



**Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting Minutes**  
 Thursday, January 16, 2014 – 7:00PM

<b>Commissioners Present</b>	<b>Commissioners Absent</b>	<b>Others</b>
Crystal Norris	Al Ferris	Cary Olin, SCWA
Jim Lynch	Andrew Pozzi	Mary Ellen Rayner, Bird Rescue Center
Don McEnhill	Al Gerhardt	Ashton Kluttz, Bird Rescue Center
Brock Dolman		Gwen Frey, Fawn Rescue
David Cook		Suzanne Cassell, Fawn Rescue
Julian Meisler		Michelle Bellizzi, International Bird Rescue
Dagny Thomas		James Reed, DFG
Jeff Holden		

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Norris called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. There was a quorum.

II. Adoption of Minutes (November 2013)

A motion to adopt the November 2013 minutes was made by Jim, with a second by Jeff. Motion carries.

Passed with Ayes: 8; Nays: 0; Absent 3; Abstain 0

III. Correspondence

- A. CA Fish and Game Commission Regulatory Action Notices
- B. US Fish and Wildlife Service public comment notice
- C. Final Project Report, SC Regional Parks Foundation, grant #172
- D. Final Project Report, Gunsalus/Upp Road Gully Stabilization, grant #173

IV. Financial Reports (November & December, 2013, General and Abalone Funds)

November & December financials were presented. The balance as of November 30, 2013, in the Abalone Fund was \$350.00; balance in the General Fund was \$31,486.76.

The Balance as of December 31, 2013, in the Abalone Fund was \$350.00; balance in the General Fund was \$30,732.38.

A motion to adopt the November and December 2013 financial reports was made by Jeff, with a second by Jim. Motion carries.

Passed with Ayes: 8; Nays: 0; Absent 3; Abstain 0

V. Old Business

**A. Cary Olin, Sonoma County Water Agency – Steelhead in the Classroom, Equipment for Educators. *Final Reading***

**Report:** Cary reports that the Water Agency hosted a workshop for teachers on November 16, 2013, with 21 attendees, five from other counties (16 Sonoma County, 4 Mendocino County, and 1 Marin County). There were four pick up days for the eggs at the Warm Springs Hatchery.

**Action:** Jim motions for full funding with a second by Julian. Motion carries.

Passed with Ayes: 6; Nays: 0; Absent 3; Abstain 2 (Dave and Dagny). **Grant #174.**

**B. Suzanne Cassell, Wildlife Fawn Rescue – Care of orphaned ill and injured fawns. *Second Reading***

**Report:** Gwen Fry gave an end of 2013 report, explaining that Fawn Rescue had treated 104 fawns and 7 adults, and that they used four satellite pens. Their success rate was 95%. They are looking for more volunteers with land to use for more satellite pens.

**Action:** Jim motions for full funding with a second by Dagny. Motion carries.

Passed with Ayes: 8; Nays: 0; Absent 3; Abstain 0. **Grant #175.**

**C. Mary Ellen Rayner, Bird Rescue Center presentation, Grant #171**

**Report:** Mary Ellen thanked the Commission for the grant and explains that Bird Rescue released 108 birds, euthanized 48, and had 8 deaths during the past season. They found a recurring musculoskeletal deformity in the legs of many Great Egrets and are researching the possible causes of it. She and Michelle Belizzi of International Bird Rescue gave PowerPoint presentations highlighting the injuries, treatment methods, and release of the birds.

VI. New Business

**A. Fish and Wildlife marketing brochure and scholarships update – Dagny Thomas**

**Report:** Dagny has obtained three printing bids for the brochures and has finalized the brochure, incorporating feedback from the Commission. The lowest bid from PsPrint came in at \$312.06. The scholarship materials have been updated and finalized and an email distribution list was created including county high schools and regional colleges. The 'mailing' will be entirely digital this year, greatly reducing administrative time and resources. The email will be sent out after the holiday weekend.

**Action:** Jeff motions to approve a maximum of \$325.00 for printing of the brochures, with a second by Dave. Motion carries. Dagny will check with the Ag Office on how to request the funds.

Passed with Ayes: 8; Nays: 0; Absent 3; Abstain 0

**B. Salmon Creek Sediment Release fines**

**Report:** The Commission discusses a recent civil case prosecuted by the District Attorney's Office that resulted in \$38,000 in fines and restitution. A vineyard developer released sediment into a tributary of Salmon Creek during a construction project. The Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in conjunction with other agencies, investigated and brought the case to the DA. Crystal says that from breakdown of the monies, \$12,500.00 will come to the Fish and Wildlife Commission's General Fund with no restrictions on those funds. The remainder will cover investigation costs, and go to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and California State Fish and Wildlife Preservation Fund.

VII. Reports/Comments

- A. Public – James Reed with the Department of Fish and Wildlife gives some details on an upcoming event that will clean up Piner Flat and invites any interested Commissioners to attend.
- B. Board –
  - i. Crystal says the County will be rolling budgets over, so the 2014-2015 budget will be the same as 2013-2014. Due to the large sum coming in from the Salmon Creek case fines, the Commission has the option to request from the Board of Supervisors up to 25% additional funding from the reserve balance if needed.
  - ii. Dave says the salmon run isn't looking good due to 2013 being the driest year on record. Lake Mendocino is almost dry. Just under half of the salmon spawned in Dry Creek. 49 Steelhead and Chinook have been counted in the Russian River south of Guerneville.
  - iii. Brock says UCCE counted 35 tagged Coho and that most are stuck in the lower Russian River. He visited Cuba in the past few months and enjoyed himself. He observed the bee hummingbird, which is the smallest bird in the world.