors. This was the case for this request that was submitted from the Commission. The Agricultural Commissioner's Office did submit the agenda items to the Board of Supervisors, which was subsequently approved to move the monies. Remember this will take time to move the monies. Since this request was asked, Lisa stated that she was glad to see the increase in the budget for grants for the FY 06/07.

Pierre asked, if it would appear on the financial report? Yes it will, probably next month, Lisa replied.

Dennis inquired if the Commission votes on the FY budget? Yes we do, was the resounding answer.

Lisa stated it would be good to continue to have a meeting early in January for the next FY budget. Meet the first week of January to start the process rolling was agreed upon.

Andy understands that a loan from the main fund to the abalone fund is possible. Lisa stated no, because the two funds are different budget sub objects. This would not be necessary because the Board of Supervisors did approve a money transfer from the abalone account reserve to the abalone budget for this FY. Lisa did see the grant request for abalone enforcement. She noticed that if the Commission approved the grant there would not be enough money. The office then submitted an agenda item to move funds in the abalone fund as well. Andy mentioned that they as Commissioners did not approve this for the abalone fund. Crystal stated that it was done because the office was going before the board and it would not look good to bring another request before the Board of Supervisors. Dennis inquired can we do a retroactive vote on the abalone transfer? Jim stated the supervisors approved, it's done. Al asked if there was any opposition. There was no opposition heard at this meeting. (Refer to February Minutes)

**“Learning Laguna”** – Mark Green of Laguna Foundation called the Agricultural Commissioner's Office and requested a postponement of the second reading of the meeting May. This grant will have a second reading in May.

**Second Reading Songbird Diet Research & Improvement** – Alida Morzenti of The Bird Rescue Center was present requesting a grant for \$6,000 for Songbird Diet Research & Improvement.

Alida Morzenti provided a copy of a brief summary to all the Commissioners of the project description. The grant request is to help cover the food and veterinary portion of bird rehabilitation. The center would like to define and implement a nutritional diet for both young and adult birds in their care. She hopes to duplicate what happens in nature.

Ned Hill asked if Alida could bring back data that would compare soft releases from before. Alida stated she would be back with the data.

Motion to accept the grant request in full for \$6,000 was made by Al Ferris with a second by Pierre Gadd. Martin Bauman and Andy Pozzi opposed. Motion carried Grant #100 to The Bird Rescue Center for Songbird Diet Research & Improvement.

**Second Reading Classroom Aquarium Education Program Project** – Jen Jenkins of Sotoyome Resource Conservation District (RCD) was present requesting a revised grant amount of \$460 from \$1,050 for Classroom Aquarium Education Program Project.

Motion to accept the grant request in full for \$460 was made by Andy Pozzi with a second by Jim Lynch. Motion carried Grant #101 to Sotoyome Resource Conservation District for Classroom Aquarium Education Program Project.

**Second Reading Abalone Enforcement Program** – Jim McCray, Brandon Bredo and Michael Chiesa of Sonoma County Regional Parks were present requesting a grant for \$14,149.30 for an Abalone Enforcement Program.

Jim McCray began stated his appreciation for the consideration of this grant before the Commission. He added that the Sonoma County Regional Parks' Rangers work to preserve abalone with enforcement in coordination with Mendocino County.

Andy moved to approve ... providing that Michael report back to the Commission in May in regard to the details of working with the State Parks and Recreation and Department of Fish and Game. Andy added that Michael inform the Agricultural Commissioner's Office of who owns what piece of equipment. Michael stated that would not be a problem.

Pierre Gadd inquired if the State Parks still have biologists working out at the parks? Yes the State does have biologists working out there. He added they are strictly enforcement. Michael stated with the season limits there are already over 100 names of habitual divers they are tracking in the database. This database is shared along the coast to check for altered report cards. This new system with the pocket PCs an officer would be able to take a picture, swipe a driver's license, and pull up prior pictures right there in the field.

Pierre voiced his concern in regard to the habitat protection. Brandon Bredo expressed that the habitat is protected. Michael added that enforcement is a tool used by the rangers along with collecting fees, emergency medical technician, take out garbage, and educate people the bottom line resource protection. Brandon added that there is a visitor's center in Gualala with educational resources there in regard to the plants and animals.

