



FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Minutes of the October 16, 2008 Meeting

Attending Members

Crystal Norris
Gene Gaffney
Brock Dolman
Jo Bentz
Al Ferris
Andrew Pozzi
Dave Cook
Jim Lynch
Jeff Holden

Absent Members

Ned Hill
Martin Bauman

Others

Ken Robbins, United Anglers of Casa Grande
Students, Parents, Teachers, and Board members
United Anglers of Casa Grande
Victoria Johnston, Harmony Union School
Lt. Steve Riske, CA Dept. of Fish & Game (DFG)
Alex McVicker, Ag. Commissioner's Office
Dagny Thomas, Ag. Commissioner's Office
Jim Goodman, DFG Hunter Education
Tom Henderson, DFG Hunter Education

Chairperson Crystal Norris called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Adoption of Minutes

Crystal asks if there are any additions or corrections to the August or September 2008 minutes. There are none. Al Ferris makes a motion to approve the August and September 2008 minutes, with a second by Gene Gaffney. Motion carried.

Correspondence

- A. Correspondence from California State Fish & Game Commission regarding various regulatory actions
- B. *The Ardeid 2008* newsletter
- C. Correspondence from the Community Clean Water Institute mentioning the grant award from the Fish & Wildlife Commission

Financial Reports

Crystal asks if there are any additions or corrections to the August 2008 financials. There are none. Al Ferris makes a motion to approve the August 2008 financials as presented, with a second by Brock Dolman. Motion carried.

In September, the Abalone Fund received \$100.00 from Central Collections, with a fiscal year fund balance of \$12,000.00.

The General Fund received \$4,457.69 from Superior Court and \$397.09 from probation, with a fiscal year fund balance of \$44,300.00.

Crystal says that the supporting documents submitted by the Agricultural Commissioner's Office do not give a detailed break-down of the \$4,457.69 from Superior Court, and that she will request a more detailed report from the Ag Office for future financial reports.

Jeff Holden makes a motion to approve the September 2008 financials as presented, with a second by Jim Lynch. Motion carried.

Old Business

Tom Furrer, Director, United Anglers of Casa Grande High School, is requesting a grant in the amount of \$10,000.00, for *Purchase of Van to Transport Students*, second reading.

Ken Robbins, Board of Directors, of the United Anglers, is in attendance on behalf of Tom Furrer.

Crystal Norris asks if the United Anglers got three bids on the vehicles, as requested at the September meeting. Ken Robbins replies that they were able to locate three companies that carried the 8 passenger configuration van: Chevrolet, Ford and GM. They obtained two quotes, one for \$26,136.00, and one for \$25,200.00, which are fleet prices.

Andy Pozzi asks why the United Anglers aren't looking at used vehicles. Ken Robbins says that the school district is strongly opposed to purchasing used vehicles for mechanical safety and warranty reasons. Ken says that the board hasn't given up on the idea of a late model certified used vehicle. So far he's only been able to find 12 passenger vehicles in that market.

Jeff Holden asks what the difference between obtaining a 12 passenger vehicle instead of an 8 passenger vehicle. Ken replies that a 12 passenger vehicle, by law, requires the driver to be a licensed school bus driver.

Andy Pozzi suggests that the Anglers consider renting a van or purchasing from the County of Sonoma. Ken says that they go out in the field on very short notice, and that renting a van is not practical for that reason. He also states that they haven't yet investigated the option of purchasing a van from the county.

Al Ferris asks what locations they go to on trips. Ken Robbins replies that they go to Adobe Creek, Petaluma River Watershed and Lynch Creek. The Anglers typically go approximately 25 miles round trip per outing.

Pam, a United Angler parent and member of the school district, says that she has been working with the school district regarding the type and size of van that they will approve. She says that there are very stringent restrictions on the size of the van. If it is any larger than an 8 passenger van, then they would have to hire a licensed school bus driver, only use it during certain hours of the day and parents would not be able to assist with driving. They have so far been unable to find a used 8

passenger van. One of the biggest issues they are facing has been losing the ability for students to drive themselves to the sites, now that the new teen driving laws have gone into effect.

