

**MINUTES OF THE
SUTTER COUNTY FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING OF
February 13, 2020
At 1445 Veteran's Memorial Circle, Yuba City, CA**

Members Present:

Richard Libby
Chuck Wyllie
Donald Priem
Larry Virga
Bruce Hutchinson
Bill McFarland
Robert Ripley
Danarae Doub-Reed
Tiffany Walden
Donald Manley
Jeff Smith
Brian Jeremiah

Members Excused:

James Stone

Members Absent:

Thaddeus Eubanks
Robert Boucke

Others Present: (signing is voluntary, this list represents guests that signed the sign-in sheet)

Dale Whitmore
Andre Licon- Sutter County Sheriff's Dept

REGULAR MEETING:

Called the regular meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 9, 2020 Minutes

Motion to approve*: Virga Second: Libby

*Motion includes the following provisions:

-Page 3 of minutes to read "Yuba Sutter Fair", not "State Fair"

-Date Correction of previous minutes to read "January 9, 2020", not "January 9, 2019"

Yeas: 12 Nays: 0 Abstain: 0

CONSENT CALENDAR

- 1) Treasurer's Report – None
- 2) Payment/Reimbursement--None

CHAIRPERSON REPORT

- 1) Grey Lodge hunt on “hold”, waiting for response, Dave from Grey Lodge had called General Services and left message for Chuck. Follow-up in March.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1) Discussion and action – Public Participant in the Sutter County Fish and Game Advisory Commission, Dale Whitmore presenting
 - a. Chuck apologized to the commission, advised by several commission members and Board of Supervisors members that the items referenced on this item of the agenda have already been addressed.
 - b. Motion by Commissioner Manley to table indefinitely.
 - c. Discussion as to protocol and disagreement of interpretation of direction given regarding presentation, and definitions/interpretation of references within material distributed by Mr. Whitmore regarding Francis Coats removal from the commission and public access issues.
 - d. Commissioner Walden cited that the Commission is an advisory commission and ultimately decisions are made by the Board of Supervisors. Items within Mr. Whitmore's attachments were addressed last year, and a commissioner was removed, the item was brought up again in January 2020 in closed session and the Board of Supervisors chose not to address at that time.
 - e. Commissioner Reed referenced the public access aspect of items presented for item 1. There was a brief review of all items within the material provided by Mr. Whitmore.
 - f. The motion on the table was readdressed:

Motion by Commissioner Manley to table indefinitely, matters pertaining to the removal of Francis Coats as well as access issues brought forth by Dale Whitmore.

Second by Commissioner Hutchinson.

Yeas: 7 Nays: 0 Abstain: 3 Not Voted: 1

- 2) Discussion and action – Sutter County Sheriff's Department Representative to discuss homeless population.
 - a. Andre Licon, Sutter County Sheriff's Department description and plans regarding Ordinance 1666: Illegal Camping (1/10/20). His office handles approximately 90% of what the Sheriff's department does regarding homeless. Ordinance is similar to those in surrounding areas but with some differences.
 - i. To avoid conflict with “Right to Rest” laws and risk perception of “criminalizing homelessness”; rest is ok, encampment or litter is not ok. 1st offense is a notice, 2nd an infraction, repeat offense becomes misdemeanor.
 - ii. Sheriff's Department, Code Enforcement, General Services and

Development Services to work together and go out in teams, possibly along with Social Services agencies.

- iii. 1st encounter, given 72 hours to vacate notice, after 72 hours County staff will come back to check and issue an infraction citation. Staff will clean up the location and safely store items not soiled or contaminated for up to one year in a tagged toter inside a locked Conex box. Citation will go to court, the fine is \$300.00, if they can not pay the fine there is a provision for participating in diversion programs, Behavioral Health or substance abuse programs, classes, rehab, obtaining legal identification if they have none and temporary housing. (If they have no identification, a right thumbprint on the citation will serve as identification). Vetting through Hands Of Hope. Last step to recover their property will be 4 hours of volunteer time with SayLove. 2nd offense within one year is a misdemeanor and potential jail time.
- iv. Statistics: Approximately 481 homeless people in Sutter County, about the same in Yuba County. Last Point in Time census showed a combined 780 people with a margin of error of ~3-400. Main locations: 2nd street, about 45 people, used to be more. The levee along Yuba City, north to Eager and south to Star Bend. Also, in Robbins at Cranmore and Donahue, 2 parcels-one inside the levee, given to the county in 1972-74 to develop a recreational facility which never happened. MOA dissolved as county never followed through. Is currently Central Valley Water District land. Current ability to enforce may be done based on degradation of the levee or public safety during high water events. Robbins location is almost entirely people from Yolo County.
- v. Commissioner Wylie- Many of the homeless have mental health issues, why not use resources to build facilities to house and provide services? Response is there is issue with forcing people to accept help unless they are danger to self or others. Conflicting laws regarding health/welfare and civil liberties.
- vi. Other issues/questions regarding right to clean waterways, individual rights, enough housing, transitional versus permanent shelter costs, insufficient county-owned land, difficulty in finding contracted business to run shelters, delay in enforcing due to getting processes in place and training so all is consistent throughout the county to avoid lawsuits similar to Yuba County and Sacramento County.
- vii. River Cleanup- Get in touch with Jeff Stephens, SayLove. Already has tools, equipment, steady volunteers, last Saturday of the month, sponsored lunch after half day of cleanup.

