



Mendocino County Fish & Game Commission
501 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA 95482

MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, December 9, 2014
TIME: 6:00 pm
LOCATION: Mendocino County Agricultural Center
890 N. Bush Street, Ukiah, CA 95482

AND

Via TELECONFERENCE with call-in number (707) 969-7490

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioners Trouette, Bremer, Morgan, White, Martin and Secretary Pfeiffer.
Absent: Commissioners Anderson, Vann

2. PUBLIC EXPRESSION (NO ACTION)

Pat Higgins (Eel River Recovery Project/Trees Foundation): Noted that at least 10,000 Chinook salmon in the Eel River this season.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Commissioner White motioned to approve with corrections, Commissioner Morgan seconded. Unanimously approved.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS (NO ACTION)

Commissioner Martin will be attending the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) meeting in Vancouver, Canada in January 2015. Halibut are managed by international treaty. California is having difficulties in staying below the 6000 lbs limit (for the entire State), and a number of stakeholders will be attending to speak to this point. Pat Ford suggested that size limitations be proposed. Patrick Higgins (Humboldt Bay Harbor Commissioner) states that it is possible to fish halibut at 140 lbs in the Bay. Concern that science shows a harvestable surplus but that doesn't show up in the IPHC management. Their data shows that growth rates of halibut in the Bay are positive (and rebounding); better than other regions. White: concerned about short-term increases in quotas; cites case of ling cod regulations, which have been coordinated with MSY (Maximum Sustainable Yield), and have been stochastic in the past.

Martin: representatives of the Sonoma County Abalone Network (SCAN) have been attending State Fish and Game Commission meetings regarding changes to the State abalone management plan; advocating for more representative index sites (e.g., other than the most heavily harvested sites) and more frequent site visits (instead of every four years) in data collection and setting policy. Abalone divers will be receiving a survey to provide a more comprehensive assessment of goals for the management plan. White's concern that the science underlying the abalone management plan is not based on red abalone data has been brought forward to the F&GC by Martin.

Trouette: Referenced a discussion about reestablishing a State-wide consortium of Commissions come together as a body.

Secretary: We received a correspondence from Andrew Pozzi, Sonoma County Fish and Game Commission, asking for sign-on to a letter addressing State DFW Regulation 1.45 regarding processing fish beyond basic cleaning on the Sacramento River (and the tributaries thereof); concerned that the guidelines would preference fishing guides, and contradicts Regulation 1.87. Martin: this regulation may be addressed towards enforcing possession limits; unsure if this is a correct reading of the Code. We will re-contact Mr. Pozzi, ask him to forward the exact wording of the Regulation and to highlight the exact wording in question and explain, point-by-point his concerns. We will also help connect Mr. Pozzi with the Humboldt County Fish & Game Commission.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Officers are President and Vice-President. Commissioner Martin nominated Commissioner White for President. Morgan seconded this motion. Commissioner Martin nominated Trouette as Vice President. White seconded the motion. Unanimous approval. Our new President is Commissioner White and Commissioner Trouette continues as Vice-President.

The Secretary will contact Supervisor Gjerde to request a replacement Commissioner for Martin, and will contact Supervisor Hamburg regarding Commissioner Anderson, who is hoping to step down.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Scheduling of executive teleconference session to discuss Commissioner Code of Conduct.

Martin: issues have come up as how we represent ourselves as Commissioners over a conference call. White noted that for a closed session we should have County Counsel present in a closed session. Secretary noted that there are actually two issues: one, a confidential letter received; secondly, a more general discussion to we will place this discussion on the next meeting agenda, and will collect templates/examples from a number of different sources for perusal (e.g., California Special Districts Association website).

B. Scheduling of 2015 Commission meetings

White: discussed the importance of bringing meetings to communities around the County. Advocates for consistency in our meeting schedule. Terry Guerrero advocates for Commissioners being able to meet directly with constituents in their districts. Due to the tight-knit nature of communities, word spreads within the community; it means a lot for the

community to have a County body showing up. Secretary: notes that public attendance from the community has quadrupled in the past year. Wall: small communities feel more comfortable voicing their opinion within their community.

During our last meeting the Commission approved a January 13, 2015 meeting for reviewing grant applications (Ad Hoc and Full Commission).

The Commission decided to continue the past rotation of three locations for the meetings. With sufficient special interest, meetings could be changed to Covelo or Pt. Arena.

