



FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Minutes of the September 17, 2009 Meeting

Attending Members

Crystal Norris
Brock Dolman
Jim Lynch
Dave Cook
Jeff Holden
Jo Bentz
Martin Bauman
Al Ferris

Absent Members

Andrew Pozzi
Dave Lloyd
Gene Gaffney

Others

Kent MacIntosh, Trout Unlimited
Josh Fuller, National Marine Fisheries Service
Jean Redus, Atascadero/Green Valley Watershed Council
Marjorie Davis, Fawn Rescue
Carole Balala, Fawn Rescue
Mary Clemens, Sonoma County Regional Parks
Dan Curtin, 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 August 2009 minutes. There are none. Jim Lynch makes a motion to approve the August minutes, with a second by Al Ferris. Motion carried.

Correspondence

- A. Correspondence from California State Fish & Game Commission regarding various regulatory actions
- B. Correspondence from James Swan regarding an update on "Endangered Species" Game Warden documentary (handout)

Financial Reports

In August 2009 the Abalone Fund received \$105.00 from Central Collections, and disbursed \$6,428.82 for Grant #137, leaving a fiscal year fund balance of \$3,571.18.

In August 2009, the General Fund received \$4,046.30 from Superior Court, \$437.04 from Probation, and disbursed \$5,000.00 for Grant #135 and \$9,236.63 for Grant #136, leaving a fiscal year fund balance of \$49,812.12.

Crystal asks for a motion to approve the August 2009 financial reports as presented. Al Ferris makes a motion to approve, with a second by Jo Bentz. Motion carried.

Old Business

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

Jeff Holden asks if they brought the breakdown of cost per sign and signs per county as requested by the Commission at the August meeting.

Josh Fuller, National Marine Fisheries, says that of the 65 signs to be produced, 7 of them are intended for placement in Mendocino County. The cost per sign amounts to \$95.80, which includes the sign, the post, concrete, anti-theft and anti-graffiti treatment. They would be made by the County of Sonoma sign shop.

Crystal Norris suggests that they place the signs in one county at a time. If Sonoma County Fish and Wildlife Commission funds the project for distribution within Sonoma County, it may be impetus and motivation for Mendocino County to follow suit.

Josh asks the commissioners for suggestions for local placement of the additional 7 in Russian River tributaries.

Crystal asks Kent and Josh to bring in samples of the completed signs and wallet cards when they are finished.

Dave Cook makes a motion to approve the grant in the amount of \$9,998.79, with a stipulation that the signs be placed only in Sonoma County – with a second by Jim Lynch. Motion carried with unanimous ‘ayes’ for Grant #139.

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 passes around the educational packet that would accompany the Watershed Map when distributed to schools.

Crystal Norris asks which bid ended up being the least expensive. Jean says that Kinko’s ended up offering the best price – but they plan on supporting the local economy by using a local print shop and spending a bit more.

Dave Cook asks who prepared the map. Jean says that Joe Honton, with the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation created it.

Al Ferris makes a motion to approve the grant in the amount of \$1,863.00, with a second by Brock Dolman. Motion carried with unanimous ‘ayes’ for Grant #140.

Mary Clemens, Environmental Discovery Center, is submitting a request to adjust use of grant award funds from Grant #135, *Amphibian and Reptile Exhibit*.

Mary explains that the woman they intended to contract with for the care and supply of the reptiles (Leaping Lizards) would not be able to commit to the project, or the additional "Creepy Crawly Critter Room" to be designed specifically for the Tolay Lake Festival.

They have spoken with Alan Wolf, Sonoma County Reptile Rescue about taking on both projects. Jeff Holden asks if Alan has agreed to do it. Mary says that he is very interested in doing it. Mary says that the partnership between Sonoma County Reptile Rescue and Regional parks has the potential for a great long-term partnership.

Dave Cook has had the opportunity to see Mr. Wolf's work first hand via his daughters and thinks he would do a great job.

Crystal says that she is aware that all of Mr. Wolf's permits are in order.

Jo Bentz asks if Mr. Wolf intends to use rescue animals for the exhibit, as Leaping Lizards was planning to. Mary replies that Mr. Wolf would supply his own animals for the exhibit.

Brock Dolman and Al Ferris thank Mary for returning with the update and for being honest about the changes they wished to make.

All commissioners present agreed that the change would be good for the project.

New Business

There is no new business

Reports and Comments

Commission –

- Martin Bauman spent time on a sheep farm in North York, England. The National Parks in England are regulated, but open for the public to walk anywhere. There are footpaths that are 1,000 years old throughout people's properties. They are state-owned, but include a mixture of state and residential properties. The owners of the property he stayed on had 200 sheep and they did a lot of hiking. He feels it would be unfortunate if Sonoma County parks are required to close, and says it's a shame that they can't enforce park usage fees more. For example, people often enter Annadel State Park from alternate directions to avoid paying fees. Brock states that Michele Luna, Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods, is leading fight to stop the park closures. Crystal mentions that she read about the parks applying for private grant monies to keep the parks maintained and clean should they close.
- Al Ferris enjoyed his trip to Alaska. His son came to visit him while he was there. He spotted many bald eagles flying overhead, along with mountain goats, beluga whales and halibut. He says he missed attending commission meetings.

- Brock Dolman mentions a 48 pound record rainbow trout caught in a lake in Saskatchewan, Canada – a “frankenfish”. Apparently genetically modified, commercially grown trout were accidentally released into the lake, growing to enormous proportions, and being caught by anglers. There is a debate ensuing about whether or not the fish qualify for entry in to angling contests.
- Dave Cook caught his first 10 inch abalone.

Public –

- Margorie Davis, Fawn Rescue, introduces Carol Balala, her new Coordinator. Marge says that Carol will be ‘carrying the torch’. This year they have seen every disease imaginable with the deer, including ones they’ve never seen. It’s been a rough year.
- Dagny Thomas reports on behalf of Alex McVicker, Agricultural Commissioner Liaison. Alex’s two-headed snake has unfortunately passed due to apparent feeding and waste elimination complications.

With no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Thomas
Secretary