

Minutes of the September 20, 2007, Meeting

Attending Members

Crystal Norris
Pierre Gadd Jr.
Jo Bentz
Martin Bauman
Gene Gaffney
Jim Lynch

Absent Members

Ned Hill
Andrew Pozzi
Al Ferris
Jeff Holden
Brock Dolman
Dave Cook

Others

Melania Mahoney, Wildlife Fawn Rescue
Marjorie Davis, Wildlife Fawn Rescue
Joe Saitta, Wildlife Fawn Rescue
Karl Menard, Bodega Marine Lab
Kristina Stanton, Bodega Marine Lab
Jim Goodman, Dept Fish & Game HE
Andrew Swan, Snow Goose Productions
James Swan, Snow Goose Productions
Dan Curtin, Ag. Commissioner's Office
Naomi Lozinto, Ag. Commissioner's Office
Dagny Thomas, Ag. Commissioner's Office

Chairperson Crystal Norris called the meeting to order at 7:41 p.m.

Crystal announces that they do not have a quorum at present and will not be able to approve items.

Adoption of Minutes

Crystal asks if there are any additions or corrections to last month's minutes. There were none. With no quorum, August minutes will be approved at the October meeting.

Correspondence

Crystal states that the Fish & Game Commission has started to forward various Fish & Wildlife related announcements to the Commission.

- A. Letter from the State of California Fish & Game Commission about proposed regulatory action in regard to *Waterfowl: Canvasback Hunting*
- B. Letter from the State of California Fish & Game Commission about proposed regulatory action in regard to *Prohibition Against Feeding Big Game Mammals*
- C. Letter from the State of California Fish & Game Commission about proposed regulatory action in regard to *Sport Fishing Cleanup Regulations*

- D. Newsletter from CalTIP, Inc., regarding its new Canine (K9) Program in conjunction with California DFG and request for donors and sponsors to help fund the program
- E. Letter and report from The Community Clean Water Institute (a 2006 grantee), in regard to the 2006-2007 Youth Action Team to Protect the Russian River program.

Financial Report

The Abalone Fund received \$50 from Central Collection and \$75.00 from Probation, with a fund balance of \$7,553.59.

General Fund received \$3,015.60 from the Superior Court revenues, and \$148.62 from Probation, with a fund balance of \$173,387.98.

With no quorum, the August financial reports will be approved at the October meeting.

Old Business

Second Reading of The Fish and Game Warden video documentary, Snow Goose Down Productions - James Swan, Ph.D., of Snow Goose Down Productions, LLC, is requesting a grant for \$30,000 for "Endangered Species: The Fish and Game Warden" video documentary (56 min video).

James passes out "Endangered Species – The Fish & Game Warden" updated research & budget proposal to all commissioners.

James thanked the commission for the scope and depth of the questions posed to him at last month's meeting – it assisted him in doing further research on his proposal. The Sonoma County Fish & Wildlife Commission was the first County commission he made a proposal to.

He quotes California Fish & Game Wildlife Propagation Fund Code 13103 (a) & (m) relating to use of the funds for public education and the protection and conservation of fish & wildlife – and how these codes directly relate to his grant proposal. He has a letter from Nancy Foley and ran the proposal by Lacey Bauer, Council to Fish & Game, and they both support the grant proposal.

The trailer previously shown was geared to help the warden's immediately, to raise awareness and support the newly created Warden's Foundation. He doesn't want to convey a political advocacy piece about wardens - it is intended as an educational piece. The documentary's primary purpose is to educate the public about who game wardens are and what they do. Snow Goose Productions has been receiving/shooting a lot of new material on a broad spectrum of related subjects.

Ricky Schroeder has agreed to be the celebrity host of the piece.

The production company is making proportionate grant requests to individual counties based upon each counties annual funds budgeted for grant requests.

Pierre Gadd asks how much money has been raised to date, and James replies that so far they have raised \$17,450: CA Fish & Game Warden's Association - \$2,500; California Waterfowl - \$2,500; LEFF Foundation - \$2,500; Foundation For North American Wild Sheep - \$2,500; Napa County - \$2,500; Santa Clara County - TBD; Colusa County - \$1,500; Santa Cruz County - \$2,450.

