

Minutes of the April 17, 2008 Meeting

Attending Members

Crystal Norris
Martin Bauman
Andrew Pozzi
Dave Cook
Jo Bentz
Ned Hill

Absent Members

Gene Gaffney
Brock Dolman
Pierre Gadd Jr.
Al Ferris
Jim Lynch
Jeff Holden

Others

Ann Shrader, Salmon Creek School
Kyle Hiatt, Department of Fish & Game
Sgt. Robert Pacheco, Sonoma County Sheriff's Dept
Jim Goodman, DFG Hunter Education
Tom Henderson, DFG Hunter Education
Alex McVicker, Ag. Commissioner's Office
Dagny Thomas, Ag. Commissioner's Office

Chairperson Crystal Norris called the meeting to order at 7:43 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, March minutes will be approved at the May meeting.

Correspondence

- A. Correspondence from California State Fish & Game Commission regarding various regulatory actions
- B. Revised budget from Laurel Anderson, Salmon Creek School re: *School & Community Environmental Stewardship Programs* grant request
- C. CA Fish & Game Warden update newsletter from Snow Goose Down Productions
- D. Qualifying F&W Scholarship applicants

Financial Reports

The Abalone Fund received \$266.40 from Central Collections and \$120.00 from Probation, with a fund balance of \$10,008.64.

General Fund received \$2,164.77 from the Superior Court revenues, and \$274.39 from Probation, with a fund balance of \$164,066.33 – leaving \$13,048.03 remaining in the FY 07-08 budget balance.

With no quorum, the March financial reports will be approved at the May meeting.

Old Business

Second reading of *Assessing Impacts of Sudden Oak Death in Sonoma County 2001-2008, Phytosphere Research* - Tedmund J. Swiecki, Ph.D., is requesting a grant for \$15,000.00 for Assessing Impacts of Sudden Oak Death in Sonoma County 2001-2008.

Ted Swiecki is not present at the meeting and Crystal asks if there are any additional comments from the board.

Andy Pozzi feels that the commission has already funded enough money to the Sudden Oak Death project over the years.

Jo Bentz mentions an article in the San Francisco Chronicle that week on Sudden Oak Death (SOD), stating that researchers believe that it started in the Mt. Tamalpais area of Marin County.

Alex McVicker, Agricultural Biologist III, with the Agricultural Commissioner's Office, states that he just returned from an SOD conference. He explains that the determination of the origin of SOD in California was achieved through genetic profiling of the different SOD strains currently present and by narrowing the strains down, the researchers were able to trace them back to the parent strain. He states that the lead agency for SOD regulation is at the federal level, but that regulations filter down to the county level. It has been determined through years of research that it is impossible to eradicate SOD, so the intention is to regulate it at a county level through incoming nursery stock inspections. He states that the reason Ted Swiecki's research project has spanned so many years is that it is a long-term project that is attempting to prove the efficacy of different techniques and the eradication of pathogens in the woodland environment, and how the results of these studies can help stop the spread of SOD.

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

Second reading of *School & Community Environmental Stewardship Programs, Salmon Creek Falls Environmental Education Center* - Laurel Anderson, Program Director, is requesting a grant for \$6,635.00 for School & Community Environmental Stewardship Programs.

Ann Shrader is present representing Salmon Creek School.

Crystal asks if there are any additional comments from the board.

Ann Shrader mentions that there will be an event on Sunday that the commissioners are welcome to attend if they are interested to get a better idea of the school environment. She says that there is a high level of integrity with the project.

Crystal states that there may not be enough funds remaining in the fund balance to award the entire grant amount, and asks if Ann will pass this information on to Laurel Anderson.

Andy asks if there is other funding available if the grant is partially funded by the Fish & Wildlife Commission. Ann states that there are other grants that have been awarded and some others that are still pending.

