



Humboldt County Fish & Game Advisory Commission MINUTES March 15, 2022

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. Online meeting via ZOOM.

Meeting called to order by Vice-Chairman Ted Romo at 6:32pm. Attendance: (ab)James Clark, John Clark, (ab)Loren Furber, (ab)Phil Grunert, Hollie Hall, Yadao B. Inong, Kenny Priest, Ted Romo, Brad Smith, (ab)Jeff Stackhouse, Harry Vaughn, Todd Wagner, (ab)Mike Zamboni, Nancy Kaytis-Slocum. (ab)=absent.

Chair John Clark brought the meeting to order at 6:31pm

Minutes the January 18 meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

Current Issues

Groundwater Commissioner Hollie Hall reported that Humboldt County created a ground water sustainability program. Public comment will be accepted until April 30, 2022. Groundwater is being used: 12% municipal, 3% houses in county, 1% other. Better monitoring is needed. More information can be found on the Department of Water Resources web page.

Cannabis: Commissioner Hall reported that the Friends of the Eel River have filed a lawsuit and were awarded money to improve water on public and private properties. There is \$1,000,000 in grant funding available. Compromise A1 came to the Board of Supervisors to approve road and culvert improvements, \$15,000 each for commercial growers. A1 is now off the table and will come back within a month. There was a lack of outreach.

Salmon Habitat Restoration: Commissioner Harry Vaughn reported with enhanced flows, there was enough water for steelhead last year and this year.

Oak and Meadow Management: Vaughn reported that burning during the February burns, field observers worked out well.

Fishing: Commissioner Kenny Priest reported that fishing is OK despite lack of water. Two months ago the California Fish and Game Commission passed a law to extend local low water closures until April. This included the lower Eel River from Fulmor Road to the mouth of the Eel. No hook and line, crabbing is ok. It will be closed from September until April. Priest is working with other agencies to get this rescinded. He will stay on it.

Fish Health: Commissioner Yadao Inong reported that there is not much water in the Klamath this year. This time of year the lower river is colder than the upper. Salmon carcasses are being dumped in upper Grass Valley Creek to replace nutrients. They would also like to do this in the Main Stem Trinity. Hatchery fish from Klamath River are held up again with low water; they are holding back the fall salmon.

Elk Herd: Elk are expanding in the Blue Lake area. Assuming all are issuing 15 additional Elk Tags. Draw hunt uses the point system. Three bull tags, rest are cows.

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On Land Fish Farming: February 18 is the last day to comment on DEIR. Jim Clark's group sent comments. They are concerned with the take of bait fish. 13,000 lb of undersized rock fish can also be taken. This is not viable commercially.

Offshore Wind Energy: Commissioner Jim Clark reported that they have received a \$10.5 million grant. The Audubon Society wants to be sure that the project will avoid bird strikes and complications to fisheries.

Coastal Fishing Communities Policy Drafting Workshop: Commissioner Hollie Hall reported she was not able to participate in this. Someone needs to read information on two fishing area plans: Eureka and Shelter Cove. There will be restrictions to commercial fisheries. Ted Romo volunteered to keep up with and report on this issue.

Tribal Contact Information: Commissioner Yadao Inong presented a 3-page document of Tribal Contact Information, MOTION: (Jim Clark/Smith) Approve Tribal Contact List for the Commission's use and send a copy of it to the Board of Supervisors for their use. All in favor.

Next meeting is April 19 and will be held by ZOOM. Vice Chair Ted Romo closed the meeting at 8pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Kaytis-Slocum
Secretary