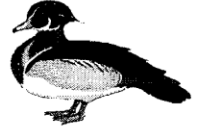




County of Nevada Fish & Wildlife Commission



June 2, 2015

MINUTES

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

PLACE: NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS-950 Maidu Avenue,
Nevada City, 95959

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark Thomas, Ray Butler, Wesley Zachary, Larry Mazzuca, Dave Lass, and Craig Ferrari

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Cindy Tobiassen and Bill Drown

COUNTY STAFF PRESENT: Chris Flores; Agricultural Commissioner, Jennifer Acree;
Office Assistant

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Lois Shelton and Mitch Lockhart; California Department of
Fish and Wildlife

1. Call to Order

Commission Vice Chair Lass called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Commission Vice Chair Lass led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Commission Vice Chair Lass called for a motion to approve the agenda. Commission Member Thomas motioned to approve the agenda. Commission Member Mazzuca seconded the motion. There were none opposed. **The motion was carried unanimously.**

4. Approve Minutes of the April 7, 2015, Meeting

Commission Vice Chair Lass called for a motion to approve the April 7, 2015, meeting minutes. Commission Member Mazzuca motioned. Commission Member Wesley seconded the motion. **The motion was carried unanimously.**

5. Public Comment

Lois Shelton mentioned she is concerned about the bears in Florida.

6. Fine Fund Balance (identified as Item 7 on meeting agenda)

Commissioner Flores reviewed the Fine Fund Balance numbers. There are three more weeks remaining in the 2014/15 Fiscal Year. There has been a \$500.00 dollar increase in fine money received since the April meeting.

7. New Business

a.) Report of Central Sierra Commission Meeting – Commission Member Ferrari

Commissioner Member Ferrari reported on the May 16th Central Sierra Commission Meeting, which took place from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The meeting was hosted by El Dorado County and was well attended with nine counties participating, which included Nevada, Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Colusa, and Placer County. Ted Gaines of the 1st Senate District was the guest speaker and suggested that Commissions express their legislative concerns directly to the State instead of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC). Other counties are also not receiving much Fine Fund Revenue. Other issues discussed were about deer lice (in El Dorado County) and the biologist for El Dorado County requested that if it's seen here to report it.

Inyo County receives \$75,000 annually for their Fish and Wildlife Commission and most of that is spent on fish stocking. There are two openings on the State Fish and Wildlife Commission; however the State is not moving forward with filling them at this time.

Fundraising was discussed but Commissioner Members Ferrari's and Butler stated they believe it is illegal to do so. Staff will ask for clarification on this. It may depend on what the fundraising is for. The Commission agreed donations and fundraising should be discussed during the August meeting to explore ideas about how donation and fundraising money would best be spent to benefit the community, including participation at the Nevada County Fair.

8. Presentation – Mitch Lockhart, Environmental Scientist, California Department of Fish and Wildlife – 2015 Stocking Plans and Drought-Related Fisheries issues for Nevada County (identified as Item 6 on meeting agenda)

Mitch introduced himself to the Commission Members and guests as the District Biologist for Nevada, Placer, and El Dorado Counties. The continued drought is impacting the hatchery production specifically the catchable size Rainbow Trout. Most of these fish come out of the American River Hatchery and with water conditions as they are; it is expecting to go off line again due to water temperature issues. Nevada County will most likely have a 45 percent reduction from last year. Lack of funding is also concern. There is a 50 percent State-wide. The Department is seeking additional funding sources for a long term solution for production short falls. Production began decreasing prior to the drought because of reduced funding. Mitch explained what catchable fish are and that average size over the past 13 years has been decreasing. The cost per pound to produce Rainbow Trout has dramatically increased for water and disease treatment. Mitch will send the stocking rates to Commission Member Lass. Mitch asked what Fish Derby's take place in Nevada County so they can be sure to stock fish.

9. Old Business

a.) Review of Draft Bylaw Changes

This was the final reading of the Bylaw changes. Commission Vice Chair called for a motion to approve the Bylaw changes. Commission Member Butler motioned. There were none opposed. **The motioned was passed unanimously.**

10. Agency Reports

a.) Department of Fish and Wildlife

No report.

b.) Tahoe National Forest

No Report.

c.) Nevada Irrigation District (NID)

No report.

d.) Nevada County Agricultural Commissioner – Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Commissioner Flores announced the week of June 9th has been designated as Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Action Week via Resolution approved by the Board of Supervisors. Commissioner Flores will make a presentation to the Board of Supervisors relative to AIS and Noxious Weed Abatement.

Secretary Vilsack of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that an additional 800,000 acres dedicated to Conservation Reserve Program for habitat and wildlife via the 2015 Farm Bill. Commission Member Butler would like to look at the National breakdown of this.

The Nevada County Ag Tour is scheduled for June 11, 2015, and will show attendees where Parker Dam will be constructed.

The ATV purchased by the Commission for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife does belong to their department.

e.) Other Public Agencies

No other reports.

10. Commission Member Comments

Commission Member Ferrari reported he baited some birds and water fowl are doing well where there is water. The ducklings are living longer on the pond and are having successful hatches. The bull frogs are back and there are approximately 20 Western Pond Turtles.

Commission Member Butler mentioned Ted Gaines' Legislative Report. He is concerned about AB665, which seems to be moving along the Legislature. The Bill would allow Counties to make up their own rules about how to handle wildlife issues. There are some other Bills that have been withdrawn this year; however will most likely be included in 2016.

11. Correspondence

There were no questions/comments regarding correspondence.

12. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Commission Vice Chair Lass adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Jennifer Acree, Office Assistant

Approved on: _____

Chair, Cindy Tobiassen