

COUNTY OF PLACER

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEMBERS

DON GOULD
District 1
District 2

ROBERT HASWELL
District 3

KARI FREIDIG
District 5/Colfax
District 5/Cosesthill
MICKEY DANIELS
District 5/Tahoe

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Joshua Huntsinger, Agricultural Commissioner County Contact

PLACER COUNTY FISH & GAME COMMISSION MINUTES

May 25th, 2011 7:00 P.M.

Placer County Government Center Hearing Room

DeWitt Center 2900 Richardson Drive Auburn, CA 95603

<u>Members Present</u>: Gary Flanagan, Mark Fowler, Kari Freidig Don Gould, Ron Salter

Members Absent: Robert Haswell, Mickey Daniels

- I. CALL TO ORDER (Roll Call) Gary Flanagan, Chairman at 7:02 pm
- II. Roll Call- Paul Meyers, Secretary
 - a. Opening Statement
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES April 27th, 2011

Fowler motioned to approve the minutes as written Gould seconded

Minutes approved unanimously

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – Individuals may address the Commission on items under the jurisdiction of the Fish and Game Commission not included on this agenda for no longer than five (5) minutes. *No action can be taken on items addressed under Public Comment.*

None

- V. FINANCIAL REPORT
 - a. Budget update

Josh Huntsinger reported:

Expenditures to date total \$7,933.97, including \$1,290.00 in commissioner's fees, \$700.00 in secretary fees, \$4,874.62 in grants, and \$1,061.35 in mileage reimbursement. Budgeted expenditures for the remainder of the fiscal year total \$2,436.03. These figures do not include approximately \$600.00 in expenses from the April meeting.

Revenues to date total \$1,580.40, including \$1,209.09 in fine monies, and \$371.31 in interest. A total of \$1,200.00 was budgeted for the current fiscal year.

VI. AGENCY REPORTS

a. California Department of Fish and Game (DFG)

Lt. Vincent reported:

DFG has received a number of threats from individuals and groups who have threatened to conduct suction dredge mining activities in defiance of the current ban on such activities. DFG is committed to enforcing the current ban on suction dredge mining.

The opening of trout season was pretty slow. The unseasonably cool wet weather is having a limiting effect on the number of people fishing.

Turkey season is over. One person took a turkey out of season (during archery and junior) with a shotgun. DFG investigated the incident and issued citations.

The National Geographic show, *Wild Justice*, has been in the area working with the local wardens. They served two search warrants and seized a couple of licenses and other evidence in Nevada County. The case involved deer poaching. One citation was issued to a person who was using two different licenses (with different last names) to harvest deer. All of the people involved in the case had medical marijuana prescription cards. They were in possession of several plants and processed hashish (formerly a felony). No drug related citations/arrests were carried out.

b. Commissioner Updates

Fowler – American River Mercury TMDL meetings have been delayed.

Flanagan – The second meeting of the Central Sierra Fish and Game Commissions was postponed. The next meeting will be in June. Commissioners Flanagan, Salter and Haswell were appointed as a sub-committee to attend such meetings.

Flanagan announced that the letter from the board of supervisors sent a letter to the California Department Fish and Game regarding the commission's concerns related to suction dredge mining. The letter was delivered to DFG prior to the close of the public comment period. The Legislature is also acting to place a five year hold on the use of suction dredges. The Legislature indicated that dredging permit system is not financially self-supporting as another reason they wanted to see more research on the impacts of suction dredge mining.

Flanagan spoke to Eric R. Loft, Chief from the Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Branch, about two new commissions created to advise DFG on the use of wildlife preservation funds (Upland Game Bird Account and Big Game Management account). The purpose of these accounts is to enhance transparency and accountability for the receipt and expenditure of the funds.

c. Nevada Irrigation District

Josh Huntsinger reported that a section of PG &E's Bear River canal collapsed on April 19th. This canal delivers 450 cubic feet per second of water to PCWA and NID. The canal collapsed when part of the hillside fell away. Water erosion then washed more the hillside away as it took time for the water to be turned off. This event occurred at the beginning of the irrigation season.

On a positive note, PG&E and others have worked together to compensate for the reduced water deliveries. Additionally, the cool wet weather has helped. The current plans are to have the canal restored by the middle of June.

VII. Old Business

a. Report by Sharry Shumaker, Operations Director, Placer County Courts, regarding past fines received from California Fish & Game violations

Sharry Shumaker reported:

The courts looked at the last 3 fiscal years (08/09, 09/10 and 10/11). 09/10 did not have any significant issues. Accuracy is much better.

There are three buckets (preservation, propagation and secret witness) that direct moneys to the fish and game commission. Not sure if this commission is entitled to the base fee.

The corrected distributions to be received by the commission include:

FY 08/09 - preservation - \$1295, propagation is \$1295, secret witness \$225

FY 09/10 - preservation - \$135, propagation \$135, secret witness \$45

FY 10/11 - preservation - \$40, propagation \$40, secret witness \$15

Discussion was had on the base fine.

Did this include fines for environmental issues (like toxic spills)? The review was specific to violations of the California Fish and Game Code. Court staff did not look at other codes.

The Commission asked about out of court settlements? These are up to the District Attorney to determine where the money is to go. Many times the charges are changed to civil charges. Once a case gets prosecuted as a civil case, there is no automatic distribution to the fish and game commission.

Sharry will check into the base fines and will report back to Josh.

08/09 is as far back as the courts could go.

The court will be updating their computer system to enable them send out bail notices and not require people to show up in court. One example violation that will change is violations for fishing without a license.

VIII. New Business

a. None

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IX. ADJOURMENT

Commissioner Flanagan adjourned the meeting at 7:50 PM

Paul Meyers – Recording Secretary

Next Meeting - Wednesday July 27th, 2011