



Humboldt County Fish & Game Advisory Commission MINUTES May 21, 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, Ted Romo, Phil Grunert, Yadao B. Inang, Mike Zamboni.
Absent: Loren Furber, Harry Vaughn, Hollie Hall, Kenny Priest, Wes Moore.

Meeting called to order by Chairman John Clark at 6:40 pm.

The minutes were not approved due to lack of a quorum until after the meeting was begun.

OLD BUSINESS – Reports

Grants: The secretary related her meeting with county budget people. This year we have only \$9000 to give out in grants. During budget meeting, it was disclosed that the income from fine money has been dropping year by year. They suggested \$9000 for next year, and dropping the secretary's pay from the newly adopted \$6000 down to \$3000. Secretary said she couldn't work for that and agreed to \$4500 for next fiscal year. Budget advised that either the secretary has to drop her pay, or possibly offer grants every other year. The Commissioners asked about the Marijuana remediation fees, and didn't we get any money from that? The commissioners asked the secretary to keep track of all her time. They asked that financials be presented at the next meeting.

Area Rivers: Commissioner Denver Nelson reported that flushing flows down the Klamath River Basin on the hypothesis that these flows would reduce the numbers of polychaete worm (invertebrate host of Ceratonova shasta) did not work. He also reported there was a discussion this morning about the Potter Valley project at the Humboldt Board of Supervisors meeting. What's going on with the Potter Valley diversion project is very complicated. The FERC license is about to expire. PG&E has the current license but decided that it wanted to give it up and would sell the Potter Valley diversion to anybody who wanted it. Years ago they were willing to sell at one dollar but now they are entertaining bids. The ownership of the project will have to assume a tremendous legal liability. There has been an ongoing discussion group put together by Congressman Huffman. It was announced yesterday that Sonoma County, Cal Trout and Mendocino water and inland water company each put up \$100,000 to look into buying the project. Humboldt County was excluded; some say because we said we wanted Scott dam removed or at least have fish passage over Scott dam. Humboldt County is now welcome to become a player in a \$300,000 group but it is unclear if we have to pay \$100,000 or can use just staff time. The deadline for submitting the takeover of G&E's FERC license is June 1. The final submission must be done by April 2020. Commissioner Nelson believes HC's negotiating position should be removal of Scott dam. There is enough water coming down the river that diversion of it during high flows in the winter could be stored in the Potter Valley. This would necessitate building storage in the Potter Valley. There is enough water for Sonoma, Mendocino and Marin counties without doing this. Nelson hopes this will be HC's negotiation position if it joins the other three principal players. Nelson believes this

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whole situation smacked of behind the scenes negotiating but that was denied by Hank Seemann and Craig Tucker. There were no tribes that spoke on this issue this morning and only Friends of the Eel spoke for environmental groups. There was no mention of Pikeminnow. MOTION: (Nelson/) Ask the Board of Supervisors to become more involved with whoever is making decisions. Motion died for lack of a second. MOTION: (Nelson/) Adjust the budget to send Hank Seemann to Potter Valley diversion meetings. Motion died for lack of a second. MOTION: (Nelson/Smith) Ask the Board of Supervisors to increase the water budget. We need to become more involved in the Potter Valley project. All in favor.

Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge: Commissioner Grunert announced the CWA dinner on Saturday night at the Elks Lodge. Tickets are \$60.

Oak and Meadow Management: In his absence, Commissioner Harry Vaughn sent a report to be read to the commission: On May 30 Vaughn will be attending the sudden Oak Death Workshop in Eureka. Since Sudden Oak Death (SOD) sporulation occurs in the spring during wet periods of rainfall he expects the SOD impacts to dramatically increase this year, given our wet Spring rains. He has been involved in plot layout and treatments in the South Fork Eel River since 2005 and some of the treatments are working in limiting the death of some very fine old groves of Tan Oaks in our area. The accelerated death of thousands of acres of Tan Oaks and the fuel loading and increased fire danger will be discussed. Food security impacts of SOD to Tan Oaks and Peppernut Trees (Pepperwoods) will be a future topic of concern. HC is still under quarantine and movement of tan Oak and Pepperwood is restricted at the current time. Sudden Oak Death where we treated is still alive... but where untreated is dying fast and fire is a new item of discussion... fire will clean it up... but with repercussions of hot uncontrollable fires in our neighborhood is a new challenge.. are we ready for the new normal in fire?

Salmon Habitat Restoration: In his absences, Commissioner Harry Vaughn sent a report to be read to the commission: “I am attending the Salmon Habitat Restoration Priorities (SHARP) meetings concerning salmon restoration planning in the South Fork Eel River Watershed. On May first we completed planning in the Indian Creek watershed area of the South Fork Eel River. Land acquisitions and conservation easements limiting water diversions and development rights is pivotal in preservation of these important Chinook, Coho and steelhead spawning and rearing habitats. We will continue planning in Redwood Creek (Redway area), Sproul Creek (Garberville area) and Bull Creek through the end of the year. These meetings are for a ten year salmonid restoration plan being developed for the South Fork Eel River.” Vaughn continued: “All in all there is a lot of hope for salmonid recovery with the current trajectory of habitat acquisition and conservation easements in our local area on Private Land Holdings... Buddahville was purchased and the egregious pot grow trash and land damage has been cleaned up... Lost Coast Forest Investments has purchased the former pot farm and has done a great job of cleaning up the mess, tons of trash removed and erosion control done in this vital salmon bearing watershed... the Eel River/Mattole River divide.... good things happening as far as salmon....”

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Commissioner Patricia Lai went to the burning conference in Witchipec & Orleans, and a field trip to the Mattole. Areas are thick with biomass. Here suggestion is to pull out biomass and use it to generate electricity. Why not log? Another commissioner mentioned that a person can take anything within 150' of an Oak Tree, and cut all the firs they want; however, no one is logging fir right now.

Crab Fishing: Commissioner Mike Zamboni relayed that regulations are changing regarding crabpots left after the season closes: The crabber has 15 days after the season to recover his pots, then cannot go out to recover. Instead F&G issues a permit for others to go out and collect the pots, F&G pays \$125 for each pot, then the crabber has to purchase the pot from F&G. There will be a final meeting this month.

Ocean Ranch Restoration Project: Conversion of fresh to salt water is not good for birds.

Wolves: Commissioner Grunert mentioned an article in Safari Times by Patrick O'Malley, the Washington correspondent about Wolf Delisting. The gray wolf has already been delisted in the Northern Rocky Mountains. The states of Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington have shown their ability to manage this delisted wolf population responsibly so that it remains healthy and sustainable. Populations in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota are also strong, and wolves are expanding into northern California, western Oregon and Washington. In total, the range-wide wolf population stands at more than 6,000 exceeding the combined recovery goals for the Northern Rocky Mountains and Western Great Lakes populations, according to the FWS.

Wildlife Protection Act of 2019: Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher (D-San Diego) is wanting to outlaw fur sales.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Zamboni reported that Gold Bluff beach was shut down to commercial fishing due to the disappearance of a newly hatched snowy plover. Oil Spill: 500-700 gals of hydraulic oil spilled at the Trinity dam. 9600 cfs are being pumped out, and the hatcher downstream sent fish to Davis to see if the fish are coated with hydraulic oil.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: The Supreme Court ruled in favor of a Native Crow Indian killing an Elk on Federal Lands because of a treaty.

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

Respectfully Submitted:

Nancy Kaytis-Slocum, Secretary