



## FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

### Minutes of the July 16, 2009 Meeting

#### Attending Members

Crystal Norris  
Andrew Pozzi  
Brock Dolman  
Dave Lloyd  
Gene Gaffney  
Jim Lynch

#### Absent Members

Martin Bauman  
Al Ferris  
Jo Bentz  
Dave Cook  
Jeff Holden

#### Others

Mary Clemens, Regional Parks Foundation  
Mary Jo Delos, Regional Parks Foundation  
Lt. Steve Riske, Dept. of Fish & Game  
Joseph Laugesen, Dept. of Fish & Game  
Doug Gore, Dragonfly Stream Enhancement  
Alex McVicker, Ag Commissioner's Office

Chairperson Crystal Norris calls the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

#### Adoption of Minutes

Crystal asks if there are any additions or corrections to the May 2009 minutes. There are none. Gene Gaffney makes a motion to approve the May minutes, with a second by Andy Pozzi. Motion carried.

Crystal asks if there are any additions or corrections to the June 2009 minutes. There are none. David Lloyd makes a motion to approve the June minutes, with a second by Gene Gaffney. Motion carried.

#### Correspondence

- A. Correspondence from California State Fish & Game Commission regarding various regulatory actions
- B. Correspondence from California Department of Fish & Game (DFG), Natural Resources Agency, regarding "Public Notice: Proposal to list Pacific fisher (*Martes pennanti*) as a 'Threatened' or 'Endangered' Species"
- C. Article from Freelance News: "*San Benito County Ag Official to Request Cougar Count*"

#### Financial Reports

In May 2009, the Abalone Fund received \$105.00 from Central Collections, with a fiscal year fund balance of \$5,550.00. In June 2009 the Abalone Fund received \$75.00 from Central Collections with a fund balance of \$5,550.00

In May 2009, 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. In June 2009, the General Fund received \$1,195.31 from Superior Court and \$437.05 from Probation, with a fund balance of \$23,807.56.

Crystal asks for a motion to approve the May and June 2009 financial reports as presented. Andy Pozzi makes a motion to approve, with a second by Gene Gaffney. Motion carried.

Crystal states that the FY08/09 Final Year End budgets will be presented at the August 2009 meeting.

### **Old Business**

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.

Mary Clemens researched the questions asked by the Commission at the May meeting.

All of the animals used in the exhibit will be native species, taken with sport fishing license or no license at all. These include: Western Fence lizards, skinks, rubber boa constrictors, garter snakes – all used for education purposes.

The Discovery Center has DFG permits for dead animals, salvaged animals, mammals, non-migratory birds, some amphibian, and some reptiles. They have revamped and resubmitted their permits to include a more diverse array of amphibians and reptiles. DFG said that all they need for the types of animals used in the exhibit is a sport fishing license.

She also did an analysis of the expenditures for the contract assistance they are looking to hire. Fifty percent of the grant award would go towards exhibit materials, and fifty-percent towards salary. They average that she would be receiving about \$12.50 per hour and working around 200 hours; most of her time would be spent at the Tolay Fall Festival, which is an eight day event. She would also be training the Discovery Center staff on the care and maintenance of the animals in the exhibit.

There will be one amphibian exhibit and one reptile exhibit. They are working to find recycled materials for the project as much as possible to keep the costs to a minimum. They plan on funding the project in the future through fundraising and partial costs through their annual budget.

Gene Gaffney makes a motion to approve the grant, with a second by Dave Lloyd. All are in favor. Motion carried to approve Grant #135 in the amount of \$5,000.00.

**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.**

Andy Pozzi makes a motion to approve the first grant request, with a second by Jim Lynch. All are in favor. Motion carried to approve Grant #136 in the amount of \$9,236.63.

Andy Pozzi then makes a motion to approve the second grant request, with a second by Jim Lynch. All are in favor. Motion carried to approve Grant #137 in the amount of \$6,428.82. This grant will be funded by the Abalone Fund.

### **New Business**

**Doug Gore, Dragonfly Stream Enhancement, is requesting a grant in the amount of \$5,250.00, for *Green Valley Creek Channel Stabilization and Coho Habitat Enhancement* - first reading.**

Doug Gore explains that this grant was inspired by Dave Hillendahl. When Dave worked for the County Water Agency decades ago, they practiced clearing streams with heavy equipment to keep them from flooding.

