



FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Minutes of the July 13, 2006, Meeting

| <u>Attending Members</u> | <u>Absent Members</u> | <u>Others</u> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Crystal Norris | Al Ferris | Sarah Shaeffer, Community Clean Water Institute |
| Dave Cook | Brock Dolman | Mike Sandles, Community Clean Water Institute |
| Jo Bentz | | Don Lollock, citizen |
| Andrew Pozzi | | Marcia Johnson, Laguna Foundation |
| Pierre Gadd | | Doris Duncan, Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue |
| Jim Lynch | | Bob Gaiser, Sonoma County PRMD |
| Ned Hill | | Rue Furch, Sonoma County PRMD |
| Jeff Holden | | Alex McVicker, Ag. Commissioner's Office |
| Dennis Rosatti | | |

Chairperson Crystal Norris called the meeting to order at 7:44 p.m.

Adoption of Minutes

Additions to the June minutes are as follows: David Cook was present at the June meeting of the Fish & Wildlife Commission. A motion to accept the June minutes as amended was made by Jeff Holden with a second by Pierre Gadd. Motion carried.

Correspondence

The following correspondence was received:

1. Thank you letter and photos from Marjorie Davis of Wildlife Fawn Rescue for the Fawn enclosure in Cloverdale
2. Wildlife Fawn Rescue sent a flyer titled: "Help Raise Fawns"
3. Department of Fish & Game (DFG) News Releases:
 - DFG Targets 20 for Arrest in Statewide Sturgeon and Abalone Poaching Bust
 - 17 Arrested Today in Multi-State Poaching Bust
4. Apology letter for missing the June 15 meeting and revised grant from Doris Duncan of Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue
5. Thank you letter from Dick Cuneo for the eagle sculpture presented by Jim Lynch

Financial Report

Final financial report for fiscal year 05/06 – the additions increased the total budget to \$64,750 with grants approved in the amount of \$57,605.90 leaving a fund balance of \$167,847.50 in the General Fund; the Abalone account budget was \$14,200 with grants approved in the amount of \$14,149.30 leaving a fund balance of \$26,656.60. Motion to accept the final financial reports as presented was made by Jim Lynch with a second by Pierre Gadd. Motion carried.

Old Business

First Reading Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue Education Exhibit Area – Doris Duncan of Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue is requesting a grant for \$15,161 for a Wildlife Education Exhibit area. Doris Duncan was present.

Doris apologized for being absent from June's meeting due to a mix up in dates.

Doris thanked the commission for the previous grant, which purchased technology equipment that they use in schools, classrooms, and volunteer programs.

Doris presented a PowerPoint presentation of wildlife slides of the new property displaying where the wildlife enclosures will be located as well as other property features. Volunteers were shown building the enclosures on the new site. The Wildlife Rescue's hopes are to convert the old barn to an education gazebo. Currently the group is building/creating paths that will be used for guided nature tours on the trails through the trees on the property. Doris showed the ranch house that will be used for management offices. There is an animal care center which includes a restaurant style sink with proper sanitization. The two car garage will also be used for all the animal care.

The County is the current owner of the new location; together, the County and Wildlife Rescue, they are working on a license agreement. Doris has spoken with Sonoma County Board of Supervisors to re-access the license agreement after one year and possibly increase it to a five-year license agreement. Currently the group is going through their usage permit with the county and hopes to open by the end of the year.

Doris stated about 80 percent of animals are brought in by the public, which the new location will have ample parking to accommodate the public.

The wildlife habitat enclosures will house the following: a bobcat, two coyotes (currently two non-releasable coyotes in possession), a fox (one red fox in possession that will not be released), and a red-tailed hawk (Spirit). This new location has room for expanding and growing. Doris had gone to visit other facilities to gain a perspective of what can be built.

Doris addressed questions that were asked at June's meeting: the location is owned by the County which Wildlife Rescue has a year license agreement with. The hours of operation will be by appointment only to allow them to observe how the public and animals interact then eventually opening up on a daily basis. Exhibits will be open to public as this is the whole purpose of the education exhibit. There are two center vets, two full-time, and one part-time employee along with 27 volunteers who feed and care for the animals.

Andy questioned Doris about redwood choice versus other options that are less expensive. Doris replied the suggestion was made by Friedman Brothers and Home Depot. However, they are going to change to pressure treated. Andy gave his suggestion on what not to use.

Jim Lynch inquired about what exactly was going to be brought to the new site from the old site? Doris stated everything is being moved. This project is expanding our program. Jim also asked about the county owning the property and what if they decide to sell? Doris stated she is hoping the agreement between the county will be as applicable as the agreements the County has with Bird Rescue and the Wildlife Center. The County bought the property as a buffer to the land fill.

Ned asked about the land and feasibility of keeping the public traffic away from the animals while still allowing education to happen? He stated the vicinity between cages and house seemed to close. Doris replied, it won't be a problem as this property allows for two separate areas with large visual barriers along with food prep being done separately.

Ned also asked about demand and location of target audience? Doris believes there is a great need for it – everyone who calls or attends an orientation wants to help out. But we can never show them the animals at our current location because it would desensitize the animals to humans. Doris went on to say because all the animals in possession are in one area – the rehab area.

