



FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Minutes of the April 19, 2007, Meeting

<u>Attending Members</u>	<u>Absent Members</u>	<u>Others</u>
Crystal Norris Brock Dolman Pierre Gadd Dennis Rosatti Jim Lynch Jeff Holden Jo Bentz Dave Cook Martin Bauman Ned Hill Al Ferris	Andrew Pozzi	Justin Kornfein, Willowside School Annette Dobler, Willowside School Lisa Baumgartel, Sonoma State Univ. Derel Keehan, Sonoma State Univ. Steve Riske, Dept of Fish & Game Paul Olin, UCCE Mariska Obedzinski, UCCE Ashford Wood, California State Parks Doris Duncan, Wildlife Rescue Alex McVicker, Ag. Commissioner's Office Deanna McAulay, Ag. Commissioner's Office

Chairperson Crystal Norris called the meeting to order at 7:43 p.m.

Adoption of Minutes

A motion to accept the March minutes as presented was made by Al Ferris with a second by Dennis Rosatti. Motion carried.

Correspondence

Fish and Game Calendar for May 2007

Financial Report

The General Fund received in March \$1,744.77 from court revenues and \$213.01 from probation less expenditures of \$6,438.57 with a fund balance of \$188,759.87. Pierre inquired why the office expenditures are in the negative. Crystal referred to Deanna to check on this expenditure. Our request to allocate \$12,000 of the Abalone fund balance to budgeted grant fund of the Abalone budget was approved by the Board of Supervisors, so we have the money available to fund the two grants. The Abalone Fund in March received \$50.00 from collections with a fund balance of \$29,540.02. A

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

Old Business

First Reading of Abalone Enforcement – Steven Riske of California Department of Fish & Game is requesting a grant for \$15,321.02 for on-going Abalone enforcement automated data collection system.

Correction made to the amount of the request from April's Agenda from \$14,175 to \$15,321.02, which was submitted during April's regular commission meeting. Questions from the commissioners were as follows: does the equipment need to be shipped if so how long will it take to receive them? Can you order without the money to expedite the equipment shipping? Steve Riske stated he would contact the vendor and inquire if the equipment can be shipped then paid for after delivery. Crystal stated if Steve needs a letter stating the grant was approved she would be glad to provide such a letter as the commission did a few years back.

Motion to accept the grant request in full for \$15,321.02 for Abalone Enforcement data collection systems was made by Brock Dolman. A second was made by Jim Lynch motion carried for Grant #111 to California Department of Fish & Game.

First Reading of Abalone Enforcement – Steven Riske of California Department of Fish & Game is requesting a grant for \$10,206.08 for on-going Abalone enforcement four spotting scopes.

Correction made to the amount of the request from April's Agenda from \$9,600 to \$10,206.08, which was submitted during April's regular commission meeting.

Motion to accept the grant request in full for \$10,206.08 for Abalone Enforcement four spotting scopes was made by Al Ferris. A second was made by Dennis Rosatti motion carried for Grant #112 to California Department of Fish & Game.

New Business

First Reading of Stewardship of the Stream 6th Grade Sign Project – Justin Kornfein and Annette Dobler of Willowside Middle School is requesting a grant for \$1,621 for signs along Santa Rosa Creek trails.

Several students of the sixth grade class from Willowside Middle School presented a PowerPoint presentation taking turns speaking about their proposed project.

The children spoke about the following:

- They are in partnership with Sonoma County Water Agency and Santa Rosa Creek Stewards Program.
- The sixth grade class has been studying the creek for four years through their "Outdoor Classroom".
- They have tested the water quality.
- They have written poems while outside at the creek.

Ned Hill asked what the general area is – public or private land? The answer was public land along the Santa Rosa Creek near Willowside and Guerneville Roads.

Pierre inquired will you keep people on the trails with your signs? Justin stated the 2x2 signs would be posted close to the path. But Pierre wanted to know if there will be any signs stating – “Stay on the trail”? Justin said yes, we could easily have some that state: “Stay on the Trail”.

Jo Bentz would like to see a sign reminding dog owners of the leash law because she has seen so many unleashed dogs around the creek.

Dave Cook asked, who would be maintaining the signs? Justin answered the smaller signs would not be permanent but the two big ones would be permanent and maintained by the class.

Crystal inquired where they received their material quotes? Justin stated the probation camp will build the two big signs and Home Depot provided the material quote for the smaller signs.

Jo asked about painting the signs? Justin stated they would like to but did not budget for paint and would try and secure money elsewhere for paint. However the actual display will be laminated with the school’s laminator.

Al Ferris made a comment on how well done the children’s’ presentation was. He was impressed by the parent volunteers and the professional job the children did together as a group.

Crystal stated this was the first reading of this grant the second reading will be during the May meeting. We do encourage a representative to come to the second reading in case there are additional questions.

Update of Coho recovery and Monitoring – Paul Olin and Mariska Obedzinski of UC Cooperative Extension were present to discuss the update on Coho recovery.

Mariska summarized the progress the program has had since June 2005. The purpose of the presentation is to provide an update and obtain feedback from the commission in regard to the program and if they should go forward. She passed out a report summarizing their findings with the current trap system used.

Mariska described the PIT tags are about the size of a grain of rice and contain an individual identification code that can be inserted into a fish about two inches in length and will remain there for their life span.

