

County of Monterey
Fish and Game Advisory Commission
Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Minutes of Meeting

Call to Order, Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Al Espindola called the meeting to order at 7:00, followed by the pledge of allegiance and roll call.

District I (Armenta)

Al Espindola (Chair)

Rich Hughett (Treasurer)

District IV (Parker)

Mike Hosfelt

Nick Brockman

District II (Phillips)

Rich Medley

Manuel Morales

District V (Potter)

Kevin Kreyenhagen

Kevan Urquhart

Chris Cullen

District III (Salinas)

Kim Guillian (Secretary)

Mark DeHart

Bob Monares

Excused Absence: Charlie Collins, Charles Nelson and John Sargenti

State of CA Department of Fish & Wildlife staff liaison: Captain Don Kelly

Monterey County Park Staff: Mark Mariscal, Director; John Akeman, Park Planning Manager

Guests: Warden Hank Hodel, Warden Matt Gil, John Foster, Don Haifley, Aaron Palacios, Bill Gaines, Peggy Stap, John Robinson, April Wakeman, Elyse Destout, Ann Wasser.

Approval of minutes

Commissioner Brockman motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Hosfelt, all ayes.

Public Comment

No comments.

Written Communications and Correspondence

None.

Guest Speaker

Note, this item was inadvertently placed on the agenda and no guest speaker was scheduled for the meeting.

CA Department of Fish & Wildlife Report – Captain Don Kelly

Captain Kelly reported that 5 of the 6 graduates from the warden academy have made it through field training and are currently in their second month of employment. One warden was placed in Monterey County, one in Hollister, and the other three are working in boats within SLO County.

Financial Report

The \$23k approved by the Board of Supervisors and allocated to the Commission was actually money from our existing fund balance. If the commission decides to allocate all \$23k to grant recipients, we would be left with approximately \$5k. Annual expenses account for \$3k and we can expect an additional \$5-6 from fine monies for the remainder of the year. Commissioner Espindola asked if the supervisors were aware of the allocation coming from within our own fund balance. Director Mariscal responded that Supervisor Phillips had motioned for \$20k for the Parks commission so Supervisor Potter said he wanted support for the \$23k allocated to the Fish and Game commission, all of which was supposed to come from the county contingency fund. There are currently no funds within the contingency funds to support the allocations. Director Mariscal is looking into the matter for clarification. Use of the \$50k (settlement money) will need board approval prior to distribution. Commissioner Hughett suggested we allocate only \$33k for the Propagation Grant Funds for now.

New Business

- a) 2015/16 Grant Applications, Presentations and Funding Recommendations

The applicants were asked to provide a brief overview of their project.

1. **Monterey Bay Youth Outdoor Day (MBYOD)** presentation by Elyse Destout. The MBYOD is in its 6th season. The funding request of \$2,500 will go directly towards the cost of renting the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds to hold their youth oriented event. The event focuses on education of the local environment and helps to open opportunities for participants to be mindful of the wildlife and their habitats, as well as learn about conservation and safety and hope that these lessons evolve over a lifetime. The event is planned, managed and staffed by MBYOD BOD and sponsors with educational and interactive exhibits and participatory activities to experience and enjoy. There are also many donated items that are raffled off. Funding request: \$2,500.
2. **Lazy Arrow Pheasant Hunt** submitted by Mark Morrison in partnership with the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife. Wardens Hank Hodel and Matt Gil presented their grant request for the 24th annual Lazy Arrow Pheasant Hunt. The event was started by longtime warden Ray Azbill as an outdoor educational event aimed at teaching local

youth from Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties on the aspects of hunting. The event is based similar to the hunter education course where participants are educated, trained, and participate hands on in an actual pheasant hunt. The event now includes a youth and women's hunt. The last women's hunt had 50 participants, up from 35 the previous year. A game bird club license fee of \$400 is necessary to hold the event. Funding requested: \$2,500.

