



**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 Marc Wyatt
DISTRICT 5 Mickey Daniels	

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**PLACER COUNTY
FISH & GAME COMMISSION
MINUTES**

TIME/DATE: 7:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, August 27, 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 – Gregg McKenzie

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mickey Daniels, Kari Freidig, Marc Wyatt, Gregg McKenzie, Don Gould and Mark Fowler

Absent: Gary Flanagan

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR August 27, 2014 AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF July 23, 2014

Agenda: *Fowler/Daniels/MPUV*

Minutes: *Wyatt/Fowler/MPUV*

IV. 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***

John Demello, President of Placer Sportsmen thanked the commission for their generous donation to the Kid's Fish Derby. The event was held at the regional park in North Auburn. There were a little over 300 girls and boys in attendance. Hats were given to each child. The winning (biggest) fish caught was 8 lbs. 9 oz.

The event, which introduces fishing to many young children, was very successful and the next one is scheduled for April 25, 2015.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget Update – Ed King

As of July 31, no expenditures were recorded for the new FY beginning July 1.

Revenues through July 31 total \$14.21 in interest. No fine or penalty assessment funds were deposited into the Fish & Game Fund in July.

Grant Program is open and accepting applications until October 10, 2014.

VI. AGENCY REPORTS

A. Commission Updates

None

B. State Wildlife Conservation Board Subcommittee – Gregg McKenzie

McKenzie has a copy of the draft final strategic plan if anyone wishes to review it. Less funding this year, but they still have funds to make purchases of land to preserve.

C. State Fish & Game Commission Subcommittee – Mark Fowler

At the August meeting concerns were raised about trout fishing during drought. Elevated temperature above 70° is hard on catch and release fish. Early morning fishing is recommended. They also ask that fisher people use barbless hooks and release the fish while they are submerged. Currently, California cannot close trout season based on water temperature, unlike other states that can.

Northern Pacific White Shark is not warranted for threatened and endangered status. Also considering ground fish change – coastal fishing of ling cod is proposed to increase from 2 to 3, but not approved yet.

Due to a report heard about a year ago on different species of trout in the Sierras, the department is proposing a closure of Silver King creek and it's tributaries below the confluence of Tamarack Lake creek which is below Llewellyn Falls. This is the habitat for the unique Paiute cutthroat trout. Plan is to restock the trout there, there is concern that people who take cutthroat trout from below Llewellyn Falls may bring them up stream and if there are any hybrids it would dilute the pure strain of Paiute there. Catching these fish above the falls is unlawful.

There is also an issue regarding the filleting of salmon and steelhead. In 2013, the commission imposed a filleting requirement on these fish for determining

species, size, hatchery or wild. You couldn't fillet them on site, you had to take them home to fillet them. After some surveys and complaints, they're proposing to allow anglers to fillet the Chinook on site during angling season. This would allow filleting of Chinook from July through December on the Sacramento, American, and Feather Rivers.

State Water Resources Quality Control Board will be hosting a presentation on the survey of fish use by California tribes. The results could be used to determine water quality objectives to protect people who eat fish from California waters. This all goes back to the mercury issue. They surveyed 40 different California tribes at 24 different fishing sites. A professor from UC Davis will present the study. They're looking at how much fish is being consumed and using Native American tribes as an example population to study.

Due to the current drought the department asks property owners to report on waterfowl mortality. Lower water levels can lead to clustering of species. Concern for avian botulism which attacks the nervous system and usually ends in death. Symptoms are limp wings and neck, paralysis, birds covering themselves with water using their wings, involuntary muscle contractions and spasms. 46,000 dead in a single event in the past. Asking property owners to be aware and report any large numbers of birds they believe might be affected or showing signs of being affected.

Freidig asked how these issues are communicated to the general public.

Fowler replied that there are daily and weekly news alerts on the Fish and Wildlife website.

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

None

McKenzie stated he'd hoped Lt. Lawson would have been in attendance to offer more information on the recent Kings Beach area bear feeding and attack case.

E. Nevada Irrigation District - Sue Sindt

Conservation efforts are apparent and water storage is at 91% of average for this time of year. They have had to implement some of the mandatory conditions in their drought contingency plan in order to stay in compliance with emergency rule making regulations that have been imposed on them from the state water board. Should be able to hit their carryover target which is below average but acceptable.

