



FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Minutes of the May 17, 2007, Meeting

Attending Members

Crystal Norris
Pierre Gadd
Jim Lynch
Jo Bentz
Andrew Pozzi
Al Ferris

Absent Members

Brock Dolman
Jeff Holden
Dave Cook
Martin Bauman
Ned Hill

Others

Justin Kornfein, Willowside School
Tina Ornell, Willowside School
Martha Bentley, Bird Rescue Center
Steve Riske, Dept of Fish & Game
Paul Olin, UCCE
Ashford Wood, California State Parks
Janet Barth, Wildlife Center of Kenwood
Shari Star Dewar, Wildlife Center of
Kenwood
Doris Duncan, Wildlife Rescue
Jason Gooch, Wildlife Rescue
Dr. Dan, 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 April minutes as presented was made by Jim Lynch with a second by Pierre Gadd. Motion carried.

Correspondence

Sonoma County Conservation Action letter in regard to support for banning lead ammunition in condor country

Letter from Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey Holtzman in regard to court fees

Fish and Game Calendar for June 2007

News Release, "*MLPA Initiative, California Department of Fish and Game Announce North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group*"

Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue Newsletter, "*Call of the Wild*"

Financial Report

The General Fund received in April \$1,205.19 from court revenues, \$47.95 from probation, \$5,000.00 from Sonoma County DA's Office, and \$2,253.42 from interest less expenditures of \$3,014.94 with a fund balance of \$194,251.49. The Abalone Fund in April received \$20.00 from collections, \$472.50 from probation, and \$347.79 with a fund balance of \$4,853.21. A motion to accept the April financial reports was made by Al Ferris with a second by Pierre Gadd. Motion carried.

Old Business

Second 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).

There were no questions from the commissioners.

Motion to accept the grant request in full for \$1,777.88 for Abalone Enforcement was made by Al Ferris. A second was made by Jim Lynch motion carried for Grant #113 to California Department of Fish & Game.

Second 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 to include 1 gigabyte cards and cases for each.

There were no questions from the commissioners.

Motion to accept the grant request in full for \$8,500 for Abalone Enforcement equipment was made by Jim Lynch. A second was made by Al Ferris motion carried for Grant #114 to Fort Ross Interpretive Association. Crystal Norris stated the general fund will be used to fund this grant.

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

Crystal Norris asked if these signs would be permanent down the road? Justin answered the only permanent signs would be the two bigger outside display cases made by Sonoma County Jail Industries.

Pierre inquired would they be able to create a few signs stating, "Stay on the Trail"? Justin answered yes they would manage to make a few with the words "Stay on the Trail".

Motion to accept the grant request in full for \$1,621 for Stewardship of the Stream 6th Grade Sign Project was made by Jo Bentz. A second was made by Pierre Gadd motion carried for Grant #115 to Willowside Middle School.

New Business

First Reading of Raptor Rehabilitation Compound – Doris Duncan of Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue a requesting a grant for \$17,903 for a raptor rehabilitation

compound. Jason Gooch and Dr. Dan of Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue were also present.

Doris apologized for being late to the meeting due to preparing for Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue's grand opening scheduled for May 18, tomorrow. She introduced Dr. Dan and Jason. She stated Dr. Dan could answer all the medical questions and Jason would be able to answer all the construction questions. She summarized her grant request.

Crystal asked Doris why Wildlife Rescue has decided to take in birds when there was an agreement between Wildlife Rescue and Bird Rescue Center made several years ago to keep a separation, which would cause less confusion for the public. Doris stated she was not aware of an agreement with Bird Rescue. In 2004 when Wildlife Rescue opened for the first time to the public people were bringing in birds to them and at that time Doris was aware of problems Bird Rescue was encountering with staffing issues. So Wildlife Rescue began to help out with birds. Crystal stated those were Song Birds not Raptors.

Martha Bently, a former commissioner to the Fish & Wildlife Commission spoke on behalf of the Bird Rescue Center. She stated Bird Rescue Center has been around for 27 years and was one of the first wildlife rehabs in Sonoma County. In the early 80s Bird Rescue Center met with Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue and agreed Bird Rescue Center would take on all bird rehabilitation for Sonoma County and Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue would take on all other wildlife rehabilitation for Sonoma County. Martha stated within the last 27 years the center has received a total of 28 golden eagles, in which most had injuries that were too severe to release. Martha queried why Wildlife Rescue was building such an elaborate cage, which she added is a foolish expenditure of public funds.

Doris thanked Martha for her thoughts and stated she was not aware of such an agreement. She also stated she began work with Wildlife Rescue in 1997 and at that time all bird rehabilitations were referred to Bird Rescue Center. She added that out of 1,000 animals and birds the center takes in that over half are birds. Doris would like to work with Bird Rescue Center since they are in opposite sides of the county.

