



SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FISH AND GAME COMMISSION MEETING

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

MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2021

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- Present:** David Halbrook, Chairman, First District
Robert Olin, Vice Chairman, Second District
Karen Shackelford, First District
Paul R. Franklin, Commissioner, Third District
Earl De Vries, Commissioner, Fourth District
Carey A. Stockton, Commissioner, Fifth District
- Patrick Scalzitti, Community Services Group
Mary Sheehan, Regional Parks
- Luis Garcia, California Fish and Wildlife
Walter Douglas and Shep, California Fish and Wildlife
Ryan Galapir, California Fish and Wildlife
Lee King, California Fish and Wildlife
George Struble, California Fish and Wildlife
Kyle Chang, California Fish and Wildlife
- Absent:** Todd M. Richard, Commissioner, Third District
- Call to Order:** The May 18, 2021 meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. by Chairman Halbrook.
- Pledge of Allegiance:** Commissioner De Vries led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Introductions:** Introductions around the room.
- Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Commissioner Franklin seconded by Commissioner Shackelford to approve the minutes of March 16, 2021. Motion carried.
- Staff Reports:**
- Mr. Scalzitti went over the financial report with the commission. Motion by Commissioner Olin seconded by Commissioner Shackelford to accept the financial report. Motion carried.
 - Chairman Halbrook informed the commission about Commissioner Franklin's Medal of Valor. The Valley Fire was reported on July 6, 2018 near Valley of the Falls Drive and Highway 38 in the San Bernardino National Forest. The fire had grown to over 1,000 acres before it started raining on July 7th. During that significant rainstorm, the area which recently burnt became unstable creating mud and debris flows. San Bernardino County Sheriff's Deputy Paul Franklin (callsign 4P5) was in the Mill Creek area as the mud and debris flows started to overtake the roadways.

As rocks, mud, and debris formed a torrent in Mill Creek Deputy Franklin happened upon a stranded vehicle with an elderly passenger and her son. Deputy Franklin attempted to rescue them, first by pulling their vehicle out of the flows with his vehicle mounted winch. Deputy Franklin was unsuccessful in this endeavor but knew that these folks needed rescuing well before any other first responders would have time to arrive. Putting life and limb at risk, Deputy Franklin rescued the stranded mother and son; carrying out the elderly woman over his shoulder through the debris flows and assisting her son along the way. Both victims were saved by Deputy Franklin.

For his actions, Deputy Franklin was awarded the Medal of Valor by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department in the spring of 2021 for his heroic efforts we congratulate and thank him for his service.

Commissioner Olin presented Warden Garcia with a certificate of recognition from Supervisor Rutherford for assisting a lost visitor at Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area.

Other Reports:

- None

California Department of Fish & Wildlife:

- Warden Garcia stated he is busy with regular patrols and fallen Joshua trees and kangaroo rats. Warden Douglas stated the wardens have been helping the Sheriff's Department with some drug arrests and Joshua Tree calls. Chairman Halbrook thanked the wardens for what they do. Fallen Joshua trees can be removed with a permit only. The department is short two positions in Hemet and Yucaipa. Chairman Halbrook thanked the wardens for attending.
- Commissioner Franklin provided an update regarding citations since the last meeting. Commissioner Franklin and a couple of other members met with the District Attorney and was told multiple members from the District Attorney's office would be at this meeting to address the issue. There is a plan to have the wardens come to a designated Deputy District Attorney to discuss the cases. The District Attorney should be subpoenaing the warden to come into court to address the cases in person. Warden Garcia stated he is frustrated there was no representation by the District Attorney's office at the meeting today. Having that knowledgeable Deputy District Attorney will be helpful in moving things forward. Mr. Scalzitti stated most of the department heads are still at the Board of Supervisors meeting. Chairman Halbrook stated the new District Attorney is from Virginia, he did want someone from each court here today. Mr. Scalzitti went to see if he could get someone from the District Attorney's office on the phone since so many wardens came to the meeting from Fish and Wildlife. Since building the relationship in Riverside County with the District Attorney's office and Fish and Wildlife things have been getting better. The wardens also have the opportunity to direct file some cases with the court in Riverside County and drop the report off at the District Attorney's office. The wardens do think San Bernardino County is going in the right direction and should be successful as well. Mr. Scalzitti was unable to get a representative from the District Attorney's office on the phone. Commissioner Franklin stated at a minimum today we are going to get a picture with all of you.

Unfinished Business:

- Future Federal Duck Stamp Events – Commissioner Olin stated we are awaiting COVID to end to have the event again in San Bernardino County. They are excited about the new venue.

- Commissioner Franklin provided an update on the Wildlife Festival. Commissioner Franklin stated due to COVID we will be going with a virtual event this year. The event is Saturday, June 19th. Flyers for the event were distributed to the commissioners. Next year's concept is holding the event at Prado Regional Park on Saturday of Father's Day weekend. Hoping for hundreds of vendors and people attending the event. There is excitement to move forward with the event to coincide with the Duck Stamp first day of sale incorporated into the event next year. With the time and money budgeted into the event it should be very successful. This year a prize from the commission will be given out to the first 200 people who participate in the knowledge-based evaluation online. Motion by Commissioner Franklin to spend \$2400.00 to purchase 500 metal water bottles promoting the date of next year's event. Seconded by Commissioner Olin. Motion carried. Chairman Halbrook stated to the wardens he would like Fish & Wildlife to see if there is any way to get their material to us for the event like the kid's fishing licenses and orange bandanas to give away for the event, it would build the brand of Fish and Wildlife. The wardens stated they will find out if there is something available to give to the commission to give out during the event.

**New Business
(Action Items)**

- Commissioner Olin asked if it would be a good use of funds to get another dog for Fish and Wildlife? Is that acceptable? One of the wardens stated the State can fundraise for canine funds so the state could receive the funds. Dogs are equipment/property so yes, it can be done. The cost of a canine is \$8,000 and can go up to \$13,000. Chairman Halbrook stated the focus of the commission is to help and support Fish & Wildlife Department and the wardens because it is vital and important. We can place it on the agenda. We would need a proposal but would be willing to look at it for the future. One of the wardens said they would contact their legal for additional information.
- Commissioner Shackelford stated she is working on fishing costs with Mrs. Davis. Commissioner Shackelford distributed a spreadsheet containing the cost breakdowns for different fishing locations for one day. Commissioner Shackelford stated she hears from anglers why they choose to go to various lakes for fishing in the First District. It comes down to the cost of fishing at the facility. Chairman Halbrook stated in addition to cost hours of operation as well could be a reason. Commissioner Stockton would like to bring up hours again, which limits the people's enjoyment of the parks. Place on the agenda for next meeting to discuss with Mrs. Davis these suggestions from Commissioners Shackelford and Stockton. Warden Garcia stated he hears from people too, but poaching will increase at night and there is not enough manpower to patrol in the day. This just opens the door for more poachers or people catching overlimit.

Correspondence:

- None

**Open
Comment/Discussion:**

- Commissioner De Vries stated this is his last meeting. He is retired and will be RVing full time and volunteering around the country. Chairman Halbrook stated it has been a pleasure serving on the commission with you. Thank you for everything you have done here in this great county of ours.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned on motion by Commissioner Franklin seconded by Commissioner Olin. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 2:43 p.m.

Next Meeting:

The next Fish and Game Commission Meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2021, at 1:30 p.m.