



## FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

### Minutes of the February 19, 2009 Meeting

#### Attending Members

Crystal Norris  
Jo Bentz  
Al Ferris  
Andrew Pozzi  
Martin Bauman  
Gene Gaffney

#### Absent Members

Ned Hill  
Dave Cook  
Brock Dolman  
Jim Lynch  
Jeff Holden

#### Others

Doris Duncan, Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue  
Hal Arbit, Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue  
Karl Menard, UC Davis Bodega Marine Lab  
Frederique Lavoipierre, Sonoma State University  
Nathan Rank, Sonoma State University  
Tiffany Wolvek, Department of Fish & Game  
Jim Moore, Department of Fish & Game  
Jim Snider, Department of Fish & Game  
Tom Moore, Department of Fish & Game  
Lt. Steve Riske, Department of Fish & Game  
Cathy V. Neville, Ag. Commissioner's Office  
Stefan Parnay, Ag. Commissioner's Office  
Alex McVicker, Ag. Commissioner's Office  
Dagny Thomas, Ag. Commissioner's Office  
Dave Lloyd, Public

Chairperson Crystal called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. There is not a quorum, so any motions to approve items will have to be held until a future meeting when there is a quorum. Martin Bauman arrives at 7:54pm, and there is a quorum.

#### Adoption of Minutes

Crystal asks if there are any additions or corrections to the January 2008 minutes.

Crystal states that she received an email from Chuck Traici, Fund for Animals, who wishes to clarify references to comments he made in the January minutes regarding the Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue's (SCWR) mountain lion enclosure size. Regarding the size of the caging, Chuck was not aware of the cage size when he spoke to Crystal, and the cage size of 30' x 100' proposed by SCWR is more than adequate.

Doris Duncan, SCWR, on behalf of Chuck Traici, would like to strike the sentence on page 4, end of first paragraph, which reads, "Crystal states that Chuck has concerns about the domestication of cubs to adult animals." Doris also asks that the statement regarding the male cub's paw clarify that so far, only the left paw has been amputated, and that they hope they don't have to amputate to the left shoulder. She also mentions that Pam Swift is not currently the attending veterinarian, but will be in the future.

Al Ferris makes a motion to approve the January 2009 minutes as corrected, with a second by Andy Pozzi. Motion carried.

### **Correspondence**

- A. Correspondence from California State Fish & Game Commission regarding various regulatory actions
- B. Invitation from the El Dorado Fish & Game Commission to the first meeting of the "County Fish & Game Commissioners of California Association"
- C. Letter from Doris Duncan, Wildlife Rescue, Mountain Lion Enclosure project update

### **Financial Reports**

In January 2009, the Abalone Fund received \$125.00 from Central Collections, and \$64.62 in interest with a current month fund balance of \$9,771.57, and a fiscal year fund balance of \$12,000.00.

The General Fund received \$2,415.80 from Superior Court, \$490.40 from probation, \$1,164.04 in interest, and \$60.91 in expenses, with a current month fund balance of \$179,201.17, and a fiscal year fund balance of \$44,145.92.

Andy Pozzi makes a motion to approve the January 2009 financials as presented, with a second by Al Ferris. Motion carried.

### **Old Business**

**Claudia Luke, Assistant Director, and Karl Menard, Public Display Coordinator, of the Bodega Marine Laboratory, are requesting a grant in the amount of \$4,500.00, for *Public Education Display Aquaria*, second reading.**

Jo Bentz makes a motion to approve the grant for the full amount of \$4,500.00, with a second by Gene Gaffney. Ayes from Crystal Norris, Jo Bentz, Gene Gaffney, and Martin Bauman. Nays from Al Ferris and Andy Pozzi. Motion carried for grant number #131 in the amount of \$4,500.00.

**Doris Duncan, Executive Director, Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue (SCWR), is requesting a grant in the amount of \$16,104.00, for *Mountain Lion Enclosure*, first reading.**

Doris shows pictures of the work done on the enclosures to date. She reiterates the fact that SCWR has received two letters of support, one from Supervisor Kerns' office and one from the Department of Fish and Game.