They are trying to get curtailment orders lifted so they can plan for the fall and winter and advise their clients of those plans. Filed for a water right for Parker Dam which is not yet developed but discussions have been going on since the

1920's. The proposed dam and reservoir would be located between Combie and Rollins on the Bear River. In review process with the state prior to any public notice/input. Probably over 15 years out, district trying to plan for changing climate and planning accordingly.

Fowler and Freidig request clarification of location of Parker Dam. Sue confirmed its location and Freidig's question regarding damming and flooding of canyon there.

State board is trying to figure out the best way to notice it to the public: either with almost no information about it, or gathering information to share first. The EIR could be completed in a year or so.

Gould asked about the possibility of an aquifer storage rather than another dam, stating he does hope people are coming to the conclusion that we do need more water storage, but maybe not at the cost of damming up existing rivers and waterways.

Sue says there are some possibilities for other options, and the drought is making people look at options a bit more seriously.

Gould shares concern that the drought may shift the focus back to new storage options. NID will probably have trouble with the Parker Dam.

NID understands the issues and expects some difficulties in project approval, but there are pros and cons on both sides.

NON-ACTION ITEMS

VII. Placer Nature Center, Nature Bowl, Fish and Game Commission grant program report – Linda Desai, Education Director

PNC and the commission have a deep history together. Many years of grants issued supporting "Nature Bowl" a program that serves both the mission of the commission and the PNC.

PNC connects people to nature through environmental education. It is:

- A cooperative team environment where 3rd-6th graders actively participate.
- Science-based activities (correlated with the Next Generation State Science Standards). Coaching packets connect to this standard.
- Innovative strategies to teach and reinforce conservation.
- Engaging activities challenging students critical and creative thinking.

Students are in groups of 6-7 members and cooperate to accomplish a variety of tasks including:

- “Enviromercials” – students choose an environmental issue and prepare a 60-minute presentation about our local environment.
- Bell Ringers/Team Questions – Students answer various questions about the local environment. Nature Relay – Students find saucers containing various groupings of items and find an item that applies to a question they’ve been asked. They also learn about products made from fossil fuels and water conservation.
- Outdoor Investigations – Students are shown an animal track, or a skull or a soil sample and are asked a few questions about it: What can you tell us about this animal track/skull? Nature Games – questions and activities based on the information shared in the Enviromercials. The game includes running and allows the kids to burn energy and learn, i.e. run if the “fact” is true, be still if it’s false.

Grant funds were spent on marketing support, printing brochures, staffing the semifinals and finals, facilitating the coaches workshop, and training and scheduling volunteers.

PNC thanks the commission for supporting this event that connects youth to their local natural resources in an engaging, investigative way – increasing stewardship and scientific literacy.

Freidig adds she had the opportunity to witness the benefit of this program. She volunteered her classroom as a practice place for the Nature Bowl team to practice and learn before competitions. She saw firsthand how engaging the program is for the students. All of them were involved and enjoying themselves.

McKenzie also mentions his appreciation for the program, he has two children that have benefitted from it.

VIII. Save Auburn Ravine Salmon and Steelhead, Fish and Game Commission grant program report – Jack Sanchez and Steve Hubbard

Jack Sanchez thanked the commission for their support and stated that they are seeing salmon up to Hemphill Dam and they are working with NID. NID has a 3-step plan to help the salmon get up and over the Hemphill Dam to another 6 miles of prime spawning area. We now have a vibrant salmon run once again up the Auburn Ravine from the Sacramento River.

The mission of SARSAS is to return salmon and steelhead to the entire 33-mile length of the Auburn Ravine to include spawning areas in both Auburn and Lincoln. Lincoln issues are cutbanks and erosion.

Steve Hubbard – Program Director of SARSAS and owner of Gold Hill Images presents current developments on the lower Auburn Ravine.

Three issues:

Hemphill Dam – blocking the fish from swimming upriver for spawning. In 2012 NID removed the blockage and built a passage for fish to get to the Hemphill Dam. Since then, there has been unauthorized taking of salmon at Hemphill Dam. NID developed a 3 step plan to mitigate this.

- 1) 2012—Install baffles on surface to raise water and channelize to north side: status, complete.
- 2) 2013/2014—Remove rock and deepen channel: NID is forging ahead and with some rain this coming season salmon may have a chance to clear the dam. Should be completed for this year's fall run.
- 3) 2015—Permanent infrastructure modification or possible removal: status, in planning stage.

