MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 24, 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** – Chairman, Mark Fowler called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. **Roll Call** – Present: Mark Fowler, Don Gould, Kari Freidig, Mickey Daniels, Gary Flanagan, Frances Ragle. Absent: none

3. **Approval of April 24, 2019 Agenda:** Discussion of Part B Grant Policy was added and moved for approval by Freidig and seconded by Ragle, MPUV. **Approval of the March 27, 2019 Minutes** as corrected was moved by Flanagan and seconded by Daniels, 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 $5,880 including $2,450 in grant awards.
Court fines and penalty assessments collected to date total $21,494. ($21,307 available for grants)

6. **Agency Reports**
   A. **Commissioner Reports** – Freidig reported on Gold Country Wildlife open house – May 18th, 11-2 pm. Raptors will be available for the public to view.
   B. **State Fish & Game Commission Subcommittee:** Mark Fowler reported:
      - State Fish and Game Commission wrote a letter opposing the efforts to delist grey wolf from endangered species list to the US Fish and Wildlife Service.
      - Water fowl regulations were updated, extending the duck season closure to January 31st and reducing the daily bag limit on pintails from two to one.
      - Lassen County Raptor poacher (150 raptors destroyed) was convicted with $75,000 in fines, 90 days in jail and 5 years of probation, guns were destroyed. Kari commented that this is the number of raptors she rehabilitates in one year, and this was the largest raptor poaching conviction in the State’s history.
C. Land Use Subcommittee: Don Gould
D. Department of Fish & Wildlife: No Report
E. Nevada Irrigation District and Placer County Water Agency
   As of April 17: Storage = 225,242 AF; 117% of average; 93% of capacity
   With these warmer temperatures, the runoff is picking up rivers are running high and
   storage is increasing. There is still a lot of snow to melt. We will be conducting snow
   surveys next week and are expecting at least 150% of average results.

PCWA: No report.

7. Informational Item – Fuel Reduction and Fire Safe Projects in the Foresthill Area –
   Gary Kirk and Luana Dowling. Gary Kirk is the Chairman of the Foresthill/Iowa Hill Fire
   Safe Council, a council affiliated with the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance, and
   committed to helping local communities to be fire safe. He is a professional fire fighter
   who has served the Foresthill community for many years. His council works closely with
   Luana Dowling, Placer Firewise Coordinator and Grant Writer for the Placer County Fire
   Safe Alliance. Much of the progress that has been made in the Foresthill area relevant to
   making the vulnerable communities of Iowa Hill, Michigan Bluff and Foresthill safer from
   wildfire is because of the persistence of this alliance with fire professionals and funding
   potential.

Frances introduced Gary Kirk (Launa Dowling was unable to attend).

Since 2015, the Foresthill/Iowa Hill Fire Safe Council has used just under $2M in grant
money in the Middle Fork area. Funders include PG&E, Middle Fork Project, California
Fire Safe Council and U.S. Forest Service. Other than funding from PG&E they can only
use their dollars on private land – mainly to create fuel breaks and to address tree
mortality issues. Middle Fork Project funding must be used on fuel reduction within 150’
of structures. These fuel breaks are advantageous routes for firefighters. A lot of the
work is on very steep terrain and can only be done by hand; the property owners
appreciate this help.

Their education program – Wilder than Wild – has been very instructive for the
community. This program shows a one-hour movie showing current California fires.
They discuss insurance dilemmas and how to mitigate their concerns.

Wildlife has been seen to disperse in times of fires – all run away as soon as the heat
from the fire is felt – ahead of the fire. Some weaker animals may not make it.

There is new thinking about forest management. Burned, dead trees will now be logged.
There are a lot more dollars coming in to thin and manage the forests. Cowboys used to
burn the forest each year to get rid of the underbrush, this helped for cattle grazing. The
I-80 corridor from Applegate to Blue Canyon will be cleared of ladder fuels to protect
transportation infrastructure. Forestry personnel have created large slag piles that will be
burned during the winter.
The Resource Conservation District website has a lot of information on grants and ideas for keeping your property fire safe.

There is some market value with the beetle-damaged Ponderosa Pine if you get it early enough. It actually turns the wood blue – and is used for flooring, etc.

8. **Grant procedures and Policies (added agenda item – no action will be taken)**

Discussion/suggestion to include the grant policy discussions on the monthly calendar for the commissioners (such as officer elections, etc).

Kari suggested that the policy include providing a photo from the grant recipients showing their project, and that it was completed, so that the commission could show how the money is used. There was also discussion about having the recipients come back to report each year.

Discussion on how to allocate the $20,000; use $5,000 each year, have the commission do a project or suggest a project to a service club or Boy Scout, i.e. containers for used fishing line in common fishing areas.

9. **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM. Next meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2019.