Jo Bentz asks for clarification about the "Transportation Stipend" being grouped into the "Equipment Total" section of the revised budget. Ann says that she will relay the request back to Laurel Anderson.

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

Second reading of *Purchase and Installation of Marine Electronics, Sonoma County Sheriff's Department Marine Enforcement Unit* - Sgt. Robert Pacheco and Deputy John Blenker are requesting a grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the purchase and installation of Marine Electronics.

Crystal Norris asks if there are any further questions or comments about the grant request. She thanks Sgt. Robert Pacheco for the breakdown of the abalone fines received in the grant request.

Ned Hill asks if the boat that is being furnished with the equipment listed in the grant request is going to be an active vessel with adequate Sheriff's Department staff. Sgt. Pacheco states that there is adequate staffing, they just need the equipment.

Andy Pozzi asks the commission if they can draft a letter to the Sheriff's Department, with a cc to the Board of Supervisors, thanking them for their cooperation with the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to assist in catching violators. Crystal will ask Jim Lynch to draft a letter. Crystal suggests writing individual letters to both.

Sgt. Pacheco states that the Sheriff's Dept. is continuing a collaborative effort with DFG to keep a thorough presence active in Sonoma County. He says that there is only a small group within the Sheriff's Dept. that works directly with DFG. Crystal mentions the collaborative effort with State Parks and DFG and the PDA equipment purchased by the commission for them in the past. She suggest that the Sheriff's Department request funding for the same type of equipment of their own, so that all the agencies are working together in unison with the same data.

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 *Evidence Refrigerator, CA Department of Fish & Game* - Lt. Steve Riske is requesting a grant for \$431.99 for an evidence refrigerator.

Kyle Hyatt, Regional Pollution Coordinator for DFG is present on behalf of Lt. Steve Riske. He explains that highly toxic pollution/evidence samples are being collected by wardens and that they have been taking them home and storing them in their home refrigerators. The refrigerator at the regional DFG office in Yountville has broken and was never replaced.

The refrigerator would act as a holding unit until the samples can be taken to Rancho Cordova to the lab for analysis. It would be dedicated to samples only, with liter-sized sample jars kept inside, and padlocked. Many of the samples are obtained during the weekend, when the Rancho Cordova lab is closed, and the integrity of the pH levels of the samples need to be maintained until they can be transported to the lab on Monday morning. The samples are driven from the Yountville location to the Rancho Cordova lab by wardens, due to the heavy restrictions on shipping hazardous materials.

Kyle asks for clarification about how the money brought in by the District Attorney for his pollution case will be available by DFG for grant requests. Crystal states that there is funding available for the grant in the current budget, and adds that she has spoken with Steve Riske about this.

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

Fish & Wildlife Scholarships 2008 - Crystal states that since there is not a quorum, the 2008 Scholarships will have to be tabled and revisited at next month's meeting.

Reports and Comments

Commission

Martin Bauman will be going on a five-day hiking with his grandkids in North Dakota in June. Martin also mentioned that on a visit to London, he saw a falconer keeping the pigeons away in Trafalgar Square.

Jo Bentz went to the Fawn Rescue Center in Forestville on Easter and was impressed by the Coast Guard volunteers that volunteered with building the pens and their enthusiasm for the project.

Ned Hill has switched jobs and has a new baby boy, who is six weeks old.

Crystal Norris is still seeing the young buck in the creek behind her office at E Street and Sonoma Avenue.

Public

Kyle Hyatt, with DFG, says that there is a new Director named John Koch, a former Fish & Game biologist.

Tom Henderson with the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department and DFG Hunter Educator is visiting.

Jim Goodman, DFG Hunter Educator, mentions the incredible response and interest in the Hunter Education classes. There are five educators in the county now. Morgan Campbell, a master falconer as an instructor now, which is garnering even more interest in the classes, even with the wardens. They will be holding 14 classes this year and Jim will forward a schedule to the commission via the Ag Commissioner's Office.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Thomas

Secretary