



**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 Vacant	DISTRICT 4 Gary Flanagan
DISTRICT 5 Kari Freidig	DISTRICT 5 Marc Wyatt
DISTRICT 5 Mickey Daniels	

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**PLACER COUNTY
FISH & GAME COMMISSION
MINUTES**

TIME/DATE: 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, January 27, 2016
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** – Marc Wyatt
- II. **ROLL CALL**
Present: Daniels, Fowler, Flanagan, Freidig, Gould, Wyatt
Absent: N/A
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA for January 27, 2016 and APPROVAL OF MINUTES for October 21, 2015**
Agenda: Flanagan/Daniels/MPUV
Minutes: Daniels/Fowler/MPUV
- IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
Individuals may address the Commission on items under the jurisdiction of the Fish & 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**

Michael Garabedian with Friends of the North Fork spoke about proposed transport of oil via trains coming through Placer County. Garabedian recalled an incident from 1991 in which train cars carrying toxic chemicals fell into the Sacramento River. Garabedian mentioned that comments for the local hazard mitigation plan are due on Friday, January 29th, and that he and his organization hope regulations will be put in place to prevent the same thing from happening in

Placer County. Garabedian reported that the stretch of track between Secret Town and Iron Point is deemed hazardous by the State public utilities division. Garabedian stated that Friends of the North Fork are seeking a sponsor for a grant which they will use to ensure that protection of drinking water sources is part of the hazard mitigation plan. Wyatt recalled that the Board of Supervisors is actively working on making sure protections exist in the plan. Flanagan mentioned how disappointed he is that all control over trains exists only at the federal level.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT – Ed King

Expenditures through December 31, totaled \$2,014 including \$690 in commissioner's fees, \$726 in mileage reimbursement, \$270 for media services, and \$303 A-87 costs.

Revenues through December 31, totaled \$718, including \$407 in fines, \$244 in penalty assessments and \$67 in interest.

Wyatt reported that Commissioner McKenzie accepted a position with Placer County and has resigned, so a position is available if anyone is interested.

VI. AGENCY REPORTS

A. Commission Updates – N/A

B. State Wildlife Conservation Board Subcommittee – N/A

C. State Fish & Game Commission Subcommittee – Mark Fowler

The Nimbus hatchery opened for spawning; the goal was four million salmon fry. Anglers are being offered rewards for the return of salmon and sturgeon tags. A draft conservation plan for grey wolves was released; input is due February 15. Advanced hunter education clinics are available. The statewide ban on bobcat trapping went into effect November 20, 2015. CDFW is proposing regulation actions regarding prey mammals for the upcoming hunting season, specifically for deer, elk, and bighorn sheep. CDFW will consider a petition to list the tri-colored blackbird as an endangered species. The department is offering 24 two-day permits to hunt pigs on Grizzly Island; the application deadline is February 8. CDFW has awarded \$31.4 million for ecosystem and watershed restoration, some of which will go to the Truckee River Watershed Council and UC Davis.

D. California Department of Fish & Wildlife - Lt. John Lawson

Lawson reported that a particular judge at the Placer County Courts is allowing individuals to perform community service in lieu of paying fines. Flanagan reported that Commissioners are planning to meet with the district attorney and will be able to bring it to their attention. Lawson announced that his squad will be up to full staff again by mid-February. Lawson reported that this upcoming weekend is the end of hunting season, except for sport bobcat. Lawson expressed concern about potential poaching of bobcat on the eastern Sierras from Nevada hunters. The color pattern of the pelt on bobcats from the eastern

side of the range is preferred over the pattern found on bobcats from the western side. Lawson stated that he planned to stake out fur trade shows to find poachers, as the pattern is distinctive.

Wyatt asked if it were illegal to use dogs to hunt bobcat. Lawson stated that for bobcats, it is illegal, but that it is not illegal to use dogs to hunt raccoon.

Lawson stated that hunting season was busy, and that they wrote a lot of citations. They had great success catching violators using deer decoys, but one decoy got shot up pretty badly. It needs repair, but it would be expensive to fix, and they can't earmark any money for it. Wyatt stated that they would discuss it later in the evening during action items.