Wall: the Forestry office in Covelo could provide videoconferencing to loop Covelo into our meetings. Can look into Ft. Bragg and Pt. Arena local community television broadcasts to support local videoconference participation in future Commission meetings.

The Commission will continue to meet on the Second Tuesday of alternates months in the following cities at our public libraries (to ensure wifi capacity). Commissioner Morgan motioned; White seconded; unanimously approved.

January 13, 2015 – Ft. Bragg
February 10, 2015 – Ukiah
April 14, 2015 – Willits

June 9, 2015 – Ukiah
August 11, 2015 – Willits
October 13, 2015 – Ft. Bragg
December 15, 2015 – Ukiah (central for grant applicants)

7. PRESENTATIONS BY GRANT APPLICANTS

Secretary: the Commission has received 9 grant proposals from 7 agencies for a total of \$43, 945 requested.

Patrick Ford: Sacramento Pike Minnow Abatement Program. Ukiah Rod & Gun has been running the program for 18 years; offering \$3-5 for pike minnows over 10 inches caught in the Russian River Watershed to eliminate the breeding females. Very popular with kids. Has seen a decline in the abundance of pike minnows since the program began. The Rod & Gun club is willing to start the program on the Eel River (PG&E were supposed to be involved in the eradication of the pike minnow on that River, but apparently they are only counting them). White concerned that he saw non-target species (hardhead and catostomid fish) entered. Also concerned that he saw high-littering transients subsisting from income derived from entering pike minnows (and other species) in the lottery. Advocates for looking at the larger picture/food web, as Chinook and steelhead are known to eat pike minnows. White requested a report on the demographics of participants.

Pat Higgins, Round Valley Elementary School Salmon and Steelhead Education Project. This proposal from ERRP/Trees Foundation follows a salmon education day held in Covelo; found the caliber and enthusiasm of the students and teachers and teachers' aides was impressive. They were approached by educators stating that they wanted to do more, and asking for additional training. Training would include how to take and understand water temperature data, raise steelhead in the classroom, and sponsor trips to the river. The cost of salmon lifecycle posters would be partially subsidized by the Trees Foundation. See letters of support from tribal and community leaders. Bill Wall: notes there are additional grants for training of trainers and citizen monitoring.

Paul Trouette, Indian Creek Reclamation, LEAR Management. LEAR works on public lands and private lands, perform helicopter reclamations. Targeted two adjacent campsites and grow sites on Bureau of Land Management that are so remote only a helicopter recovery will work. All-day job with ten people: “glorified garbage collection.” All the property owners on board for the effort.

Michelle Zuro-Kreimer, US Forest Service, Hammerhorn Lake Improvement. The Lake has been stocked with rainbow trout in the past, and due to low water levels and a fissure in the NE end of the Lake, has not been stocked recently. The fissure has been repaired (thus the Lake was not filled this year for the repairs), and new interpretive signage has been installed. Volunteers monitor for Western pond turtles and mow the weeds around the docks (which have also been repaired and painted). Two grant requests: one to extend the disabled access trail (1/2 mile long), repair the water line, construct turtle habitat structures, re-grade the shoreline, and install bridges in the water crossing areas. Current USFS fees don’t support the necessary work. White: commends this project for meeting the standards set by Fish & Game Code. Pat Guerrero: commends USFS for bringing the Lake back to how he’s remembered its quality in the past. Notes that this is a unique, and highly popular high-altitude fishing/camping location; in the past, Hammerhorn Lake waters proved critical as a dip-site location for helicopters dealing with wildfires.

8. COMMISSIONER REPORTS (INFORMATIONAL – NO ACTION)

White: we are forecast to get substantial flooding on Thursday, December 11th.

Commissioner Vann (report via email): has been talking with Humboldt and Trinity County Commissioners, who are interested in forming a joint committee regarding the decline of the black tail deer herds.

Secretary: bureaucratic snafus have prevented DFW Warden Powers, a successful grant applicant for the 2014-15 grant cycle who, due to Mendocino County staff delays and inflexible procedures on both the County side and the DFW side, has been waiting an entire year to receive Commission and County Board of Supervisors approved funds to pay for field equipment. Commissioner White, as the new President, will accompany the Secretary to make a presentation during a Public Comment at the County Board of Supervisors meeting.

9. IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- a. Commissioner Code of Conduct
- b. Grant proposals

10. ADJOURNMENT