The more funds that can be raised in the initial stages, the easier it will be to approach KQED as a well-supported project, by a wide variety of respected associations, foundations and Fish & Wildlife Commissions throughout the state. This type of grass roots support gives the project higher credibility level with larger foundations. The Sundance Institute is considering a grant from their Mentoring Fund towards the project with far-reaching implications for viewing & distribution.

Pierre asks about the larger grants that are pending and whether or not they are actual commitments. James replies that they are not yet confirmed, just proposed.

Martin Bauman suggests that we offer an initial grant of \$5,000. Jim Lynch also agreed that a lower amount would probably be best for the commission.

Crystal spoke to Lisa Correia to see if she agrees that the project falls within the guidelines of what the commission can do. Lisa felt there would not be a problem.

Jo Bentz asks about the nature of the newly established Fish & Game Warden's Association. James Swan states that it was created as a 501.3(c) organization for the families of warden's for education or assistance to families in the event of the untimely death of a warden.

Crystal states that since there is not a quorum, the proposal will have to be tabled and revisited at next month's meeting.

New Business

First Reading of New Fawn Enclosure, Wildlife Fawn Rescue - Melania Mahoney, Director of Wildlife Fawn Rescue is requesting a wildlife grant for \$801.97 for the reimbursement of construction materials for a new fawn enclosure.

Melania introduces herself and gave an overall description of the fawn pen built on private property adjacent to Salmon Creek. It will be used to house injured and/or orphaned fawns prior to being released back into the wild. The structure was entirely built by a Boy Scout who was working for his Eagle Badge. All labor was donated by the Boy Scout and his family.

Crystal asks who the property owners are. Melania replied that they are Judy and Bill Fink and that the property spans 9 acres in Bodega adjacent to Salmon Creek.

Jo Bentz asks who takes care of the fawns. Melania states that the property owners care for the fawns and the enclosure full-time, year round. There are currently four fawns housed in the

enclosure. She says that the Finks' are doing a great job. Marjorie Davis adds that only one person is allowed exposure to the fawns so that they have minimal human imprinting.

Pierre asks if the Finks' have made a commitment for longer than a year. Melania says 'yes', and they have committed to the enclosure and care of the fawns for an unspecified length of time.

Crystal suggests that the Boy Scout be honored by Wildlife Fawn Rescue. With a public awards ceremony and site dedication to raise awareness to the public about the organization.

Marjorie Davis stated that Fawn Rescue is implementing more pens into the program so that there is less impact on any one area of the county.

Crystal stated that the commission would hear the second reading of this grant at next month's meeting.

First Reading of Public Education Display Aquaria, Bodega Marine Laboratory - Karl Menard, Public Display Coordinator, and Kristina Stanton, Senior Volunteer Coordinator, both of the Bodega Marine Laboratory, are requesting a grant for \$9,000 for Bodega Marine Laboratory Public Education Display Aquaria.

Karl Menard introduces himself and gives some background on his experience and education with marine biology. Experience includes Steinhart Aquarium in San Francisco, Sonoma State University and Bodega Marine Laboratory, where he now works. Has been involved with marine biology most of his life.

He is asking for funds that are necessary to maintain the Public Display Aquaria at the Bodega Marine Lab. Unfortunately UC Davis, who funds the research aspects of the lab, can no longer fund the public educational projects at the Lab due to budget cuts. Karl briefly describes how the budget cuts are affecting the overall staffing and operations of the Aquaria.

Karl has been involved with the Aquaria since they were built over 15 years ago and would like to see them remain functioning and open to schools and the public. 6000-7000 school children come to the Marine Lab annually to these exhibits. They had recently been updated and remodeled with a surge of funding and then the budget cuts hit. They are seeking outside funds from grants and private donations within the science community. The Aquaria cost between \$12,000 to \$15,000 to maintain annually. Karl has committed to the Lab that he can run the project at \$13,000 per year.

