



Humboldt County Fish & Game Advisory Commission MINUTES March 19, 2019

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 email: nkaytis4@gmail.com up to two weeks following previous meeting. Held at the Elks Club on Herrick in Eureka

Attendance: Present: Ted Romo, Mike Zamboni, Brad Smith, Harry Vaughn, Phil Grunert, Hollie Hall, John Clark, Kim Watson, Loren Furber, Denver Nelson, Kenny Priest, Joan Romo, Acting Secretary. Absent: Patricia Lai, Wes Moore, and Nancy Kaytis-Slocum, Secretary. Our guests were: Jim Stemach, Chris Heppe (BLM), Hank Seemann (Humboldt Co. Public Works), and Alan Miller.

Meeting called to order by Chairman John Clark at 6:37 pm.

SPEAKERS:

Speaker: Hank Seemann, Deputy Director-Environmental Services, Humboldt County Public Works was the opening speaker. HCPW is providing consistency by having an agreement with BLM to manage South Spit. BLM will continue to manage and monitor the South Spit and repair South Jetty Road. There are no changes to the policies in BLM Management Plan. Hank Seemann will write a draft letter for the April meeting, asking the HCF&GAC for support of the current plan that can presented to the BOS in May for their possible approval.

Alan Miller asked about the gate access being available for Wiyot tribal ceremonies. He mentioned there could be federal money available to help maintain the road, and that would support BLM's management plan.

Commissioner Romo asked if the 4:00 am policy for opening the gate during waterfowl season could be put into a MOU. That would be from Oct. 1-Jan. 31. Hank Seemann mentioned that between 2002-2006 BLM went to the California Coastal Commission. The CCC's decision was to close the South Spit at night in order to prevent future activity at night.

Chris Heppe, BLM, said there are federal funds available to help maintain the roads. BLM gets money from Congress. Commissioner Hall asked about a MOU to help address public access.

Speaker: Jim Stemach, HCOE, gave a Mid-Year Report summary of HCOE-Classroom Aquarium Education Program Grant #2018.1. The students get the fish eggs in mid-January and release them between April and May. They have a partnership with the CCC programs. There are 44 classrooms participating in the program.

The minutes of the February 19, 2019 meeting were approved. MOTION (Hall/Smith). All in favor.

OLD BUSINESS – Reports

Potter Valley Update: Commissioner Denver Nelson gave an update. Congressman Jared Huffman decides what happens to our water and how much goes to Potter Valley. Humboldt County needs to stay informed about the water. A possible letter from the commission could be written to BOS to keep this issue active. There is going to be a Pike Minnow Conference on Wed., March 27, at the River Lodge at 10:00 am.

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Pat Higgins has been invited to present a 53-minute video to the commissioners at the April meeting. Electronic equipment will need to be available.

Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge: Commissioner Phil Grunert didn't have any updates.

Oak and Meadow Management: Commissioner Harry Vaughn mentioned there is going to be a meeting on Indian Creek on March 25. Commissioner Harry Vaughn reported updates on Salmon Habitat Restoration.

PFMC: Commissioner Mike Zamboni reported that salmon season was opening April 13th in Fort Bragg. Pacific halibut opened on March 1st.

Cannabis: Commissioner Hollie Hall mentioned that \$17 million had been collected from cannabis taxes.

Wildlife Protection Act: Commissioner John Clark reported. He said it does not look good.

NEW BUSINESS

Archery: Commissioner Brad Smith reported that there needs to be clarification to what a 40# draw means. He will draft a letter to bring back to the commissioners to clarify some ideas about bow-draw poundage.

Fish Farming: Commissioner Ted Romo did not have any new updates.

Eel River Recovery Plan: Commissioner Phil Grunert will have a movie for the commissioners to watch at the April meeting.

Klamath and Trinity Rivers: Commissioner Kenny Priest reported that the Klamath and Trinity Rivers are closed to salmon fishing. The Lower Klamath opens Aug. 15 and the Trinity on Sept. 1. There will be two more meetings for the Fish and Game to gather information.

January 31 Duck Season Ending Letter: A MOTION was made and seconded (Smith/Zamboni) to approve the draft letter to the BOS recommending the BOS support the proposal for the January 31st closure for duck hunting only for the balance of the state. All in favor. Chair John Clark signed the letter that was being sent to the BOS.

NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA

Hank Seemann will be presenting a draft letter for the commissioners to approve to send to the BOS regarding the commission's support of the BLM management plan.

Guest Speaker will be Patrick Higgins, showing a video on the Resilient Eel River. It will be about 53 minutes long.

Commissioner Brad Smith will be presenting a draft letter for the commissioners to approve to send to the BOS regarding the bow poundage.

Next meeting: April 16, 2019

ADJOURN 8:25 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Joan Romo, Acting Secretary