



## FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

### Minutes of the May 15, 2008 Meeting

#### Attending Members

Crystal Norris  
Pierre Gadd Jr.  
Dave Cook  
Brock Dolman  
Jo Bentz  
Ned Hill  
Jim Lynch

#### Absent Members

Gene Gaffney  
Al Ferris  
Jeff Holden  
Martin Bauman  
Andrew Pozzi

#### Others

Steve Riske, Department of Fish & Game  
Dan Curtin, Ag. Commissioner's Office  
Dagny Thomas, Ag. Commissioner's Office

Chairperson Crystal Norris called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

#### Adoption of Minutes

Crystal asks if there are any additions or corrections to the March 2008 minutes. There were none. A motion to accept the March minutes was made by Ned Hill, with a second by Jim Lynch. Motion carried.

Crystal asks if there are any additions or corrections to the April 2008 minutes. There were none. A motion to accept the April minutes was made by Ned Hill, with a second by Pierre Gadd. Motion carried.

#### Correspondence

- A. Correspondence from California State Fish & Game Commission regarding various regulatory actions
- B. Update letter & expense report from Wildlife Fawn Rescue regarding Grant #125
- C. Email from James Swan, Snow Goose Down Productions – video project update
- D. The Bird Rescue Flyer – Spring 2008
- E. Audubon Canyon Ranch Bulletin – Spring 2008
- F. Hunter Education 2008 class schedule – Jim Goodman

## **Financial Reports**

Crystal asks if there is a motion to approve the March 2008 Abalone Fund and General Fund. A motion to approve the March 2008 Financial Reports is made by Jim Lynch, with a second by Pierre Gadd. Motion carried.

In April 2008, the Abalone Fund received \$539.20 from Central Collections and \$97.85 in interest, with a fund balance of \$10,645.69. General Fund received \$5,301.87 from the Superior Court revenues, \$181.05 from Probation and \$1,841.32 in interest, with a fund balance of \$171,314.03. A motion to approve the April 2008 Financial Reports is made by Brock Dolman, with a second by Dave Cook. Motion carried.

## **Old Business**

**Grant Withdrawn - Assessing Impacts of Sudden Oak Death in Sonoma County 2001-2008 -** Crystal Norris announces that Tedmund J. Swiecki, Ph.D., has withdrawn the grant request of \$15,000.00 for Phytosphere Research.

**Final 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.

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

The commissioners agree that they will only fund the equipment portion of the grant request in the amount of \$2,060.00.

A motion to approve the grant for the amended amount of \$2,060.00 for equipment only is made by Jim Lynch, with a second by Pierre Gadd. Motion carried for grant #126.

**Final 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 comments about the grant request.

The commissioners discuss funding the grant with 50% Abalone Fund and 50% general fund.

A motion to approve the grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 with \$2,500 from the Abalone Fund and \$2,500 from the General Fund is made by Jim Lynch, with a second by Brock Dolman. Motion carried for grant #127.

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

Crystal Norris asks if there are any further questions or comments about the grant request.

Jo Bentz asks Lt. Steve Riske where the refrigerator would be located. Lt. Riske replies that it would be located either at Yountville or at the DFG Ocean Salmon Project down the road on Aviation Boulevard.

A motion to approve the grant in the amount of \$431.99 is made by Dave Cook, with a second by Jo Bentz. Motion carried for grant #128.

**Fish & Wildlife Scholarships 2008** – The 2008 Scholarships are voted on by the commission. The names of the applicants are kept confidential to ensure non-biased voting and each application is given a letter.

Crystal asks the commissioners to pick their top three favorites, which are then tallied. The top two applicants are the winners. Applicant C receives 14 points, and applicant D receives 9 points. The scholarship winners for 2008 are Jason Wells (C) and Maria Potter (D).

The winners will be contacted and invited to each receive their \$1,500.00 award checks at the June meeting.

### **New Business**

There is no new business.

### **Reports and Comments**

#### **Commission**

Crystal tells the commission that she, Jim Lynch and Andy Pozzi met with Lisa Correia, Stefan Parnay and Peter Rumble from the County Administrators Office regarding revisions to the grant award structure and procedure. A couple of Supervisors have requested that the commission re-evaluate their requirements and criteria for approving grants. The commissioners present discuss the ramifications of how the proposed changes would affect their ability to award grants in the future and what limitations it might present. Crystal says that a draft of the “Policy Regarding Fund Balance Establishment and Grant Criteria” will be given to the commissioners for review and then discussion at next month’s meeting.

Crystal has still been seeing the young buck in the creek bed behind her office. His antlers are really beginning to grow.

Jim Lynch says that he’s seen many jakes this turkey season. He finally caught one that was 25 lbs. with a long beard.

Ned Hill has been seeing mountain lions and fawns. He has been stalked by coyotes when turkey hunting this season.

Dave Cook is starting his sixth year of fish population studies at the Russian River estuary throughout the summer. Early in the season they catch some Coho, and throughout the season they catch Chinook and some Steelhead. They have placed screw traps out, but it’s been a low year for Coho. He says that the previous year’s annual reports are online on the County of Sonoma’s website.

**Public**

Lt. Steve Riske of Department of Fish & Game says that they ran a checkpoint the previous Friday at the Russian Gulch. They issued 24 citations. There are two people in the academy that are due to graduate in August and expected to join the warden force after that. The DFG has received numerous calls recently regarding mountain lions. They wrote 82 abalone citations last month.

Dagny Thomas from the Agricultural Commissioner's Office announces that they are in the final stages of hiring a new Wildlife Specialist and they will make an announcement regarding the new hire at the June meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Thomas

Secretary