



# EL DORADO COUNTY

## Fish & Game Commission

Larry Nelson - At Large  
Grady Garlough - At Large  
Dennis Byrne - Dist I  
Mike Denega - Dist II  
Kurt Mikkola - Dist III  
Pat Weddle - Dist IV  
Victor Babbitt - District V

### MINUTES

August 31, 2016, 7:00 P.M.  
330 Fair Lane, Conference Room A  
Placerville, CA 95667

1. Call To Order by Commissioner Nelson at 7:03pm
  - 1) Roll Call – Nelson, Babbitt, Denega, Weddle, Garlough, Mikkola
  - 2) DFW – Shelly Blair
2. Adoption of Minutes of 7/27/16 and Agenda for 8/31/16 was unanimously approved as written.
3. Public Comment - Public comment on non-agenda items - None
4. Mark Weinhardt, his Mom, his Dad, and a Foreign Exchange student from Belgium were introduced by Shelly Blair and then Mark Weinhardt summarized his Eagle Scout wood duck box projects. He and his father were very successful and the presentation was informative. Comments and questions were interesting. Byrne sent a message that he had never seen anyone with as much success as Mark. Nelson will prepare a written proclamation signed by this Commission to acknowledge the efforts. Unanimously approved.
5. Biologist's and Warden reports –
  - 1) Shelly Blair – summarized the deer collaring project with some of the successes and some failures. Shelly also summarized a new DNA pellet study to help establish population trends of the Pacific Herd. Shelly shared that she passed her Hunter's Ed program and will focus on teaching young prospective hunters.
  - 2) Nelson spoke about what other Counties do with regard to trophy big game violations and the fines schedule associated with them. A suggestion was submitted via message by Commissioner Byrne to create and send a letter to SDFW asking when the fee schedule was last revised and ask who establishes the schedule.
  - 3) Denega and Weddle summarized the State F&G Commission meeting they attended. Denega commented on Marine Fisheries Protection areas. Weddle commented on the elimination of bass and the roles and excuses it plays in water transfers and other issues. The TEK (Traditional Ecological Knowledge) of Native Americans is crucial and valuable information helping form decisions
6. BOS communication
  - 1) Byrne had submitted a message that the budget proposals have been funded and expressed that work begin to fund the projects we put together.
  - 2) The access letter submitted by Denega has run its course with limited results. We have done our due diligence at this point.
  - 3) Commissioner Byrne had submitted the letter to the DA's office requesting a meeting with the DA and we have yet to hear back from them. Lengthy discussions ensued. Many topics are being gathered to put on an agenda if the meeting comes to fruition. Other counties use CA District Attorney Association's help in prosecuting environmental and wildlife crimes.

7. Mikkola summarized the recent financial reports. It looks like there is \$7,723.67 in the preservation account, \$9370.29 in the Sawmill Pond account, and that there is \$23,000.00 budgeted. Mikkola will inquire about how to establish what's available. A budget meeting is being proposed.
8. Fishing Derbies – Mikkola
  - 1) Mikkola made a motion to fund \$950.00 for the 9/18/16 Moose Lodge Kids fishing derby and Weddle made the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Discussion ensued. Passed unanimously.
  - 2) Free fishing day is 9/3/16.
9. Tahoe Area – Commissioner Babbitt
  - 1) The Rotary of SLT re-submitted a check in the amount of \$3,000.00 for the Sawmill pond fish stocking. It has been deposited. Also a claim voucher for Desert Springs Trout Farm has been submitted to pay for an earlier stocking of Sawmill Pond.
10. Denega commented on the issues involving the access. The CHP claims of “not enough visibility” are somewhat valid but may just be a way to alleviate the issue. The remaining fence is believed to be on public property. If some of the signs were removed an increase in “safe” parking would be established.
11. Nelson spoke with John Turner regarding the Central Sierra Assoc. of Fish & Game Commission and it was noted that since there is minimal interest that we will now take it off the agenda and wait and see if any other interest is generated.
12. In the interest of time there were no reports regarding new legislative updates.
13. Mikkola reported that the SDFW has applications for Warden cadet applications. Weddle summarized work he is doing with Trout Unlimited in regards to changing a fishing regulation.
14. Next meeting – 9/28/16 in South Lake Tahoe - USFS/Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, 35 College Dr., South Lake Tahoe, 96150. Commissioner Nelson will secure the venue with Jeff Marsolais.
15. Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.