



## FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

### Minutes of the August 20, 2009 Meeting

#### Attending Members

Crystal Norris  
Brock Dolman  
Gene Gaffney  
Jim Lynch  
Dave Cook  
Jeff Holden  
Jo Bentz

#### Absent Members

Martin Bauman  
Al Ferris  
Andrew Pozzi  
Dave Lloyd

#### Others

Kent MacIntosh, Trout Unlimited  
Joshua Fuller, National Marine Fisheries Service  
Jean Redus, Atascadero/Green Valley Watershed  
Council  
Doug Gore, Dragonfly Stream Enhancement  
Lt. Steve Riske, Dept. of Fish & Game  
Alex McVicker, Ag Commissioner's Office  
Dagny Thomas, Ag Commissioner's Office

Chairperson Crystal Norris calls the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m.

#### Adoption of Minutes

Crystal asks if there are any additions or corrections to the July 2009 minutes. There are none. Jeff Holden makes a motion to approve the July minutes, with a second by Jim Lynch. Motion carried.

#### Correspondence

- A. Correspondence from California State Fish & Game Commission regarding various regulatory actions
- B. Correspondence from Jim Snyder, Department of Fish & Game, regarding follow-up receipts and documentation for Grant #134

#### Financial Reports

For the fiscal year ending 2008-2009, the Abalone Fund had a final fund balance of \$5,550.00.

For the fiscal year ending 2008-2009, the General Fund received \$490.34 from Probation and \$721.93 in interest, with a final fund balance of \$23,754.36.

In July 2009 the Abalone Fund received \$100.00 from Central Collections with an opening fund balance of \$10,000.00.

In July 2009, the General Fund received \$490.34 from Superior Court, with an opening fund balance of \$60,000.00.

Crystal asks for a motion to approve the Fiscal year end '08/'09 and July 2009 financial reports as presented. Jim Lynch makes a motion to approve, with a second by Gene Gaffney. Motion carried.

### **Old 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 announces that concurrent to applying with the Fish & Wildlife Commission, he applied for an adaptive grant from the Department of Fish & Game (DFG) in the amount of \$19,785.00. He states that the DFG funds have been frozen for an indefinite amount of time and even if he is awarded monies by Fish & Wildlife Commission, he is unable to start the project without the additional DFG funding.

Doug asks the commission if they would be willing to approve the grant and hold the funds until DFG can also fund the project. If DFG does not fund the project, he can return the funds. He has no idea when the funds may be available.

Dave Cook asks if there is a mechanism in place to be able to do this. Jeff Holden says that the commission has previously awarded monies to Doug that he was unable to use and the check was returned.

Doug states that there are a number of factors that may affect the start of the project, including weather, permits and the DFG funding.

Jim Lynch says that the commission should approve the grant, earmark the funds and leave the money in the general fund until Doug requests it.

Jim Lynch makes a motion to approve the grant in the amount of \$5,250.00, with a stipulation that the funds not be dispersed until Doug obtains the necessary permits, DFG funding and approval to begin the project – with a second by Brock Dolman. Motion carried with unanimous 'ayes' for grant number #138.

### **New Business**

**Kent MacIntosh, Trout Unlimited of California, is requesting a grant in the amount of \$9,998.79, for *Coho Salmon ID Signs*, first reading.**

Kent McIntosh would like to create fish ID signs for all major fishing sites along the Russian River, and pass out 20,000 wallet-sized ID cards for distribution throughout Sonoma and Mendocino counties in conjunction with partner agencies, including DFG, US Army Corps of Engineers, Sonoma County Water Agency, National Marine Fisheries Service, University of California Cooperative Extension and Sea Grant California, to name a few. They also intend to distribute posters and wallet cards to all major fishing shops. The signs will be metal, set in cement which

makes them theft and graffiti resistant. Kent had posted 50 signs along fishing areas in the past, all of which were taken.