- 3) Discussion and action-- (Continued) Requirements and location for potential Sutter County Public Rifle Range.
 - a. Continue to March

- 4) Discussion and action-- (Continued) New Location options for Commission Hunt
 - a. On Hold, waiting on additional information and response from Grey Lodge
- 5) Discussion and action- Planning and Budget for submission in the month of February 2020.
 - a. The following changes were noted:
 - i. Increase postage from \$100.00 to \$180.00
 - ii. Increase rent from \$600.00 to \$650.00
 - iii. Decrease expected income from \$3,000.00 to \$2,000.00
 - b. Motion by Commissioner Walden to accept with the noted changes
 - c. Second by Commissioner Hutchinson

Yeas: 10 Nays: 0 Abstain: 1

- 6) Discussion and action—Waterway and Boat ramp cleanup
 - a. Per information previously received and including input from Officer Licon, will contact Jeff Stephens, looking at the first week of April, before the Striper Derby. Brittany Hillers @ Recology provided a form to get a dumpster donated, will talk to Stephens before applying as may not be needed. Per Officer, currently 2 40-yard bins already out by 2nd street that can be used for any cleanup of the river bottoms.
 - b. Continue to March
- 7) Discussion and action—Open booth at Fair this year
 - a. Fair booth has no deadline for applying. \$400.00 for a 10’x10’ and \$630.00 for a double booth. Possibly combine with NCGSA, Trout Unlimited, Kathy Payne with the fish egg program.
 - b. Concern over having enough Commissioners volunteering to staff the booth.
 - c. Previous years booth has had info on with Fish and Game currently doing in the community, other than the fish egg program, hunter education.
 - d. Commissioner Walden suggested spending the time and money towards a cleanup, sponsoring the lunch for SayLove cleanup.
 - e. Continue to March
- 8) Discussion and action—Letter to Department of Fish and Wildlife of California regarding Junior License and game tag costs, requesting reduction of fees.
 - a. Hunting license fees going up, fishing licenses going up. Jr Hunting license cheaper than adult license but pay full cost for deer tags. Not affordable for bringing in young hunters and not good for retention.
 - b. Commissioner Walden noted the deer population isn’t as strong as it used to be, and kids are not likely to get the deer themselves, would be in large part the parents. Bear and hog populations are up, but not deer.
 - c. Lifetime hunting license is several hundred cheaper for children, but cost goes up at age 10. Would be good to raise the cut-off to 16 to give more kids a chance to get into hunting and be more cost effective. License can be purchased before hunter ed safety is completed but won’t be issued until after.

(Commission Committee listings were reviewed and updated)

Commission Committee Reports –

- A. **Commission Hunt- Chuck Wyllie:** No Report
- B. **Boat Ramp- James Stone:** No Report
- C. **Education- Robert Ripley:** No Report
- D. **Conservation- Bruce Hutchinson:** No report.
- E. **Special Projects- Chuck Wyllie:** No report.
- F. **Planning & Budget- Danarae Doub-Reed:** No Report
- G. **Fishing Committee- Robert Boucke:** No Report

Fish and Wildlife Warden Update – No report.

Commissioner Comments— Yuba County is trying to restart its Fish and Game Commission, per message from Debbie Burns to Commissioner Wylie. Dale Whitmore had proposed bi-county commission.

- Commissioner Libby: Concealed Carry Weapons Permit information request from San Francisco Chronicle has been submitted to Sutter County Sheriff.

Public Comments—Commission Chair allowed Dale Whitmore 3 minutes, spoke regarding being denied the right to speak in front of the commission and being allowed to speak about access issues. Referenced Hunter Ed handbook and “Wise Use”, and suggested it includes conservation and public access factors. Has spent 2 years working on public access of Yuba River and advised Sutter County should work to do the same. Parking lot at the by-pass doesn’t have an actual ramp but that is a state vs county issue. No ADA access to state hunting, referenced a lawsuit regarding crossbow use during archery season as some people with disabilities can’t use a traditional bow. Commissioner Wylie response that “Wise Use” reference is from a scientific perspective and Fish and Game Commission has been advised to follow purpose of propagation of fish and wildlife.

Correspondence – No report

Notes- Any Commission information included applications to be forwarded to Commission Secretary, Danarae Doub-Reed.

- Include trial balance sheet with cash in treasury report, semi-annually (i.e. \$46,882.88 balance account)

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia DeSantis

Sutter County General Services