



**COUNTY OF PLACER
FISH & GAME COMMISSION**

**Ed King
Deputy Agricultural Commissioner
County Contact**

FISH & GAME COMMISSION MEMBERS

DISTRICT 1 Don Gould	DISTRICT 2 Mark Fowler
DISTRICT 3 Gregg McKenzie	DISTRICT 4 Gary Flanagan
DISTRICT 5 Kari Freidig	DISTRICT 5 Vacant
DISTRICT 5 Mickey Daniels	

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**PLACER COUNTY
FISH & GAME COMMISSION
Minutes**

TIME/DATE: 7:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, October 23, 2013

**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),**

The Placer County Fish & Game Commission is committed to ensuring that persons with disabilities are provided the resources to participate fully in its public meetings. If you are hearing impaired, we have listening devices available. If you require additional disability-related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Recording Secretary at (530) 889-7372. If requested, the agenda shall be provided in appropriate alternative formats to persons with disabilities. All requests must be received at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting for which you are requesting accommodation. Requests received after such time will be accommodated only if time permits.

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Don Gould, Chairperson**
- II. ROLL CALL – Mark Fowler, Gary Flanagan, Mickey Daniels, Don Gould, Kari Freidig, Gregg McKenzie**
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR October 23, 2013 AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF September 25, 2013**

Commissioner Daniels motioned to accept the minutes from September 25, 2012.

Commissioner Fowler seconded the motion

All voting commissioners voted to accept the minutes.

Commissioner McKenzie did not vote

Commissioner Fowler motioned to accept the agenda.

Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion.

All commissioners voted to accept the agenda.

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***

None.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Budget Update – Ed King

Expenditures for FY 13/14, through September 30, 2013, total \$470.41 including \$180.00 in commissioner’s fees, \$100.00 in secretary fees and \$190.41 in mileage reimbursement.

Revenues through September 30, 2013, total \$188.09, including \$135.67 in fine and penalty monies and \$53.42 in interest.

VI. AGENCY REPORTS

A. Commission Updates

Commissioner Freidig indicated that AB711 passed – ban on all lead ammunition.

Commissioner Flanagan mentioned the email forwarded to the commission regarding removal of one of the Yuba County Fish and Game Commission members.

B. California Department of Fish & Game –

None

C. Nevada Irrigation District – Sue Sindt

NID ended the irrigation season at 101% average of storage.

Agencies received a 30-day extension to comment on relicensing projects because of the Federal government shutdown.

NID is attempting to raise the water column using a temporary seasonal structure at Hemphill Dam on Auburn Ravine to help fish passage.

Tim Crough – NID Assistant General Manager.

Reported that NID intends to remove mercury contaminated sediment at the upper end of Lake Combie. Sand and gravel mining upstream from the reservoir was causing a spike in mercury levels. In 2002, TMDLs were established for mercury. Each time they started to dredge, it would cause a spike in the mercury levels. The mercury is in the silt of the lake.

The project focuses on the sediment in the upper end of the lake. Removed sand will be used for asphalt and concrete. NID acquired a special centrifuge from Canada that spins the extracted materials to remove mercury and gold.

Sediments will be dredged and slurry will be pumped upstream to the centrifuge. Return water will be sent to a dredge pond where mercury levels will be monitored.

Lake Combie is a diversion reservoir. It is not a primary storage facility although NID estimates that 10,000-12,000 acre feet of storage space is now filled with sediment. 40-50% of NID water runs through Combie.

If this project is successful NID would like to run a similar operation at Rollins Lake. They estimate that a second project at Rollins would not begin for 10 years.

The project has all of the permits and some grant support. They are optimistic to get additional grants to start the project. The project is estimated to cost \$9 million with \$1 million in gold recovery.

Mercury moves in the food chain and bioaccumulates in living organisms.

Warnings are in place recommending no more than two fish in a week from Combie be consumed and no fish for women that might become pregnant.

It used to be believed that mercury stored behind dams was ok. However, new studies indicate that storm events stir up the mercury and cause it to spill over the Combie weir. As a result, fish in Camp Far West reservoir downstream have higher levels of mercury.

Commissioner Flanagan asked how this project will impact the local community.

Recreation value and opportunities will increase because dredging and sediment removal will increase the size of the lake.

Meadow Vista was concerned about project noise and the trucks. The dredge is very quiet as it is electric. It is far away from the homes. The other noise concern is trucks. The project will not create any additional truck traffic beyond what is currently takes place.