3. **Lockwood Hunter Education** submitted by John Foster. For over 20 years, quarterly hunter education classes have been held in rural South Monterey County with participants ranging in age from seven to 70 years old. A minimum of 16 hours of education and training is presented during each session. Students are required to demonstrate proper firearm safety during field walks and live firing on the range; students are evaluated while participating in archery practice, shotgun trap shooting, and .22 target shooting. Usually, students are exposed on how to properly field dress an animal using a wild pig. Students under the age of 18 are not charged; a ten dollar donation is requested for all others. Funding will be used to replace archery equipment and trap machines, ammunition, a shade canopy, and a projector bulb; equipment is often loaned out for use by 4H and various women and youth hunts. Funding request: \$750.00.
4. **Museum Foundation of Pacific Grove** presented by Ann Wasser. The Museum is piloting a watershed education program for K–5th grades to take place on Garland Ranch Regional Park. Further development of the project will include students in 6–8th grade and will take place at the Carmel Lagoon, and lastly a local beach, so that education on the entire watershed is provided. In a recent class visit to the Park, only 3 of the 25 students have ever been to the Carmel River. Students will contribute their data collected to an online database back in the classroom. Funding will be used to pay for bus transport from the classroom to the field sites. Funding request: \$3530.00.
5. **Marine Life Studies**, presented by Peggy Stap, received 25 reports of whale entanglements in 2015, 21 of which were within the Monterey Bay Sanctuary. Telemetry buoys are an important piece of equipment in tracking an entangled whale. MLS lost their telemetry buoy while tracking a humpback whale from August–September 2015. They are currently utilizing a telemetry buoy purchased by the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Funding will be used to purchase a replacement Telemetry Buoy System; two systems are necessary for area due to the increasing number and frequency of whale entanglements. Funding requested: \$6,206.
6. **Rancho Cielo, Lower Fishing Pond (aeration system)** presented by Aaron Palacios. Rancho Cielo is a 100 acre educational facility that opened in 2004 and offers 2 fishing ponds, a hop and community garden, and a culinary academy. A solar aeration system is necessary for both ponds, but funding is currently requested for a system to be installed at the lower pond. The previous pump burned out due to constant use, corrosion, and being undersized. Without a sufficient aeration system, algal blooms are problematic and lowering the quality of water for fish as well as decreasing the potential for recreational

activities. Funding will be applied towards the total cost to install a solar aeration system at the lower pond. Funding request: \$10,000.

7. **Rancho Cielo, Lower Fishing Pond (herbicide)** submitted by Anne Branch. Control of aquatic weeds at the lower fishing pond is necessary to improve overall aesthetics and quality of fishing opportunities. Approved liquid aquatic herbicide will control pondweed, duckweed, hydrillia, and other undesirable weeds. Funding will purchase the herbicide based on the calculated volume of the pond. Funding request: \$3,063.50.
8. **Ventana Wildlife Society (VWS)** submitted by Kelly Sorenson. Mr. Sorenson was unable to attend the grant application presentation, but has previously presented grant proposals for the Free Non-Lead Ammunition Program that started in 2012. The program aims to work cooperatively with Monterey County hunters to reduce the amount of lead from spent ammo in the local environment. VWS is not opposed to hunting, but is hoping to encourage the use of non-lead ammo. The online raffle allows hunters to apply for one box of non-lead ammo approved for use within the identified condor range. The program has already received a funding amount of \$4,000. Funding will go towards purchase of ammo from cooperating suppliers. Funding request: \$10,000.
9. **Wildlife Conservation and Hunting in the Golden State, Gaines and Associates**, presented by Bill Gaines. The funds requested for this project will be used to expand Gaines and Associates education and outreach efforts for legislators and others involved in Fish and Wildlife decision making, conduct a hunter's education course for lawmakers, and work with other involved groups to conduct a CA Legislature Outdoor Sorting Caucus Trap Shoot in 2016. Trap shoot in its 12th year and to be held 22 June 2016. Funding request: \$750.
10. **CalTIP Rewards** submitted by the CalTIP Committee, CA Wildlife Officers Foundation and presented by John Robinson. Californians Turn-In-Poachers (CalTIP) has been in existence since 1981 and encourages citizens to report poachers and polluters by calling a 24-hour hotline. A reward is offered by either requesting it or at the recommendation of the Game Warden involved in the case. The Rewards Committee reviews the requests and identifies an appropriate reward based on the nature of the violation of the crime. All of the funds received from the grant program will go to the rewards program. Funding requested: \$1,000.
11. **O'Neill Sea Odyssey (OSO)**, Transportation for Monterey County Stewards presented by Dan Haifley, ED. OSO is a living classroom on a 65-ft catamaran within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary founded in 1996. Students from 4–6th grades engage in hands-on learning about the marine habitat. The free of charge program teaches math and science using ocean concepts, and encourages environmental stewardship of marine wildlife and habitats. In 2014–2015, 57 of 207 participating classrooms were from Monterey County. Funds will be applied toward bus transportation of 5 Monterey County classrooms. Funding request: \$2,500.

