



County of Placer
Fish and Game Commission
11477 E Avenue ▪ Auburn, CA 95603 ▪ (530) 889-7372

District 1 – Don Gould
District 2 – Mark Fowler
District 3 – Justin Gragg
District 4 – Amber Beckler
District 5 – Alexia Retallack
District 5 – Mickey Daniels
District 5 – Frances Ragle

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 24, 6:00 P.M.

Placer County Planning Commission Hearing Room
3091 County Center Drive, Auburn, CA
County Contact: Corrie Larsen

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Mark Fowler.
2. **Roll Call**
Present: Amber Beckler, Mark Fowler, Don Gould, Justin Gragg, Frances Ragle, and Alexia Retallack. **Absent:** Mickey Daniels
3. **Approval of March 24, 2021 Agenda & approval of February 24, 2021 Minutes**
Agenda: Motion by Retallack, second by Gragg, MPUV
Minutes: Motion by Gragg, second by Gould, MPUV
4. **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
5. **Financial Report:** Corrie Larsen
FY2021 to date
 - Current balance: \$20,062
 - Court fines and penalties collected: \$70.05.
 - IT charges for remote meetings: \$608.00
 - Commissioners per Diem & mileage: \$90.00

At Amber Beckler's request, summary of FGC Court Fines & Penalty Assessments from FY2004-05 to FY2019-20. Highlighting the FY2018 with \$22,028.00 from the Union Pacific Railroad Settlement, documents were provided to commissioners. More questions were raised, and it was agreed upon to have an agenda item for the next meeting to invite the District Attorney's Office to present information with regards to how fines and violations are processed.

6. **Agency Reports**
 - **Commissioner Reports:** No reports.
 - **State Fish & Game Commission Subcommittee:** Mark Fowler
 - Wild turkey hunt: March 27 - May 2
 - Youth hunt, archery: May 3 – May 16
 - 8th Annual Youth Art contest "CA Native Species": Open to 2-4yrs, 5-8yrs, and 9-12yrs age groups. Youths can submit drawings, comic strips, and videos.
Deadline is May 5th.

The Fish & Game Commission is composed of appointed community members whose purpose is to advise the Board of Supervisors on matters regarding conservation and management of fish and wildlife. Residents are encouraged to attend and provide input. Placer County is committed to ensuring that persons with disabilities are provided the resources to participate fully in public meeting. If you require disability-related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aid or services, to attend or participate in this meeting, please contact the Placer County Agriculture Department at (530) 889-7372.



- Recreation Ocean Salmon fishing season: Curtailed based on count and issues with salmon population.
 - Nature Bowl: Open to 3rd – 5th grade students from March 15 – May 14, with a Family Challenge Edition.
 - Workshop to reduce conflict between coyotes and urban area.
 - Duck Stamp Contest: Seeking artists who are 18 and older. Judging will be in June.
 - Gray Wolf was spotted in the Central Sierra, Alpine, and Mono Counties and has now been seen in Fresno. Total Sightings in California: 16.
 - Red Abalone season remains closed until 2026.
- **Land Use Subcommittee:** Don Gould – No report
 - **Department of Fish & Wildlife:** Lt. Brian Moore
Lt. Brian Moore reported all positions have been filled in Lincoln and Auburn. Brian will be reaching out to contacts at CDFW for details regarding depredation permits. Turkey season is coming up soon. Will be conducting defensive tactics training with staff soon. Working hard on undercover work to see if people are taking over limits. Servicing vehicles, ATVs, etc. to be ready for spring and summer.
 - **Nevada Irrigation District**
Precipitation as measured at the Bowman Lake rain gauge has recorded 31.63” of rain thus far which equates to 58% of our historical average for this date. March has been below average for rain with dry weather forecasted so we are continuing to encourage conservation from our customers.
 - **Placer County Water Agency**
 - Precipitation is well below normal.
 - Snowpack is near average locally, but well below normal statewide.
 - Winter storms have all been cold snow producing storms.
 - Runoff to date is at historical lows (snow vs. rain).
 - Statewide reservoir storage levels are well below normal.
 - Still opportunities to observe decent precipitation, but below normal year at best.

7. Informational Item:

Mitch Lockhart, District Fishery Biologist for California State Department of Fish and Wildlife covering El Dorado, Placer, and Nevada Counties for the Fish Stocking Program, reported that his last report was approximately two years ago. Business as usual except for two issues: A couple hatcheries are down in Southern California. Northern California hatcheries have helped with filling in the gap. American River hatchery was tasked to supply to Southern California. For that reason, a handful of allotments will not be filled this season. CDFW has taken a big hit due to COVID-19. A good amount of Kokanee eggs from the Stampede Reservoir were collected.

Cutthroat trout has suffered from poor, irregular production unlike the rainbow trout which has about 70-90% survivorship.

Chris McKibbin, District Fishery Biologist for California State Department of Fish and Wildlife covering Sacramento, Yolo, and San Joaquin Counties, primarily works with salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon. Chris reported he has been involved with Auburn Ravine for the past five years and began the pilot program of monitoring in the 2016-17 season where over 300 Chinook were found to have moved into Auburn Ravine. The following season was a low of 48 fish. Counts are very low this year, but they are not complete until April-June. CDFW teamed up with Friends of Auburn Ravine who scrubs and identifies all fish passage with digital imagery software, Fish Fodder, developed by a volunteer. Friends of Auburn Ravine then provides numbers to CDFW. Many state hatcheries that produce Chinook returns have been very low, hatcheries are struggling, some due to health and a fallout from the drought from three years ago. Flows coincided this year with adult migration due to a rain event in the Auburn area in late October. It's difficult to monitor Auburn Ravine for salmon activity, but there's a great spot with video monitoring at the NID Lincoln Gauging Station where the salmon have to swim through this area to reach spawning grounds upstream. Expect that some did make it to spawning ground.

8. In Memoriam of Mickey Daniels: Mark Fowler, Don Gould

Mark Fowler: A longtime member of the Fish and Game Commission and a big proponent of the mission for the Placer County Fish & Game. Rarely missed a meeting. He would advise the supervisors on issues, often donated a high-quality fishing trip to fundraisers, and was a great storyteller and jokester!

Don Gould: Nicest guy. He met him 20 years ago on the commission. He was active and strong advocate to support Lake Tahoe's fish and wildlife. Very generous and very nice guy and not shy about making suggestions. Don participated in the Fishing Derby for the kids, and Mickey donated a fishing trip. Mickey had leukemia, and his wife has a big family who is supporting her during this time. Don will miss him.

The Commission will look into donating a plaque as well as sending a card to Mickey's wife and their family and decide at the next meeting.

9. Action Item

Next meeting on 4/28/2021. Corrie to contact District Attorney's Office to invite them to speak at a future commission meeting.

10. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm. Motion by Gould, seconded by Retallack.