



FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Minutes of the February 15, 2007, Meeting

<u>Attending Members</u>	<u>Absent Members</u>	<u>Others</u>
Crystal Norris Brock Dolman Pierre Gadd Al Ferris Dennis Rosatti Jim Lynch Jeff Holden Andrew Pozzi Jo Bentz Dave Cook Martin Bauman	Ned Hill	Dave Hillendahl, citizen Joseph Laugesen, Dept of Fish & Game Jeanne Wirka, Audubon Canyon Ranch Nick Geist, Sonoma State University Alex McVicker, Ag. Commissioner's Office Lisa Correia, Ag. Commissioner's Office

Chairperson Crystal Norris called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Adoption of Minutes

A motion to accept the January minutes was made by Jim Lynch with a second by Al Ferris. Motion carried.

Correspondence

The following correspondence was received:

1. S.C.A.N. Newsletter

Financial Report

The General Fund received in January \$1,283.97 from court revenues, \$12,500.00 from the District Attorney's Office in regard to People v. Wright Contraction, Inc., and \$2,019.12 from interest with a fund balance of \$191,833.43. The Abalone Fund in January received \$50 from collections, \$607.50 from Probation, and \$347.15 from interest with a fund balance of \$29,460.02. A motion to accept the January financial reports was made by Pierre Gadd with a second by Al Ferris. Motion carried.

Old Business

Second Reading of Stuart Creek – Jeanne Wirka of Audubon Canyon Ranch Bouverie Preserve is requesting a grant for \$3,000 to monitor and control invasive signal crayfish in Stuart Creek.

Jeanne Wirka was present. She brought some visuals for the commission to view. She also apologized for not being present at the first reading of her grant.

Stuart Creek is about 2/3 on the Audubon Canyon Ranch to eradicate crayfish because of evidence that the crayfish's presence is harming the reproduction of other amphibians in the creek. Jeanne presented her grant and showed pictures of the creek and existing dams.

Andy asked, if they would need a permit for creek alterations? Jeanne was not sure so she will check into this matter of a permit or not. Andy would like to table this grant in order to determine if a permit is needed. Dave Cook stated there is not a need because the structure is not being used as a dam.

Do you have a program to monitor if it works, asked Martin. Jeanne replied, as part of the crayfish project we are planning on set up tracking and hoping to get funding from the commission or an outside source to a follow-up study.

Andy asked about the seasonal labor? The seasonal labor will trap the crayfish at night. Because we do not have the staff to do this trapping we hire seasonal labor. Andy stated the commission typically does not pay for salaries. Jeanne answered we operate with volunteers however it is hard to get volunteers to come out at 9:00 pm to monitor traps, therefore we have the seasonal temporary labor.

Motion to accept the grant request in full for \$3,000 pending the grantee provide a letter stating whether or not a permit is required for creek alterations was made by Martin Bauman. A second was made by Jim Lynch. Pierre asked who will check this? Crystal stated, when the letters come in the office can mail copies in next month's packets to us. Motion carried with nine yes and two opposed votes by Andy Pozzi for Grant #109 to Audubon Canyon Ranch Bouverie Preserve to monitor and control invasive signal crayfish in Stuart Creek.

Second Reading of Sonoma County West Pond Turtles – Dr. Nicholas R. Geist of Sonoma State University Biology Department is requesting a grant for \$6,355 for reproductive biology and conservation of Sonoma County West Pond Turtles.

Dr. Geist recapped what was discussed last month. This grant covers several aspects of turtle reproduction. First aspect is to analyze pond turtle populations in several locations in Sonoma County in natural and artificial ponds. We will analyze number of turtles, age, and reproductive status of the turtles. Because the females during migration tend to get run over by vehicles and what appears to be a thriving pond turtle population is actually a huge percentage of old male turtles. Another aspect is to use radio telemetry to track the female turtles in breeding condition, locate their nests, and recover their eggs. Then the lab portion of the study to incubate the eggs under set temperature because the temperature of the nest will determine the sex of the turtle. There is no study research done on this topic.

Andy inquired about the indirect costs which Dr. Geist was going to get an answer on. Dr. Geist stated he spoke to Joshua Schultz in the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs who told Dr. Geist the cost was cut down from the usual 40% to the minimum of 15%. He is in the process of obtaining a waiver for the indirect.

Motion to accept the grant request in full for \$6,355 for Sonoma County West Pond Turtles was made by Martin Bauman. A second was made by Dennis Rosatti. Motion carried with seven yes votes, opposed votes by Al Ferris, Andy Pozzi, and abstaining from the vote Dave Cook for Grant #110 to Sonoma County West Pond Turtles.

Spring Meeting 2007 – Crystal reported there are some concerns from County Council of how we put this on. Lisa Correia explained she forwarded this issue onto County Council to ensure it is appropriate use of money. County Council thought it fit into the category of other expenditure which would need to be approved by the Department of Fish & Game. The purpose of the event is to bring awareness of what the Fish & Wildlife Commission are chartered to do. Crystal added it brings a connection with the judges who have the power to levy fines, displaying where the funds have been spent. This meeting will be a posted meeting to review past funded grants. Lisa suggested “Fish & Wildlife Awareness Meeting” with refreshments. She also added be prepared to answer hard questions in regard to this meeting. Brock stated, this sounds like an Annual Appreciation and Awareness Event which appreciates our grantees and allowing the people who have been channeling the money to the commission to see what programs have benefited.

New Business

No New Business

Reports and Comments

Commission

Dave Cook – the inflatable dam was up for about two weeks, which is down now.

Public

Joseph Laugesen of Dept of Fish & Game brought proposals for a grant request and summarized the grants to the commission. These will be added to March’s Agenda.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna McAulay
Secretary