Village One Development:

- Problematic Draft EIS study ignored existence of anadromous fish was unfortunately accepted by the city of Lincoln. Fall Chinook run wasn't mentioned at all.
- Uncertain standards for encroachment on stream – no mention of encroachment on Auburn Ravine.
- The issue of riparian preservation not addressed.
- Public access to Ravine limited. Preservation is number one, and public access is important so that the public can see and appreciate the resource.

SARSAS will be monitoring the permitting process outside the city of Lincoln that would allow the project to go forward.

Turkey Creek Development: Falls under the same category as Village One but SARSAS is fortunate to be involved earlier in the permit process.

- EIS not submitted. Potential negative declaration. Concern is the EIS will say they see no issues as the EIS for Village One. Development runs up along the Ravine to the Hemphill Dam.
- Portions of sensitive areas not shown on map.
- Access for the public to the Ravine is not detailed.
- Loading of streamside streets should be prevented – homes built only on one side of street so as not to obscure access to public land.

Together, these developments overlap almost 10% of the entire Auburn Ravine Critical Steps to monitor:

- Streambed alteration agreements (1601)
- Biological recognition and mitigation for sensitive species in EIS
- Conditions for building permits
- Water Quality approval (404)
- Placer Conservation Authority/Joint Powers Involvement

Robert Hane – Placer County resident since 1961, presented on stream signage and stream habitat.

Goals of the Program:

- Create awareness among the public with signs over waterways . After reviewing signage idea with the county, the consensus was not to combine SARSAS signage with existing Placer County signage.
- Ten new signs on North Ravine alone - After speaking with Christopher Schmidt with Placer County Planning the decision was made to permit steelhead signage on north Ravine. There are currently 10 signs and since their installation, there have been 5 people in the area asking SARSAS they can do to on their property to improve fish habitat.
- Work to restore fish has included planting trees and removal of Himalayan blackberries.
- Worked with the Tribal Partnership Specialist of the USFWS Pacific Southwest region to obtain a \$7000 grant to do stream bank restoration and blockage removal.
- Working with USFWS and CCC on North Ravine - The CCC is going to do the next two blockage clearings. Surrounding property owners have given permissions for additional work..

Jim Haufler – Lincoln resident, member of SARSAS for two years – presented on Citizen Science Program for Migratory Fish.

Inspired by Audubon Society’s Christmas bird count. Partnered with UC Davis and various other organizations.

Current Status of Program:

- Grants applied for to expand program.
- Dr. Peter Moyle of UC Davis is the scientific adviser, advising on data collection and also recommended the “I Naturalist” website created by California Academy of Sciences for data reporting.
- Citizen scientists will do same day data entry to the “I Naturalist” website.
- Citizen Science program is the only migratory fish citizen science program in the world.

Local involvement is crucial:

- Citizen Science volunteers being recruited throughout county: Asking them to go out every week to a particular place to count fish and test the water.
- Water test kits are being acquired at a cost of \$900 each.
- Outreach to property owners for access points: Letters written to all home owners near the Ravine. 5 responses so far – wanting to help and allowing passage onto their property.
- Monitoring to run from October 1 to April 30: Officially opens October 15, but allowing for some training time for volunteers.
- Various water parameters to be measured and registered on I Naturalist.

Jim closed with a film of the fish currently in the ravine near Hemphill Dam. SARSAS is hoping to see an increase in salmon and steelhead through the next season.

Jack Sanchez summarized the presentation stating Village One and Turkey Creek developments are not as gloomy as they appear. The properties are unincorporated so final approval will come from the county. SARSAS sees that as an opportunity to fix issues with the proposed developments.

Freidig asked if SARSAS had a chance to voice any concerns prior to City of Lincoln's approval. Answer is no, but they are aware and on board earlier in the process for Turkey Creek. Jack asked the commission to be on their "team" to help make modification to Village One and Turkey Creek proposals going forward.

Freidig asked how long it takes a volunteer to perform their weekly duty for the Citizen Science program. Answer is about 30 minutes and each volunteer will have an assigned spot. Using their smart phone, they can report what fish were seen in the water during that time.

Gould asked if Lincoln has similar development planning as Roseville. In Roseville, there must be a certain amount of open space. Jack responded that Roseville put requirements into place during their rampant growth period. SARSAS does try to work with cities to encourage similar planning.

Hane spoke about proper development planning by referring to three well-planned neighborhoods along Atwood Rd. in which 7 acres out of 45 are protected riparian areas. He points out that the commission could be instrumental in assisting with common sense planning to counter the developers who want to cram as many homes into a space as they can. We all have to be continually on guard to defend against over development in our county.

