



OFFICERS  
JOHN H. HYBARGER  
Chairman  
SANDRA ARONBERG, M.D., M.P.H.  
Vice-Chair

MEMBERS  
DOUGLAS S. DRUMMOND  
TIMOTHY JONES  
BRADLEY NUREMBERG

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

# FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
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Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 974-1431 Fax (213) 633-5102

### MINUTES

Thursday, July 14, 2005 Meeting  
6:00 p.m.

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration Room 374 A

#### COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

John Hybarger, Chairperson  
Douglas Drummond  
Timothy Jones  
Brad Nuremberg

#### STAFF PRESENT

Jim Corbett  
Peter Papadakis  
Garen Khachian

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Hybarger called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

#### APPROVAL OF MARCH 17, 2005, APRIL 7, 2005 AND APRIL 14, 2005 MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Drummond, seconded by Commissioner Nuremberg, the Commission unanimously approved the March 17, 2005, April 7, 2005 and April 14, 2005 minutes.

#### REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REPORT

Staff reported the May 31, 2005 account balance of \$78,702.91 does not reflect the \$7,500.00 outstanding encumbrance. The Commission's actual fund balance is \$71,202.91.

On motion of Commissioner Nuremberg, seconded by Commissioner Drummond, the Commission unanimously approved receiving and filing the financial report.

#### COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

- Chairperson Hybarger reported on the new State Budget and its affects on Fish and Game. Game Wardens were defunded and fish stocking was decreased. Also, the Commission is losing revenue due to lack of enforcement in collection of fines. California Legislators decided to fund West Nile Virus research/control, since it is a statewide issue not just local.
- Commissioners Jones, Nuremberg and Drummond commented on recent fishing trips/events.

**GRANT REQUEST FROM THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SECOND SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,500 TO PURCHASE CATFISH TO STOCK KENNETH HAHN LAKE FOR THE AUGUST 31, 2005 FISHING DERBY EVENT AT THE KENNETH HAHN REGIONAL PARK**

Miriam Simmons, Children Services Deputy, Second Supervisorial District provided an overview of the 2005 Fishing Derby event and its benefit for the Foster/Homeless children in experiencing the sport of fishing and outdoor recreation. This year's projected total is 400 participants with a ratio of three to one (adults to children). Further, a fishing cookbook will be distributed and children will have their picture taken as a keepsake.

**On motion of Commissioner Drummond, seconded by Commissioner Nuremberg, the Commission unanimously approved the grant request for \$2,500 to purchase catfish to stock the lake for the August 31, 2005 Fishing Derby event at Regional Park.**

**2004-2005 BIG HORN SHEEP CAPTURE SEASON SUMMARY PRESENTATION**

Rebecca Barboza, Wildlife Biologist, California Department Fish and Game (Department), provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the April 15, 2004 San Gabriel Mountains "Puma Project". A four year old, 110-115 pound puma was captured on April 24, 2004. The research team tried to maintain the puma's movement but encountered difficulties with its GPS collar; GPS signal has been lost since May 2005.

Ms. Barboza reported volunteer involvement, public education, and hiring of university graduate students for research will improve 2005-2006 capture levels. The goal is to determine if Puma predation is the strongest factor limiting Bighorn Sheep recovery. Chairperson Hybarger asked what information has been attained since the project's inception. Ms. Barboza advised the project is in its infancy period and is difficult to quantify the individual subgroups affected.

Chanelle Davis, Wildlife Biologist, California Department of Fish and Game, reported \$174,135 is available for the Bighorn Sheep Recovery project for 2005-2007. Chairperson Hybarger asked for the original funding amount. Ms. Davis stated the original funding amount for the project was \$600,000; however, the Department only received \$325,000 with \$269,000 for indirect costs and \$64,000 in overhead costs. Chairperson Hybarger asked for the specific line items covered in the budget. Ms. Davis stated only the actual cost of equipment is covered and the salaries for employees are donated to the Department.

Commissioner Nuremberg asked how much other counties/organizations have donated to the Department. Ms. Davis reported she's uncertain as to other funding received but advised the Los Angeles County Fish and Game Commission provided \$20,090. Chairperson Hybarger asked for the charge rate of helicopter use. Ms. Davis stated the charge for helicopter use is \$895 per hour. Chairperson Hybarger expressed concern regarding the project's longevity and offered the Commission's support as needed. Ms. Davis stated Department regional managers support the program and funding is sustained through 2007.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING BUDGET REVIEW AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT**

Chairperson Hybarger is concerned about the Commission's 50% decline in financial resources and suggested creating an Oversight Committee to review the budget category. Commissioner Nuremberg reported the courts lenient enforcement of fish and game fines has caused a decrease in propagation funds. Commissioner Drummond stated funding for research projects is well intended but costly; the Commission may want to focus more on County related issues.

Chairperson Hybarger informed the Commission that grant money for 'recreational' activities is not covered in the Fish and Game code. Commissioner Drummond concurred and added it's historically the Commission's purview to fund fishing activities in the County.

Commissioner Nuremberg suggested contacting the Auditor-Controller regarding the disposition of court fines and proposed considering a motion to the Board of Supervisors requesting the Auditor-Controller review the collection of court fines.

Chairperson Hybarger stated the need to establish a funding level of all approved grants in the financial report is paramount, and asked if any Commissioners are interested in comprising a Budget Committee. Commissioner Drummond suggested Chairperson Hybarger present a sample budget report at the next Commission meeting.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING DFG REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INPUT PERTAINING TO HATCHERY SUPPLY AND STOCKING ALLOCATIONS**

Chairperson Hybarger advised the deadline to respond to the State's request is August 31, 2005. After a brief discussion, the Commission agreed to send a letter to the State pertaining to hatchery supply and stocking allocations.

**Matters not Posted (To be Briefly Discussed and Placed on the Agenda for a Future Meeting)**

Scott Sewell, California State Department of Fish and Game, requested grant consideration in the amount of \$6,336 for the Game Bird Heritage Program's Special Pheasant Hunts. Mr. Sewell reported the grant dollars will be used to supplement a five month Hunter Education Training Program. Commissioner Nuremberg inquired how much other Counties have contributed to the program. Mr. Sewell reported San Diego (\$4,200), Santa Barbara (\$2,500) and Ventura (\$1,000) have contributed to the program. In response to Commissioner Drummond, Mr. Sewell reported an estimated 600 hunters will participate in the event. Commissioner Drummond suggested imposing a \$10.00 applicant fee to achieve the target amount of \$6,336. Mr. Sewell reported a \$12.00 applicant fee was used in the past; however, non-profit organizations withdrew monies from the Department. Mr. Sewell advised the enforcement of a membership fee is planned for next year's event.

Chairperson Hybarger asked the Commissioners to consider the relationship between "Hunting" and "Fishing" Programs and how both ventures should be supported respectively. Chairperson Hybarger advised the Commission will respond to the grant request before September 1, 2005.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Staff reported on an email received by Al Melillo regarding an algae problem and overgrown weeds at Alondra Park Lake. Mr. Melillo indicated weed growth interferes with fishermen's casting lanes and should be removed. Chairperson Hybarger stated this is a local jurisdictional issue and will contact the appropriate person responsible for park maintenance.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