Lawson reported that Commissioner Flanagan made them aware of dove baiting occurring in Lincoln; unfortunately, stakeout attempts were unsuccessful.

An audience member asked Lawson about the status of the bear poaching case which was reported several months ago. Lawson stated that he couldn't comment on it because it's connected to another case.

Flanagan reported that next month there will be a report on the fish screen installation at Aitken Ranch.

Commissioner Wyatt announced that he will be resigning after April's meeting, as his wife has accepted a position at Glacier National Park, and he will be moving to Kalispell, Montana, in May.

E. Nevada Irrigation District & Placer County Water Agency Reports

Sue Sindt was not present but forwarded a brief update to King. District storage = 169,600 AF (103% of average for this date); precipitation at Bowman = 41.1" (115% average).

NON-ACTION ITEMS

VII. Effects of the King Fire on the Middle Fork of the American River – Ben Ransom, Placer County Water Agency

Ransom gave the Placer County Water Agency report which showed water levels at Spalding of 36", 106% of average. Reports of snow up to 21" in the mountains is average for this time of year, but is five times last year's peak. Hellhole is at 110,000 af, which is 50% of capacity and 54% of normal. Workers are trying to divert as much water as they can into storage, at least until the snow season progresses and they have a better idea of what to expect. Folsom reservoir is expected to fill sometime in May based on current runoff. This forecast will change as the rainy season continues, but they're hoping for a full reservoir before summer.

Snow surveys were compiled on Monday but Ransom doesn't know the results, but they're expecting at least average snowfall.

Ransom presented photographs of King Fire damage in the Rubicon Valley. Ransom described how the fire exhibited unprecedented behavior and showed photos of areas burned so severely that the microbes in the soil had been killed.

Freidig asked if the dead trees still standing in the dirt provided any soil stability. Ransom said no, and that it's often the case that the roots will have been burned out. Burned ground often becomes hydrophobic, or loses its ability to absorb water. Rain becomes runoff, and in heavy storm systems, the runoff can grow large enough to take everything with it as it runs down the slope.

Hydromulching is a process used in severely burned areas where the slope is not too steep, but parts of the fire area were so damaged that the mulch ran off into the river after precipitation.

Freidig asked if the mulch was seeded, and Ransom replied that it's probably weed free rice mulch. Flanagan asked why some native grass seed wasn't put into the mulch, and Ransom didn't know, but suspected that it was because it was likely to get washed off.

Gould asked if they had learned enough from this fire to pre-approve improved remediation methods for the next time. Ransom couldn't speak to that.

Ransom described the turbidity of the streams from the runoff, and that that would continue for years. Fish have evolved to survive turbidity, but the organic material in the runoff puts a lot more oxygen into the water, which could kill fish. Runoff is so great that sediment has filled some gullies, and the sediment is very fine. Ransom showed a photo of a yellow-legged frog egg mass covered in fine sediment, which may be a cause for concern, although researchers don't yet know. There are areas where they know they'll have to dredge, and it will be more difficult having to deal with the finer sediment.

Ransom also described their plans for rehabilitating areas covered under their pending relicensing.

VIII. Auburn State Recreation Area General Plan/Resource Management Plan, the Future of Hunting and Fishing in the Recreation Area and Related Laws – Mike Schneider, Auburn Sector Superintendent

Schneider and Supervising Ranger, Scott Liske, presented an overview of current plans. They have been making presentations to the public to encourage input for the proposed plans. Schneider stated that final plans are scheduled for completion by fall 2017.

Schneider explained that the management plan is an update rather than a change. Most input they've heard is about trail use, but there have been requests for improving campsites. Schneider stated that the department is trying to balance keeping sites natural with making them accessible for as many users as possible.

Wyatt asked about the future of hunting and fishing in the park, and whether it might be either expanded or taken away. Schneider stated that there are no plans to change the current rules. Liske stated that only five California parks allow hunting, and only Auburn allows hunting for deer. Deer and turkey are the most popular prey.