Andy Pozzi called the Petaluma School District and spoke with someone at the Bus Yard, who said that the district would consider a used vehicle.

Crystal Norris and Jim Lynch both note that the new Grant Approval Guidelines set by the County Administrator's Office are very specific as to how the Commission is able to award grant monies, and that the Angler's grant request for a vehicle purchase does not fall under these guidelines.

Andy Pozzi says that he deeply appreciates the work that the Angler's are doing in their community and even nationwide, but that this request simply doesn't fall within the Commission's guidelines.

Jim Lynch states that he also admires the work the Angler's are doing. He asks them to consider re-applying in the future for a grant that would directly cover the cost of materials and supplies needed by the students in the field, which would fall under the guidelines for grant approval.

Al Ferris says that he has volunteered for the Anglers for over ten years and thinks they are doing wonderful work. He apologizes that the Commission cannot approve the grant request at this time.

Andy Pozzi makes a motion to reject the grant request, with a second by Al Ferris. Motion rejected.

Victoria Johnston, Project Facilitator, Salmon Creek Falls Environmental Center, is requesting a grant in the amount of \$13,590.00, for *Vegetated Roof for the New Salmon Creek Falls Environmental Center*, second reading.

Victoria Johnston distributes the list of plants that will be used on the roof as requested by the Commission at the September meeting. She says that she has spoken with Laurel Anderson of Salmon Creek School regarding how they would be advertising to bring other schools in to the campus. The school mails out flyers directly to West Santa Rosa schools including Roseland, Bellevue, and Shepherd schools. They also send mailers out to the School Garden Network, the Bay Creek Network and the Sonoma County Office of Education. She also states that the first class visiting since the last Fish & Wildlife Commission grant award to Salmon Creek School will occur in November, as the grant monies were awarded at the end of the last school year.

Al Ferris asks what types of plants are being used, as the list she distributed is in Latin. Victoria replies that they are ornamental flowering plants that will thrive year-round. The living roof acts as a sponge that filters the water and the sediment, and then drain the water into a "rainwater garden". The goal is zero net runoff for the entire campus into the creek.

Jeff Holden asks the commissioners how they feel the grant request fits into the new guidelines set forth for the Commission. He doesn't see how it supports fish and wildlife.

Jo Bentz loves the project, supports all the work that Salmon Creek School is doing, and looks forward to utilizing it in the future, but agrees with Jeff that she doesn't see where this grant request falls into the guidelines. She suggests that the Commission cover part of the costs as an alternative.

Brock Dolman is extremely supportive of the project as well, but recognizes that there would be issues with awarding the grant, based on the guidelines. He also states that this project is definitely a nod to a vision in the direction of lessening the impact of the human footprint and facilitating low

impact development. He feels that the storm water piece and water quality component related to fish is relevant, but unfortunately thinks it would be a stretch related to the guidelines.

Alex McVicker, from the Agricultural Commissioner's Office, reminds the Commission that the new guidelines were rejected as policy by the Commission. Therefore, because the guidelines are general in nature and not policy, the Commission maintains greater discretion in awarding grants.

Gene Gaffney agrees with Brock and was inspired by the educational component that this project offers. He thinks that educating students on the intricate workings of ecology and our effect on it, will lead to a new generation of stewards for the land. Gene makes a motion to approve the cost of materials in the amount of \$6,790.00, with a second by Brock Dolman. There are three "ayes": Gene Gaffney, Jim Lynch and Brock Dolman. There are five "nays": Al Ferris, Jo Bentz, Andy Pozzi, Dave Cook and Jeff Holden. Motion rejected.

Jo Bentz asks how the building will be maintained. Victoria says that the school district will maintain the building and that the design is set to be very low maintenance. It will be the first building in Sonoma County and the country that is open to the public that will demonstrate living roof principles and design. It will be used as a cafeteria, a school and public use auditorium, and an educational center. It will be available for use by the public.

Al Ferris proposes to make a motion to fund only the plants and then withdraws the motion after further discussion by the Commission.

