



## FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

### Minutes of the August 21, 2008 Meeting

#### Attending Members

Crystal Norris  
Al Ferris  
Martin Bauman  
Andrew Pozzi  
Pierre Gadd Jr.  
Brock Dolman  
Jeff Holden  
Ned Hill  
Jo Bentz  
Dave Cook  
Jim Lynch

#### Absent Members

Gene Gaffney

#### Others

Stefan Parnay, Chief Deputy Ag. Commissioner  
Peter Rumble, Sonoma County CAO's Office  
Doug Gore, Dragonfly Stream Enhancement  
Mariska Obedzinski, UCCE  
Lt. Steve Riske, DFG  
Alex McVicker, Ag. Commissioner's Office  
Dagny Thomas, Ag. Commissioner's Office  
Jim Goodman, DFG Hunter Education  
Tom Henderson, DFG Hunter Education

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

#### Adoption of Minutes

Crystal asks if there are any additions or corrections to the July 2008 minutes. There are none. A motion to accept the July minutes was made by Al Ferris, with a second by Pierre Gadd. Motion carried.

#### Correspondence

- A. Correspondence from California State Fish & Game Commission regarding various regulatory actions
- B. Memorandum from Sonoma County Office of the County Counsel regarding "New Open Meeting (Brown Act) Requirements"
- C. Email from James Swan, Snow Goose Down Productions, regarding "Endangered Species" documentary submission into Mill Valley Film Festival
- D. *The Bird Rescue Flyer* – Summer 2008

## **Financial Reports**

### **FY End '07-'08**

The Abalone Fund paid out \$2,500.00, and earned \$80.94 in interest, leaving a fund balance of \$8,891.65. In the General Fund, of the \$65,750.00 budgeted, \$58,049.28 was spent which left an end of year balance of \$7,700.72. With \$3,492.14 in income from Superior Court revenues and \$1,340.74 in interest, this leaves a fund balance of \$174,979.58.

Crystal asks if there are any additions or corrections to the End of Fiscal Year '07-'08 financial reports, there are none. Crystal asks for a motion to approve the End of Fiscal Year '07-'08 financials. A motion is made by Jim Lynch, with a second by Al Ferris. Motion carried.

### **July 2008**

In July 2008, the Abalone Fund received \$124.11 from Central Collections, with a fund balance of \$9,015.76. The General Fund received \$330.30 from Superior Court revenues and paid out \$750.00 in office expenses, with a fund balance of \$174,559.88.

Crystal asks if there are any additions or corrections to the July 2008 financial reports, there are none. Crystal asks for a motion to approve the July 2008 financials. A motion is made by Jim Lynch, with a second by Brock Dolman. Motion carried.

## **Old Business**

### **Peter Rumble, Sonoma County CAO's Office discusses "Draft Policy regarding Fund Balance Establishment and Grant Criteria".**

Crystal announces that Peter Rumble has made changes to the "Draft Policy Regarding Fund Balance Establishment and Grant Criteria" according to the discussions and suggestions of the Commission at the July meeting. She then asks if there are any questions or comments regarding the updated draft document.

Andy Pozzi says that under the "Reserve Fund" heading, the paragraph that references the San Francisco Consumer Price Index (CPI) needs to specify the particular year and month CPI as a benchmark date when the document goes into effect, that would be used to determine any possible changes to the reserve fund minimum. Peter Rumble agrees that this can be added. The Commission agrees that they will decide upon a date when they approve the final draft of the document.

Brock Dolman asks for clarification about the term "drainage or other watershed improvements" as it is used under "Category 1: Habitat Restoration". It is explained that the word "drainage" is being used as a noun and not a verb. Brock then says he feels uncomfortable with the categorical dollar amount limitations, such as the \$5,000 for "Protection/Conservation", and how will the Commission interpret individual grant requests regarding which "category" a project would fall under. He says that he feels limited by the dollar amount caps in the draft document.

Crystal Norris agrees with Brock. She wants to know what the Commission would do if they had reached the monetary cap in a specific category for the year, and were then presented with another worthy grant in the same category.

