



**Sonoma County Fish and Wildlife Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
July 21, 2011 – 7:00pm**

Attending  
Members

Crystal Norris  
Al Ferris  
Dave Cook  
Jo Bentz  
Caroline Christian

Absent  
Members

Darius Anderson  
Andrew Pozzi  
Jim Lynch  
Brock Dolman  
Don McEnhill  
Jeff Holden

Others

Capt., Steve Riske, CA Dept. of Fish and Game (DFG)  
Dagny Thomas, Ag Commissioner's Office

Chairperson Crystal Norris calls the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. There is not a quorum; agenda items will be voted on at the August meeting.

**Adoption of Minutes**

Crystal asks if there are any additions or corrections to the June 2011 minutes. There are none. The adoption of the June minutes will be tabled until the August meeting.

**Correspondence**

- A. Correspondence from California State Fish & Game Commission regarding various regulatory actions
- B. Thank you note from Katherine Robbins, Scholarship Recipient
- C. Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation – *Meanderings*, Summer 2011 newsletter

**Financial Reports**

In June 2011, the Abalone Fund received \$75.00 from Central Collections, with a fiscal year fund balance of \$273.05, and a total fund balance of \$628.93. The General Fund received \$1,511.10 from Superior Court and \$254.37 from Probation, with a fiscal year fund balance of \$24,186.83, and a total fund balance of \$151,014.55. These financial reports do not reflect the final fiscal year end balances.

Crystal asks if there are any additions or corrections to the June 2011 financial reports. There are none. The adoption of the June financial reports will be tabled until the August meeting.

## **Old Business**

**Noelle Johnson, Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District (GRRCD), is requesting a grant in the amount of \$3,750.00, for *Hedgerows for Habitat – Phase II*, second reading**

Noelle has requested postponing the second reading until the August meeting.

## **Scholarship requirements – Discussion**

Crystal says this item will be tabled until the next meeting.

## **New Business**

**Request from Rebekah Green, Sonoma State University (SSU) Center for Community Engagement/SWEEP program to use Fish & Wildlife Commission logo on their website and link to Commission website.**

Caroline Christian says that SWEEP is funded by a service learning grant at SSU and these types of programs teach civic-minded engagement.

After some discussion and agreement by the Commissioners, Crystal approves the request as Chairperson on behalf of the Commission.

## **Reports and Comments**

### **Commission –**

- Jo Bentz spent time at her brother's house in Greenville, outside of Quincy. He is a birder and she observed a wide variety of birds on his property.
- Al Ferris will be taking both Fish and Wildlife Commission 2011 scholarship winners with him to Oroville for the Salmon Festival to assist with tagging. There have been problems at the Oroville hatchery recently. A private company hired to tag fish killed hundreds of smolts and fingerlings and attempted to hide them in a dumpster.
- Caroline recently spent time in Hawaii with her family and saw monk seals.
- Dave Cook went diving in Monterey near Del Monte beach at two wreck sites. One was a World War II amphibious track vehicle and the other a 45 foot sailboat. He is going backpacking in the John Muir wilderness in the Sierras with his wife; he'll then take the entire family to Kirkwood. He is postponing a backpacking trip to Yosemite due to high water levels and raging rapids.
- Crystal shares DFG rehabilitation statistics for California. Nicole Carion, Statewide Coordinator for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Redistricted Species, has been collecting data since 2004. In 2004, over 81,000 animals were taken in by rehab facilities. In 2009 there were over 79,000. Of those taken in, 70% were birds, 28% were mammals, and 2% were reptiles.

Al tells a story about a banded pigeon his daughter found and took in to Bird Rescue. Crystal states that most of the banded pigeons are racing birds and owners can be found by their band number. Wildlife rehabilitators, for the most part, are not allowed to band with the exception of oil spills and some endangered species.

**Public –**

- Steve Riske says he is working on a huge, multi-agency project in Mendocino County. He will attend a conference with Assemblymember Fiona Ma regarding coyote issues in the Bay Area. They are becoming prevalent in urban areas. There has been a coyote sneaking into the San Francisco Zoo, eating birds. The zoo is trying to capture and retain it. Caroline has been having mountain lion and wild turkey issues on her property lately.

Capt. Riske has noticed less abalone takes this year and discusses proposed upcoming changes to abalone diving regulations. DFG ran a checkpoint at the beginning of June - they wrote over 30 citations and confiscated around 50 abalone.

He worked on a case at the Napa/Sonoma border regarding an unregulated paper processing facility on private property; there were reports of toxic byproduct dumping in the river behind the property. The agencies involved didn't observe any dumping, but did fine the residents on other violations.

Caroline asks how the Marine Protected Area (MPA) enforcement is going. Capt. Riske explains DFG works with the Sheriff's Office and the Coast Guard to triangulate enforcement in the MPA, but with limited manpower it can be a challenge.

With no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Thomas  
Commission Secretary