



MOTION: <u>Bartley</u>
SECOND: <u>Channing</u>



# STANISLAUS COUNTY

## FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

### PARKS AND RECREATION

Sonya K. Harrigfeld, Director  
Margarita D. Ramos, Deputy Director  
Ed Channing, Chairman

3800 CORNUCOPIA WAY, SUITE C, MODESTO, CALIFORNIA 95358



**APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2009 AT 4:00 P.M.**  
**3800 CORNUCOPIA WAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR, CONFERENCE ROOM**  
(Minutes and Agendas can be found online at <http://www.stancounty.com/er/parks/fish-wildlife-committee.shtm>)

## MINUTES

### FISH & WILDLIFE MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Ed Channing
- Ed Ayers
- Red Bartley
- Sandra Vanwey

### FISH & GAME REPRESENTATIVE:

Steve Tsao

### PARKS & RECREATION STAFF PRESENT:

- Cathy Gomez
- Margarita Ramos
- Mae Song

### MEMBERS ABSENT:

Marvin Johnsen

### GUESTS PRESENT:

Vito Chiesa

### A. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Ed Ayers called the meeting to order and introduced Supervisor Vito Chiesa, Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors.

### B. CORRESPONDENCES

#### REPORTER

1. Reviewed and discussed Fish and Game Correspondence regarding incidental takes of California Tiger Salamanders and similar incidental takes.
2. Reviewed and discussed Fish and Game Correspondence regarding tag quota changes, clarifications and urgency changes for the 2009-2010 Mammal Hunting Regulations that may pertain to zone A-1.

Ed Ayers

### C. ACTION ITEM

#### REPORTER

1. The request for \$900.00 from the Department of Parks and Recreation to print 5000 copies of the Zebra and Quagga Mussel Prevention Program brochure to be distributed as an educational handout at both Modesto and Woodward Reservoir was approved upon motion and second with unanimous approval.

Cathy Gomez  
\_\_Channing, Bartley,  
Unanimous Approval

The brochure is phase three of the Zebra and Quagga Mussel prevention program that will simultaneously provide boaters with a self-certification and educational awareness of the potential infestation concern.

### D. PUBLIC COMMENT

#### ACTIONS

1. None

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<b>E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>
1. Minutes for January 22, 2009 were approved upon motion and second with a correction to section J-1 Wood Duck report; the number of eggs laid should state 1812 eggs were laid with 1002 that hatched.	___ Bartley, Vanwey, Unanimous Approval
<b>F. PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF UPDATE</b>	<b>ACTIONS/REPORTER</b>
1. The Department is gearing up for the summer season. The progress for the online campgrounds reservation system is scheduled to go live on May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2009. Staff training is in progress. The water level at Woodward was recently raised after a permit to remove the geese in the area was obtained placing into effect the body-to-water-contact.	<i>Margarita Ramos</i>
2. A concern was raised about E. Coli. contamination from the geese/birds at the reservoir however, the Department have not received any reports from regular routine tests.	<i>Red Bartley</i>
3. A question was raised regarding how many boar-hunting tags the Department has sold. A rough estimate was provided at about 7 tags. The low number is expected due to there being no advertisement or promotion occurring at the moment. The boar hunting was just recently changed to year-round at Frank Raines Regional Park as the State Department of Fish and Game. Frank Raines is staffed four days a week with workdays varying depending on the fire risk season. The Department has an upcoming water project to potentially build a non-potable well and a water filtration system for drinking water and water storage capacity. Wild flowers in the area are beautiful at this time of the year.	<i>Margarita Ramos</i>
4. The Department is still waiting for the fish invoice from the vendor for the Kids Fishing Day event on May 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2009, sponsored by the Army Corp of Engineers. The Department is working closely with the Army Corp of Engineers to ensure the fish invoice receives payment.	<i>Mae Song</i>
5. Public Works is currently installing netting around the bridge at Shiloh Fishing Access.	<i>Margarita Ramos</i>
<b>G. WILDLIFE REPORT</b>	<b>ACTIONS/REPORTER</b>
1. There may be an upcoming five-year fawn survivorship study program that may be later presented to this committee for funding. Greg Gerstenberg and/or Nathan Graveline, Department of Fish and Game will be presenting this proposal with more details later. Members discussed issues with louse and area infection containments.	<i>Ed Ayers</i>
<b>H. FISHERY REPORT</b>	<b>ACTIONS &amp; REPORTER</b>
1. Salmon counts from fall 2002 to fall 2008: Stanislaus County's count increased while Merced County decreased. Counts were estimated at Merced river (hatchery) as 398, Merced river hatchery counted 67, Stanislaus River was at 1085, and Tuolumne River at 372. The Stanislaus river weir's observation count was estimated at 923. Merced's end of the season egg harvest was estimated at 75,000 however the latest update at the end of March had only 30,000 viable eggs. The comparison to 2007's data of 275,000 shows a dramatic drop in this year's count. Water level is also low in the rivers. The Stanislaus and Tuolumne River flow has just recently increased. This increase in flow is not part of the Vernalis Adaptive Management Plan (VAMP) flow but an additional water release. Due to pre-determination of this year as being a critical dry year, the Hydrology Group of the San Joaquin River Technical Committee is not under any obligation to release VAMP flows. The gage for river water level is	<i>Steve Tsao</i>