With this current project, Doug would like to slow down the creek's water flow, retain spawning gravels, build larger wood structures, develop flood planes in two locations, and widen the creek in some areas. The overall goal is to slow the creek down to assist the Coho salmon in spawning and migration. There is currently nothing to slow the flow. There are two tributaries that have dams on them, which impedes flow in those areas. He plans to work "with Mother Nature" to enhance the existing creek and make adjustments where necessary.

He has also requested \$19,785.00 from DFG for this grant. There is a very good chance DFG grant request will be approved, but it hasn't been yet.

He anticipates the Green Valley Creek will remain dry, so it will benefit his efforts to execute this project.

He cannot put logs entirely across the creek (full-standing structures), because it affects the migration of freshwater shrimp. As an alternative, he plans on using 1-2 ton boulders instead.

He doesn't have three bids for the boulders, as he has a source for them already, from the Fountaingrove project.

Andy Pozzi asks if the landowners of the property (where the project will occur) are contributing anything to the project. Doug says that one landowner will be planting foliage, providing irrigation and providing some trees. The other owner will be contributing at least \$1,000 worth of logs.

Brock Dolman mentions an article referencing the work that Doug and his colleagues have accomplished and how beneficial it has been to species recovery.

Crystal says that this is the first reading of the grant and the second reading will be at the August meeting.

### **Reports and Comments**

#### **Commission –**

- Gene Gaffney revisits the subject of written Abalone regulations in languages other than English. Lt. Steve Riske, DFG, says he believes they are only in English. Joseph Laugesen, DFG, says that there are federal regulation signs at many beaches in at least 15

different languages, which have excerpts of the basic federal regulations pertaining to abalone diving and takes. Lt. Riske mentions DFG videos that are available which show examples of proper procedures. He says it is a very rare occasion that wardens encounter situations where no one speaks English, or that there isn't someone nearby to assist with interpreting. Joseph Laugesen states that abalone regulations in many of the Southeast Asian countries are mirrored to the regulations in the U.S.

- Jim Lynch visited his younger son, a wildlife biologist, in Humboldt County. His son works for a timber company as a Spotted Owl specialist. They saw a new pair to the property, tagged the female, and fledged some chicks. They distracted the male owl with meat, and it came very close to them. The female had an old Fish & Wildlife tag from when she was a chick. His son will potentially be working on a large Spotted Owl project. He went abalone diving off the coast of Mendocino and it was very nice. Sonoma Valley is having their first National Wild Turkey Federation dinner the following evening at the Schellville Fire House. Jim was surprised to find out that Sonoma County is the biggest producer of wild turkeys from reported kills in the state.
- Brock Dolman traveled through the foothills of the Himalayas, on the Eastern edge of Tibet, mostly the Yank Sing basin headwaters. He and his group traveled over 3,000 miles in 21 days, in a four-wheel drive with five people. He saw lots of country, conifers, big mountains, big receding glaciers, lots of yaks, and different species of pheasants. He noted that the people there treat their rivers differently than he is used to and are not taking care of them.
- Dave Lloyd is going to Klamath County to speak to the Native American Indians about removing some of their fishing nets from the river a few days a week to allow the fish to swim upstream.

**Public –**

- Lt. Steve Riske, DFG, says that in June they performed a couple of different patrols. One was a saturation patrol, run by their chief. They brought in five additional wardens (some working their days off) starting Memorial Day weekend through the following weekend and ended up writing 93 citations and seizing 168 abalone. They also ran a check point on June 25<sup>th</sup>, which resulted in 31 citations and over 90 abalone seizures. There were around 350 cars that went through the checkpoint, with over 90% having abalone in them. Gene Gaffney asks what the criteria are for stopping people at the checkpoint. Lt. Riske says they stop vehicles based upon the timing of vehicles that enter and exit stalls. They analyze the frequency every 15 minutes. When cars become backed up, they can alter the checks to every other car.
- Doug Gore has been out snorkeling in the tributaries of the Salmon Creek Watershed and is inspired by seeing up to 25 Coho juveniles at a time.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Thomas  
Secretary