



**Sonoma County Fish and Wildlife Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 21, 2012 – 7:00PM**

Commissioners Present:

Crystal Norris
Jim Lynch
Al Ferris
Brock Dolman
Don McEnhill
Al Gerhardt
Jeff Holden

Commissioners Absent:

Caroline Christian
Jo Bentz
Andrew Pozzi
Julian Meisler
David Cook

Others:

Olivia Turnross
Ingrid Stearns
Doug Gore
Ann Dubay
Gretchen Melendy

Chairperson Norris called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Six Commissioners are absent at the start of the meeting; there is no quorum.

Adoption of Minutes

Crystal asks if there were any additions or corrections to the May minutes.

Crystal requests three changes to the May 2012 minutes:

1. Correct the count for 'Ayes and 'Abstained' for all grants. Water Agency grant #162 had nine 'Ayes' and one 'Abstained'. Regional Parks grant #163 and Sonoma State grant #164 both had-ten 'Ayes'.
2. On page 4, the word 'puff' should be corrected to 'pdf.'.
3. Scholarship recipient Olivia Turnross' name was incorrectly spelled 'Turncross'.

Al Gerhardt arrives 7:25 constituting a quorum with seven Commissioners present and five absent.

Changes to the meeting minutes were approved. Al Ferris made the motion with the second by Jim and the motion carried with seven 'Ayes' and five 'Absent'.

Correspondence

- Correspondence from California State Fish and Game Commission
- Letter from Sonoma Land Trust endorsing support for the Pepperwood Foundation's Grant Request titled *Qualifying Mayacamas Range Wildlife Occupancy Using the Wildlife Picture Index*.

Financial Reports

In May, the Abalone Fund received \$25.00 from Central Collections, leaving a fund balance of \$352.82. The General Fund received \$1,418.33 from Superior Court and \$47.95 from Probation, leaving a budget balance of \$28,522.61.

Jeff made a motion to accept the May financial reports as presented, with a second by Al Ferris. Motion carried with seven 'Ayes' and five 'Absent'.

Crystal asked to move the Budget and Administrative Costs item to the end of the agenda.

Old Business

Scholarships – Al Ferris presented Olivia Turnross and Ingrid Stearns with checks for \$2,500 each. Olivia and Ingrid gave brief presentations about themselves. Al thanked the scholarship recipients. Crystal asked Ingrid if she had seen any changes over her time observing the plants in the areas that she was studying. Ingrid shared her research and findings of the various plants for the plots she has been researching.

Karen Fies, Sonoma County Water Agency Youth Ecology Corps, is requesting a grant in the amount of \$7,280.00 for the *Youth Employee Program*, second reading.

Ann Dubay, Water Agency Public Information Officer, was present on behalf of Karen Fies, and asked if there were any additional questions about the grant request. There were none. Jim Lynch made a motion to approve the grant for the entire amount of \$7,280.00, with a second by Don Mc Enhill. Motion carried for grant #165, with seven 'Ayes' and five 'Absent'.

New Business

None.

Administrative Support Cost Sharing

Crystal shared that she had reviewed the California Department of Fish & Game Code Section 13103 (j), that the Commission is mandated under, and found it clearly defines reasonable administrative costs:

13103. Expenditures from the fish and wildlife propagation fund of any county may be made only for the following purposes:

(j) Reasonable administrative costs, excluding the costs of audits required by Section 13104, for secretarial service, travel, and postage by the county fish and wildlife commission when authorized by the county board of supervisors. For purposes of this subdivision, "reasonable cost" means an amount which does not exceed 3 percent of the average amount received by the fund during the previous three-year period, or three thousand dollars (\$3,000) annually, whichever is greater, excluding any funds carried over from a previous fiscal year.

Al Ferris asked if that is the Commission's maximum amount. Crystal responded that the money received from fines has been approximately \$20,000 to \$30,000, for the past three-year average. Three percent of the average results in the maximum \$3,000 that can be spent annually by the Commission for secretarial or related services.

Crystal spoke with Fifth District Supervisor Efren Carrillo, who thought there was potentially enough funding available so that the Commission would not have to pay additional money for secretarial services, but would need to look into it further with the Agricultural Commissioner, Tony Linegar.

Jim Lynch spoke with First District Supervisor Valerie Brown, and she shared that other Commissions had been experiencing the similar budget downfalls. Supervisor Brown said she would talk with Tony next week and get back to the Commission.

Crystal stated that she would like to see a breakdown of the actual Ag Commissioner's staff time applied to Commission tasks. Crystal sees cost savings for the time that was presented to the Commission on the report. Per last month's meeting, the Commission agreed there was \$2,500.00 available for these expenses.

Crystal explains, per last month's discussion, the minutes can be shortened to one to one-and-a-half pages, but she would like to see all new grant requests continue to include a statement as to the purpose of the grant – which could cause the minutes to go beyond the one-and-a-half page limit. The Commissioners present agreed and felt it wouldn't be a problem.

Also discussed was reducing the number of meetings to ten per year. Crystal asked the Commissioners if there was a consensus for August or September to not hold a meeting. Andy, Al Ferris, Jim and Don preferred September. Jeff and Al Gerhardt didn't have a preference. Crystal stated that she knew of at least two grant requests coming to the Commission in the near future. A vote was taken, with seven 'Ayes' and five 'Absent' for September. Brock asked that the website be updated to include September as a non-meeting month.

Public Comment

Doug Gore, Dragonfly Stream Enhancement, gave an update on his Upper Green Valley Creek project, grant #138. He explained that fish are losing their spawning abilities and suggested placing boulders in the stream. After the first rain the boulders had trapped some fish spawning in the area. The structures provided a rearing habitat and were a success. He also mentioned that for the past four years he has been placing a few barrels of salmon carcasses in the Upper Green Valley. The carcasses are basically nutrient rich and help the eco-system.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm.