



FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Sonoma County Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting Minutes February 18, 2010

Attending Members

Crystal Norris
Dave Cook
Jeff Holden
Andrew Pozzi
Dave Lloyd
Gene Gaffney
Caroline Christian
Al Ferris

Absent Members

Brock Dolman
Jo Bentz
Jim Lynch

Others

Lt. Steve Riske, CA Dept. of Fish and Game
Jim Goodman, DFG Hunter Education
Janice Goodman, DFG Hunter Education
Darius Anderson, Guest
Alex McVicker, Ag Commissioner's Office
Dagny Thomas, Ag Commissioner's Office

Chairperson Crystal Norris calls the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

Adoption of Minutes

Crystal asks if there are any additions or corrections to the January 2010 minutes. There are none. Andy Pozzi makes a motion to approve, with a second by Al Ferris. Motion carried.

Correspondence

- A. Form 700 for 2009-2010
- B. Coho Water Resources Partnership grant award article from *Sonoma West Times & News*
- C. Department of Fish and Game (DFG) News: 2010 Lake Sonoma Spring Turkey Hunt Drawing
- D. California Fish and Game Commission March 3, 2010, meeting agenda

Financial Reports

In January 2010, the Abalone Fund received \$155.00 from Central Collections and \$6.29 in interest, with a fiscal year fund balance of \$3,571.18.

The General Fund received \$2,307.90 from Superior Court, \$669.76 from Probation, and \$344.87 in interest, with a fiscal year fund balance of \$38,032.36.

Crystal asks for a motion to approve the January 2010 financial reports as presented. Al Ferris makes a motion to approve, with a second by Andy Pozzi. Motion carried.

Old Business

There is no old business.

New Business

There is no new business.

Reports and Comments

Commission –

- Caroline Christian introduces herself as the newest commissioner representing the Third District. She is a professor at Sonoma State University (SSU) in the Department of Environmental Studies and Planning with a teaching emphasis on restoration, conservation biology, ecology, and global environmental issues. She is looking forward to serving with everyone and learning a lot.
- Jeff Holden took his daughters to the junior duck hunt in Maxwell; they fired nearly 70 rounds in one day, but only shot one duck.
- Dave Cook will be co-teaching a two day workshop titled “Rare Pond Species Survey Techniques” on March 27-28, 2010, which will focus on aquatic survey techniques for the California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, and western pond turtle. The workshop is sponsored by the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation and will be held at SSU.

The DFG 2010 Salmon Information Meeting is being held on February 25, 2010, in Santa Rosa at the Sonoma County Water Agency, 404 Aviation Blvd., Santa Rosa, 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

- Gene Gaffney asks if the Commission needs to meet if there is nothing on the agenda for the month (i.e. old or new business). Crystal says that it can be considered in the future, but in accordance with Brown Act guidelines, she believes the decision would need to be made and posted publicly at least 72 hours in advance of a cancellation because the meetings are open to the public. She then states that she spoke with Cathy Neville, Agricultural Commissioner, who suggested that the Commission consider skipping some meetings during the summer months when the commissioners are often on vacation and out of town.

Gene would like to meet one-on-one with the Agricultural Commissioner to discuss a proactive approach between the Ag Department and the Fish and Wildlife Commission that takes into consideration the welfare/well-being of fish, wildlife and habitat; educating growers about the environmental impact agriculture can have on fish and wildlife; and finding a common ground between environmentalists and Ag industry. Alex McVicker, Agricultural Biologist from the Ag Commissioner’s Office, says we are lucky here in Sonoma County, due to the agricultural industry’s overall awareness about agricultural environmental issues. Alex says the trends in pesticide use are looking better; pesticide

use is 'softening'. There is an emphasis on water quality from top to bottom and changes in pesticide use practices are in the works.

Gene would like to promote the Fish and Wildlife Commission actively in the community so that more people aware that grant funds are available for local qualifying projects. Andy Pozzi says that the Commission could put a free blurb in the Press Democrat or speak with Jim Lynch about doing similar in the Sonoma Index Tribune. He would like to see more projects coming in from South, North and East County.

- Al Ferris went out to Bodega Point during one of the recent big storms. The weather was so inclement he couldn't drive back and had to wait for the weather to let up. He saw hundreds of gophers on the roads being hunted by birds of prey.

Public –

- Jim and Janice Goodman, DFG Hunter Education instructors, taught 38 classes and along with other instructors reached 1,000 – 2,000 students last year. They have been working with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) collaborating on outreach and have been also developed new teaching methods in conjunction with the DFG Academy. They've added five new instructors, and five more are pending. Jim says that the Fish and Wildlife Commission is welcome to do outreach to the community through Hunter Education classes.

Hunter Education would like to submit a grant request for non-functional firearms for their classes. The guns are completely safe, and firearm safety and handling is a required component of their program. Jim and Janice will prepare a grant for first reading at the March meeting.

- Lt. Steve Riske recently attended meetings between North and South region crab fishermen. Legislation is being proposed that would put limits on when crab fisherman may come down from Washington, Oregon and locations further north during the opening of Northern California crab season. Steve would like to submit a request for Abalone Fund monies for signage that delineates National Marine Protected areas from State Parks beaches.

Caroline asks Steve about the impacts the Humboldt squid is having on fish population. Steve says that they are fast growing and very aggressive, but currently there is not enough data on their effect on native species.

- Darius Anderson is sitting in as an observer. He lives in Sonoma, and has spoken with Supervisor Valerie Brown about potentially applying for the vacant seat on the Fish & Wildlife Commission representing the First District.

With no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Thomas
Secretary