Following all of the applicant's presentations, the commission discussed and voted on each proposed project or program keeping in mind the available grant funds to distribute (~\$33,000) and the amount of money that has been requested by all of the applicants (\$42,799.50).

1. **Monterey Bay Youth Outdoor Day (MBYOD).** The commission discussed the success of this event and expressed their support with the hope that the event (and a facility) could be held in Monterey County. Commissioner Kreyenhagen asked if Ms. Destout had approached the Santa Cruz F&G commission; she had and they declined funding. Commissioner Cullen asked what date the event was to be held. It is scheduled for 21 May; it is important to hold the event prior to schools being out to increase attendance. Commissioner Medley recommends talking to the Posse grounds as a facility for a Monterey County event. Commissioner Cullen stated that additional help is necessary for an event here in Salinas; also believes the Santa Cruz commission struggles with supporting the event because of guns. Motion to fund as submitted by Commissioner Hughett, Commissioner Urquhart seconded, motion passed 12-0 to fund \$2,500.
2. **Lazy Arrow Pheasant Hunt.** Commissioner Hosfelt asked if the women's hunt was still planned. Warden Gil responded yes and that participation has increased from 35 to 50. Commissioner Urquhart asked if support was received from the SLO County commission; yes, they awarded \$3,000. Commissioner Hughett stated that we would like a written report within 30 days of the 2016 hunts as well as come back for an after-action presentation. Commissioner Hosfelt motioned to fund from FY17 budget as the event is not held until February 2017, Commissioner Urquhart seconded, motion passed 12-0 to fund \$2,500.
3. **Lockwood Hunter Education.** Commissioner Kreyenhagen asked when the next class is to be held and is the information available on a website; approximately 24 April and listed on DFW Hunter's Ed website: <https://www.register-ed.com/programs/california/160>. Classes begin Friday evening, all day Saturday (includes bbq'd lunch), with the test on Sunday. Commissioner Hughett asked if Mr. Foster represents DFW; Mr. Foster is a retired warden but represents himself. Commissioner Urquhart mentioned that if funding is received, it can run through Pacific Hunters Ed Foundation for tax purposes. Commissioner Monares motioned to fund as submitted, Commissioner DeHart seconded, motion passed 12-0 to fund \$750.
4. **Museum Foundation of Pacific Grove.** Commissioner Guillian questioned the \$500 budgeted for staff time as labor. Commissioner Urquhart motioned to reduce the request by \$500, Commissioner Brockman seconded, motion passed 12-0 to fund \$3030.
5. **Marine Life Studies.** Commissioner Urquhart recommended checking with a local hardware vendor, Desert Star Systems, for a better cost. Ms. Stap replied they must use a NOAA approved device. Commissioner Kreyenhagen asked if their program

- received any contributions from BBC/PBS for being featured on their show, Big Blue; no contributions were received. Commissioner Urquhart also expressed that large grants requests should be matched from an additional funding source; the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary essentially has with the use of their buoy system. Commissioner Urquhart motioned to fund as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Medley, motion passed 12-0 to fund \$6202.
6. **Rancho Cielo, Aeration Pump.** Commissioner Urquhart asked if another other bids for the system had been received; no. Commissioner Kreyenhagen asked if the last pump was left on all the time; it ran constantly and was considered too small for the pond. Commissioner Urquhart motioned to table the request because of the large amount requested and the lack of competitive bids received, Commissioner Medley seconded, motion to table passed 12-0. Mr. Akeman noted that we can look at funding again later in the year as an emergency grant.
 7. **Rancho Cielo, Herbicide.** Despite lack of presentation, Commissioner Monares motioned to fund as submitted, Commissioner Urquhart seconded, motion passed 12-0 to fund \$3,063.50.
 8. **Ventana Wildlife Society.** Despite lack of presentation, Commissioner Urquhart suggested reducing the grant amount to \$4,000 to match other funds received and stated that we shouldn't have to continue to subsidize non-lead ammo since it is now a state law. Commissioner Urquhart supports providing .22 ammo since it is hard to find for purchase. He also questioned if there is a 98% compliance of centerfire rifles, why is there not a reduction in lead poisoning? Commissioner Kreyenhagen confirmed the struggle in finding non-lead ammo and commented that VWS has done a good job at not being an anti-hunting group and instead focused on educating hunters on lead poisoning. Commissioner Kreyenhagen motioned to fund as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Medley, motion failed 7-5. Commissioner Urquhart motioned to fund \$4,000 and awarded ammo to be given out to Monterey County residents only, seconded by Commissioner Morales, motion passed 10-2 to fund \$4,000.
 9. **Wildlife Conservation and Hunting in the Golden State, Gaines and Associates** Commissioner Hughett asked for the total budget required for the event; \$8–10k. Commissioner Medley motioned to increase the funding amount to \$1,000, seconded by Commissioner Guillian, motion passed 12-0 to fund \$1,000.
 10. **CalTIP Rewards.** Commissioner Urquhart motioned to fund as submitted, Commissioner Kreyenhagen seconded, motion passed 12-0 to fund \$1,000.
 11. **O'Neill Sea Odyssey,** Transportation for Monterey County Stewards. Santa Cruz Commission has granted funds for equipment, not transportation. Commissioner Monares motioned to fund as requested, Commissioner Medley seconded, motion passed 12-0 to fund \$2500.