Dave Cook asks Peter Rumble, from the County Administrator's Office, how this document came about. He was under the impression that a document similar to this had come through the Commission previously and been voted against.

Peter Rumble recaps that two members of the Board of Supervisors asked him to meet with the Ag Commissioner's staff to put down in writing some information, criteria and guidance that would allow the public to understand how grants are reviewed and approved. It was initiated under the premise of allowing full transparency for the public. He explains that the original draft presented at the June meeting was intended to initiate discussion regarding this issue and that this newest version presented this evening reflects the Commission's requested changes that were suggested at the June meeting. The current draft guidelines are open for discussion and modification by the Commission.

Crystal states that these guidelines will give more definition to both the Commission and grant applicants to ensure that projects are submitted and considered according to the category definitions.

Peter Rumble says that he feels these guidelines tie in well with the Project Report follow up that the Commission approved at the July meeting, and would be an excellent guide for new commissioners.

Jo Bentz asks if this guidelines document would be updated regularly. Peter Rumble reiterates that the guidelines are a reflection of the Commission's will. Jo then says that she would like the Commissioners to receive updates from the Ag Commissioner's Office on the "type/category" of each grant that is awarded.

Ned Hill states that he does not like the draft guidelines at all - that they are not necessary for the Commission. The Commission is already doing its job well; it's dangerous setting monetary caps for any of these categories. As every fiscal year progresses, priorities for grants change; each year is different from the one before.

Dave Cook agrees that the Commission is already doing a fine job awarding grants and doesn't need stringent rules imposed on how monies are spent, considering the small amount of money the Commission has budgeted annually to award. He is in support of having guidelines for new commissioner's or potential grant recipients to review, but is not in support of the limitations of monetary caps in each of the categories. He supports the document as guidelines and instructions, not rigid procedure.

Peter Rumble confirms that the intention of the document is guidelines and not strict procedure.

Pierre Gadd agrees with Dave Cook and Ned Hill, he does not feel that the document is necessary. Approving it would make things complicated, and be of little use to the Commission.

There was a recap discussion among the Commission regarding a grant awarded during FY '07-'08. Two commissioners questioned the breakdown of labor costs within the grant request and the veracity of the labor cost distribution as presented by the grantee. This was a key issue that resulted in two commissioners contacting their respective Supervisors (Board of Supervisors), and the genesis of the draft guidelines document. There was a question on the part of the two commissioners

regarding the Commission's public accountability with questionable grant requests. It is agreed that if a commissioner (or commissioners) have issue with the awarding of grants, that it be resolved within the Commission, prior to approaching Board Members with concerns. It was then agreed that the Commission needs to move past the differences of opinion about previous issues, and address the draft guidelines as they stand.

Jim Lynch shares the concern of others regarding the dollar amount caps. He feels that the bigger issue at hand is making a decision about the draft guidelines and moving forward. He suggests that the Commission approve the document in the "Reserve Fund", "Annual Budget" and "Criteria for Grant Evaluation" areas, and remove the dollar amount caps for the different grant categories.

Ned Hill asks where the dollar amount caps came from. Peter Rumble states that they were designated by the County Administrator's Office, but if the Commission wishes to remove them, it's up to them.

Dave Cook and Jo Bentz suggest a few minor changes to the draft guidelines regarding verbiage. The Commission agrees to the changes, and Peter Rumble takes note to modify the document accordingly.

Crystal asks for a motion to approving the draft guidelines.

A motion to approve the draft guidelines as amended: 1) Eliminating dollar amount caps with the exception of Scholarships; and 2) Adopting the changes in verbiage as suggested by Dave Cook and Jo Bentz is made by Jim Lynch, with a second by Jo Bentz. Motion carried.

Peter Rumble will present the draft document with the changes to the Budget Sub-committee and then forward the final draft to the Agricultural Commissioner's Office. The Agricultural Commissioner's Office will prepare an agenda item for the Board of Supervisors as a consent item, and forward a copy of the final draft to all Commissioners, prior to submitting it to the Board.

**David Lewis, Paul Olin and Mariska Obedzinski of UC Davis Cooperative Extension and Sea Grant Extension Program, are requesting a grant for \$14,570.00, for *Russian River Coho Movement and Survival Investigation*, second reading.**

Crystal asks if there are any additional questions or comments from the Commission.

