



Humboldt County Fish & Game Advisory Commission MINUTES February 18, 2020

The Commission meets the THIRD Tuesday each month from 6:30pm through 8:30pm. Agenda items and supporting info should be mailed to HCF&GAC; PO Box 922; Ferndale, CA 95536; Phone 707.786.4902 or 707.407.5747 email: nkaytis4@gmail.com up to two weeks following previous meeting. Held at the Elks Club on Herrick in Eureka

Attendance: James Clark, John Clark, (ab)Loren Furber, (ab)Phil Grunert, Hollie Hall, Yadao B. Inong,(ab) Denver Nelson, (ab)Kenny Priest, Ted Romo, Brad Smith, Jeff Stackhouse, (ab)Harry Vaughn, Mike Zamboni, Nancy Kaytis-Slocum. (ab)=absent. Guest: Joan Romo.

Meeting called to order by Chairman John Clark at 6:30 pm.

The minutes from the January 21, 2020 were unanimously approved by MOTION: (Stackhouse/Zamboni). Commissioner Brad Smith reminded us that according to Roberts Rules of Order, the minutes do not have to be approved by MOTION.

OLD BUSINESS – Reports

Crab Fishing: Commissioner Zamboni reported crab season will remain open beyond April 1st provided the risk of whale entanglement is minimal.

Wolves: Zamboni reported that a wolf hunt has been approved in Montana.

Hunting Access: Zamboni reported that the Supervisor for the 5th District, Steve Madrone, has proposed a no shooting ordinance for the McKinleyville Service District area, and mapped the proposed area. Commissioner Brad Smith believes the map has expanded past McKinleyville to include Ferndale and Fortuna – no exemptions. Smith asked if they were expanding the ordinance he worked on last year. There is a renegade range club in Samoa. Brad Smith will talk with Sheriff Honsal about this proposed ordinance.

Cannabis: Commissioner Hollie Hall reported that the farmland is resting during this season and that compliant cannabis farms have implemented a rigorous set of site winterization measures that prevent sediment from leaving the land. She expressed concern with a seemingly anti-cannabis culture held by at least one Region 1 CDFW permitting agent who is refusing to accept the expert opinion of licensed engineers, accredited biologists, and licensed surveys. The concern is that the agent's lack in expertise in conjunction with regulatory power will force people off of the land they are attempting to upgrade and farm. If widespread abandonment of farmland occurs, both the ecosystem and economy will be negatively impacted.

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: Commissioner Hall that Humboldt County was awarded grant funding to develop a Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan for the Eel River Valley Groundwater. The Eel River Valley Groundwater Working Group will meet on Thursday, March 5, from 1:00 to 2:00 pm at the Humboldt County Ag Center (5630 South Broadway, Eureka) to learn more. She will attend.

Pikeminnow spearing: Commissioner Brad Smith reported that he's been working with Pat Higgins about a more professional proposal, including qualifications for spear fishermen. Higgins will be bringing this to a future meeting.

Fish Health: Commissioner Yadao Inong reported that adult Coho salmon numbers returning to the Trinity hatchery have been dangerously low. In accordance with the Endangered Species Act it is

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now necessary to take further steps to ensure the survival of Trinity River Coho salmon. The next step is to trap and transport Coho from the Junction City fish weir to the Trinity Hatchery in Lewiston to ensure a high rate of spawners and egg survival. The Yurok Tribe purchased a special transport vessel in order to begin this process in fall of 2019 but it was called off last minute by the B.O.R. for unstated reasons. There is a multi-agency group that reviews and develops protocol for hatchery management based on current best practices. Their work has great potential to create positive change..

ACTION ITEMS

Proposed regulation changes concerning the 2020-2021 mammal hunting (annual). MOTION (Stackhouse/Zamboni) Recommend to the Board of Supervisors to review, adapt as needed and send a letter of support for the proposed changes to the NW Elk Hunts that was authored by Commissioner Jeffrey Stackhouse. All in favor.

Suggested change to the proposed 2020/2021 waterfowl season: MOTION: (Stackhouse/Zamboni) Recommend to the Board of Supervisors to review, adapt as needed and send a letter suggesting a change to the proposed North Coast Special Management Area goose season. Much discussion followed about this issue lead by Commissioner Ted Romo, who is against sending this letter at this time. The vote: Yadao B. Inong and Brad Smith abstained, three ayes, Hollie Hall, Jefferey Stackhouse and Mike Zamboni, and two nays, Ted Romo and James Clark. Motion failed. (MOTION: (Romo/) Invite the public to give input on this issue. Motion died for lack of a second. MOTION: (Smith/Stackhouse) Recommend to the Board of Supervisors to review, adapt as needed and send a letter suggesting a change to the proposed North Coast Special Management Area goose season that was authored by Commissioner Jeffrey Stackhouse. Two against (Romo and Jim Clark) Five for. Motion carries. Commissioner Hall asked the secretary to find out whether or not county regulations contain a process for the Commission to obtain public input other than the regularly used public posting of the agenda and publicly held meetings (for example: public hearings or posting in newspapers as was suggested by Commissioner Romo during discussion).

Announcements: The Eel River Valley Groundwater Working Group will meet on Thursday, March 5, from 1:00 to 2:00 pm at the Humboldt County Ag Center; 5630 South Broadway, Eureka. Humboldt County Noxious weed meeting, which occurs every 5 years to rank the weeks, will occur on April 13 from 1-3 pm at the BLM office in Arcata.

Next meeting March 17, 2020. Professor Kaitlin Reed, HSU - environmental effects of marijuana cultivation along the river and Greta Wengert - effects of toxics at trespass grow sites

The meeting was closed at 8:02pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Nancy Kaytis-Slocum, Secretary