



Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 16, 2015 – 7:00 pm

Commissioners Present	Commissioners Absent	Others
Crystal Norris - Chairperson	Brock Dolman	Michelle Johnson – SC Dept of Ag
David Cook	Al Ferris	James Reed – CDFW
Beth Lamb	Al Gerhardt	Steve Riske – CDFW
Jim Lynch	Jeff Holden	Susan Kirks – Paula Lane Action Network
Don McEnhill	Dagny Thomas	Michele Luna – Stewards of the Coast & Redwoods
Julian Meisler		Suzanne Olyarnik – Bodega Marine Reserve
Andy Pozzi		Faye Hale – Santa Rosa High School
		Jesse Yaeger – Santa Rosa High School
		Olivia Camilleri – Sonoma State University

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Crystal Norris called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

II. Adoption of March 2015 Minutes

Report: Crystal Norris asks if there are any additions or corrections to the March 2015 minutes.

Action: A motion was made by Don McEnhill to accept minutes; motion seconded by Andy Pozzi.

Passed with: 7 ayes, 0 nays, 5 absent.

III. Correspondence

Fish and Game Commission notices.

IV. Financial Reports

a. **March 2015 reports:** Abalone Fund balance is \$350.00; General Fund balance is \$15,537.85.

Action: A motion was made by Jim Lynch to accept financial reports; motion seconded by Julian Meisler.

Passed with: 7 ayes, 0 nays, 5 absent.

Budget discussion: Discussion regarding amending current grant guidelines to adjust minimum Fund Reserve balance of General Fund. Currently, there is no mechanism in place to allow Commission to “adjust” this balance. Based on current finances there are not enough funds to accommodate the upcoming 2015/16 Fiscal Year budget period.

During discussion, the questions was: Why has there been a decrease in the dollar amount of revenues from CDFW fines? Capt. Steve Riske with CDFW provided some insight and additional detail into the decrease in revenue might be due to changes in how wardens write fines, including the issuance of infractions instead of misdemeanors. An infraction, similar to a “fix it” ticket, is a reduced penalty that can be paid by the offender, and does not stay on the offender’s record. A misdemeanor usually carries a higher penalty, and is filed and prosecuted through the District Attorney’s office.

The Commission questioned a number of items: lowering the Fund Reserve, lowering grant amounts, Commission meetings, and the possibility of requesting a reconciliation of number of infractions issued compared to the amount of fines received by the Commission.

Crystal Norris, Jim Lynch, Don McEnhill, and Capt. Steve Riske agree to act as a committee to gather additional information and to meet at a later date to discuss any possible further action.

V. Old Business

- a. **Funding for taxidermy of American Badger. \$3,500.00 (revised).** Paula Lane Action Network. Susan Kirks, (707) 773-2315. *Second Reading.*

Report: Susan Kirks provided a second quote and revised the requested amount. The grant funds would be used for expert taxidermy of a deceased American Badger specimen. The specimen will be encased in a museum quality display case and housed in a locked barn on P.L.A.N.'s property when not in use during educational events.

Action: A motion was made by Don McEnhill to fund the grant for the full revised amount of \$3,500.00; motion seconded by Beth Lamb. Grant #187.

Passed with: 5 ayes, 2 nays, 5 absent.

- b. **Funding for Sonoma Coast marine protected area education and outreach project. \$8,000.00.** Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods. Michele Luna, (707) 869-9177. *Second Reading.*

Report: Michele Luna provided additional detail and a revised budget for video project. After hearing budget discussion, Ms. Luna offered to postpone the second reading of revised grant request until July 2015.

Action: Second reading postponed until July 2015 meeting; reading to be added under *Old Business* on July 2015 agenda.

VI. New Business

- a. **2015 Scholarships. Five (5) scholarships at \$1,000.00 each.**

Report: 18 scholarship applications were submitted; 10 were qualified and blinded for review by the Commission. Blind voting was conducted, with present commissioners providing their top 5 finalists. The top 5 finalists and recipients of the 2015 scholarships are:

- Melina Hammar-Elisan, Santa Rosa, attending Sonoma State University
- Dakota Iribarne, Petaluma, attending Humboldt State University
- Amelia Johnson, Cloverdale, attending Portland State University
- Athena Maguire, Freestone, attending Sonoma State University
- Kerriane McCarthy, Penngrove, attending Humboldt State University

VII. Reports/Comments

- a. Public
b. Board

VIII. Adjourn

Chairperson Crystal Norris adjourned the meeting at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Johnson
Commission Secretary