



Humboldt County Fish & Game Advisory Commission MINUTES March 16, 2021

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 6:35pm. Attendance: James Clark, John Clark, (ab)Loren Furber, (ab)Phil Grunert, Hollie Hall, Yadao B. Inong, Rhiannon Lewis-Stephenson, (ab)Denver Nelson, (ab)Kenny Priest, Ted Romo, Brad Smith, Jeff Stackhouse, (ab)Harry Vaughn, Mike Zamboni, Nancy Kaytis-Slocum. (ab)=absent. Guests included Moriah Miranda, Vinnie Baragu, Deon Roche, Nolan Santala, Kyle Peterson, Joe Xiong, Catherine Masaritani, Daniel Montoya.

The minutes from the January meeting 19, 2021 were approved. There was no meeting in February. There was no speaker.

Public Comment: Moriah Miranda spoke regarding a cleanup that was not completed. 119 abandoned vehicles were to be removed in a \$208,000 bid by a towing company, which didn't finish the job near the Van Duzen River.

Board meeting regarding abatement: Commissioner Jim Clark reported: The Green Rush cannabis situation has shined a light on this. Commissioner John Clark complained about the high fences all around his property. Commissioner Rhiannon Lewis-Stephenson noted Meadows Farm near McCann, and the Dyerville Loop Tulip Farm. Commissioner Jim Clark talked about wildlife issues, eagles, fire suppression Commissioner Brad Smith remarked that the cannabis industry is new and there will be conflict between wildlife and the industry. Commissioner Furman noted that the state has lots of biologists and other agencies that look at permits. Brad Smith remarked that we recommend to the Board of Supervisors require that the Planning Department provide an environmental staff member.

National Wildlife Refuge: Commissioner Ted Romo inquired about a well that was supposed to be supplying water to the refuge for hunting purposes. A well was ordered for \$85,000, but the driller found sand in the well, which was sucked up into the pump and ruined it. There is a well that provides water to headquarters. Zamboni reported that Lisa has said that water issues have been resolved. Phil Grunert will look into this.

Salmon Habitat Restoration: Commissioner Harry Vaughn reported he has attended meetings for salmon habitat on the Eel River. He reported that there are green sturgeon in the river now.

PFMC: Commissioner Mike Zamboni reported that the San Francisco area season is reduced or there is no season. Doesn't sound promising.

Fishing: Commissioner Kenny Priest reported on the recommended salmon season to the Oregon border, we are lucky to even have a season. Klamath quotas are about the same.

Fish Health: Commissioner Yadao B. Inong reported all is going well on the rivers. They are cold, which the fish need. Trapping is starting. Installed a rotary screw trap in Wichipee, and a new one on the lower end of Klamath River. The Yurok KR division is doing the trapping through USFW. Bill Kinneck of the USFW office has the numbers, which Inong will attempt to get along with the report.

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Wolves: Commissioner Zamboni heard of a Showers Pass sighting. He thinks he heard one howling in Blue Lake.

Elk Herd: Commissioner Zamboni thinks we should move share hunts from del Norte to Humboldt County. In the Blue Lake herd, there have been vehicle crashes with Elk. They are staying in one big herd instead of branching off. Commissioner Brad Smith reported that in the winter they hand in large herds, rut in September when they will move great distances. Commissioner Zamboni says that's what should happen but didn't with the Blue Lake herd. They are surrounded with other herds – when they run out of food, they'll move.

Mountain lions: Zamboni reported that John Nathan, a rancher in the Arcata Bottoms sighted a mountain lion in the beginning of November. He thinks it just passed through this area.

ACTION ITEM

Attendance Report: Commissioner Furber reported that it is difficult, with two children under 10 years old, to attend a Zoom meeting. MOTION: (Zamboni/Grunert) Keep Commissioner Furber on the commission. All in favor.

Announcements:

- Commissioner Zamboni reported there are new regulations for crabs. The regs propose a minimum size of 5" to 11" – that'll blow crab traps away. They are requiring an escape ring no more than 5" from top of trap. Lots of gear will become illegal. This is not beneficial for crab or whales.
- Commissioner Lauren Furber thanked Moriah for her report. Jim Clark will attempt to get some information from John Ford, Director of Planning and Building.

Legislative Update: SB322 regarding modifying liability loses to burns. Can't do burns, can't maintain meadows. SB252 was pulled.

Next meeting April 20, 2021

The meeting was closed at 8:01 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Nancy Kaytis-Slocum, Secretary