MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 27, 2019, 6:00 P.M.
Placer County Planning Commission Hearing Room
3091 County Center Drive, Auburn, CA
County Contact: Ed King

1. Call to Order – Mark Fowler

2. Roll Call – Present: Mark Fowler, Don Gould, Kari Freidig, Mickey Daniels, Gary Flanagan. Absent: Frances Ragle

3. Approval of March 27, 2019 Agenda was moved by Flanagan and seconded by Gould, MPUV. Approval of the January 23, 2019 Minutes was moved by Freidig and seconded 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
Operational expenditures to date total $5,363, including $2,450 in grant awards.

Court fines and penalty assessments collected to date total $20,892.

6. Agency Reports
A. Commissioner Reports
Flanagan: attended CDFW’s advisory committee meeting with representatives from NID, NOAA and DWR regarding options for removing or modifying Hemphill Dam to accommodate fish passage while also maintaining capacity to service irrigation canals. Also attended Lincoln City Council meeting regarding seasonal floodplain restoration along Auburn Ravine. The Council voted unanimous approval to proceed with the project. USFWS, DWR, NOAA and NID are all supportive of the project.

Freidig: received a message informing that the Sunset Area Plan DEIR identified 57 significant and unavoidable impacts that cannot be mitigated, confirming that the Commission’s recommendation to the BOS favoring reduced development and more conservation is a prudent option.

B. State Fish & Game Commission Subcommittee: Mark Fowler
• A legal settlement now protects whales and sea turtles from entanglement in commercial Dungeness crab gear.
• CDFW marks the one year anniversary of the nutria eradication project. More than 400 rodents have been captured within the past year.
• Surveys show a decline in Mt. San Gorgonio Desert Bighorn population. Surveys (aerial and ground) counted 60 animals, one third of the number counted in 2016. Probably due to respiratory disease.
• 2019 recreational ocean salmon fishery to open off much of the California coast in April. Different days for different regions.
• Public comment sought on statewide regulation changes of trout season – Public meeting Wed. April 10, 6:00-8:00 PM in Sacramento.
• CDFW is offering drawings of 86 spring wild turkey hunts on public and private lands.
• An Indiana artist repeats as the winner of California’s Upland Game Stamp art contest (white-tailed ptarmigan).
• The Humboldt marten has been approved for listing as an endangered species in California.

C. Land Use Subcommittee: Don Gould
• None.

D. Department of Fish & Wildlife: Lt. Brian Moore and Cpt. John Lawson
• Rain is limiting hunting and fishing activity; but have encountered people fishing on Coon Creek – a closed area.
• Wardens are completing yearly trainings.
• Junior turkey season opened 3/23 but rain prevented much activity.
• Bears still out despite snow, many not hibernating.
• Cpt. Lawson oversees Placer, Nevada and Sierra and 6 other counties. Would like to explore the idea of getting together one representative from each county commission to meet twice per year to collaborate on issues.
• Cpt. Lawson previously worked with the DA investigating railroad tie creosote leaching issues above Donner Lake; unclear if the recent Union Pacific settlement addresses this problem.

E. Nevada Irrigation District and Placer County Water Agency

NID: Storage = 214,300 AF; 95% average; 79% of capacity
Precipitation at Bowman = 67.36”; 118% average
March 1 snow water content = 155% average

Will be conducting the April 1 snow survey at the end of this week and results are expected to be at least 150% of average, possibly up to 175% of average; runoff forecasts are ranging from 150% - 165% of average.

All lower elevation reservoirs are full and spilling; higher elevation reservoirs will fill once the snow starts melting. Reservoirs may stay near full into June. It
should be a good year for recreation and carry-over storage will be above average.

**PCWA**: Middle Fork Project reservoir runoff: 86% of average thru February; American River Snow Sensor Index – Snow Water Equivalent: 51.8”, 218% of average; Middle Fork Project - Combined Storage: 136,460 acre feet, 75% of average, 40% of capacity; Folsom Lake Storage: 654,080 acre feet, 125% of average, 67% of capacity.

7. **Informational Item**

**Overview of the California Department of Fish & Wildlife’s Warden Academy** – Adam Kraft, CDFW Warden

Several Placer County wardens teach at CDFWs academy. Wardens are full peace officers certified under Peace Office Standards and Training (POST). As such, wardens can enforce all laws including Penal and Vehicle codes in addition to Fish & Game code.

CDFW has 250 hours of training in addition to POST, making it the longest academy in the State at 30 weeks. Five full-time employees staff the academy at Butte College. The academy can accommodate 52 cadets at the start of a training session. CDFW tries to sponsor as many cadets as possible (usually 43-48) who after an extensive application process are hired and paid to attend the academy. Remaining cadets are self-sponsored and pay their own tuition and materials. Self-sponsored cadets are can be hired by CDFW, but are often selected by other law enforcement agencies.

880 hours of academy training are POST coursework including firearms, arrest and control, scenarios (robberies, vehicle stops, ambush—must pass 14 scenarios), physical training, emergency vehicle operations, and Penal and Vehicle code training.

Specialized fish and wildlife training includes Fish and Game code, game care, fish and wildlife scenarios, hunter education, boat operations, pollution response, and public safety.

Academy attrition usually runs 15-20%, although last year 40% did not graduate. Failure to pass scenario training, disciplinary issues, injuries and personal reasons cause cadets to drop out of the academy. Sometimes cadets when first starting are not fully aware of the scope of job duties, or have not participated in outdoor activities including hunting and fishing. Other challenges include low starting pay often coupled with assignment locations with high costs of living.

After graduating from the academy cadets are assigned to field training. 32 graduated last year and started field training; 22 completed. Field training is 3
months long covering 60 days with three different wardens assigned to observe, train and evaluate. After 60 days they are either approved to work independently, granted an additional 20 day training session, or released.

Flanagan: is a college degree required for admittance to the academy? Academy admission requires 2 years of college with 18 units of science or criminal justice.

Freidig: how many women attend the academy? 8 of 41 cadets currently at the academy are female. Estimate that 10% of wardens statewide are women. Two years ago a female cadet was class valedictorian.

Flanagan: is wildlife biology integrated into warden training? There is some introduction to biology during academy training.

Audience: is hunting or fishing experience required or advance cadet rating? Not required, but beneficial.

Audience: CDFW has many non-law enforcement employees. Do they ever transfer to law enforcement? Yes, occasionally.

Audience: is continuing education required for wildlife officers? Yes, internal CDFW training and POST requires ongoing training.

Flanagan: are lateral transfers allowed? Yes, must have 2 years’ experience with another agency with POST certification and complete 8 weeks of specific training.

Cpt. Lawson – complete process for a cadet to apply to the academy, finish training and ultimately become a wildlife officer working solo in the field takes 2 years. Application pool is dwindling in recent years. Other law enforcement agencies pay more and there seems to be a declining interest in working outdoors. Not long ago CDFW received up to 3,000 applications per academy class. Recently that number has dropped to 400-450 per cycle.

Also recently, more biological work has been transferred from officers to biologists which has freed up more resources for enforcement.

8. **Adjournment**
Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM. Next meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2019.