



## FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

### Minutes of the November 19, 2009 Meeting

#### Attending Members

Brock Dolman  
Jim Lynch  
Jeff Holden  
Jo Bentz  
Al Ferris  
Andrew Pozzi  
Dave Lloyd

#### Absent Members

Crystal Norris  
Martin Bauman  
Gene Gaffney  
Dave Cook

#### Others

Frederique Lavoipierre, SSU Etymology Outreach  
Art Hasson, Community Clean Water Institute  
Robert Pennington, Community Clean Water Institute  
Lt. Steve Riske, CA Dept. of Fish and Game  
Alex McVicker, Ag Commissioner's Office  
Dagny Thomas, Ag Commissioner's Office

Chairperson Crystal Norris is absent; Andy Pozzi is acting Chair and calls the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

#### Adoption of Minutes

Andy asks if there are any additions or corrections to the October 2009 minutes. There are none. Al Ferris makes a motion to approve the October minutes, with a second by Jim Lynch. Motion carried.

#### Correspondence

- A. Correspondence from California State Fish & Game Commission regarding various regulatory actions
- B. *Audubon Canyon Ranch Bulletin* – Fall 2009

#### Financial Reports

In October 2009, the Abalone Fund received \$100.00 from Central Collections, \$1,686.00 from Probation and \$9.83 in interest with a fiscal year fund balance of \$3,571.18.

In October 2009, the General Fund received \$2,819.65 from Superior Court, \$487.78 from Probation, and \$456.97 in interest, with a fiscal year fund balance of \$38,060.95.

Andy asks for a motion to approve the October 2009 financial reports as presented. Al Ferris makes a motion to approve the October financials, with a second by Jeff Holden. Motion carried.

## **Old Business**

**Robert Pennington and Art Hasson, Community Clean Water Institute (CCWI), report on behalf of Terrance Fleming on the results of *Dutch Bill Creek Turbidity, Nutrient and Bacteria Study, Grant #125.***

Robert thanks the commission for the grant. The project was a success. CCWI has taken over 300 samples for the project thus far. They were out during the 2007-08 and 2008-09 winter storms. Early storms showed record turbidity. Turbidity levels in Dutch Bill Creek are much higher than in the Russian River. Al Ferris asks how many storms were tracked during 2008-09. Art Hasson replies CCWI tracked 6 major storms during the past winter.

Brock Dolman asks if there is a baseline Regional Water Quality control number that is acceptable, what would indicate excess and if there were any notable 'hot spots'. Art explains the standard that CCWI uses is that turbidity never exceeds 20% of the naturally occurring peak levels. The area with the highest turbidity was DBC 050, located just below Occidental. Early season storms recorded levels 100–400% above natural turbidity levels found later in the season at DBC 050. Due to the amount of turbidity found there, CCWI is listing DBC 050 as 'impaired for turbidity' according to the guidelines for the North Coast Water Quality Control Board. The highest levels of nitrates, phosphates, and coliform and E.coli bacteria were also found at DBC 050. CCWI believes that these high levels are a result of wastewater and fertilizers being introduced into Dutch Bill Creek from Occidental. The second highest levels of coliform and E.coli bacteria were found at DBC 025, the location where the dam was located in Camp Meeker.

Jim Lynch asks what the next steps are. CCWI is recommending for 'impairments' to the Water Board. The results of all CCWI studies are available online at: [www.czwi.org](http://www.czwi.org)

Jeff Holden asks if it is standard that turbidity levels are higher during the first storms. Art says it is typical for that to occur.

Al Ferris would like to know what will be done with the data from the study. Robert Pennington states that the results of CCWI studies and research are made available to local and state agencies and it is up to the agencies to take action based upon their findings. Their research also contributes to historical data for Dutch Bill Creek. Jeff adds that it provides a scientific baseline for further research and analysis. Jo Bentz states that the data can be used in the future for a variety of water quality studies. Brock says turbidity studies are critical to Coho recovery efforts in the region.

Jeff Holden asks if the Occidental sewage treatment plant contributes to the bacteria levels at DBC 050. Brock states that due to the close proximity of the plant to the creek, it is inevitable during winter storm months for it to overflow directly into it.

## **New Business**

There is no new business.

## **Reports and Comments**

### **Commission –**

- Brock Dolman passes around an invitation to the *Dutch Bill Creek Dam Removal and Creek Restoration Project Celebration and Bridge Dedication*, Saturday, November 21, 2009, at the Camp Meeker Fire Department.
- Jo Bentz and Crystal Norris attended the Steelhead Beach unveiling of the new Trout Unlimited signs that the Commission paid for. There was a great turnout, with representatives from the Water Agency, Department of Fish & Game (DFG), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Parks & Recreation, and Trout Unlimited. Much appreciation and many thank yous were given to the Fish & Wildlife Commission for the grant that made it possible. All but one of the signs has been placed in Sonoma County, and Trout Unlimited will next propose the project to Mendocino County.
- Al Ferris had lunch with Pierre Gadd, who wishes everyone well. Al wishes everyone a Happy Holiday Season.

### **Public –**

- Frederique Lavoipierre, Sonoma State Etymology Outreach, gives an update on the status of their project, *Sonoma State University Etymology Outreach Program*, Grant #133. Frederique thanks the Commission and says that the grant award for the microscopes helped them immensely and assisted their program in becoming a viable resource within the community. They held their *Insectapalooza* fundraiser in the fall and raised over \$8,000.00, with 750 people attending. They have been able to reduce their fees to schools from \$125 to \$75 due to the success of the fundraiser. The program has also greatly expanded their collaboration with other agencies, such as Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation and Pepperwood Preserve. A new K-5 grade coordinator has been hired who is fluent in Spanish and American Sign Language.
- Lt. Steve Riske, DFG, went to Sacramento to hear the State Water Board hearings on Russian River water supply and frost protection for farmers. Some growers have been proactive regarding on-site water storage, but it is an expensive process. Two wardens within his department will be leaving to perform other duties within the agency, so he will look to fill the positions from the academy, which starts in January. Warden Demetri Esquivel landed a Chinook case recently, and there was another case involving Sonoma County residents charged with selling abalone to a massage parlor in San Francisco. The abalone case will be tried in Sonoma County.

With no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Thomas  
Secretary