Kent introduces Joshua Fuller with the National Marine Fisheries Service. Joshua has been involved with the Warm Springs Captive Broodstock program. There has been confusion with anglers misidentifying Coho for Steelhead and the intention with the signage, posters and wallet cards will be to educate people regarding the difference. There was an incident last year where an angler not only misidentified a Coho for a Steelhead, he killed it and entered in a local bait shop fishing contest. They would like to educate the public about the differences between Coho, Chinook, and Steelhead and feel this effort will go a long way. The sign posting has been determined based upon biologist observation and targeting fishing "hot spots". It's critical that the fish are protected, especially during low water years.

Jo Bentz asks what the fine is for killing a Coho. Josh replies that it is a \$450 federal fine.

Crystal asks if Trout Unlimited has approached the Mendocino County Fish and Wildlife Commission, since signs, posters and wallet cards will be posted and distributed there. Kent replies that he will look into it. Crystal then asks if the funding from DFG listed on the grant request is secured. Joshua states that it's not finalized yet, but that DFG has committed to assisting with installation of the signs.

Jeff Holden and Brock Dolman asks Kent to calculate the average of the cost for each sign so that the commission can determine the cost of the signs posted in Sonoma County v. Mendocino County and what the total cost would be for the Sonoma County portion of the project.

Gene Gaffney asks if there are additional methods to assist anglers with identification of the different fish. Josh explains that most seasoned anglers along the Russian River do know the difference, but that they are looking at additional methods of educating the public in the future. Gene then states that he has seen educational displays in Occidental and asks about the possibility of posting signs in the headwaters in the Occidental area and other tributaries of the Russian River. Josh states that they are looking into expanding the distribution of information in general throughout the watershed in the future.

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

**Jean Redus, Atascadero/Green Valley Watershed Council, is requesting a grant in the amount of \$1,863.00, for *School Watershed Map*, first reading.**

Jean Redus is the former director of the Atascadero/Green Valley Watershed Council. She is requesting a grant to create and distribute classroom-friendly maps to every K-12 classroom in the Watershed. The maps would include educational packets for use in the classrooms in conjunction with curriculum related to Watershed education and awareness.

Brock Dolman is familiar with the project and supportive of it.

Jo Bentz asks Jean to bring the text that will be in the educational packets to the next reading.

Due to a printing error with the August packets, the complete grant request will be sent to the commissioners for review by prior to the September meeting.

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

## **Reports and Comments**

### **Commission –**

- Dave Cook – Has been doing dive surveys in the upper Russian River investigating Steelhead sample sites from 2002 during a drought year. Back in 2002 they found quite a few juvenile Steelhead. They didn't find very many this time. They found five at Norgard Dam in Ukiah Valley and two at Kominski Station. They did see New Zealand mud snails in abundance.
- Jim Lynch went camping in Plumas County and did some fishing and caught a 17" trout and a couple of 15" trout. Waterfowl populations are up this year and very healthy. Liberal take limits are being proposed for this year. Looks like it will be a good fall.
- Jeff Holden went camping near Quincy and did some fly-fishing with his family. He and his family caught hundreds of wild trout from 2"-9". He also went to the Channel Islands deep-sea fishing for Sea Bass and didn't see many.
- Brock Dolman worked on a project to relocate 218 baby Coho in Salmon Creek with a team of people. They are studying the Olema run, which is not doing well. The Camp Meeker Dam is being taken apart.

### **Public –**

- Alex McVicker came into possession of a two-headed snake. It is very small still but he has managed to feed it and the prognosis looks good. He will consider bringing it to the next meeting.
- Lt. Steve Riske, DFG, says that the gear purchased by the F&W grant is arriving. DFG is handling a case regarding the use of a gillnet by Tony's restaurant in Tomales Bay. The owners of the restaurant were illegally catching White Sea Bass in the middle of the night. DFG confiscated six 25 pound White Sea bass. DFG has had many commercial violation and illegal methods of take cases recently. Abalone season is still going strong. Deer season opens the second week in August. They have been made aware of the possible counterfeiting of fishing licenses and abalone report cards, which they are looking in to.

With no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Thomas  
Secretary