



**COUNTY OF PLACER
FISH & GAME COMMISSION**

Ed King
Deputy Agricultural Commissioner
County Contact

FISH & GAME COMMISSION MEMBERS
DISTRICT 1
Don Gould
DISTRICT 2
Mark Fowler
DISTRICT 3
Robert Haswell
DISTRICT 4
Gary Flanagan
DISTRICT 5/Colfax
Kari Freidig
DISTRICT 5/Foresthill
Ron Salter
DISTRICT 5/Tahoe
Mickey Daniels

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**PLACER COUNTY
FISH & GAME COMMISSION
MINUTES**

TIME/DATE: 7:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2011

**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),**

Members Present: Gary Flanagan, Mark Fowler, Don Gould, Ron Salter, Mickey Daniels, Robert Haswell, Kari Freidig

Members Absent: None

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Gary Flanagan, Chairman at 7:03 pm
- II. **Roll Call- Paul Meyers, Secretary**
 - a. **Opening Statement**
- III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES May 25th, 2011**

Commissioner Fowler motioned to approve the minutes
Commissioner Gould seconded the motion.
Minutes approved unanimous by the commission.

- IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – Individuals may address the Commission on items under the jurisdiction of the Fish and Game Commission not included on this agenda for no longer than five (5) minutes. ***No action can be taken on items addressed under Public Comment.***

Beth Gould presented a thank you and pictures from the Auburn Sportsmen fishing derby.

- V. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

a. Budget update

Josh Huntsinger reported:

Expenditures to date total \$8,746.87, including \$1,650.00 in commissioner's fees, \$900.00 in secretary fees, \$4,874.62 in grants, and \$1,294.93 in mileage reimbursement. Budgeted expenditures for the remainder of the fiscal year total \$1,623.13.

Revenues to date total \$3,034.06, including \$2,612.08 in fine monies, and \$421.98 in interest. A total of \$1,200.00 was budgeted for the current fiscal year.

Josh introduced Ed King as the new Deputy Agricultural Commissioner. He will be taking over the duties as the county contact for the commission.

Josh reminded the commissioners to complete their AB 1234 State mandated Ethics training every two years.

VI. AGENCY REPORTS

a. California Department of Fish and Game (DFG)

Lt. Vincent reported:

Fishing is the primary activity this time of year. Citations are being issued for no fishing license. These violations are down apparently because of the success of online licensing.

In Nevada County, two search warrants were executed for deer poaching. They will air on National Geographic's *Wild Justice* program.

There is no progress to date working with Placer County Superior Court to change routine violations from misdemeanors to infractions.

On August 9, 2011, 32 wardens will graduate from the academy and begin fieldwork.

b. Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Fowler reported the American River Mercury TMDL meetings have been canceled. Working with the water boards to come up with standards. They are no longer meeting with the stakeholders.

Commissioner Flanagan reported that on July 26 Governor Brown signed legislation that extended the moratorium on suction dredging. DFG will have to require the fees to cover the administrative and law enforcement costs.

c. Nevada Irrigation District

Storage is 120% of average. Flows are still high. FERC Licensing – meeting 10 to 12 times a month. NID is working to complete the fish passage on Auburn Ravine by this fall. Bear River canal was repaired quickly.

VII. Old Business

a. 2011 Fish and Game Commission Grant Applications Update

Josh identified one error on the cover letter, in regards, to when the applications are due to the commission. Josh will send out the packet to all past applicants. A press release will be sent out shortly to encourage others to apply.

The fish and game fund contains a little over \$20,000. This fund was driven down by about \$5000 dollars. Previously, the Placer County provided about \$5000 in general fund support. In the future, it might be useful to request the BOS to provide funds to cover the operating costs.

Low Renkins from Wildlife Shelter Inc. thanked the Commission for funding support. Wildlife Shelter, Inc. made two presentations to Creekside Charter School. The first was on mammals in April. The second on avian was in May. In September, they will present on reptiles. Presentations did not begin until grant money was received. Approximately 60 students attended each presentation. The program is on schedule to complete the presentation series.

VIII. New Business

a. Dry Creek Conservancy (DCC), Gregg Bates - Current projects

DCC is a non-profit that operates in the American River Basin in western Placer County. DCC has been doing salmon counts for the last 13 years.

