



**COUNTY OF PLACER  
FISH & GAME COMMISSION**

Ed King  
Deputy Agricultural Commissioner  
County Contact

**FISH & GAME COMMISSION MEMBERS**

**DISTRICT 1**

Don Gould

**DISTRICT 3**

Robert Haswell

**DISTRICT 5**

Kari Freidig

**DISTRICT 2**

Mark Fowler

**DISTRICT 4**

Gary Flanagan

**DISTRICT 5**

Ron Salter

**DISTRICT 5**

Mickey Daniels

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**PLACER COUNTY  
FISH & GAME COMMISSION  
Minutes**

**TIME/DATE: 7:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, March 28, 2012**

**LOCATION: PLACER COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING ROOM  
Community Development Resource Agency, DeWitt Center, Auburn  
3091 County Center Drive (corner of Bell Road and Richardson Drive),**

The Placer County Fish & Game Commission is committed to ensuring that persons with disabilities are provided the resources to participate fully in its public meetings. If you are hearing impaired, we have listening devices available. If you require additional disability-related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Recording Secretary at (530) 889-7372. If requested, the agenda shall be provided in appropriate alternative formats to persons with disabilities. All requests must be received at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting for which you are requesting accommodation. Requests received after such time will be accommodated only if time permits.

**I. CALL TO ORDER – Kari Freidig, Vice-Chairwoman**

**II. ROLL CALL – Mark Fowler, Kari Freidig, Ron Salter, Robert Haswell**

Not present: Don Gould, Mickey Daniels, Gary Flanagan

**III. APPROVAL OF Minutes for February 22, 2012 and Agenda for March 28, 2012**

Commissioner Fowler motioned to accept the agenda.

Commissioner Haswell seconded the motion.

All commissioners voted to accept the agenda.

Commissioner Fowler motioned to accept the minutes from February 22, 2012

Commissioner Salter seconded the motion

All voting commissioners voted to accept the minutes.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Individuals may address the Commission on items under the jurisdiction of the Agricultural Commission not included on this agenda for no longer than five (5) minutes. ***No action can be taken on items addressed under Public Comment***

None.

## **V. FINANCIAL REPORT**

### **A. Budget Update – Ed King**

Expenditures to date for FY 11/12 total \$7,718.15 including \$5,000 in grant awards, \$1086.66 in commissioner's fees, \$600.00 in secretary fees and \$1,019.01 in mileage reimbursement. Budgeted expenditures for the remainder of the fiscal year total \$2,651.85.

Revenues to date total \$363.25, including \$186.94 in fine monies and \$176.31 in interest. A total of \$1,200.00 was budgeted for the current fiscal year.

## **VI. AGENCY REPORTS**

### **A. Commission Updates**

Commissioner Fowler reported on the statewide mercury content in fish for the statewide meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup>. This is the third year with the water resources control board. They are having four different meetings in Northern California.

Sierra Club had a meeting with an expert on mercury. Assessment is not a lot is getting now. Seem that this is a homework assignment for the state. They have done testing to determine high levels in fish. Nothing is posted to indicate that the levels are above federal accepted limits. They have surveyed many areas in Placer County to determine the amount of fish consumed. It is over the accepted federal limits.

The question of "Why this is not posted?", was posed at the meetings. However, no answer provided. The mercury levels in the fish depend on the types of food and the age of the fish.

There is one more year on this mercury investigation board. There are active groups that attend the meetings.

Commissioner Salter indicated that the Sierra Central Committee of Fish and Game Commissions is meeting on Feb 24<sup>th</sup> in Grass Valley.

Commissioner Freidig reported that two letters, one from the Board of Supervisors and another from the commission, were sent to the DFG regarding the amended regulations on suction dredging.

A field trip to visit the Red Legged frog habitat at Big Gun Diggings. This is the largest remaining population in the Sierra Mountain range. The date of the field trip is Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The time has not been determined.

## **B. California Department of Fish & Game**

Lt. Lawson – New Lt. for the Placer, Sierra and Nevada Counties. They recently filled the Lincoln position.

Placer County has 4 wardens.

