



EL DORADO COUNTY

Fish & Wildlife Commission

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

Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2020 7:00 P.M.
Conference Room A -
330 Fair Lane, Placerville

1. Call To Order & Roll Call – Meeting called to order @ 7:02pm by Chairman Nelson
 - Weddle, Denega, Horan, Byrne, Mikkola, Nelson
 - Shelly Blair – CDFW Environmental Biologist - Wildlife
2. Adoption of Minutes of 12/4/19 and Agenda for 1/29/20– Both were approved unanimously.
3. Public Comment - Public comment on non-agenda items - None
4. CDFW Biologists and CDFW Warden Reports –
 - Shelly Blair summarized a DFW helicopter survey and shared details explaining the optimistic observations they encountered. The current deer DNA fecal study has had some unusual results that require more investigation. The recent results may be misleading. Shelly recounted the recent highly publicized Bear League uproar in Lake Tahoe specific to the case involving doxing and threats to a homeowner. It seems as though the CDFW will review and possibly revamp current CDFW practices. The hostility towards the CDFW staff can't be allowed to continue. The Irving Ranch adjacent to the El Dorado Ranch is now owned by the CDFW and some land management practices are being developed. This Commission agrees we should use the opportunity to suggest County-wide uses related to the properties that may be included in the eventual management plans. Shelly has Youth Hunters Education classes scheduled on March 13th and 14th.
 - Mikkola shared Lt LaFave's warden report. Horan suggests we recognize and thank the local Wardens for their extensive hard work on the multiple County cases that have been dealt with and continue to offer our Commission's support in combating poaching and other wildlife crimes. Nelson will craft a letter of gratitude and congratulations for review.
5. Commissioner Reports and sub-committee reports – All
 - 1) CDFW regulatory simplification update – Weddle shared his thoughts on the topic and all in attendance agreed. Byrne will take heed to Mitch Lockhard's suggestions and try to make an appearance on our behalf stating our stance at the March committee meeting addressing the simplification of regulations.
 - 2) Fish stocking funding proposal – Byrne motioned to fund \$1500.00 for the

stocking of fish in ponds in El Dorado Hills. Horan made the second. After discussion the motion passed unanimously. Byrne shared a map he created with CalTrans and other stakeholders that depict where the first phase of deer crossing warning signs are approved along a portion of Highway 50. A second phase was discussed for additional signs east of the last signs so far approved.

- 3) Nelson recounted a BOS discussion regarding business card for our Commission as well as other County commissions and committees.
 - 4) Weddle summarized the recent BOS annual presentation of our Commission's past and present status. In future annual reports several improvements and topics will be included.
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6. Funding for continuing the Pacific Deer Herd Study proposal– Nelson motioned to fund a \$1730.00 for the continuation of the Pacific Deer Herd Study. Denega made the second. After discussion the motion passed unanimously however, Shelly Blair will let this Commission know if her efforts to round up other funding source is successful which would negate the Commission's funding the study for the next year.
 7. High School Fishing Club – Motion was made by Byrne to fund \$100.00 towards the local High School's Fishing Club's upcoming fishing tournament. A second was made by Weddle. After discussion the motion passed unanimously. These High School Fishing clubs participating, have solid positive community involvement that directly benefits our County as well as others in the State.
 8. EDC F&W Commission Strategic Priorities – Nelson shared the new County Strategic Priorities and how we are similar in the mission and visions.
 9. Finance Report – Mikkola shared recent activity regarding the accounts. More budget ideas were shared. Mikkola suggested we go forward with our General Preservation fund balance until we whittle it down with current planned expenditures and at that time will be when this Commission seeks additional funding.
 10. Legislative Reports – Nelson shared several articles related to legislation and the impacts it has on us. Mikkola shared additional Fish and Wildlife legislation shared by the BOS. Of interest to this Commission is wolves in the area and consecutive 12month fishing licenses.
 11. Next meeting – 2/26/2020 – Placerville
 12. Adjournment was made at 8:50pm.