



FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Minutes of the March 15, 2007, Meeting

Attending Members

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

Absent Members

Al Ferris

Others

Steve Riske, Dept of Fish & Game
Dan Curtin, Ag. Commissioner's Office
Deanna McAulay, Ag. Commissioner's
Office

Chairperson Crystal Norris called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Adoption of Minutes

A correction to the February minutes – Jeff Holden was the third opposing vote for the Stuart Creek grant request. A motion to accept the amended February minutes was made by Andy Pozzi with a second by Jim Lynch. Motion carried.

Correspondence

The following correspondence was received:

1. DFG April Calendar
2. Press Democrat article *On the Edge of Extinction* March 12, 2007

Financial Report

The General Fund received in February \$1,205.38 from court revenues and \$213.01 from probation with a fund balance of \$193,240.66. The Abalone Fund in February received \$30.00 from collections with a fund balance of \$29,490.02. A motion to accept the February financial reports was made by Andy Pozzi with a second by Ned Hill. Motion carried.

Old Business

No Old Business to discuss this month.

New Business

First Reading of Abalone Enforcement – Steven Riske of California Department of Fish & Game is requesting a grant for \$14,175 for on-going Abalone enforcement automated data collection system.

Steve Riske brought to the meeting an updated grant request because the quote used on the original grant request was from last year. The new requested amount for an automated data collection system is \$15,321.02.

Ned Hill inquired if the database is compatible with the system the County Parks are utilizing? Steve stated, yes the company is the same company who makes both systems and he was told by the representative the two systems will be compatible.

Dennis asked, if this data system will make the digital cameras obsolete? Steve stated no, and we are also trying to get extra memory chips for the cameras. With the extra memory chips we will be able to swap the cards in order to download the images from the field and keep using the cameras in the field. He has taken a computer up to Fort Ross to set it up in the Ranger's office to use to update the database every couple weeks with the extra memory chips. Because the Rangers at Fort Ross are on dial up internet service it does not allow for us to send pictures to the Rangers.

Steve gave an example of how effective the digital cameras have been. In the past suspected abalone violators' charges were being dropped due to lack of evidence. Last year suspected abalone violators' charges stuck because the pictures taken out in the field were used as evidence.

Crystal stated this was the first reading of this grant the second reading will be during the April 2007 meeting.

First Reading of Abalone Enforcement – Steven Riske of California Department of Fish & Game is requesting a grant for \$9,600 for on-going Abalone enforcement (four spotting scopes).

Steve Riske brought to the meeting updated grant requests because the original grant request did not contain tax and Steve found a fourth quote from Bear Basin Outfitters. The updated grant request has current quotes attached. The new requested amount for the four spotting scopes is \$10,206.08.

Andy Pozzi asked who will receive the spotting scopes. Steve replied, to his three county wardens and himself. Then Andy asked will the County Park Rangers be able to use these scopes? Steve answered he could lend them one until he fills his last vacant spot but would rather not.

Pierre recognized all four quotes were very similar in price – not much difference between the first three quotes. Steve added he looked into this and found Leica sets the MSP but Bear Basin is giving a discount because we are a government agency. Andy

asked, who will be the owner of the scopes? Steve stated just as the rest of the equipment is inventoried as the property of Sonoma County these will be too.

Crystal stated this was the first reading of this grant the second reading will be during the April 2007 meeting.

Crystal explained because the Abalone budgeted money for grants is \$16,000 for the fiscal year 06/07, the commission would need to go before the Board of Supervisors to request additional money from the Abalone Reserve to fund both of these grants. The two grants total \$25,527.10, so we would need an additional \$9,527.10 from the Abalone reserves. The Agricultural Commissioner's Office would like to know if we support these grants with a straw vote before taking an agenda item before the Board of Supervisors to request the additional funds. At this time a straw vote was taken with support from nine commissioners for both grant requests.

He also asked, what is the rush to get these grants approved? Abalone season begins April 1, 2007. Crystal stated a few years ago we did do a straw vote, which allowed DFG to order the equipment with a letter from us to the vender who extended credit to DFG allowing use of the equipment.

Steve brought a new grant request to the commission to purchase binoculars for the coastal resident Sonoma County Sheriff Deputy Rich Zunino. He has apprehended suspected abalone poachers on the coast. Steve is trying to create a consistent enforcement group of enforcement between the agencies that work along our coast line.

Pierre stated this new grant request one is not on the agenda. Crystal explained the new request would be placed on April's agenda as the first reading.

Reports and Comments

Commission

Dennis Rosatti inquired who would be a resource for Sudden Oak Death (SOD) because Senator Wiggins office has asked him. Dan Curtin stated University California Cooperative Extension recently hired Chris Perry as a SOD Coordinator for Sonoma County through a grant. He should be the first contact for general SOD questions. If someone has questions regarding the regulations of moving host plants outside of the quarantined area they should contact Cree Morgan in the Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

Dave Cook mentioned the Bodega Bay Lab Conference on Estuary beginning Monday and Tuesday of next week and the California Tiger Salamander larvae survey next week.

Ned Hill began the discussion on the *Annual Beneficiary Appreciation Awareness Event*. The County District Attorneys office employees, Defense Attorneys, Judges, the Agricultural Commissioner's Office, and surrounding counties Fish & Wildlife Commissions will be formally invited. He is working on food donations with Steve Riske and DFG. Ned thanked Crystal for the list of past grantees. Steve Riske stated he and his wardens will bring all the past equipment purchased through grants from the

commission to be displayed. Steve also stated he found the code in the Department of Fish & Game, which states the event falls within the realm of the code.

Ned inquired about using the Veteran's Building in Santa Rosa and the cost for two hours would be \$200 which does not include insurance. Andy stated Ned should talk to the Board of Supervisors about getting the space for a reduced fee. Crystal added the insurance would probably fall under the County's umbrella.

The dates available at the Veteran's Building are May 7, 10, 14, 15, and 22. The commission agreed to book May 10 and 22 with final confirmation at the April meeting on the 19th.

Ned inquired who will track the RSVPs? The answer was through the Agricultural Commissioner's office.

Andy added – invite the hatchery employees. Ned stated also the Regional Park Rangers.

Crystal stated we should have nametags for the event. Jo inquired will there be veggies or something other than meat? Yes was the resounding answer. Steve added that he and his wardens will do the cooking.

Brock informed the group he will be away in Brazil for the month of May.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna McAulay
Secretary