



## FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Minutes of the November 17, 2005 Meeting

### Attending Members

Crystal Norris  
Jim Lynch  
Al Ferris  
Dave Hillendahl  
Dennis Rosatti  
Pierre Gadd  
Dave Cook  
Andrew Pozzi  
Martin Bauman

### Absent Members

Jake Weise  
Brock Dolman

### Others

Alida Morzenti, The Bird Rescue Center  
Vic Chow, Ocean Discovery!  
Michelle Chow, Ocean Discovery!  
Karl Menard, Ocean Discovery!  
Marcia Johnson, Laguna de SR Foundation &  
Audubon  
Carolyn Johnson  
Marjorie Davis, Fawn Rescue  
Jeff Holden  
David Lewis, UCCE  
Mariska Obedzinski, UCCE  
Jo Bentz  
Deanna McAulay, Ag. Commissioner's Office

Chairperson Crystal Norris called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

### Adoption of Minutes

A motion to accept the June minutes was made by Dave Hillendahl with a second by Jim Lynch. Motion carried.

### Correspondence

The following correspondence was received:

1. Email from George Snyder with a copy of his resignation letter to Supervisor Reilly, which was submitted
2. Letter from Sonoma County District Attorney including a check totaling \$5,000 regarding the People v. Charles Gentry
3. Letter from Sonoma County District Attorney including a check totaling \$833.33 regarding the People v. King Dairy
4. Letter from Rick Kaye of FARMS Leadership Program requesting his grant proposal be withdrawn from the agenda tonight
5. Department of Fish and Game News Releases –
  - *DFG Calendar of events for December*
  - *Endangered Winter-Run Chinook Show Highest Numbers Since 1981*

## **Financial Report**

The Abalone Fund in October received \$629.74 from collections with a fund balance of \$20,523.34. The General Fund received court revenues in October of \$2,365.50 and District Attorney revenues of \$5,833.33 with a fund balance of \$185,653.07. Motion to accept the financial reports as presented was made by Al Ferris with a second by Jim Lynch. Motion carried.

## **Old Business**

**Second Reading Ocean Discovery!** – Michelle Chow, Vic Chow, and Karl Menard were present from Ocean Discovery! Requesting a grant for \$6,860 to Bringing Fish and Wildlife Conservation & Education to Sonoma County School children. This program would enhance the MARE (Marine Activities, Resources, and Education) curriculum and improve the educational experiences of Sonoma County's elementary and middle schools during the 2005/06 academic school year.

Vic Chow provided a recap of the program: explaining the water table is one tool in a comprehensive program geared for grades Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. He gave a description of the portable touch table that is expected to have a life span of 10 years. He added that Ocean Discovery! will provide training to 20 teachers at a time, which would include a full day workshop, a field trip to habitats, and in-service training.

Karl Menard explained he would supervise a team to design and build the water table. Also he is able to collect the animals for the tanks and table. Dave Cook inquired where would you collect the animals? Karl answered that all collections will take place off the Sonoma Coast and in Bodega Bay. Karl added that only common animals that could be transported would be collected. Crystal Norris asked how the fiberglass table would be transported? Karl responded that the table will be able to be broken down into modules for transportation.

Al Ferris queried where the equipment would end up if Ocean Discovery! fails? Also are they receiving funding from any other source? Mr. Chow responded that the State Parks are interested in setting up the water table permanently, but Ocean Discovery! has a ten year plan. Mr. Chow added there is no other funding source for this project.

Dave Hillendahl requested that Ocean Discovery! commit to returning in one year to report on the project. Vic Chow stated that by summer they would have a report for the Commission. Mr. Chow added that they would be happy to return and give a report.

Pierre Gadd asked if the UC Marine Lab was willing to train the teachers? Michelle Chow replied that the Marine Lab is a partner with Ocean Discovery! Mr. Chow added that any time they use the Marine Lab facilities they must pay a usage fee.

