



EL DORADO COUNTY

Fish & Wildlife Commission

Mike Denega-At Large
Stephen Horan-At Large
Dennis Byrne-Dist I
Eric Harnage sec/ tres- Dist II
Kathleen Jermstad -Dist III
Pat Weddle, Chair – Dist IV
Victor Babbitt – Dist V

MEETING MINUTES

February 24, 2021

ZOOM Meeting 6:00-8:00 pm

1. Call to Order & Roll Call – Vice Chairman Weddle called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. This meeting was conducted by video conference due to COVID-19. Present were Denega, Weddle, Horan, Byrne, Harnage, Jermstad and Babbitt.
2. Adoption of Minutes of 1/27/21 and Agenda for 2/24/21– Both the Agenda and the minutes were approved.
3. Dignitaries present were Lt. Pera, CDFW Biologist Blair, CDFW Biologist Lockhart, BOS District one John Hidahl, Mark Egbert RCD District Manager and Rick Williams.
4. Public Comment –

Mark Egbert presented information on conducting forest management activities on large landscapes in El Dorado County. They have a project area approaching 20000 acres of management and will have treated 12000 acres by the end of this year. Along with those projects they have the fire council projects involving over 2000 landowners, SPI, EID, etc. aimed at community fire protection. They are evaluating ways to improve the ecological functions of these projects and reduce the impact to species and other resources (Aquatic areas, Red Legged Frog, Spotted Owl). They are also looking at the ecological function of non-listed species such as deer herds (Shelter, etc.) migrating birds, etc.

5. CDFW Biologists and CDFW Warden reports -
 - a. Biologist – Mitch Lockhart presented information for the 2021 fish stocking allotments. There were many challenges due to COVID-19 during the year 2020, but they were able to continue with back country projects. In anticipation of the March 1 change in regulations they plan on having crews on the tributaries to determine angling pressure (Especially in June). They were able to get Chili Bar on the stocking allotment and received positive results from anglers. Bass Lake was opening, and Red Lake (Not El Dorado County) was having water quality issues that are being worked on. Mitch discussed the success and setbacks dealing with the American River Hatchery. During discussion, the issue of signage for the anticipated March 1 regulations was discussed. The signage issue is active and evolving. Funds may be delayed.
 - b. Biologist- Shelly Blair presented information on a 2019 pilot project involving fecal DNA being used as a method to identify population numbers in bears. The project did not get funded but with reports being submitted there is hope for further studies on this method. She will be starting to draft a property management plan for El Dorado Ranch. There is a Kanaka Valley turkey hunt at the end of March, with the junior hunt being March 20 and 21, then the opener, and will have a total of seven hunts for that area.
 - c. Warden – Lt. Bob Pera presented information regarding the signage issue for the anticipated March 1 regulations. He identified approximately 240 waterways that could need signage per statute as it is currently written.

His department has stepped up enforcement in looking for overlimit violations due to the increased stocking of fish.

He advised the commission that the state was willing to pay for the ATV service this year.

6. Finance Report-
Myrna presented that she submitted the Sawmill Pond fund balance for \$5000 with a projected \$3000 revenue. The General Fund was submitted for \$20000 with a projected \$5000 revenue. Purchases should be made by Myrna and the process of purchase was discussed with members.
7. ATV Maintenance-
The service of the ATV will be paid by the state this year.
8. At-Large Member-
Mike Denega was confirmed as the At-Large member
9. Vice Chair for Fish and Wildlife Commission-
Kathleen Jermstad was nominated and approved to fill the Vice Chair position
10. Lake Wakamatsu-
Mike Denega provided an overview and update on this project. He will update this project in his monthly commission reports.
11. The Lumsden and Lake Walton sponsorships will be placed on the March meeting for discussion.
12. Lake Baron Sponsorship-
The Lake Baron Sponsorship was voted on and approved for \$4000.
13. Signage for Tahoe Tributaries-Caples creek
The proposed budget of \$1000 was voted on and not approved. This item will be placed onto the March agenda for further discussion.
14. CDFW Turkey Decoy-
This item will be placed on the March Agenda for discussion
15. Reimburse Dennis Byrne for approved expenditures
This item was resolved, and no further action is needed.
16. Meeting time of 6pm-
Due to COVID-19 meetings will start at 6:00pm until further notice
17. Commission Reports –
At Large- Mike Denega
Bass Lake is open to the public with no flotation devices allowed. The fishing conditions there are in good condition.

At Large- Steve Horan

Steve and Dennis have been attempting to set up a meeting to discuss fine distribution, but the person they are meeting has been unavailable. They are hopeful for a meeting in the coming weeks.

District 1- Dennis Byrne:

Dennis added to Steve's report that they have part of the model developed for the fine distribution.

Dennis has 130 hook removal devices for Bass Lake.

District II-Eric Harnage

Eric received a letter from a citizen reporting sewage running into a waterway in the Shingle Springs area. This will be forwarded to Lt Pera for investigation.

District III-Kathleen Jermstad

Kathie reported that the California Fishers are moving north. There has been a toll on them from the fires.

Kathie is working on highway wildlife crossings but is also working on purposeful fencing for our area. This will be a project to educate property owners of the uses of fences. Kathie will be sending out information to commission members regarding input for our website.

District IV-Pat Weddle

Pat has been working on transition of new assignments and his position as Chair. He has provided by-laws and worked with others to update the contact list. Pat met with Larry Nelson and Larry was grateful for the award

District V-Victor Babbitt

In the interest of time, Victor did not report.

18. Next meeting – 03/31//2021 – 6 pm - Video Conference (Zoom)

19. Adjournment was at 8:16 pm

COUNTY POLICY COVID-19

The Chairman will be responsible for posting or verifying that the approved masking sign is conspicuously posted outside of the entrance of the meeting room. The chairman will make sure the maximum number of people in Conference Room A does not exceed 8 people per the posted signs. Seating is already established in the 15' X 25' conference room. The chairman will also enforce that all commission members wear face coverings consistent with CDPH guidelines without exception while;

- Interacting in-person with any member of the commission and/or public while performing any function relative to the commission's duties.*
- Working in any space visited by members of the public including our regularly scheduled conference room; regardless of whether anyone from the public is present at the time.*
- Working or walking through common areas, such as hallways, stairways, elevators, and parking facilities, and restrooms.*
- In the conference room or other enclosed area where other people are present regardless of physically distancing a minimum of 6 feet.*
- While outdoors in public spaces when maintaining a physical distance of 6 feet from other persons in not feasible.*