Two guest scientists will fund one of the Aquaria, which reduces the amount that the Bodega Marine Lab is seeking in grant money.

The three primary goals of the Bodega Marine Lab are: 1) Conduct marine research 2) Provide education for University students 3) Public education. Karl then showed a presentation that detailed the primary goals of the Lab and showed images of the specific Aquaria that the grant would be funding, including: the 10,000 gallon tide pool aquarium display; the 5,000 gallon rockfish display; a "port hole" aquarium and the "under the dock" themed display.

Martin Bauman asked if there are other sources for funds coming in. Karl replies that aside from the commitment from the scientists to fund one Aquaria, they are just beginning the grant request process.

Gene asks if Karl is also the person associated with the Spring Lake project and Karl confirms that he is a part of at least a dozen projects of this nature within Sonoma County.

Pierre asks how they intend to fund the project after the first year has passed and if they are currently charging the public to visit. Karl says they currently charges \$1 per person. The commission suggests that they consider charging more.

Crystal asks Karl what ARG stands for in the Budget Information. He states that it refers to the Aquatic Resources Group which also manages the volunteer program and the docents for the Lab. The volunteers and docents are a key factor in being able to keep operating costs down. The monies would be used for funding ARG, the small group of employees who manage the Lab and train the volunteer personnel. The training of the volunteers must be up to state certification levels to upkeep the level of excellence needed to support the delicate balance of the marine environments.

Crystal mentions the Fish & Wildlife \$1,500 scholarship for students and suggests that Karl let his student docents and volunteers know about it.

Kristina Stanton, Senior Volunteer Coordinator speaks about the diverse exposure and wide variety of school students who come to the Lab and may not usually have access to this type of educational experience otherwise.

Crystal states that there will be a second reading of this grant request at next month's meeting.

Reports and Comments

Commission

Crystal announces that the commission has split the cost of purchasing a new digital voice recorder to be used to record Fish & Wildlife Commission meetings. The \$154.90 cost is split four ways between the Ag Commissioner's Office, Animal Care and Control, Weights & Measures and Fish & Wildlife.

Gene Gaffney asks if there is a possibility of being able to receive his packet information in digital format. Dagny Thomas and Naomi Lozinto comment on the fact that the Ag Commissioner's Office receives most of the packet information in paper format and that the office scanner is not a current model to scan those documents. Only a small percentage of the packet information is currently available in digital format.

Gene also asks the commission if they are aware of what is going on with the property at Occidental Road near Fulton Road. Jo Bentz says she's gone on a field trip to that location.

There have been some wildlife ecological studies there, but she's uncertain of what is currently being developed.

Martin Bauman mentions that he was in Annadel State Park and watched a barn owl being released by Bird Rescue and asked the commission if they new anything about homing raccoons. Crystal says the raccoon population can grow exponentially very quickly and this is probably the cause. She says that there are very strict laws about trapping and relocating mammals. Martin also states that the terrain is constantly changing "up there". His wife bought him a bench on the hill for his Birthday.

Pierre Gadd saw the Vaux's Swift at Rio Linda. He also made comments regarding seeing squirrels and mentioned woodpeckers and the population related to acorns.

Jo Bentz has seen a bobcat on her property in Graton. She thinks it's a female and is trying to keep her neighbors at bay so they don't call a trapper to bother it.

Crystal mentions a female turkey with her three young behind her office.

Public

Jim Goodman of DFG, announces that he will be teaching a Hunter Education class on September 24th, 25th & 27th, 2007 at the Finley Center. Cost for the class will be \$25 for residents and \$35 for non-residents of Santa Rosa. He expects to have around 50 attendees at the upcoming class.

Marjorie Davis, exiting Director of Wildlife Fawn Rescue, announced Melania Mahoney as her successor as the organization's new Director effective September 15, 2007.

Dan Curtin announced that the Ag Commissioner's Office will be filling a vacancy within the next couple of weeks for the Wildlife Specialist position. This position was formerly titled, Hunter Trapper and held for many years by Jim O'Brien, known to many as O.B. O.B. has retired after a long career with the Ag Division.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Thomas

Secretary