



Mendocino County Fish & Game Commission

860 North Bush Street, Ukiah, CA 95482

<https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/planning-building-services/fish-game>

Summary Minutes of the Regular Meeting Approved by Commission on March 13, 2018

DATE: Tuesday, January 9, 2018
TIME: 6:00 pm
LOCATION: Willits City Council, Council Chambers, 111 E Commercial St, Willits, CA 95490

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Commissioner Appointments

Chair Vann called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

Present: Commissioners Norm Brown, Patrick Ford, Michael Kura, Anna Neumann, RedHawk Pallesen, and Randy Vann

Absent: Patty Madigan

2. Public Expression on Non-Agenda Items (No Action)

Chris Brennan, Mendocino County resident, addressed the Commission on the Elk Management Plan for Mendocino County is due for public comment on the Environmental Impact Report (EIR.) He encouraged the Commission to discuss and provide comment before the close of the comment period on approximately January 29, 2018.

Steve Whitley, Long Valley resident and cattle ranch owner, addressed the Commission in support of their discussion and comment on the Elk Management Plan EIR.

Tracy Pellar, Mendocino Wildlife Association, addressed the Commission in support of their discussion and comment on the Elk Management Plan EIR.

3. Approval of Minutes of November 14, 2017 Regular Meeting

Upon motion by Commissioner Neumann, second by Commissioner Ford, the minutes of September 19, 2017 with corrections were approved by unanimous vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Brown, Ford, Kura, Neumann, Pallesen, and Vann

Absent: Commissioner Madigan

4. 2017-18 Fish and Game Grants

4a. Proposals Presentations

The grant applicants were invited to present, noting the order is by date proposals were received by the Commission Secretary. Chair Vann noted the County of Mendocino has approximately \$30,000 available to award for this grant cycle without using reserves. The Secretary reviewed the process for ranking and awarding grants.

Continued...

Mendocino Fish and Game Commissioners

Norm Brown

Michael Kura

Patrick Ford

Patty Madigan

Anna Neumann

RedHawk Pallesen

Randy Vann

- **Sacramento Pike Minnow Abatement Program by Ukiah Rod & Gun Club**

Pat Ford, speaking as a member of the Rod & Gun Club and not as a Fish & Game Commissioner, presented and took questions and comments from Commissioners Brown, Kura, and the audience.

- **Urchin Removal Project by Waterman's Alliance**

Josh Russo, President of the Waterman's Alliance, presented and took questions and comments from Commissioners Vann, Ford, and Kura

- **Two Kayaks for Inland Mendocino County State Game Wardens by California Department of Fish and Wildlife**

No presentation.

- **Creek Clearing & Habitat Improvement by City of Willits**

Jim Robbins, City of Willits Community Development Specialist, presented and took questions and comments from Commissioners Vann, Ford, Pallesen, and Brown.

- **Sub-tidal Marine Protected Area Monitoring of Mendocino County's Rocky Reefs by Reef Check California**

Anna Neumann, speaking for Reef Check California and not as a Fish & Game Commissioner, presented and there were no questions or comments.

4b. Scheduling of Special Meeting for Recommendation Consensus Vote

A meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee to rank the proposals and a public Special Meeting to conduct a vote for recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for grant awarding was tentatively set for Tuesday, January 16, 2018. Commissioners Vann, Brown, and Pallesen constitute the Ad Hoc Committee. Commissioners Kura, Ford, and Neumann recuse themselves from the item and vote due to conflict of interest.

5. Reports

- **Grant Awardees**

Bruce Hilbach addressed the Commission on behalf of the Eel River Recovery Project, which received a grant of \$4,000 in the FY 2016-17 Fish and Game Commission Grant Cycle. He reviewed the challenges in implantation of the project and presented suggested alterations to the program.

Upon motion by Commissioner Kura, second by Commissioner Neumann, the proposed project changes and an extension final report deadline to the Regular Commission Meeting in November 2018 was approved by unanimous vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Brown, Ford, Kura, Neumann, Pallesen, and Vann

Absent: Commissioner Madigan

Chair Vann called a break from 6:45pm – 6:56pm

- **Fisheries**

Josh Russo, Recreational Abalone Advisory Committee and President of the Waterman's Alliance, provided an update to the Commission on the status of the Fisheries Management Plan and related topics.

Continued...

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- **Mendocino Wildlife Association**

Tracy Pellar shared information on the January 19, 2018, 11am-1pm, on the regional meeting regarding Fawn Rescue in Willits, at The Hub. The meeting is open to the public.

6. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Burn Symposium

Commissioner Brown reported that after feedback from potential attendees of the Burn Symposium, the date was postponed from the January 17, 2018 date. This will give presenters and organizers, additional time to prepare, especially in light of the recent local fires.

7. Department of Fish & Wildlife on Wolf Repopulating

Chris Brennan shared a detailed history of native wolves in North Western United States. Josh Russo asked for the Commission to research and address the issue with the California Fish and Wildlife Department. Jeff Tuttle, Mendocino County resident, shared information on wolf behavior from his experience as a guide, trapper, and pilot observing them from the air. Comments and questions were offered by Commissioners Vann, Pallesen, Ford, and Kura. The Commission asked Commissioner Brown to conduct research and return with a report at the March 13, 2018 meeting.

8. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Report from Mendocino Wildlife Association on Department of Fish and Wildlife Cannabis Water Forbear Policy

Tracy Pellar from Mendocino Wildlife Association addressed the Commission regarding the implementation of regulations by the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the use of citizen science to gather data on the use of water. She will provide a further report to the Commission in a future meeting. Comments and questions were offered by Commissioners Neumann, Vann, Ford, and Pallesen.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Commission Accounts, Secretary Reports, 2018 Meeting Schedule and Locations, and Election of Officers

- **Finances**

Vice Chair Neumann reported on the recent meeting with the County of Mendocino regarding the Commission accounts. The Commission has approximately \$30,000 from infraction fines allocated annually, with a reserve account, to cover low-fine years, that has a current balance of \$74,241. She noted that the reserve account balance four years ago was approximately \$140,000 with \$22,540 being transferred out in 2016 and \$40,551 in 2017 to be used for annual expenditures. This year, \$25,273 was budgeted to be used from the fund if \$35,000 is collected in fines and grant allocations are not over \$50,000. Vice Chair Neumann will provide regular account reports for future meetings.

Commissioner Kura asked for an update on the use of a Special Prosecutor, noting the enforcement of infractions and paying of fines will directly affect the Commission funding. Vice Chair Neumann and Secretary will work together and return with an update in March.

- **2018 Meeting Schedule and Locations**

March 13, 2018, 6:00pm in Ukiah

May 8, 2018, 6:00pm in Fort Bragg

July 10, 2018, 6:00pm in Willits

September 11, 2018, 6:00pm in Ukiah

November 13, 2018, 6:00pm in Fort Bragg

Continued...

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Randy Vann

Michael Kura

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RedHawk Pallesen

The Commission asked Secretary to review the by-laws and other research regarding meeting locations, with the possibility of reducing the coastal meeting to once a year due to low audience participation.

- **Election of Officers**

Upon motion by Commissioner Ford, second by Commissioner Pallesen, the nomination of Randy Vann for Commission Chair was approved by unanimous vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Brown, Ford, Kura, Neumann, Pallesen, and Vann

Absent: Commissioner Madigan

Upon motion by Commissioner Ford, second by Commissioner Pallesen, Randy Vann was approved as Commission Chair by unanimous vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Brown, Ford, Kura, Neumann, Pallesen, and Vann

Absent: Commissioner Madigan

Upon motion by Commissioner Ford, second by Commissioner Pallesen, the nomination of Anna Neumann for Commission Vice Chair was approved by unanimous vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Brown, Ford, Kura, Neumann, Pallesen, and Vann

Absent: Commissioner Madigan

Upon motion by Commissioner Ford, second by Commissioner Pallesen, Anna Neumann was approved as Commission Vice Chair by unanimous vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Brown, Ford, Kura, Neumann, Pallesen, and Vann

Absent: Commissioner Madigan

The Commission consensus for the Vice Chair to liaise with the County and report to the Commission on treasury matters was noted.

10. Commissioner Comments, Reports, Announcements

- *Norm Brown* will draft a proposed letter on behalf of the Commission for the Elk Management Plan EIR public comment period to be brought to the Special Meeting for Commission approval.
- *Anna Neumann* provide a crab season update.
- *Pat Ford* invited everyone to the Rod & Gun Club wild game feed on Saturday and reported on the Lake Mendocino cleanup projects and the hatchery.
- *Commissioner Kura* shared concerns on enforcement and fines and the results of the hatchery work.

11. Adjournment at 7:55pm

NEXT REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULED:

Tuesday, March 13, 2017
Ukiah UC Davis Extension Building Conference Room
890 N Bush Street, Ukiah, CA 95482

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