



Humboldt County Fish & Game Advisory Commission MINUTES April 16, 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: Denver Nelson, Loren Furber, Brad Smith, Ted Romo, Kim Watson, John Clark, Phil Grunert, Mike Zamboni, Patricia Lai, Harry Vaughn, Hollie Hall, Kenny Priest.

Absent: Wes Moore. Our guests were: Hank Seemann (Humboldt Co. Public Works), Jim Clark, Pat Higgins, Joan Romo, Chris Heppe, Jan Duncan-Vaughn and Yaad Rana.

Meeting called to order by Chairman John Clark at 6:40 pm. Kim Watson said he'd been asked to step down by Supervisor Steve Madrone. Commissioner Hall thought the Commission ought to write a letter to the Board of Supervisors asking them to work together to keep 15 commissioners on the roster. Kim Watson has not missed many meetings and it seems a shame to lose someone who is an active participant in the commission.

SPEAKER: Pat Higgins showed a 50 minute film on "The Resilient Eel River." Higgins related that he is trying to get permits to spear the Sacramento Pike Minnows that have invaded our waters. Commissioners Smith and Grunert relayed that they'd like to help if permitted.

The minutes of the March 19, 2019 meeting were asked to be changed by Harry Vaughn. The corrected minutes will come back to the next meeting.

Modifications: MOTION (Nelson/Smith) Add as an emergency item discussion on Kim Watson's dismissal. All in favor.

Item 8b was moved forward: Cooperative Management Agreement between HC and the BLM for Table Bluff County Park. MOTION: (Nelson/Smith) Have chair sign and send prepared letter. All in favor.

OLD BUSINESS – Reports

Oak and Meadow Management: Commissioner Harry Vaughn reported that on April 3 he attended the Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association (HCPBA) general membership meeting. Prescribed fire planning was discussed for this coming year. On May 7 - 8 the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Northern California Prescribed Fire Council (NCPFC) will be held in Eureka at the Eagle House. The second day will consist of a field trip to visit recent prescribed fire in Humboldt County.

PFMC and Whale Entanglement: Commissioner Mike Zamboni reported there are purportedly two pods of Orca Whales. One is named the Alaskan pod and exists mainly on pinnipeds. The other group migrates up and down the coast and they mainly eat salmon.

Cannabis: Commissioner Hollie Hall relayed that the Salmonid Restoration Conference will be in Santa Rosa April 23-26. On April 24th a one-day workshop titled Growing Impacts: Cannabis and Instream Flows will be held. Scheduled talks will present data interpretations of cannabis impacts on instream flows.

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Commissioner Vaughn reported that he has been attending Salmon Habitat Restoration Priorities (SHARP) meetings concerning salmon restoration planning in the South Fork Eel River Watershed. The next meeting will occur on May 1.

Crab Fishing: Commissioner Mike Zamboni relayed that the Center for Biological Diversity said they will close the crabbing season in the San Francisco area next year. Commissioner Nelson explained that there has already been a ruling on this. There is a temporary agreement with benchmarks. Nelson recommended to work within the parameters and feed information into the agreement: how are they tracking? Compare different crabbing gear. Involve fishing advocacy groups. Zamboni said pop up buoys and long lining gear is already prohibited. There are only two whales on the endangered species list: Humpback and Blue.

On land fish farming proposal: Commissioner Romo reported on a symposium he'd attended this week regarding a processing plant for on-land farmed fish. The species to be farmed is undetermined. They have leased 30 acres. Zamboni said he was all for industry in Humboldt County as long as they don't raise Chinook.

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: Commissioner Hollie Hall reported that on April 4th the first round of grant recipients were announced. Groundwater is reported to be at 23' in the coastal area, and 4' in the Holmes area.

Wildlife Protection Act: Commissioner John Clark reported that he has spoken to people on this. It is moving slowly: Sportsmens' Coalition, Trapping Association. This is a bad issue. There is a new bill to ban bobcat hunting in addition to the bill already banning bobcat trapping. There should be exemptions for tribal usage and nuisance permits.

NEW BUSINESS

Joining with other Fish and Game Commissions to pay for a representative to attend the Pacific fishery Management Council Meetings. The commissioners agreed that we have good representation on the PFMC and that we needn't pay to send someone else, especially with our limited funds.

Archery Change: Commissioner Brad Smith is researching bow pull poundage and will get back to us with real data. He will be doing the testing.

Crab Resolution: MOTION: (Nelson/Smith) We support the Board of Supervisors Resolution opposing the early closure of Dungeness crab fishery. All in favor.

Dismissal of Commissioner: MOTION: (Hall/Zamboni) ~~Secretary and Commissioner Hall will examine the rules regarding dismissal of Commissioners and then write a letter encouraging the Board of Supervisors to follow the rules if they had not been followed. (changed during 6/18/19 meeting and approved) work on figuring out a letter to the Board of Supervisors asking them to work together to ensure we have a full Commission.~~ All in favor.

Announcements: Priest reported that the Trinity County F&G Commission has a Facebook page. He will send the secretary the link.

Next meeting: April 16, 2019. ADJOURN 9:35 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Nancy Kaytis-Slocum, Secretary