b) Election of Officers 2016/2017

Commissioner Medley voiced concern over voting since some commissioners were not present. Commissioner Espindola noted there was a quorum to go forth with voting. A motion was made by Commissioner Hughett for Commissioner Medley to serve as Vice Chair and for current officers to remain in their positions. Seconded by Commissioner Morales, motion passed 12-0.

- Chair- Al Espindola
- Vice Chair-Richard Medley
- Secretary-Kim Guillian
- Treasurer-Rich Hughett

Old Business

- a) Alternate use of Lake San Antonio (deer hunt) Update. Director Mariscal stated that the Proposal is dead, CDA dropped out.
- b) Fish and/or Wildlife Research Grant Update. Commissioner Hughett proposes using the \$50k settlement in a proactive way for funding local research. Suggested finding a topic that the commission feels there's a need for more research on. Possibly two grants, one for a deer population study, second on effectiveness of marine protected areas on fisheries. Commissioner Kreyenhagen asked if a deer population study was DFW's job. Commissioner Hughett noted that a future meeting will be set to further discuss the proposal and that these details would be considered and addressed at that time..

Commissioners/Staff Comments, Reports

- Commissioner Espindola noted that there is an issue with meeting decorum. Discussions and arguments between commissioners don't serve the public well.
- Commissioner Urquhart mentioned that the Center for Biodiversity has initiated a program to consider expanding grizzly bears to the eastern Sierras. Commissioner Kreyenhagen noted that grizzlies are typically found in lower elevations and black bears in higher elevations.
- Commissioner Cullen asked whether the mountain lion that was collared and relocated from Pacific Grove had returned; no.
- Commissioner Kreyenhagen stated that no response has been received from Supervisor Potter's office regarding the letter concerning the Natural Resource Secretary.
- Commissioner Brockman passed along information from the water resource agency meeting; San Antonio levels haven't budged, Nacimiento rose from 19% to 21%, but decreased back to 19%. Commissioner Urquhart added that a grant was received to remove arundo from King City to Spreckles within the Salinas River.
- Commissioner Monares expressed his support in funding a research grant.

- Commissioner Hosfelt noted that as the State Fish and Game Commission is in transition at the moment, the topics of wolves and grizzlies are very important right now.
- Commissioner Hughett would like to encourage MBYOD moving to Monterey County. Commissioner Cullen said that Ms. Destout does not want to move it and suggested the Commission organize our own with her guidance. Commissioner Medley is to look at the Posse grounds as a possibility and Commissioner Urquhart asked if Rancho Cielo would be big enough to accommodate.
- Mr. Akeman mentioned the articles passed out were on behalf of Commissioner Nelson. He also suggested a sub-committee be formed to stay on top of the budget. Commissioner Espindola replied that there is no need to speak with supervisors until Mr. Mariscal returns with clarification. Commissioner Cullen asked if we do receive additional funding, can we set up another grant cycle opportunity. Commissioner Espindola replied that someone can come back as an emergency grant.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Captain Kelly expects the wardens will have a presentation on the Lazy Arrow hunts.
- Continued discussion on research grant.
- Revisit meeting decorum.

Next Meeting, Adjournment

Next meeting to take place 12th of April, located TBD.