



**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 Mark Wyatt
DISTRICT 5 Mickey Daniels	

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**PLACER COUNTY
FISH & GAME COMMISSION
Minutes**

TIME/DATE: 7:00 P.M. Wednesday, January 22, 2014

**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, Mickey Daniels, Don Gould, Kari Freidig, Gary Flanagan, Gregg McKenzie, Mark Wyatt**

Absent: None

- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR January 22, 2014 AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF November 20, 2013**

Commissioner Fowler motioned to accept the November 20, 2013 minutes.
Commissioner Freidig seconded the motion
All voting commissioners voted to accept the minutes.
Commissioner Flanagan abstained.

Commissioner Freidig motioned to accept the agenda.
Commissioner McKenzie 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***

Marilyn Jasper commended the commission on serving Placer County citizens and stated that the commissioners represent all of the community. They need to serve the non-fisherpersons and non-hunters as well as the fisherpersons and hunters. This is true when donating grant money. Awarding grant funds based on personal values is inappropriate.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Budget Update – Ed King

Expenditures for FY 13/14, through December 31, 2013, total \$6,676.96 including \$600.00 in commissioner's fees, \$400.00 in secretary fees, \$680.84 in mileage reimbursement and \$4,995.80 in grant awards.

Revenues through December 31, 2013, total \$357.17 including \$228.34 in fine and penalty monies and \$128.83 in interest.

VI. AGENCY REPORTS

A. Commission Updates

Commissioner Fowler reported that the State Water Resources Control Board released an updated Mercury Control Program for Reservoirs fact sheet. Six reservoirs in Placer County are classified as mercury-impaired: Camp Far West, Rollins, Combie, Hell Hole, Folsom and Oxbow.

Commissioner Fowler did a ride along with DFW Warden Kraft. They patrolled the Sheridan area for early waterfowl hunters then responded to a call regarding a pet goat killed possibly by a mountain lion. Put up a trail cam to monitor the kill.

Commissioner Flanagan reported the Central Sierra Commission is meeting in late January in Placerville.

Commissioner Wyatt gave a brief update about himself. He is recently retired from the PCWA and lives in Foresthill. He enjoys hunting and fishing, with chucker hunting his favorite activity.

B. California Department of Fish & Wildlife – Lt. Lawson

Lt. Lawson introduced two Placer County wardens: Adam Kraft (Lincoln) and newest member Mark Michilizzi (Colfax). Warden Michilizzi replaced Warden Pelzman. His position was moved from Foresthill to Colfax to assist with an increased number of bear calls in Nevada County.

Warden Brian Moore promoted to Lieutenant in Santa Clara and is no longer working in Placer County. The Auburn warden position is currently vacant.

Lt. Lawson stated that he has heard that the commission might be frustrated with his squad and proceeded to address the commission regarding his attendance at commission meetings, DFW weekly reports, grant requests and the amount of enforcement activities in Placer County.

1. **Missed meetings** – Lt. Lawson indicated that he attends most of the commission's meetings and his attendance at commission meetings is not a job requirement. He felt that his time was better spent in the field looking for poachers. September is a difficult month to attend commission meetings as salmon, dove, deer and other activities are in full swing. He was on vacation in October and the acting Lt. missed the meeting. He understands commission meetings are important and tries to attend in all three of his assigned counties.
2. **Weekly reports are unprofessional.** He knows of no other county fish and game commissions who receive the weekly DFW enforcement reports.
3. **The commission felt offended that he did not submit a grant request.** Lt. Lawson stated that his squad has necessary equipment and that he did not apply for support funding from the Nevada and Sierra Fish and Game Commissions either.
4. **Lack of DFW enforcement activities in Placer County.** His squad is working Placer County and not ignoring the needs of this county. Presented the commissioners with a report on all citations written in 2012 and 2013. There were slightly more than 200 citations written during that period. Placer Country had more citations than Nevada and Sierra. Nevada County was the runner up in citations. During 2013, there were 3 periodic check points in Nevada country for chronic wasting disease. Each checkpoint attributed approximately 16 or more citations in Nevada County.

Lt. Lawson reported that someone hunted a deer out of season and got a \$50 fine. Fine amounts may be reduced in the courts.

If the citations are written as infractions, there is a minimum fine of \$100. A judge cannot reduce the amount. However, if a citation is written as a misdemeanor, the judge can reduce the fine.