Jim Lynch asked if Doris or a representative from Wildlife Rescue has had any conversations with the Bird Rescue Center? Doris said no, but last Thursday at the Awareness event she spoke with Alida of the Bird Rescue Center and said she'd call her to set a date to meet and discuss the future.

Andy Pozzi inquired if the Bird Rescue Center had the same type of enclosure. Martha said no, it is too extravagant because the majority of birds received are babies. However large raptors such as Golden Eagles are transferred to another facility in Roseville. Andy asked what types of birds do you receive? Martha stated Kestrels to Red Tail Hawks.

Andy inquired what Wildlife Rescue is going to use the plywood for? Jason stated it is for the sides of the enclosure to keep other animals out. Andy asked how tall is this? Jason stated it will be 16 feet tall. Andy asked what is the pressure treated wood for? Jason stated it is not needed but the architects involved added this.

Crystal Norris asked how many mews can this hold? Doris answered six to begin with.

Jo Bentz inquired with Martha how many birds do you receive per year. Martha answered they receive 200 to 250 raptors per year. Overall Bird Rescue roughly receives 2,500 to 3,000 birds per year. Many of the birds received are babies. Doris stated they are receiving mostly babies too.

Jo asked what is the intent for the raptor rehab compound? Doris stated the same as the Bird Rescue Center rehab and release. Jo asked would this be open to the public? Doris said no this is strictly a rehab enclosure. Jo asked how many at a time can be in the compartments. Doris let Dr. Dan answer this question.

Dr. Dan added the enclosure would have compartmentalized areas, which the birds would be moved from one compartment to the next. By giving a bird access to a large area to fly allows the birds to recuperate and we can better evaluate and strength them. Jo Bentz asked if he would be evaluating the birds before release? Dr. Dan answered, Yes.

Pierre asked how necessary are 100 feet flight enclosures versus 50 feet? Dr. Dan answered the 50 feet is adequate however the larger enclosure is ideal.

Crystal stated the Department of California Fish and Game MOU states the standard requirements for enclosures for birds depending on bird's conditions/injuries. She added are large flight enclosures are great are they necessary in every case – No.

Doris added they plan on sharing the enclosure and taking transfers from other shelters. Also, Wildlife Rescue has raised \$10,000 for labor to build this enclosure.

Andy asked Martha how big the current enclosure is at the Bird Rescue Center. Martha stated they do not have a flight cage. Instead the birds are taken outside for exercise with a handler and a creance.

Jo stated she would like to see Wildlife Rescue work with Bird Rescue before the next meeting in June for the second reading of this grant. Doris stated they would be happy to do that and asked if there were any other changes the commission would like to see.

Andy asked what happens if we don't fund this grant. Doris stated they would then turn to fundraisers, which would take longer to finish the project.

Crystal inquired the grant has a phase 2 and 3 but not a phase 1. So you need money for phase 2 of \$5,072 and for phast 3 of \$10,450. Doris stated phase 1 is completed, which was clearing the area. Phase 2 is building the flight aviary and phase 3 is the housing and flight hallway construction. The grant request is for phases 2 and 3.

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

First Reading of Russian River Coho Movement and Survival Investigation – Paul Olin of UC Cooperative Extension is requesting a grant for \$27,250 for Russian River Coho Movement and Survival Investigation.

Paul Olin summarized the benefits of the PIT tag readers.

Andy asked if Fish & Game have PIT tag readers. Paul stated he did not know of any. Andy then asked what about the Water Agency. Paul answered the Water Agency uses screw traps and does not know about readers. Andy asked what the range of the readers is. Paul said the frame of the reader is from 2 to 4 feet and 16 feet long.

Al asked if they had any other funding sources? Paul stated they received grants from California Sea and California Department of Fish & Game. They are currently pursuing a Coastal Conservancy grant.

Crystal asked if the commission only funded the summer needs would that suffice. Paul stated absolutely.

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

First Reading of Abalone Educational Brochure – Paul Olin of UC Davis Cooperative Extension is requesting a grant for \$2,500 for the printing costs of the Abalone Educational Brochure.

Paul Olin stated the California Department of Fish and Game has committed to pay for ½ of the printing costs of the Abalone Educational Brochures.

Andy asked how they plan to distribute the brochures. Paul stated these brochures will be distributed to Sea Grant Advisors, Fish & Game Wardens, and five shops. Steve Riske suggested adding to the fishing regulation information.

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

Reports and Comments

Commission

Crystal praised Ned for coordinating such a great event. She felt it went very well.

Pierre brought an article from the Press Democrat on West Nile, which he considers an interesting article.

Public

Ashford Wood of California State Parks reported the cameras purchased with previous grants from the commission have been used to catch an altered card violator.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna McAulay
Secretary