With the PIT tags a new type of detection equipment known as a stationary antenna is used to detect PIT tags. These pipes are made of a PVC frame about 16 inches wide and usually placed 2.5 feet above and below the flow of the water to allow fish to swim through the frame. The PVC frame stores coils of wire which are attached to receivers placed in a box up on the bank. The antenna will read fish as they pass through the frame and pass the identification number to the receiver. This would allow year round data collection as opposed to only certain times during the year. We would like to begin with Mill Creek above the traps already placed in the creek.

Martin Bauman asked are these stationary antennas on private or public land? Mariska stated they are on private land 24/7.

Al asked where are the stock breeds from? Mariska answered the genetic stock of the fish are from Green Valley and Dutch Bill creeks.

Jeff Holden asked what is the effect on the fish using these PIT tags? Mariska reported on a study of Atlantic salmon with a success rate of 99 percent. When she tested the PIT tags on fish 50 mm in length or larger the survival rate was 100 percent.

Crystal asked are the antenna frames secure enough during heavy flows of the creeks? Mariska explained these antennas are anchored on one side so if heavy floods hit the antenna frame would swing out to the side without breaking and heading downstream. Paul added Mariska knows how to make these so we cut down on our costs of the frame.

Dennis inquired what the PIT tags are composed of because of all the fishing that occurs in the county. Mariska is not sure what the materials are but would be happy to find the answer.

Pierre asked would the information be standalone? Mariska said if they could get everything outfitted for the summer we could look at habitat use questions, which would be highly useful. If we could not get a larger reader for the winter we would still use our traps to get some data.

Al wondered if a fish from a northern creek were to travel up one of their streams would they realize it was not their PIT tag? Mariska said yes, the developers are working together and she would know it was not one of her PIT tags. She would then send the PIT tag information to other researchers she knows who are monitoring.

Crystal inquired if there were any grant suggestions and/or submitting the grants? She suggested submitting two different grant requests like two different phases.

Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue Coyote and Fox enclosures presentation – Doris Duncan of Wildlife Rescue was present to discuss the coyote and fox enclosures which were built on their new property using funds from a grant request approved by the commission.

Doris thanked the commission and presented the commission with a PowerPoint presentation in regard to the new property and the building of the coyote and fox enclosures.

Invitations for Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue Guest of Honor Ceremony, which is being held at the new center on Friday, May 18, from 11:00 to 12:00, were handed out to each commissioner.

First Reading of Abalone Enforcement – Steven Riske of California Department of Fish & Game is requesting a grant for \$1,777.88 for on-going Abalone enforcement (one pair of Leica 8x42 BR Ultravid Binoculars).

Steve Riske gave a brief summary of the grant request.

Al Ferris asked would the Binoculars remain in Sonoma County? Steve replied – yes. Just as all the other equipment purchased with grant money from the commission becomes Sonoma County property.

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

First Reading of Abalone Enforcement – Heidi Horvitz of California State Parks is requesting a grant for \$8,500 for on-going Abalone enforcement equipment including two pair of monoculars with cases and two digital cameras with 1 gigabyte cards and cases).

Ashford Wood was present as the spokesperson for the California State Parks. He summarized the grant request by stating the equipment would aid the Park Rangers in tracking abalone cards in conjunction with Mendocino County and the other Sonoma County abalone enforcers. The equipment will also support court cases, for example if a potential violator appears in court the pictures submitted of the abalone cards next to a driver's license have been used to reinforce a case.

Martin inquired how much are these fines typically set at? Ashford stated the typical fine is \$250 to \$300. However, it is more expensive for the diver, for example a recent incident he caught a potential violator with five additional abalone, the diver's tank and regulator were confiscated. Subsequently, the equipment purchased with this grant request will aid in the investigation and prosecution of abalone poaching cases.

The idea is to get all three abalone enforcement agencies in Sonoma County collaborating to catch potential violators. This equipment will help the California State Park Rangers in their efforts.

Crystal wanted to clarify because this is an Abalone grant if approved it could come out of the General fund rather than the Abalone fund.

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

Reports and Comments

Commission

Ned began updating the commissioners on the May 10th outreach event. The invites went out, nine grantees have agreed to come and share, the time of the event is 4:30 to 6:30 and we have the facility from 3:30 to 7:30. We are planning on 50 to 70 people.

Ned asked for help from one of the commissioners to attend a site tour of the facility while he is gone the first week of May. Dennis offered to do the site tour.

Ned had three bids for caterers – Sheana will do the event and we would need to cover her cost only she likes working with non-profits. She would provide salad, veggies, cookies, and work an abalone dish with the abalone we provide her.

Crystal checked with Lisa and the Board of Supervisors with spending money on this event and all are giving their okay for the event.

Steve Riske added he and his crew are ready to help with the cooking if there is a need.

Dave Cook stated – It looks like we will have a dry year so start conserving water.

Al Ferris let the commission know there were only two scholarships received and neither one qualified.

Dennis Rosetti participated in Professional Day in Monte Rio at the site where Doug Gore has worked and the students have planted on the banks. He also stated the Harmony School Board has accepted his application to sit on the board and therefore he is resigning from the Fish & Wildlife Commission.

Martin and Brock both stated they would not be here for May's regular scheduled meeting.

Crystal spoke about the Fish & Game Commission meeting out in Bodega Bay, which was referenced in Sunday's Press Democrat. Hearings will begin in May in Sonoma County on Plan 2 the Marine Protection Act. Steve Riske stated he would call her with the dates and locations. This Marine Protection Act will affect Bodega Bay by restricting all fishing and no kelp harvesting

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna McAulay
Secretary