He indicated frustration when environmental cases are changed to civil cases. They would like to see the prosecution stay as a criminal case. This does change how fine monies are determined and where they go. The wardens do not issue Fish and Game Code Section 1600 Streambed Alteration Permits. They enforce the 1600 Permits when there is a violation.

Commissioner Flanagan pointed out that they are here to help the DFW wardens. Indicated that the citation list was presented to the commission as a defense. The commission has requested the citation report for months and that the commission's concerns regarding the citation information were valid.

Commissioner McKenzie stated that he sees wardens conducting active enforcement in the county.

Commissioner Wyatt indicated that he sees the wardens in the field and they offer help as much as they look for citations.

Commissioner Daniels indicated that looking for fine monies makes DFW and the commission look like bounty hunters.

Commissioner Flanagan indicated that the fine monies are a measuring indicator for the citations issued.

Lt. Lawson is only interested in fines because of the commission's role. He is more interested in educating and enforcement of fish and game laws.

Commissioner Fowler indicated that the weekly reports are very important and the quality of them doesn't really matter.

Bear harvest numbers:

Year	Bears
2009	1900
2010	1500
2011	1743
2012	1900
2013	1000

- The bear hunting law (SB 1221) that prohibits using hounds went into effect in 2013.
- 2014 may be a difficult year in Tahoe for bears and nuisance complaints, especially since the area is experiencing a drought.

C. Nevada Irrigation District – Sue Sindt

Storage is at 90% of average. Snow pack is almost non-existent. On January 1, it was 16% of average and expected to be 5% of average on February 1.

Emphasizing retaining storage to hold onto water the best they can. The district has requested a 20% voluntary use reduction from their customers. There are still opportunities for more rain and snow. They are preparing for the worst and will recommend additional actions and might require mandatory reductions.

Non-Action Items

VII. Water Supply Changes in the Sacramento Region – Einar Maisch, Placer County Water Agency Director of Strategic Affairs

Drought update — PCWA might get less than 50% of the water they normally receive from PG&E and may have to pump more water out of the American River. Forecasting a possible shortage of 60,000 acre feet. Will have an emergency meeting on February 6th. They are going to request users reduce their consumption.

Folsom Lake is at the level that it was in 1976. This is the worst than it has ever been. Projections are that the level will drop below the outlet to the lake, which would create serious problems for the San Juan Water District. In short, things are bad throughout the county.

Commissioner Gould asked why the flows are higher now than they were historically. And why do the salmon need so much more water now? They discussed the issues and that there were previously more miles of the river available to salmon.

Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) — Discussed historical water development projects in California and how those projects move water throughout the state.

Mr. Maisch discussed water rights laws, population growth, water needs and water allocations. He presented maps of the Delta and explained how water is transported through Delta, the division of salt and freshwater in the Bay and past and anticipated sea level changes.

One problem with the BDCP is that there are no plans for environment threats, especially if sea levels continue to rise or rise faster.

The BDCP forecasts that once every 9 years, Folsom Lake will reach dead pool, with no water flowing out of the lake.

Commissioner Flanagan asked about the water rights of those exporting water.

Mr. Maisch stated water system operators previously directed water management decisions. In recent years, resources agencies have played a larger role in directing management decisions. Many of these groups have not been through a drought. So, they approach the problem differently.

There is a need for a governance structure to insure that exports will not exceed the safe surplus or harm northern California's interest.

PCWA favors an overall operations plan that identifies changes in regulatory requirements, system operations, infrastructure necessary to adapt to continued sea level rise and does not drain north state reservoirs.

Commissioner Gould asked if they are going to build another dam.

The Sites Reservoir project near the town of Winters is under consideration. The reason Auburn dam was not built is that no one wanted to pay for it.

PCWA is advocating that the BDCP tunnels project be stopped until there is an operation plan that will work.

Action Items

VIII. State Fish & Game Commission Subcommittee – Form a subcommittee to monitor State Fish and Game Commission actions.

Commissioner McKenzie indicated that it is important to monitor State Commission activities.

Commissioner Fowler stated he appreciated the work that Ed King was doing monitoring State Commission actions.

Commissioner Fowler motioned that he serve on a State Fish and Game Commission Subcommittee. Commissioner McKenzie seconded the motion. All commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

- IX. State Wildlife Conservation Board Subcommittee** – Form a subcommittee to monitor State Wildlife Conservation Board actions.

Commissioner McKenzie motioned he would take the lead on this committee. Commissioner Fowler seconded the motion. All commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

- X. Next Meeting Date: February 26**

- XI. ADJOURNMENT at 9:03**

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