NID did take into consideration community concerns when creating the final plans and revised CEQA documents after consulting with the Meadow Vista MAC.

Commissioner Freidig asked for clarification on the process.

The concern was about the amount of truck traffic. It was explained that truck traffic will not increase.

Commissioner Freidig asked why the sediment accumulated.

Sediments in the river are deposited in the reservoir when water slows down and then the sand settles.

Commissioner Freidig asked if the Teichert plant caused the issue.

The indication is that this is a natural event. The Chevreux/Teichert plant typically removed 50,000 tons of sand per year prior to settling in the lake.

Commissioner Freidig asked if the dredging will stir up mercury.

The indication is that this will not add to the mercury content in the lake. Storms have a larger impact.

Commissioner Fowler asked if there is another similar project anywhere.

There are no other projects like this anywhere. NID has many collaborators in this project including the USGS and environmental organizations.

The project is 3 to 5 years long. It will depend on the speed of the mercury concentrator.

Commissioner Flanagan asked about the suction dredging and why it was stopped for gold miners. Is this going to be seasonal event? Is this going to release mercury into the water column? Has this been addressed in the CEQA document?

This dredge does not stir up the water. The difference is this water is not going through a sluice box. In this operation, water will be captured and filtered of mercury and gold. Gold miners brought an estimated 11,000 tons of mercury to the Sierras, 30% of which may have been lost in rivers.

NID met with the Meadow Vista MAC twice in 2008 and 2009.

Commissioner Flanagan asked if he would come back and give another presentation at a later date.

There is additional information on this project on the nidwater.com website.

Commissioner Flanagan asked why this was not part of the FERC relicensing process.

The FERC relicense boundary stops at Rollins Lake. Combie is not within the scope of the project.

Commissioner Freidig asked about Native American artifacts.

There are artifacts in the lake. There are no artifacts in the immediate area where the dredging will take place.

Commissioner Flanagan asked Supervisor Montgomery's aide how the commission and the Meadow Vista MAC can complement each other.

They can work together; however, much of this has already been discussed and resolved.

Non-Action Items

VII. Gold Country Wildlife Rescue, Program Update – Leon McKie, President

Mission is to protect and preserve wildlife. They are a 501(c)(3) and have been severing Placer County since 1991. They take care of injured and orphaned wildlife.

Most animals are there due to impact of human intervention.

They received 1,792 animals in 2012. Placer County was the fastest growing county in 2012.

Operating expenses include \$15,000 for food, medicine, cages and veterinary care. Total operating expenses for 2012, totaled \$53,000.

They get some animals that cannot be re-introduced into the wild. They become educational ambassadors that are used to for educational purposes.

They received 5,600 calls in 2012 that might have otherwise gone to DFW, Sheriff or police. They involve the youth in their organization. They rely on grants, fund raising and donations.

An American Kestrel and a great horned owl were displayed to the commission.

Commissioner Flanagan asked if any of the money go outside of your organization.

The answer was no.

Commissioner Flanagan asked if GCWR has a formal position on hunting or fishing.

They take no official position on hunting and fishing. He indicated that most hunters/fishers have a respect for animals.

Action Items

- VIII. 2013 Placer County Fish and Game Commission Grant Awards** – Consider annual grant proposals submitted to the Commission and award funding consistent with California Fish and Game Code Section 13103 and the Commission’s Operating Procedures. Total awards are not to exceed \$1,000 per recipient.

Grant Proposals:

	APPLICANT	PROGRAM	AMOUNT REQUESTED
1.	SARSAS	Operating expenses	\$1000
2.	Placer Nature Center	Nature Bowl	\$500
3.	Placer Sportsmen	Kid’s Fish Derby	\$1000
4.	PNSSNS Subwatershed Group	Publish newsletter	\$797
5.	Gold Country Wildlife Rescue	Operating expenses for animal care	\$1000
6.	Fruitvale School	Bluebird education program	\$500
7.	City of Roseville – Storm Water	Adopt-a-creek site restoration	\$1000
8.	Placer Land Trust	Burrowing Owl nests	\$1000
9.	Placer County – Storm Water Quality	Low-impact demonstration garden	\$1000
10.	Sierra Watershed Education Partnerships	Trout in the classroom	\$1000
		TOTAL PROPOSALS	\$8797

SARSAS – No comments.

