

### COUNTY OF PLACER FISH & GAME COMMISSION

Ed King Deputy Agricultural Commissioner County Contact

FISH & GAME COMMISSION MEMBERS

DISTRICT 1
Don Gould
DISTRICT 3
DISTRICT 3
DISTRICT 4
Gregg McKenzie
DISTRICT 5
Kari Freidig
DISTRICT 5
Ron Salter

DISTRICT 5
Mickey Daniels

11477 E AVENUE AUBURN, CALIFORNIA 95603 TELEPHONE: (530) 889-7372 FAX: (530) 823-1698 www.placer.ca.gov

# PLACER COUNTY FISH & GAME COMMISSION Minutes

TIME/DATE: 7:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012

LOCATION: PLACER COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING ROOM

Community Development Resource Agency, DeWitt Center, Auburn 3091 County Center Drive (corner of Bell Road and Richardson Drive),

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- I. CALL TO ORDER Gary Flanagan, Chairperson
- II. ROLL CALL Mark Fowler, Don Gould, Gary Flanagan, Ron Salter, Kari Freidig, Gregg McKenzie

Not Present: Mickey Daniels

III. Approval of agenda for September 26, 2012 and minutes for August 22, 2012

Commissioner Gould motioned to accept the agenda.

Commissioner McKenzie seconded the motion.

All commissioners voted to accept the agenda.

Commissioner Fowler motioned to accept the minutes from August 22, 2012.

Commissioner Gould seconded the motion.

All voting commissioners voted to accept the minutes.

Commissioner Freidig abstained.

### IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Individuals may address the Commission on items under the jurisdiction of the Agricultural Commission not included on this agenda for no longer than three (3) minutes. *No action can be taken on items addressed under Public Comment* 

Lyndell Grey of the Fruitvale School – thanked the commission for the grant last year. Gave each commissioner a summary report and will provide the full report to Ed King. She indicated that this program gives students exposure to nature. This year's topic was barn owls. They discussed the owl's diet, habitat and other facts about owls. They also had a nature walk. Lastly, they learned about other animals that are located on the Fruitvale School property. www.fruitvaleschool.org/index.html

## V. FINANCIAL REPORT A. Budget Update – Ed King

Expenditures for FY 12/13, through August 31, 2012, total \$513.69 including, \$210.00 in commissioner's fees, \$100.00 in secretary fees and \$203.69 in mileage reimbursement.

Revenues through August 31, 2012 total \$34.28, including \$6.82 in fine monies and \$27.46 in interest. A total of \$1,200.00 was budgeted for the fiscal year.

The Board of Supervisors approved the final budget on Tuesday. The commission has received two completed grant applications. Applications are due on October 12.

# VI. AGENCY REPORTS A. Commission Updates

Commissioner Freidig reported that she went through old Placer County Fish & Game Commission minutes and records dating back to 1961. She reported that the commission, in the past, was supportive of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and addressed fine money issues just as the present commission is.

She further reported statistics on West Nile virus and its impact on wildlife.

Commissioner Flanagan reported that an elderly gentleman from Granite Bay recently passed way from West Nile virus.

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, Placer County will be hosting the Central Sierra Association of Fish and Game Commissioners meeting.

#### B. California Department of Fish & Game – Lt. John Lawson

Captain Mark Peters joined the meeting as well. He reported that wardens are finding marijuana groves on private lands. They are using pesticides that are extremely detrimental to fish and wildlife and cause environmental hazards.

Lt. John Lawson – (4 topics)

The department will be submitting a request for this year's grant program for funding to purchase portable winches that can be attached to their vehicles. They are needed when they load a bear or other large animals into the back of their vehicles.

Citation Log for Placer

7 citations we issued in Placer County – The types of citations issued were for fishing without a license or having a firearm while hunting with archery equipment.

They made a good case during dove season. The property was being baited for turkey. The hunters on this property got their dove limits within 45 minutes of the opening of the season. Later that day, wardens found bait in the field. The next day they cited 9 individuals for hunting over bait.

Task force – Jane Crue, Deputy DA, started an environmental crimes task force that includes the Dept. of Fish and Game. Warden Moore attended the first meeting. The next meeting is in November.

Lt. Lawson reported that they will pick up the boat tomorrow for Lake Tahoe. They will start working on a place to store/slip the boat on the lake.

Commissioners thanked Lt. Lawson sending weekly activity logs.

### C. Nevada Irrigation District – Sue Sindt

None.

#### **Non-Action Items**

VII. Presentation by Patrick Shea, Ph. D, Chief Financial Officer and Executive Director of the Wildlife Heritage Foundation (WHF) on lands they hold in Placer County and the purpose of the land trust including public access and recreational opportunities

Patrick Shea, PhD presented a slide show to the commission.