Liske stated that he hopes there will be expansion, but that it depends on the Bureau of Reclamation. He spoke about using the area around Cool and Knickerbocker Canyon, which had been scheduled for flooding under the proposed, but never completed, Auburn dam. Liske stated that the only problems he has had with hunters is that they don't always stay within the hunting boundaries, but that it's an education issue and not a deliberate violation of the law. Wyatt stated that he himself has had problems figuring out hunting boundaries, and asked if there is a resource available for hunters. Liske said that the maps available are improving all the time. Wyatt and Flanagan also asked about getting information that explained the stricter regulations for hunting on state park lands, which they've sought in the past but have never been able to get. Liske brought some copies of information pamphlets to the meeting, and agreed to send copies to the District Attorney's office to help them prosecute violations. Wyatt stated that he would like to see the rules incorporated in the information given by CDFW to hunters when they apply for licenses.

Freidig asked what protocols they used for injured wildlife. Liske replied that it depended on the wildlife, but they used Gold Country Wildlife. Freidig reported that during one incident, she asked a park staffer for help, and he was unwilling to assist. Liske explained that all park staff wear the same uniform, so the janitor looks like a ranger. Liske stated that rangers are aware of wildlife rescue groups, and that they're making efforts to educate all staff.

Flanagan asked if there were any chance the Bureau of Reclamation would consider allowing changes to the park, such as improved access to fishing areas. Schneider stated that they consider it on a case-by-case basis, and that he senses that they prefer less invasive or destructive proposals. Schneider said that they are working on crafting a proposal that might pass muster.

An audience member asked if bear and bobcat could be hunted on state park land, and whether dogs could be used for hunting. Liske replied that neither of those were allowed, and that dogs must be leashed.

ACTION ITEMS

IX. Consider Proposal to Donate \$500.00 from a Restitution Payment Resulting from a Damaged Deer Decoy Violation to California Department of Fish & Wildlife to be Applied Toward the Repair of the Decoy or Purchase of New Decoy

Flanagan explained that the court ordered that a \$500 in restitution be paid to CDFW for damage done to a deer decoy. Lawson isn't able to accept the check because if he took it for deposit, it would go into their general fund and be unavailable for decoy repair. Flanagan stated that Lawson proposes the check be given to the Commission to deposit, then grant the money back to CDFW to be used to fix the decoy. Lawson also hopes to use this process in the future. Flanagan pointed out that this instance was specifically an order to give restitution.

Flanagan moved that any restitution for a Fish and Wildlife violation be returned as payment for repairs of Fish and Wildlife equipment, Freidig seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

X. Consider Recommendations for the Commission's FY 2016-2017 Budget Including Annual Operating Expenses and Funding the Grant Awards Program

King reported that the \$4,000 allotted by the Board of Supervisors from the general fund for the Commission's operating budget. The Commission is allowed to have ten meetings per year, but the budget doesn't completely cover the costs. Each meeting runs from \$400 to \$600. King proposes the Commission allow him to submit a budget addendum for an additional \$2,000 per year. Wyatt moved to direct the Agriculture Department staff to submit a supplemental request during the budget process to ask for an additional \$2,000 in general fund contributions to be applied to Commission operating expenses. Gould seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

King also stated that the budget in the past has established the grant program needs a \$5,000 threshold in order to be funded. Both last year's and this year's revenue still leave the pool short about \$942. King asked if the Commission still wished him to keep that amount at \$5,000. The Commission agreed to keep it the same.

Flanagan asked the Commissioners to meet with their supervisors and encourage them to support the additional funding. Wyatt said he would contact Supervisor Montgomery on behalf of McKenzie.

XI. Next Meeting and Future Agenda Items

February 24, 2016 at 6:00 PM. Gould stated that he will not be present.

Flanagan stated that he is asking a wildlife photographer to present, and that Jim Haufler with Friends of Auburn Ravine will also be presenting, on behalf of Family Water Alliance, on fish screens along Auburn Ravine.

XII. Adjournment

8:20 PM