Jim and Andy narrowed in on specific price schemes of enclosures and inquired what order their focus will be? Doris answered the Coyote enclosure first, then red tail hawk, and finally the fox enclosures. Jim added it might be feasible to partially fund the grant to get the first couple of enclosures built. Doris agreed it was a good idea because the breakdown per enclosure is \$5,226 for the coyote, \$3,129 for the fox, \$5,217 for the hawk, and \$10,214 for the bobcat.

Crystal questioned further on what appeared to be discrepancies for enclosure costs listed on the grant request as \$4,200 for the coyote, \$3,000 for the fox, and \$1,425 for the hawk. Doris added those amounts are what has already been donated and are in the bank at this moment. This grant request is for the remaining money to build the enclosures.

Jo asked if Wildlife Rescue receives donations and/or other funding sources? Doris responded there are other sources of donations which do come in, for example she received \$7,000 to hire day laborers to build the enclosures.

Dennis inquired if the county does grant long term agreements? Not typically, no they only do year to year agreements to protect the county.

Motion to partially approve \$7,500 to complete the coyote and fox enclosures with the option for Wildlife Rescue to come back for the remaining enclosures was made by Jim Lynch with a second from Pierre Gadd. Motion carried Grant #107 to Wildlife Rescue.

New Business

Presentation from Sonoma County PRMD: "Sonoma County General Plan Update, Riparian Corridors and Biological Habitat" – Bob Gaiser and Rue Furch were present from PRMD.

Bob introduced himself and Rue. Open Space Resource Conservation draft document was passed out, which there will be hearings on July 18 and 25. This is a recommendation from the citizen advisory committee, which will be reviewed by the Planning Commission and making changes then passing it on to the Board of Supervisors hopefully by December.

Page 157 is where Biotic resources begins. The plan calls for more regulation of building by limiting building. Bob explained what the draft document requires for a building permit to be approved. Fencing, road crossings, culverts and bridges are addressed in the document. Riparian corridors setback included in the draft document is recommended at 100 feet of every stream shown on USGS topo maps. Just about every usage is addressed in detail in the document.

Agricultural is address on page 167. New crop plantings and fencing are addressed. Discussion ensued regarding the proposed policies that will be discussed in the hearings on the 18th and 25th of July.

First Reading Russian River Youth Water Quality Monitoring and Restoration Team – Mike Sandler and Sarah Shaeffer of Community Clean Water Institute were present and requesting a grant for \$7,500 for Russian River Youth Water Quality Monitoring and Restoration Team. Mike Sandler and Sarah Shaeffer were present.

Mike introduced himself and Sarah then described the functions of the group. He added the main focus is the lower Russian River.

Sarah explained this particular project will be educating youth from the teen center in Monte Rio. The anticipation is to create a year long after school program working with the Parks and Recreation Department. Some of the task will be water quality monitoring using equipment along with stream restoration; the youth will be involved with ecology of creek in a redevelopment area – effort to rebuild the area. Kids will learn how to use the equipment and analyze the data; their hope is this program will go on for years. She is also hoping to secure speakers to speak to the kids in regard to careers and education.

Mike stated \$4,500 will be for restoration supply and testing equipment, personnel, a small amount for insurance, and the rest to keep the project on going. Staff would consist of Sarah and a previous program associate – Beth Robinson. Mike would supervise along with a board administrator. The goal is for the equipment to be housed at the teen center and the Community Clean Water Institute would calibrate and maintain/service the equipment.

It was asked how many students will be able to participate? Mike stated from a pool of 100 kids the program can handle 25 to 30 students at a time. Sarah added once the teen center learns to do everything on their own and is organized then we would maintenance the equipment and help them with the technical issues. The anticipation is this program would keep going on year after year.

Who would own the equipment? Mike responded Community Clean Water Institute would be in charge of maintaining the equipment. Andy stated he would like to see the Fish & Wildlife Commission be owners once the group is done with the equipment. Pierre added this is a lot of small stuff the Agricultural Commissioner's Office won't track but tracking the big stuff is beneficial. Sarah added, with all the groups Community Clean Water Institute works with the equipment is rarely idle – very fluid.

Crystal added maybe the equipment can be retained with Parks and Recreation Department and the teen center is given access to.

Crystal asked what is your annual budget? Mike responded roughly \$78,000. Does that include employees, Crystal inquired? Yes – Mike stated he is a full-time employee and Sarah is a part-time employee. Mike added they do fundraising for their other programs. Of the \$2,500 marked for personnel what goes to what? Mike stated it would be going to Sarah and Beth.

Andy would like a break down. Mike will get three different price quotes for the second reading at the August 17 meeting.

Crystal thanked Mike and Sarah for attending and stated this would be considered the first reading of this grant.

Reports and Comments

Commission

Ned – BBQ he would like to see it happen maybe for next year. Ned volunteered to head the sub-committee for the annual picnic.

Water agency has a gazebo and BBQs that can be used for the BBQ – Dave stated. Co-Chair for the sub-committee will be Dave.

Public

Marsha Johnson with the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation thanked the commission for the grant a few weeks ago. Also Learning Laguna just graduated 18 students and serviced over 400 students this last spring. A restoration project from highway 12 for 1.8 miles will begin in fall. Restoration and management plan to be published soon. Thank you very much.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna McAulay
Secretary