Wildlife Heritage Foundation is based in Lincoln. They follow certain conservation values:

 Quality of life, support natural systems, innovations, science based conservation, species protection

They have a governing board:

- President
- Executive Director/CFO
- Secretary
- 4 Directors

They have 7 staff members.

They hold 74 conservation easements all over the state including various types of properties (wetlands, grasslands, oak woodlands, riparian).

Sun City has a 389-acre conservation easement. Sun City is the Preserve Manager. WHF is the conservator.

The plan protects listed species.

The other responsibility is protecting the habitat. Many have the vernal pool fairy shrimp, an endangered species.

One of the important things is to manager invasive species including Himalayan Blackberry and Yellow Star thistle. Goats have been used in the past with some success to control both.

Sun City Open Space – "A true California gem that residents are very proud of. It clearly demonstrates that when thoughtfully planned, carefully implemented, and protected, natural and viable ecosystems can coexist adjacent to urban development."

WHF is dedicated to an education program. This program serves about 1000 students in western Placer County. They spend a day walking through the area and biologists are on hand to answer questions. It is free of charge to the students and they will pay for buses if the school cannot afford them. Thanked the commission for the funding the "Calling Back the Salmon Festival" in Lincoln.

There are 17 properties in Placer County; which total about 7800 acres.

Commissioner McKenzie asked about hunting and fishing.

Answer: They do try to write into the conservation plan that hunting is an allowable activity. No commercial hunting or fishing activities are allowed. They actually encourage hunting and fishing.

On several properties, they maintain trails.

Their URL is www.wildlifeheritage.org

## VIII. The mission and role of the Office of County Counsel, Christa Darlington, Deputy County Counsel

Christa Darlington addressed the commission and explained the role of County Counsel. She is assigned to work with the Agriculture department.

Generally, the attorneys do not attend advisory committee and commission meetings.

They are revamping the forms that deal with conflicts of interest.

She will check on the renewals for ethics training frequency.

#### **Action Items**

# IX. Continued discussion and possible vote regarding the lawsuit filed against the US Forest Service by the Pacific Legal Foundation. (Off road closures in the Tahoe National Forest) Tabled from August Meeting

Terry Brennan from the US Forest Service made a brief presentation on the Tahoe National Forest's Motorized Travel Management Project.

#### Public Comment:

Barbara Rivenes, Nevada County, Sierra Club Motherlode Chapter. The Sierra Club does not think this is a perfect plan. Singular roads are not the issue. She is concerned with erosion, habitat loss and environmental impacts. This does not impact horseback riding, hiking or bicycling.

SPI is a very large landowner in the Sierra Nevada. They are very concerned about trespassers. They think the Tahoe National forest is big enough for everyone.

Jim Ricker, North Fork American River Alliance – The point of the work was to stop the unauthorized use of the land by motorized vehicles. These could be considered illegal roads. Indicated the biggest threat to the forest was due to unauthorized roads in the forest. He suggested that that the commission support the Forest Service's plan or take no action.

Marylyn Jasper – Supported what the previous speakers suggested.

800,000 acres – 80% of the Tahoe National Forest can be accessed within .5 mile of a road. People are not being banned; only the motorized vehicles.

Don Rivenes, Sierra Foothills Audubon Society – Wanted to clarity that there is an appendix that describes every route and why routes are being closed.

They added 73 miles of routes and approximately 200 camping sites.

It is important that many of the roads targeted for closure were unauthorized. Indicates this is a balanced approach. Many of the routes that were selected for closure were limited to very high clearance or motorcycles only.

The Forest Service also surveyed the size of the roads. Indicate they looked at the type of vehicles using the roads. For example, single track (motorcycles) vs. duel track (ATV and trucks/cars). They also looked at the width of the tracks (ATVs vs. trucks).

Jerry Bloom – Forest Issues Group. Specially looks at the Tahoe National Forest. This commission should be looking at protecting the wildlife. He encouraged the commission take no action or support the Forest Service.

Commissioner Flanagan asked if any roads to destination points would be closed.

Through public involvement, they tried to identify the roads that need to be closed to protect the forest.

Commissioner Freidig indicated she wished she was involved and appreciated the involvement of the nonprofit groups.

Commissioner Flanagan indicated that they should table the item for next week.

Commissioner Salter motioned they table this topic until they have the map of the closure to view.

Commissioner Gould seconded the motion.

All present voted in favor of the motion.

#### X. ADJOURNMENT at 9:05

### XI. Next meeting will be Wednesday October 24, 2012