DCC projects include:

- Salmon spawning survey – ongoing for the past 13 years
- River-friendly landscaping for landowners
- Calling Back the Salmon Fall Festival
- Auburn Ravine Erosion Survey - One point of interest is in the town of Lincoln near Joiner Parkway. This could have a large impact on salmon and steelhead habitat.
- Removal of the old pipeline in Secret Ravine. There are several pipe lines that have been abandoned and can be removed. This project has

been in progress for several years and they might be able to find funding this year. This is one of the most productive habitats.

Other projects that are at the beginning stages:

- Auburn River NID gauging station (in the city of Lincoln)
- Cottonwood Dam, Miners Ravine
- Bear River Dam – Garden Bar Reservoir

Commissioner Fowler acknowledged the good work they are doing and the longevity of the organization.

b. Sierra Watch, Peter Van Zant - Presentation on proposed Garden Bar Dam on the Bear River

The South Sutter Water District (SSWD) is exploring the possibility of building a dam on the Bear River at Garden Bar. SSWD's partners include: the City of Napa, City of American Canyon, Palmdale Water District, San Bernardino Municipal Water District and the Castaic Lake Water Agency.

Proposals include five possible reservoirs sizes ranging from 245,000 to 400,000 Ac-f. The largest would be about five times the size of Rollins Lake. This is the preferred size.

Multiple dams would need to be constructed to contain the water. The largest would be 388 feet high.

Several Placer County Land Trust properties would be flooded of which millions of dollars have been invested in. The proposed reservoir would inundate an estimated 2,500 acres of blue oak woodland, riparian and wetland habitat along with several hundred Native American sites. Such a project would divide a large stand of foothill blue oak woodlands severing deer migration route and may impact potentially raising of the dam on Rollins Lake in the future.

The plan does not include any benefits to our region.

SSWD Next Steps:

- Securing financial partners
- Obtaining water rights
- Securing a FERC hydropower license
- Full CEQA and NEPA environmental review
- Projected cost - \$23M to \$43M

Peter will send Ed King an electronic copy of the presentation.

Commissioner Salter asked if there would be any recreational opportunities.

Peter indicated that there are none planned at this time.

Commissioner Flanagan asked about earthquake faults.

Peter indicated that there are several that are in the area. Peter will include the map of faults in the email to Ed.

Commissioner Gould asked how fast they can drain the water.

There is not clear answer at this time because it depends on the size of the hydroelectric plant and the water use plans.

Commissioner Haswell asked what is in it for SSWA?

SSWA has ground water and Camp Far West. They buy water (10,000 Ac-F) and sell it south. They want to sell water to generate revenue and will get proceeds from power generation; however, many of the local power companies are not interested.

No public comment.

Commissioner Freidig indicated that she doesn't see any benefits to Placer County. She sees several issues with the plan, especially that culturally significant areas will be destroyed.

Commissioner Haswell indicated he has some concerns about the plans and the impacts to the Placer County Land Trust lands (like Bruin Ranch).

Commissioner Fowler would like to hear from SSWA and their side of the story.

California Water Agency and FERC will need to permit the project. The water rights will be given to SSWD because of eminent domain to the land. NID, PCWA and Yuba County Water Agency have senior water rights.

c. Election of Officers – Nominations to be made for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Placer County Fish and Game Commission

Commissioner Haswell moved that they keep the current chair (Flanagan) and vice-chair (Freidig).

Commissioner Gould seconded the motion.
The motion unanimously passed.

d. Discussion of the Commission participating as a “member organization” on the California Department of Fish & Game’s advisory committees for the “Upland Game Bird Account” and “Big Game Management Account”

These committees make recommendations to the DFG regarding funding for upland game bird and big game projects.

Commissioner Flanagan expressed interest in the Big Game position.
Commissioner Freidig indicates she was interested in the Upland bird.

Commissioner Gould motioned the commission be involved.
Commissioner Daniels seconded the motion
Unanimously approved the motion.

IX. ADJOURMENT

Commissioner Flanagan adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM

Paul Meyers – Recording Secretary

Next Meeting – Wednesday August 24th, 2011