Hal Arbit, SCWR Board Member, addresses the Commission's concerns regarding the amount of grants funded to SCWR in the past relative to other Sonoma County rehab organizations. Over the years, the Sonoma County Fish & Wildlife Commission has awarded \$21,000.00 to SCWR. In Sonoma County there are five different wildlife rehab organizations. One deals with birds, one deals with bats, and the remaining three handle a variety of native animals. Of those three, one is the Kenwood Center, who treated about 65 animals in 2008; one is Fawn Rescue, who treated about 200 deer in 2008; and SCWR treated over 700 animals in 2008, which does not include the hundreds of animals that come in through their 24 hour hotline.

SCWR's annual operating budget is over \$210,000.00, which means they raise most of their funding themselves. They are asking for anything that the Commission is comfortable with.

Crystal asks if there are any further questions or comments from the commission.

Gene Gaffney asks about the health of the cubs. Doris explains that the male cub, Kuma, will have his arm examined where his paw was amputated and will be neutered soon. The female cub, Kyla, will be spayed soon.

Andy Pozzi asks about the current progress of the project. Doris replies that all of the trenching and wire barriers are completed, and some of the walls are up. The security parts, the den house, the platforms and the safety areas for public viewing still need to be completed.

Jo Bentz asks how many animals are on exhibit at SCWR. Doris says that along with the two mountain lion cubs, there are 2 coyotes, 2 raccoons, one gray fox, one red fox, one squirrel - and a skunk and opossum are ready to go on display as soon as their enclosures are completed.

Andy Pozzi asks who "owns" the animals. Doris says that the California Department of Fish & Game (CDFG), on behalf of the people and State of California, owns all of the animals, including any taxidermies used for educational purposes.

Gene Gaffney makes a motion to approve the grant in the amount of \$9,000.00. There is no second. Motion does not carry.

Crystal says that via an email from Jim Lynch, he would be comfortable approving the grant for \$4,000.00.

Andy Pozzi makes a motion to approve the grant for \$2,500.00, with a second by Al Ferris. There are two ayes from Andy and Al. Motion does not carry.

Gene Gaffney makes a motion to approve the grant in the amount of \$4,500.00, with a second by Martin Bauman. There are ayes by Gene and Martin. Motion does not carry. Gene asks if this item can be tabled until the March meeting. Gene feels it needs to be funded.

Gene Gaffney makes a motion to approve the grant \$3,000.00, with a second by Andy Pozzi. Motion does not carry.

Jo Bentz is not in support of this project because the animals are being exhibited and not rehabilitated. She would like to have a further discussion with the Commission regarding a set amount of funding per rehab group annually.

Al Ferris makes a motion to table the grant request, with a second by Gene Gaffney. Motion carried.

**Doug Gore, Dragonfly Stream Enhancement – Grub Creek Fish Passage Project update (Grant #130)**

Doug shows pictures of the completed project and explains details of the engineering to the Commission. He explains that the project was extremely successful, presents his receipts for the project, and thanks the Commission for their assistance.

## **New Business**

### **Introduction of New Agricultural Commissioner – Cathy V. Neville**

Crystal introduces Cathy Neville, the new Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer.

Cathy says that she started on December 31<sup>st</sup> and comes from San Diego County, so she is new to the area overall. She is looking forward to learning about the county and all of its very diverse agricultural and wildlife issues.

### **Frederique Lavoipierre and Nathan Rank are requesting a grant in the amount of \$5,300.00, for *Sonoma State University Entomology Outreach Program*, first reading.**

Frederique Lavoipierre explains that the Entomology Outreach Program is based out of Sonoma State University (SSU) and has been growing over the past few years. They are requesting funding so that they make take the project to the “next level”. She not only does classroom outreach and education, but also does docent training and teacher training at Occidental Arts and Ecology Center.

During larger events, such as Cloverdale Ag Days, they have anywhere from 800 to 1,000 children come through during a single day.

They realized offering comprehensive education, which includes live insects, required bringing microscopes out in the field. SSU does not allow their laboratory microscopes to leave campus, so the Outreach Program held a fundraiser during fall 2008 called “Garden Allies”. It was an all day workshop which raised enough money to purchase one microscope and travel case.

Frederique and her associate, Nathan Rank, realized that one microscope was simply not enough for the project when visiting schools. In the spring they are doing a docent training for the Laguna Foundation and will need more microscopes.

