



Humboldt County Fish & Game Advisory Commission MINUTES

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

6:30 PM

This meeting is held at the Elk's Club

445 Herrick Avenue

Eureka, CA

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Paul Amato, Bruce Cann, John Clark, Phil Grunert, Tom Herman, Kelly McGittigan, Matt Nannizzi, Kelly Patton, Kenny Priest, Ted Romo, Brad Smith, Jeff Stackhouse, Todd Wagner, Mike Zamboni and Nancy Kaytis-Slocum, Secretary.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kenny Priest at 6:43. These members were absent: John Clark (he is on a 6-month retroactive leave of absence, ending at the March 18, 2025 meeting), Phil Grunert, Tom Herman, Matt Nannizzi (resigned 01-21-25), Brad Smith, Jeff Stackhouse, Todd Wagner.

The Commissioners noted that if our meeting begins at 6:30, and we only give a speaker ½ hour to speak, that doesn't give much time for questions. MOTION: (McGittigan/Patton) Change meeting start time to 6pm. All in favor. The Secretary will check with Brad Smith regarding the Elk's Club availability, and the Clerk of the Board to find out if possible, and who would approve.

2. SPEAKER: Commissioner Brad Smith is unable to attend this meeting and will have a speaker for the next meeting.

Possible speaker suggestions were discussed including A J Bolton to discuss trends, tickets, regulations for steelhead and salmon, fines; and Supervisor Natalie Arroyo. Secretary will contact both. Others suggested were Kerrington, DFW, Scott Bauer, Warden Shane Embry, and Brelle, Assistant Biologist to Kerrington.

Approved minutes

3. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

This portion of the meeting is reserved for people desiring to address the committee on matters not on the agenda. Pursuant to the Brown Act (Govt. Code Section 54950 et seq.) action or commission discussion cannot be taken on open time matters, other than to receive the comments, and if deemed necessary, to refer the subject matter to the appropriate agency or department, for follow-up and/or to schedule the matter on a subsequent commission agenda.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Approve December 17, 2024 meeting minutes.

The minutes were approved by consensus after the following changes were noted on River Access:

Great Redwood Trails Friends Group and Friends of the Eel River are on board for this project: they have been collecting paperwork from people who used Fisher Road before 1972. This is moving forward.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS/UPDATES

- A. Fishing
 - a. Humboldt County Fishing Accommodations – See Action 8A.

See Action 8A

- B. Hunting
 - a. Elk Management in the North Coast Elk Management Unit. Elk Working Group. Report on meeting of January 10, Friday, 2025 – Commissioner Mike Zamboni or Commissioner Jeff Stackhouse.

Commissioner Mike Zamboni attended this meeting where Elk Management problems were discussed. At the next meeting possible solutions will be presented and discussed.

- C. Access
 - a. Fisher Road access – Commissioner Bruce Cann

Shelby Patton, guest, spoke on Fisher Road access. Commissioner Kelly Patton recused himself from discussions. Shelby has invited Brad Smith to visit the property next week. She stressed that the Pattons did not take away access. Commissioner Brad Smith can give a report at the next meeting. The River has changed, and there is now a 20 foot drop off to the river. Access would have to come from the property between the Patton's and the river. In ¼ mile, there is access from the Bess Property. Chair Kenny Priest reminded everyone that we were not going to solve this during our meeting. The Commissioners are concerned that we are losing access to rivers all over Humboldt County.

Approved minutes

D. Off-shore Wind Development – Commissioners Tom Herman and Kelly McGittigan.

This issue is null due to one of President Trump’s Executive Orders signed on 1/20/25. “Temporary withdrawal of all areas on the outer continental shelf from offshore wind leasing and review of the federal government’s leasing and permitting practices for wind projects.”

E. Nordic Fish Farming – Commissioner Tom Herman

No Report

F. Pampas Grass Removal – Commissioner Paul Amato

Commissioner Paul Amato reminded the Commission that this issue is under the jurisdiction of the Parks Department and asked that this item be removed from the agenda

7. OLD BUSINESS

Chair Kenny Priest explained that items that were carryovers from the previous meeting would be listed here.

8. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approve sending Commissioner Kenny Smith’s revised letter. Commissioner approval required prior to sending to the Board of Supervisors. Motion.

MOTION: (McGittigan/Patton) Approve Chair Kenny Priest’s letter to the Board of Supervisors concerning Fish Cleaning Stations. All in favor. Paul Amato offered to go to the BoS meeting when this is discussed. Kelly Patton will contact Supervisor Michelle Bushnell to sponsor this item on the Supervisor’s agenda.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- A. California Fish and Game Commission External Stakeholder Survey. Sent by email, request a commissioner to fill out online.
- B. Fishing and hunting regulations

Commissioner Ted Romo reported that Black Brandt hunting season has been reduced to 15 days total.

- C. Legislative updates
- D. Attendance Records for the last year

The Secretary will be including this with every agenda, and will bring the county’s regulations regarding attendance to the next meeting.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

- A. February 18, 2025

11. CARRYOVERS FROM MEETING

December meeting:

- Secretary will research Fish and Game code section 5650 5455 to see where fish guts can be disposed of.
- Nordic Fish Farm - Commissioner Herman will send documents through the secretary to go to all the commissioners.
- California Fish and Game Commission External Stakeholder Survey - Commissioner Paul Amato will represent the Commission.
- Duck Hunting on Humboldt Bay - Commissioner Ted Romo will send out information on this.

January meeting:

- Secretary to check with Brad Smith regarding availability of Elk's Club for 6pm start time, and check with Clerk of the Board regarding change in start time
- Secretary to contact Commissioner Brad Smith regarding February speaker.
- Secretary will contact A J Bolton to be a speaker at our March meeting.
- Secretary will contact Supervisor Natalie Aroyo to be a speaker at our April meeting
- Secretary to submit December minutes to the Clerk of the Board to post.
- Remove Pampas Grass from the agenda
- Submit letter regarding Fish Cleaning Station to the Board of Supervisors to place on their agenda. Contact Supervisor to sponsor the agenda item
- Secretary to contact the Clerk of the Board regarding attendance and resignations. Bring County regulations regarding attendance to the next meeting.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57pm.