IX. Appoint a Commission representative to participate in meetings with the District Attorney and Department of Fish & Wildlife regarding prosecution of Fish and Game Code violations.

Fowler reported he has gone on warden ride-alongs. He spoke with Lt. Lawson who expressed frustration with the way certain citations had been prosecuted. Lt. Lawson asked Fowler if he would meet with both him and Scott Owens, Placer County DA to discuss citations that DFW feels aren't adequately pursued by Jane Crue and others in the DA's office. Lt. Lawson asked for a representative from the commission to participate in meetings, specifically Fowler. Lt. Lawson has a number of cases he wants to go over with DA Owens and see how they can get better prosecutions and outcomes. Fowler said he would be the representative of the commission with the commission's approval.

Fowler will report back to the commission after these meetings, but there isn't anything scheduled at this time. He has a thick report showing cases that were "lightly handled."

Freidig added, this would be the perfect opportunity to represent the commission. Especially in light of the funding issues for the grant program. She asks Fowler to consider explaining the commission's use of fine and penalty revenues and recent meetings on the matter with BOS members.

Public comment:

Jack Sanchez – Sacramento Bee article regarding Scott Owen's prosecution of Raley's in the amount of \$1.6 million for improper transport and disposal of hazardous waste. Might be a good idea for the commission to write to the DA to see if some of those funds might be directed to the commission.

McKenzie explained it would depend if violations were prosecuted under Fish & Game Code or not.

Daniels explained the difference between mitigation fees and fines.

Motion to nominate Fowler as commission representative for meetings with Lt. Lawson and DA. *Gould/Wyatt/MPUV.*

X. Evaluate Department of Fish & Wildlife Big Game Management Advisory Committee grant proposals and make recommendations for Commissioner Flanagan to submit to the Advisory Committee – Ed King in Gary Flanagan's absence.

McKenzie asks if item should be tabled until Flanagan's return. Ed replied Flanagan needs the information back ahead of the next meeting. There are adequate funds to support all the grant requests. Questions from the commission can be emailed to Flanagan.

Gould asks if Flanagan had any issues with any of the requests.

Flanagan inquired about the Juniper reduction program for \$80,000 which is in an area where the fire return interval has been restricted for many years and the junipers are extremely dense. The plan is to thin the vegetation. After Flanagan researched the project he felt more comfortable with the plan. Ed adds he believes Flanagan was supportive of all of the grants on the table.

Freidig asks for clarification of how table reads. Ed clarified that some grant monies distributed over time up to 5 years. No action needed, they can discuss and/or send their questions to Flanagan.

All members of the commission agree that they trust Flanagan's judgment and will send their questions to him directly via email. All members also agree they don't have time to fully consider the issues at hand.

Public Comment:

Marilyn Jasper concerned about man-made watering devices. There has been some concern during hunting season and in the drought that one might as well put out bait.

XI. Next Meeting Date
September 24, 2014

XII. Agenda Items for next meeting – Gregg McKenzie
Both McKenzie and Fowler are interested in a Placer County Conservation Plan update from Loren Clark.

Freidig would like to invite Daniel Parker – the project manager for the proposed Lake Clementine hydroelectric project. Supervisor Montgomery is very concerned about this issue and Freidig missed the most recent public meeting.

Ed shared that Daniel Parker is with Kruger Energy of Canada. Ed expanded that Kruger and their partner American Renewables held a public meeting on August 26 in Auburn to describe the proposed project and hear public comment. Fowler asked if Ed thinks he could get Daniel to come to a future meeting. Ed will inquire with Parker.

Ed added the project is a proposed 16 megawatt facility on the North Fork Dam. Three turbines generating 47 million kwh annually which could potentially provide enough electricity for up to 7000 residences. Freidig stated they originally reported 3000 residences, now it's up to 7000.

Ed goes on to say the project is planned as a run of the river facility, meaning no storage or slowing of water. Gould clarifies they're not going to slow up the river at all. Ed affirmed.

Ed mentioned Flanagan spoke with Eric Peach of Protect American River Canyons (PARC). Eric volunteered to present PARC's opinion of the project. Parker mentioned last night that they are in the beginning phases of conducting biological assessments, so this may get a little more interesting as it progresses from the commission's perspective.

Fowler suggested having Eric Peach present the project at the next meeting and then have the other side present at a future meeting.

XIII. Adjournment
8:35 PM