Placer Nature Center – Commissioner McKenzie indicated they provided a good service.

Placer Sportsmen – David Gray, Auburn. Talked about the 67 years of the kids fish derby. Gould is a member, abstained from discussion.

Commissioner Flanagan indicated DFW donated 500 pounds of fish to the derby. Did it save any money?

They are on the DFW list of fish donation areas.
The cost of stocking fish for the derby was \$4,000..

Placer Nevada South Sutter North Sacramento Subwatershed Group – Tom Aguilar – Represent growers in the county. They test surface water every month. They send out education materials in newsletters to the membership. Receive donations from groups, including this commission in the past.

Commissioner Flanagan asked if they have considered distributing the newsletter electronically.

No, they do not have email contacts for all 850 recipients.

Commissioner McKenzie asked for the connection between this group and fishing and hunting.

They conduct water quality testing for nitrates, pesticides and turbidity.

Gold Country Rescue – no further comments. Freidig is a member, abstained from discussion.

Fruitvale School – after school program for grades K – 5. Fowler is a current board member, abstained from discussion.

City of Roseville Storm Water Quality - discussed the connection to, or lack thereof to fish and wildlife.

Placer Land Trust – McKenzie is the current PLT treasurer and Fowler is a PLT member. Both abstained from discussion.

Placer County Storm Water Quality – discussed the connection to, or lack thereof to fish and wildlife.

Sierra Watershed Education Partnership – Salmon rearing program for demonstrating the life process of salmon. They eventually release the fish.

Commissioner Daniels motioned that the City of Roseville and Placer County Storm Water proposals be removed from consideration
Commissioner McKenzie seconded.
All members voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Commissioner Flanagan indicated that if they award each remaining a grant requester 73.5% of their requested amount, the sum will equal \$5000.

Commissioner Flanagan motioned that they award SARSAS 73.5% of their request.
Commissioner Freidig seconded the motion.
Commissioner Daniels opposed.
All others voted in favor. Motion passed.

Commissioner Flanagan motioned that they award Placer Nature Center 73.5% of their request.
Commissioner Daniels seconded the motion.
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Commissioner McKenzie motioned that they award Placer Sportsmen 73.5% of their request.
Commissioner Fowler seconded the motion.
Commissioner Gould abstained.
All voting members voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Commissioner Fowler motioned that they award Placer Nevada South Sutter North Sacramento Subwatershed Group 73.5% of their request.
Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion.
All members voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Commissioner Fowler motioned that they award Gold Country Wildlife Rescue 73.5% of their request.
Commissioner McKenzie seconded the motion.
Commissioner Freidig abstained
Commissioner Flanagan opposed the motion.
All other voting members voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Commissioner Flanagan motioned that they award Fruitvale School 73.5% of their request.
Commissioner Freidig abstained
All voting members voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Commissioner Freidig motioned that they award Placer Land Trust 73.5% of their request.
Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion.

Commissioners Fowler and McKenzie abstained
 All voting members voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Commissioner Daniels motioned that they award Sierra Watershed Education Partnership 73.5% of their request.
 Commissioner Fowler seconded the motion.
 All members voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Commissioner Fowler suggested that the commission consider reducing the amount of money that can be requested.

Approved grant awards:

	APPLICANT	PROGRAM	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT AWARDED
1.	SARSAS	Operating expenses	\$1000	\$735.00
2.	Placer Nature Center	Nature Bowl	\$500	\$367.50
3.	Placer Sportsmen	Kid's Fish Derby	\$1000	\$735.00
4.	PNSSNS Subwatershed Group	Publish newsletter	\$797	\$585.80
5.	Gold Country Wildlife Rescue	Operating expenses for animal care	\$1000	\$735.00
6.	Fruitvale School	Bluebird education program	\$500	\$367.50
7.	City of Roseville – Storm Water	Adopt-a-creek site restoration	\$1000	0
8.	Placer Land Trust	Burrowing Owl nests	\$1000	\$735.00
9.	Placer County – Storm Water Quality	Low-impact demonstration garden	\$1000	0
10.	Sierra Watershed Education Partnerships	Trout in the classroom	\$1000	\$735.00
		TOTAL AWARDED		\$4995.80

X. ADJOURNMENT at 9:05

Commissioner Fowler motioned to adjourn the meeting.
Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion.
All voting commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

XI. Next meeting will be Wednesday, November 20, 2013