Andy Pozzi asks Mariska Obedzinski: if the Commission were unable to fund the entire project, would they have other funding sources? Mariska replies that they have been resourceful in the past regarding funding and would do the same with this project.

Crystal notes that the itemized "Summer 2008 Equipment Needs" in the grant request is listed in order of priority, the most important item being the Multiplexing PIT tag reader.

Andy then asks Mariska, after listening to the evening's discussion about grant categories, which category she thinks her project falls under, "Protection/Conservation" or "Studies/Research". Mariska replies that since the project relates to Coho Salmon recovery, that it falls under "Protection/Conservation".

Dave Cook makes a motion to approve the grant request in full. There is no second.

Al Ferris then makes a motion to partially approve the grant for \$10,000. There is discussion to approve equipment costs only for the Multiplexing PIT tag readers (\$8,605.00), and the Associated equipment (\$3,095.00), totaling \$11,700.00. Al amends his motion to approve a partial funding in the amount of \$11,700.00, with a second by Pierre Gadd. Motion carried for grant #129.

**Doug Gore, Owner, of Dragonfly Stream Enhancement, is requesting a grant for \$9,000.00, for Grub Creek Fish Passage Project, second reading.**

Crystal asks if there are any additional questions or comments.

Jo Bentz asks Doug Gore if they need permits for this grant. Doug replies that they have obtained permits from the Department of Fish and Game to start the project.

Al Ferris makes a motion to approve the grant for the entire amount of \$9,000.00, with a second by Andy Pozzi. Motion carried for grant #130.

### **New Business**

There is no new business.

### **Reports and Comments**

#### **Commission**

Jim Lynch had rotator cuff surgery so he has been unable to hunt, fish, or go abalone diving, which he misses. He announces that he has a new granddaughter who was born on Sunday named Madison.

Ned Hill has been very busy with his new baby, work and deer season being open. He's only had the opportunity to hunt once.

Al Ferris has a good friend who is a member of the Grumpies who is nearing the end of his life. The Grumpies will be giving him a lifetime achievement award in Oroville.

Jo Bentz went to the Middle Fork and Salmon rivers in Idaho. She went river rafting on 2-4 class currents. She really enjoyed it. She saw a lot of fly fishermen there. She just returned from the Smith River, which has the best water quality in California.

Jeff Holden went fly fishing in the woods in Quincy. He also ran into some aggressive environmentalists on a public beach while diving in La Jolla. While diving and boogie boarding he saw lobster, seals, garibaldi fish and a ray of some sort.

Pierre Gadd announces that this will be his last meeting. He has submitted his resignation and says he will miss everyone. He thanks the Commission for everything.

Brock Dolman spent a week camping above Timberline, south of Sonora Pass and Mono Lake. There was great fishing in a lake on the eastern side of Sonora Pass.

Crystal Norris saw the fawn and doe again in the creek behind her office. She believes that they are bedding somewhere in the creek bed. She hasn't seen homeless people staying in the creek for the past couple of years, due to the blackberry bushes becoming overgrown to pass. She attended a celebration of life for Martha Bentley's [Bird Rescue Center (1918-2008)] passing. Crystal says it was a lovely afternoon and about 75 people attended, telling amazing stories about Martha's life and adventures. The Bird Rescue Center will be using donations in her honor to remodel and dedicate "Martha Bentley's Educational Room". Crystal says she will be dearly missed.

## **Public**

Jim Goodman, DFG Hunter Education, is looking into a grant request to create a program that will allow disadvantaged kids the opportunity to attend his classes – something similar to "Fishing in the City".

Lt. Steve Riske, with DFG, says that two Sonoma County Wardens will graduate from the academy next week. It's been busy with deer season now open and abalone season re-opened. The "Fishing in the City" is going well at Lake Ralphine. The lake has been restocked and due to funds from AB7 (designating more funds for fish propagation), it should continue on strong. Steve says that after taking Jim Goodman's Hunter Education class, his daughter shot her first rabbit and his wife shot her first pig.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Thomas

Secretary