Jo says that this project is a seed for environmental developmental change and an educational example to the community. She makes a motion to partially fund the grant in the amount of \$5,000.00, with a second by Gene Gaffney. Motion rejected.

Dave Cook says feels it's a great green project but still doesn't think that it is within the guidelines.

Andy Pozzi makes a motion to reject the grant as it stands, with a second by Al Ferris. Motion rejected.

Jim Goodman, Department of Fish and Game – Hunter Education, discusses possible options to offer his classes to low income urban kids.

Jim Goodman has spoken with the statewide administrator for Hunter Education about the program concept and was given some great references and ideas to work with:

- Working with the National Archery In the Schools Program that are already being implemented in two Santa Rosa schools, as it would be a good intermediary "stepping stone"
- Contacting "Project Wild"
- Create a tiered step program that gradually expands knowledge base, experience, and responsibility with wildlife/hunter education, archery, laser guns, air guns
- Utilizing the old Naval Air Station through the City of Santa Rosa on Finley to do firearm training
- Utilizing the Sebastopol Gun Club for advanced levels of training

- A primary goal of the program would be to emphasize to students that the right to handle a firearm is a privilege that needs to be earned through gradual demonstration of increased understanding and responsibility
- Keeping the ratio of students to teachers low
- Ways in which to reach out to the underprivileged youth communities that this program is being developed for
- Approach existing groups in the area Big Brothers and Sisters, YMCA, YWCA, R-Hoop in the Roseland area, and Fishing in the City to seek collaboration with and participants in the program

Jim and Tom Henderson, with DFG Hunter Education, will continue to do research and make contacts with local organizations to develop a solid program outline. They will give an update to the Commission at the November meeting.

New Business

There is no new business.

Reports and Comments

Commission –

Dave Cook said the Water Agency has had over 230 adult Chinook pass the rubber band at Wohler Road Bridge. Looking forward to over 1,000 at the start of the spawning season. He mentions a September 6, 2008, article in the Press Democrat, in which Dr. Geist of Sonoma State University, mentions receiving grant award monies from the Fish & Wildlife Commission to help fund his turtle extinction project. Dr. Geist will be presenting the progress of his research to the Commission within the next few months. Dave also went on a jet boat training in which he had to fix the motor during the training.

Jeff Holden ran into a DFG warden that works in Gridley now, formerly from Sonoma County that said to say “hello”. Jeff was deer hunting with his son who had his tags checked. He was also involved in two of the landslides that occurred recently in Yosemite National Park. His family was hiking during the first one, but asleep in their tent during the second one. No one was hurt, but it was very intense.

Al Ferris apologizes for missing the meeting last month, he had a family emergency. He thanks Jo and Crystal for organizing Pierre’s going away dinner.

Jo Bentz also went to Yosemite and heard a spotted owl in the middle of the night. She said they sound like they are barking.

Brock Dolman just spent a week at the Rogue River fishing, but didn’t catch anything. He visited Grub Creek and says that the Fish Passage Project, which the Commission helped to fund, is nearing completion. Doug Gore just finished excavating and it is looking really good. He met with the restoration side of DFG today and they have extra adult Coho that will be released this December or January into the Salmon Creek Watershed. Bodega Bay Marine Lab and the Broodstock Program are directly involved with this effort.

Andy Pozzi spent a month up at the Klamath River. Fish were sparse.

Public –

Lt. Steve Riske, DFG, missed last month's meeting because he was at the Marin County DFG barbeque. It went well, but was lacking in attendance by members of the District Attorney's Office, who the event was held for. Duck Season opens on Saturday. The two new wardens are doing well. They are very busy right now. He got a call about a man trying to hack the head off of a deer that had been hit in the road on Round Barn Boulevard. Both the Dept. of Fish and Game and the Santa Rosa Police Dept. responded to the call.

Alex McVicker went cat fishing on Clearlake with his wife in an inflatable boat. The first fish she caught weighed 10 lbs. It was her first time fishing and she really enjoyed it.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Thomas

Secretary