



SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FISH AND GAME COMMISSION MEETING

Regional Parks Department
777 E. Rialto Avenue
San Bernardino, California

MINUTES OF March 16, 2021

- Present:** David Halbrook, Chairman, First District
Karen Shackelford, First District
Paul R. Franklin, Commissioner, Third District
Todd M. Richard, Commissioner, Third District
Earl De Vries, Commissioner, Fourth District
Carey A. Stockton, Commissioner, Fifth District
- Beahta Davis, Director
Beverly Pickens, Regional Parks
- Luis Garcia, California Fish and Wildlife
Walter Douglas, California Fish and Wildlife
- Absent:** Robert Olin, Vice Chairman, Second District
- Call to Order:** The March 16, 2021 meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chairman Halbrook.
- Pledge of Allegiance:** Commissioner Shackelford led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Introductions:** Introductions around the table.
- Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Commissioner Stockton seconded by Commissioner Richard to approve the minutes of January 19, 2021. The minutes were approved.
- Staff Reports:**
- Mrs. Davis distributed the financial report to the commission.
 - Mrs. Davis stated it is trout season at the parks. Parks is working with Calaveras Trout this season. They have been stocking some really nice fish including Calaveras Trout Goldens (albino trout). The 31-day trout derby seems to be going well. Biggest trout so far is a little over 9 pounds caught at Mojave Narrows.
- Other Reports:**
- None
- California Department of Fish & Wildlife:**
- Warden Garcia stated if there was ever a time, we needed a full squad of wardens, now is the time. Parks are packed. Weekdays look like a weekend. There has been a 15% increase in fishing license sales and poaching has probably increased by the same amount. It seems like it was a good season for everything. There is more poaching, we need additional wardens. If the commission receives anything from the fines, it is for fishing infractions only. The last six deer hunting cases he followed up on have been dismissed in the

interest of justice. Cut and dry cases, general intent, poaching cases are getting dismissed. Warden Douglas stated he has the same issues. Hunting without a license, and no game bird stamp cases were dismissed. Chairman Halbrook asked Commissioner Franklin if he had any suggestions. Commissioner Franklin asked if the cases were direct file with the court or if they went to the DA for filing. Warden Garcia stated they were direct file, but the same thing happens when they go to the DA. Commissioner Franklin stated the direct file is a problem with the court system and would like to figure out why the court is not following through with them. The DA not filing cases would need to be addressed with the DA. Commissioner Franklin stated he would follow-up with the court system and schedule a time to meet and get one DA involved with Fish and Game cases since we are only talking about a half dozen cases per warden per year. Commissioner Franklin stated he would find out who the presiding judge is for the court so reports could be brought, and a meeting scheduled with the judge. Chairman Halbrook stated that their position is what can the Commission do to help the Wardens. Commissioner Richard asked if the wardens receive any feedback on the direct files from the court. Warden Garcia stated they have to hunt down the information, they don't have a box at the courts and the deposition of the cases are not always available online. Commissioner Richard asked if they receive any feedback on why the case was dismissed. Warden Garcia stated no.

- Chairman Halbrook stated to Warden Douglas you have a guest, tell us about him. Warden Douglas introduced canine Shep. Shep is a two-year-old German Shepard mal mix. He always wants to search. He is trained in apprehension and handler protection. Our goal is to bring good stats to our County and bridge the gap between different agencies. Warden Douglas stated Shep won't give up and he is super social.
- Warden Garcia stated he attended an Environmental Crimes Task Force meeting in the past. They were focused on bigger things, companies dumping, etc.
- Feedback in Victorville is they didn't know what to do about the cases. Each time they hire someone new the Warden has to start over. Wardens have to reach out, so they just don't dismiss the case. Warden Douglas stated sometimes they have to babysit the cases. Reports are submitted with business cards and a list of the violations. Warden Douglas stated he received a call from a clerk at the Barstow Court asking what a guzzler was, saying she couldn't Google the information because the computer she uses had restricted access.
- Commissioner Richard suggested to Commissioner Franklin involving the Clerk of the Courts would be useful. Commissioner Franklin stated he agreed, but it needs to come from the presiding judge and trickle down from there, which clerk or clerks to talk to. The presiding judge distributes bulletins for training, makes the court aware of the significance of violations, and needs that should be recognized and acted upon. Presenting the case to the presiding judge, giving a full picture is the best way to pass on information. Commissioner Franklin recommended scheduling a meeting with the presiding judge and 2 to 3 Commissioners show up and plead our case and follow through with direction from the meeting. Chairman Halbrook asked when you file a case in court you have more attorneys on staff, and do you send it to your attorney before sending to court? Is there a check and balance? Warden Douglas stated he typically sends cases to the court. He has a contact in the DA office in Victorville and she assists him with questions. Chairman Halbrook asked if El Dorado County has the same issues. Warden Douglas stated every

county is different, Riverside County dismisses cases if there is no prior criminal history.

- Discussion was held regarding warden staffing.

Unfinished Business:

- Future Federal Duck Stamp Events – No update. Chairman Halbrook stated we will keep this on the agenda.
- Commissioner Franklin provided an update on the Wildlife Festival. Commissioner Franklin stated the event has gone virtual. The date is the same. We are looking for 15-to-20-minute video presentations on outdoor recreational activities. Examples of videos include fishing, search and rescue, summer camp. This is the focus of the event this year. We are putting together between 1,200 and 1,500 packets that will be available for pick up prior to the event. Packets will include craft projects and brochures.
- Commissioner Shackelford stated she has reached out to the California Deer Association and Society for Big Horn Sheep; both will be sending videos and logos. Waiting for the paperwork. Chairman Halbrook stated that Commissioner Shackelford has done a great job of getting videos for the event. Chairman Halbrook stated to Commissioner Stockton you should have some fishing videos. Commissioner Stockton stated Kristie Stevens should have better fishing videos. Mrs. Davis stated the department is doing a series of videos for our website which includes information covered during the Department's fishing workshop program. Chairman Halbrook suggested to Commissioner Stockton a video from the Friends of Regional Parks would be nice for the event. Commissioner Stockton stated Friends of Regional Parks has an introduction video. He stated he would get the video to Kristie Stevens with permission to use the video. Chairman Halbrook suggested to Warden Douglas this would be a great opportunity to introduce Shep to the County via video. Chairman Halbrook stated he put Kristie Stevens in contact with a turkey caller.
- Chairman Halbrook stated he was contacted by one call maker and one hunting guide, is there someone who could video them. Mrs. Davis stated that we could put them in touch with Kristie Stevens and the CSG-Communications Officer. Chairman Halbrook stated Jim Matthews is a quail caller and Ron Gayer is a hog guide.
- Chairman Halbrook asked Mrs. Davis for an update on Prado. Mrs. Davis stated camping returned to Prado and the hogs are no longer in the campground.

**New Business
(Action Items)**

- None

Correspondence:

- None

**Open
Comment/Discussion:**

- Chairman Halbrook welcomed Commissioner Shackelford to the Commission. Chairman Halbrook stated he has known Commissioner Shackelford for over twenty years. She is a welcome addition to the commission. Commissioner Shackelford stated she has a lifetime hunting and fishing license.
- Commissioner Stockton stated this is the first time in years that we have had all 7 members on the commission.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned on motion by Commissioner Richard seconded by Commissioner Stockton. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 2:24 p.m.

Next Meeting:

The next Fish and Game Commission Meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.