Dave Cook was curious to what types of violations are found with abalone divers? Michael answered the most frequent violations are report card altercations. Brandon added that they do work with Department of Fish and Game.

Motion to accept the grant request in full for \$14,149.30 for an Abalone Enforcement Program was made by Andy Pozzi with a second by Jim Lynch. Motion carried Grant #102 to Sonoma County Regional Parks for Abalone Enforcement Program using the Abalone Fund.

## **New Business**

**Scholarships** – The Commission voted for their annual scholarship recipients for 2006. Scholarships are given to college students that reside in Sonoma County, who are enrolled in wildlife conservation, resource conservation, fisheries, biology, or oceanography. Students also must be at the JC level, through University level Junior, to qualify. This year two winners, Michelle Jensen and Jeffery Barrett were chosen from a total of five qualified students. Congratulations to Michelle and Jeffery the recipients of the Sonoma County Fish and Wildlife Commission Scholarships for 2006. Alan Ferris will be contacting Michelle and Jeffery to congratulate them and extend an invitation to May's meeting.

## **Reports and Comments**

### **Board**

Crystal inquired if the Commission would support nametags for each. It was suggested so that the public could identify who was a Commissioner. The Commissioners agreed to have nametags with their names listed.

Jo Bentz stated she is involved with Middle Mountain Foundation; she shared a field trip that the foundation took up at the Sutter Buttes where the group learned how the Buttes preservation and wetlands is working with the ranchers. Pierre added that he trained pigeons from the Buttes.

Dennis Rosatti updated the Commission on the Railroad Square project he is involved in. They have received three proposals and have Green Building Techs involved. If anyone is interested in the Public meetings just ask. In addition, Dennis mentioned the County General Plan currently in the planning phase, which may have impacts on fish and wildlife in the county. It might be useful to get a briefing/overview of the General Plan. Dennis will contact Permit and Resource Management Department (PRMD) before July's meeting to schedule a representative to come to a meeting and provide a summary.

Ned stated he is happy to be here and will be unable to attend June's meeting due to a previous commitment. He would like to discuss wildlife fencing throughout the county specifically what is working and what is not working with regard to protecting home, crop and/or animals. Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is buying fields and salt ponds that are not maintained/managed. A 900-acre Duck Club established in 1930, has been told their lease is up next year. However the Duck Club land is well maintained by the club and their concern is what will DFG's plan be for this land. The government has money to buy land but for not long-term management. Dave Hillendahl added, for example the Llano Road and Sebastopol Road land that was bought but not managed has no wildlife left. Dave Cook added he would bring an update from Sonoma County Water Agency.

Jim Lynch talked about his visit with his younger son, who lives in Arcadia, and was able to ride along with him during work, going out in the woods to look for spotted owls so that those timberlands would not be harvested. They spotted a spotted owl and actually saw the owl come down and take a mouse off the end of a stick his son was holding.

All state that next month there will be a surprise at the meeting – don't miss it.

Brock shared his experience with Dave Cook visiting vernal pools where they spotted tiger salamanders. He stated that he will miss the June meeting because he will be in Alaska. He also passed out the Occidental Arts & Ecology Center's Lectures, Tours & Courses for 2006 and an article in Pacific Horticulture Magazine featuring his writing, "Slow It, Spread It, Sink It ... and Think It: The Alchemy of Watershed Restoration".

**Public**

Jim McCray stated that April is Parks Celebration Month with over 30 events coordinated which are listed on the Parks website. Partnered with the library to coordinate a bi-lingual reading in the park to educate kids about plants and animals in the county.

Dave Hillendahl spoke about his private tour at the Marine Lab in Bodega Bay. He added that the lab is under new management, which is so fantastic the Commission should have a meeting out there again. They are studying lobsters' DNA in regard to their arms growing back after loss.

Marjorie Davis asked the Commission to be patient with her group considering the second fawn enclosure that has not been completed due to rainy weather. However, once it is finished she will be back with pictures as proof of completion. Currently there are no fawns in any of their enclosures and she believes all the rain has changed nature's schedule around.

Pierre added he had checked with Stefan on the Miscellaneous Funds and they can be used to purchase the nametags.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna McAulay, Secretary