Andy Pozzi motioned to approve the equipment costs \$3,003 of the grant request with a second from Dave Hillendahl. Ayes – Andy Pozzi, Al Ferris, and Dave Hillendahl; Nays – Crystal Norris, Jim Lynch, Dennis Rosatti, Pierre Gadd, and Dave Cook. Martin Bauman abstained. Motion denied.

Jim Lynch stated he personally would like to see the whole grant pass with the training element to reach more kids. Crystal echoed the same opinion.

Jim Lynch motioned to approve the grant request in full for \$6,860 with a stipulation that the group would return to give a report on how the program operated. A second was made from Dennis Rosatti. Ayes – Crystal Norris, Jim Lynch, Dennis Rosatti, Pierre Gadd, and Dave Cook; Nays – Andy Pozzi, Al Ferris, and Dave Hillendahl. Martin Bauman abstained. Motion carried for Grant #97 to Ocean Discovery! for Bringing Fish and Wildlife Conservation & Education to Sonoma County school children.

**Commissioner Attendance** – Crystal reported that the majority of the Board of Supervisors would like to be notified when a commissioner has missed meetings. It was decided that the Agricultural Commissioner's Office would keep a record of absences. When a commissioner has missed two meetings, the Agricultural Commissioner's Office will send a letter to the commissioner and a copy will be sent to their District Supervisor.

**eSubscribe** – Deanna McAulay from the Agricultural Commissioner's Office reported that the Fish & Wildlife Commission Website has been updated to include a current Agenda and past Minutes.

### **New Business**

**Sotoyome Resource Conservation District** – FARMS Leadership Program, Rick Kaye, grant request for \$2,774.94 has been withdrawn.

**First Reading University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) and Sea Grant Extension Program** – David Lewis and Mariska Obedzinski of UCCE were present requesting a grant for \$12,430 for the Russian River Coho Recovery Monitoring. This grant will enhance ongoing Coho recovery efforts in the Russian River and its tributaries.

David Lewis explained the need for new equipment in order to recognize Fall from Spring Coho. Mariska Obedzinski added this was the second year the tributaries have been stocked, once in the Fall and once in the Spring. The summer surveys have a survival rate of 50 to 70 percent from the spring release. Next spring the goal is to tag the fish either in the snout, adipose or both depending on which group the fish belong to – for example, the Spring release of Coho in Sheephouse Creek will have their tags in the snout. By tagging the Coho the differences and similarities in survival and condition between Spring and Fall released will be documented and published nationally, David added. This study will provide direction for future stocking efforts of Russian River tributaries.

Andy Pozzi asked if there would be information gained from the tags? Mariska responded with no, however, once the fish dies they will be able to obtain the tag and look under a microscope to gain information. Al Ferris inquired how long are the Coho in the ocean? Mariska stated approximately one and half years. This study has a plan of nine years with three cycles of three classes and is funded through 2007.

Crystal Norris stated this would be considered the first reading of this grant and added that the commission needs to consider their budget before going forward.

## **Reports and Comments**

### **Board**

Dennis Rosetti reported that the letters for the 2006 Educational Scholarships have gone out to the participating colleges.

Dave Hillendahl declared this to be his last meeting, and he has hopes that Jeff Holden would be his replacement. He added that he would still like to receive hard copies of the monthly agendas and minutes.

Al Ferris wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Safe New Years, and a great Thanksgiving.

Jim Lynch shared his experiences from his vacation to the Klamath Basin.

### **Public**

Alida Morzenti a UC retiree and is involved with the Bird Rescue Center introduced herself and stated that she is interested in becoming involved once again in Sonoma County issues.

Vic Chow described a project symposium throughout the state for students to do research projects then report to an audience on state issues regarding the environment.

Carolyn Johnson introduced herself and stated she is considering the open position on the commission.

Marjorie Davis reported the second fawn enclosure has not been completed yet but the group is determined to finish the project by spring. She added that they have rescued 94 fawns this year. Also she would like to find someone to replace her as Director soon so she could train the person.

Jo Bentz introduced herself and stated she is considering the open position on the commission.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna McAulay, Secretary