## **C. Nevada Irrigation District**

Sue – March has been very wet, almost 20 inches, average is 11.5. The snowpack is not increasing with the recent storms. The snow pack might still be at less than 20%.

The discussed the mercury content and the amount that can be consumed and notification to the public. Some lakes have notifications and the back of the fish regulations have information.

## **VII. Creation of a Recreational Access Trail along the Bear River Corridor from Highway 20 to Rollins Lake, Presented by Otis Wollan, Foothills Angler Coalition**

This topic is part of the FERC relicensing process.

On the American River, over a \$1M is going to increasing access to the river for recreation.

He presented a timeline for the Yuba Bear and Drum Spaulding Lake, YBDS.

It is important to work on the river recreation plan now as that is the phase of the lifecycle for the relicensing.

They want to have a watershed health improvement plan. One of the important parts of the plan is non-motorized vehicles.

Bear River starts at Lake Spaulding. The river runs through Bear Valley. There are already trails and those need to be preserved. Parking needs be provided. The trails connect to the pioneer trails, Emigrant Trail and Pacific Crest Trail. The old toll brothers' railroad is about 100 feet above the river.

Many of the old historic roads have been cut off by PG&E by putting up gates and no trespassing signs. You cannot get around the Drum powerhouse and prevents people from getting to a nice hiking trail.

Down by Dutch Flats there is an old county road that needs repairs that could be used for non-motorized vehicles.

There are some good opportunities from Rollins to Ben Taylor road. Much of the land along the river belongs to NID. Yuba Bear Land Trust is working with one landowner to develop a trail. There is already a good possibility to create a trail with is already in place. Need to get it formalized.

Ben Taylor to the campgrounds is another opportunity to create a trail on both sides of the river (Nevada County on one side and Placer County on the other). Some of the land is used by NID. There is the possibility to create a trail system here.

There are lots of old facilities that can be used to create access.

Many groups are going to declare themselves as interveners on the license.

US Forest Service, WACMAC, Bear Yuba Land Trust, Placer Land Trust, Foothills Water Network, many local hiking, fishing and trails groups support the plan.

They would like the commission to support the Bear River Trail Concept to the Placer County Board of Supervisors.

Would like the commission to recommend to the county to assure the interests fo Placer County are addressed in the FERC process of becoming an intervener.

Bill Carnazzo spoke on behalf of the proposal. It is important that access is granted. Right now people have to sneak across barriers. And having people along the river, it helps protect the resources.

Nancy Hagman – American Bear Ridge Alliance. This area gets little attention. Many of the areas are very difficult to reach and if something does not happen, it might be lost indefinitely.

Alan Eberhart – Indicated there is no legal downside if you sign up as an intervener. It is a very simple to do. This is a combined project between PG&E and NID in terms of FERC relicensing.

Commissioner Haswell asks for the deadline on declaring that you are an intervener.

April 30<sup>th</sup> is the formal deadline to declare you are in intervener. The recommendation is to do it earlier.

Commissioner Haswell asked if you need to declare what you are interested in?

Answer is you have to provide a general information.

Commissioner Fowler indicated that the County was filling as an intervener.

Commissioner Haswell asked about the finances.

The NID and PG&E would need to fund the project in order to get the FERC relicensing if the plan is approved.

FERC has a component that supports public recreational value. For this, there is a onetime cost and then an ongoing maintenance cost. Much of the infrastructure is already there.

Commissioner Haswell asked if part of the relicensing is the financial studies done to determine the costs.

Yes, the groups are required to put in the numbers into the licensing documents.

Trails are a different cost structure than water flows. Water flows generally impact the amount of power that can be generated.

#### **VIII. Further Discussion of Creating a County Fish and Game Warden Position**

Commissioner Freidig indicated that Commissioner Flanagan went to the Sherriff's department. They would consider sharing the costs of up to 33%. This might increase the amount the protection and result in an increase in fund money. There might be additional grant money that could fund the position.

The sheriff's office was going to send a breakdown of costs to commissioner Flanagan. Indicated the next steps might be to talk to their local supervisor.

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT at 8:20 pm**

#### **X. Next meeting will be Wednesday April 25, 2012**