



## FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

### Minutes of the June 18, 2009 Meeting

#### Attending Members

Crystal Norris  
Andrew Pozzi  
Jeff Holden  
Dave Lloyd  
Gene Gaffney

#### Absent Members

Ned Hill  
Brock Dolman  
Martin Bauman  
Al Ferris  
Jo Bentz  
Dave Cook  
Jim Lynch

#### Others

Stewart G. Wilson, NRCS/Scholarship Recipient  
Edwin W. Wilson, Guest  
Annette Cadosi Wilson, Guest  
Dagney Thomas, Ag Commissioner's Office

Chairperson Crystal Norris calls the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m. There is no quorum.

Crystal announces that Ned Hill will be stepping down as Commissioner representing the First District due to family and business responsibilities. He will be submitting an official letter of resignation to Supervisor Valerie Brown.

#### Adoption of Minutes

Crystal asks if there are any additions or corrections to the May 2009 minutes. There are none. Since there is no quorum, the May 2009 minutes will need to be approved at the next meeting.

#### Correspondence

- A. Correspondence from California State Fish & Game Commission regarding various regulatory actions
- B. *Audubon Canyon Ranch Bulletin* – Spring 2009
- C. *The Bird Rescue Flyer* – Spring 2009

#### Financial Reports

In May 2009, the Abalone Fund received \$105.00 from Central Collections, with a fiscal year fund balance of \$5,550.00.

The General Fund received \$2,585.03 from Superior Court and \$527.70 from probation, with a fiscal year fund balance of \$23,846.77.

Crystal states that this is the final meeting of the 08/09 fiscal year. Since there is no quorum, the May 2009 minutes will need to be approved at the next meeting.

## **Old Business**

### **Fish & Wildlife Scholarships 2009 –**

Stuart Wilson introduces himself and thanks the Commission for choosing him to receive the scholarship. He is currently a Soil Science and Watershed Management student at Humboldt State University and is working for Natural Resources Conservation Service as a soil mapper in Humboldt County. His current project is to map 3,500 acres of soil in Humboldt County. He is a Presidential scholar at Humboldt State with a 4.0 GPA.

One of his main career aspirations includes returning to Sonoma County and implementing conservation practices on vineyard lands to enhance the riparian habitat for Coho salmon. Born and raised in Dry Creek Valley, and having observed vineyard management practices since he was a child, Stuart would like to see more conservation and best management practices applied to the vineyards in the area in the future. He is also interested in watershed management and how it affects fish species and would like this integrated into his career path.

Crystal Norris awards Stuart his scholarship check in the amount of \$2,500.00, and he thanks the commission for their consideration and support towards achieving his educational goals.

**Mary Jo Delos, Executive Director, Sonoma County Regional Parks Foundation, is requesting a grant in the amount of \$5,000.00, for *Environmental Discovery Center – Amphibian and Reptile Exhibit*, second reading.**

Crystal states that Mary Jo Delos contacted the Ag Office and is unable to attend tonight's meeting due to the absence of Mary Clemens. They will return in July to give their second reading.

**Lt. Steve Riske, Department of Fish and Game (DFG), is requesting a grant in the revised amount of \$9,236.63, for *Spotting Scopes w/Mounts and Binoculars*, and an additional grant in the amount of \$6,428.82, for *Night Vision Monoculars for Abalone Regulation Enforcement – second reading.***

Lt. Riske is not present, so the second reading of his revised grant request and additional equipment grant request will be given at the July meeting.

## **New Business**

There is no new business.

## **Reports and Comments**

### **Commission –**

Gene Gaffney brings an abalone shell and the Department of Fish and Game tags used for takes when abalone diving. He had an experience when diving regarding a gentleman who didn't speak English who wasn't observing correct procedure when putting undersized abalones back. Gene asks whether or not the take tags and supporting instructions and laws are printed in languages other than English, and if not, can the Commission write a letter of recommendation to DFG in support of

publishing these materials in other languages. Jeff Holden feels that, ultimately, it wouldn't do any good, because the people breaking the laws, for the most part, already know which laws they are breaking. Andy Pozzi agrees.

Jeff Holden was in Willows with his daughter and visited Llano Seco Rancho, a 15,000 acre ranch with federally protected preserves. They went Bass fishing. His friend, the water manager at Llano Seco, told him that a few state refuges are starting to sharecrop rice on their property to help defer costs and save state jobs.

Dave Lloyd will be fishing in Klamath Falls during August and September, and will miss those meetings.

Andy Pozzi ran into Sherry Howell, DFG, when he was fishing up near Redding recently. He will miss the September meeting because he will also be fishing in Klamath Falls.

**Public –**

Edwin W. Wilson, President of the Dry Creek Valley Association and father of Stuart Wilson, introduces himself and says that the Sonoma County Fish & Wildlife Commission is one of the 'best kept secrets'. He states that it was difficult locating information about the Commission and monthly meeting details. He suggests the Commission do more public outreach in the local community.

Jeff Holden and Crystal state that the Commission has attempted several public outreach efforts in the past. Crystal says that they remain non-political and neutral when awarding grants. With a limited budget annually, it can be challenging to have limited funds when there are a large number of grant requests incoming.

Dave Lloyd and Andy Pozzi ask Mr. Wilson what the purpose of the pipeline running down Dry Creek is. Mr. Wilson states that the project is looking to raise the flow of Dry Creek. Initially, the first step is to perform stream restoration and see if the flows increase. If not, the plan is to pipe water directly from Warm Springs Dam into Dry Creek for water for the County. Mr. Wilson explains that this is an extremely controversial project and there are many different interests involved - including landowners, growers, environmental groups, water management groups, county, state and federal agencies. There is still a long way to go before things are settled.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Thomas  
Secretary