Crystal asks how many schools they intend to reach in the future. Frederique is currently training entomology students at SSU to assist with the program as she is anticipating reaching four to five classes per week as a goal. Nathan Rank says that of 16 students in the current course, at least nine of them wish to volunteer with the Outreach Program. In addition, there are three SSU Alumni that wish to volunteer. Frederique explains that she is a graduate student of Nathan Rank, who is an SSU entomology professor.

Jo Bentz asks if they charge for the program. Frederique says that they do when they can, but will still offer the program if a school cannot afford it.

Al Ferris asks who will retain ownership of the microscopes. Frederique states that the SSU will. She says that the microscopes will be housed in the museum on campus. Nathan proposes obtaining a letter from the Dean at SSU stating that the Fish & Wildlife Commission will retain ownership of the microscopes in the event that the program ends.

Martin Bauman asks if would be possible to attach plaques stating: “Donated by Sonoma County Fish & Wildlife Commission”, if the grant were awarded. Frederique says it would be a great idea.

Crystal states that this is the first reading, and the second will be heard at the March 2009 meeting.

**Dr. James Moore, Senior Fish Pathologist, CA Department of Fish and Game, is requesting a grant in the amount of \$20,381.03, for *Detection of invasive freshwater mussels and the agent of abalone withering syndrome in Sonoma County and surrounding waters*, first reading.**

James Moore first reviews invasive freshwater mussels and passes around a settling plate from Lake Havasu which has mussels upon mussels growing on it. They are requesting the grant so that they may do detection studies and implement preventative measures in freshwater areas of Sonoma County so that they can prevent the infestation and spread of the mussels before they become a problem.

He says that they are looking to implement the same strategies regarding abalone withering system, which is due to reach Sonoma County within two years.

They monitor these issues via genetic testing with equipment purchased by DFG. They do not have the ancillary equipment that is necessary to perform the complete testing and detection procedures. They are requesting grant monies to purchase the ancillary equipment.

Al Ferris states that he was told that withering was no longer a problem in Sonoma County. James states that it is still an issue in Sonoma County.

Martin Bauman wants to know who else is involved in the early detection phases of these studies. James says that DFG is directing a lot of funds towards this effort.

Jo Bentz confirms that the studies would be performed at the Bodega Marine Lab. James says that they will. She then asks if the equipment will be used in places other than Sonoma County. James says it will be a combination of Sonoma County and statewide.

Andy Pozzi asks what is being done to enforce inspections on Lake Sonoma. Lt. Steve Riske, DFG, says that there are patrols on the weekend to assist with enforcing compliance. Andy says he is concerned that there aren't more patrols on the weekend. He then says that he feels the requested amount is more than the Commission can approve, that it would probably be a lesser amount.

Crystal asks that James assess the need priorities with the equipment needed and submit it at the next meeting. James says that the first two items listed on their equipment list sheet are the most important items.

Crystal states that this is the first reading of the grant and that the second reading will be at the March 2009 meeting.

## **Reports and Comments**

### **Public –**

Tom Moore, DFG, talks about salmon heads and tagging.

Lt. Steve Riske says there will be a Public Salmon meeting on March 3, 2009, at the Sonoma County Water Agency. He then introduces Tiffany Wolvek, one of the two newest DFG wardens in Sonoma County.

Tiffany Wolvek introduces herself. She came from Sonoma County Regional Parks and is excited about the opportunity to work with DFG. She is the Marine Warden, and is responsible for the entire Sonoma County coast.

**Commission –**

Crystal says that someone in her office saw the first Steelhead in the creek behind their office.

Martin Bauman's attitudes are changing about fishing. After reading some articles, he is now aware that the biggest fish is not the best fish, as it disrupts the evolution of the species. No more trophy fish.

Andy Pozzi would like the Commission to develop an outreach program for stream and wildlife enhancement. He's spoken to Jim Lynch about putting it in his paper and other local papers. Andy then proposes that the Commission re-evaluate the amount given to rehab groups annually. He suggests setting a \$2,500.00 annual limit per organizations.

Crystal feels it should be an agenda item. Andy asks if it can be an agenda item at the March meeting. Gene Gaffney asks if it can be a closed session item. Crystal says she will look into the closed session proposal. She asks Andy to write up a general proposal regarding his ideas.

Al Ferris says Dave Hillendahl went into the hospital recently and is home recovering now.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Thomas

Secretary