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averaging about 2,200 to 2,300. A 14-inch Steelhead was caught in the trawl.

**I. FINE MONEY STATUS**

**ACTIONS & REPORTER**

1. No report.

**J. WOOD DUCK REPORT**

**ACTIONS & REPORTER**

1. Hatfield Park has 13 active nests with 19 hatchings from one nest. The active nests contained 121 eggs. Some of the nests were in the process of building moorings. The group handled 9 females; 5 banded from previous years and 4 were newly banded. Hatfield park is doing very well with the wood ducks boxes. There are expectations for a second round of nesting.

*Ed Channing*

The Wood Duck box project near the riverbank at Waterford River Park was spotted with more squirrels. There was a sighting of a Red Fox squirrel. One of the ten poles was vandalized. The damaged pole was completely taken out along with the concrete. A replacement may be postponed for the moment. 8 boxes and poles have been installed with 1 box installed near the park. Mr. Bartley will be checking in next week on the status of the boxes. The area is about a quarter of a mile long and is a nice wildlife area.

*Red Bartley*

**K. GREAT VALLEY MUSEUM**

**ACTIONS & REPORTER**

1. Sandy Vanwey asked if a Sacramento Perch is available. Mr. Tsao referred Ms. Vanwey to search in the Sacramento area for a greater chance to find that type.

*Sandra Vanwey*

The Great Valley Museum (GVM) is finishing their final building drawings to be submitted to the division of State Architect's office. Processing time may be approximately six months with an estimated turnaround in September. Bidding process is in October with a return by November. Groundbreaking is estimated to happen at the beginning of the year, and then thereafter a period of fourteen months to complete building. GVM is still conducting fundraising events. The first floor will be the natural history museum and offices, the second floor are the life sciences along with some offices, the third floor will have physical sciences i.e. chemistry, earth science, and the top floor will be an observatory platform that includes a planetarium area. The bidding received are looking good for the budget, coming in at 10% under. This may help with balancing the budget overages.

**L. NEW BUSINESS**

**ACTIONS & REPORTER**

1. Waterford River Park will be having a Family Day on a Saturday again. Stanislaus County was suggested to have an informational booth at this event but may not be able to due to a decrease in staffing at this time. The Lion's Club helped distributed over 300 free hotdogs for the past event.

*Red Bartley*

**M. ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned upon motion and second. The next meeting of the Fish and Wildlife Committee will be held on:

*\_\_Channing, Bartley,  
Unanimous Approval*

**Thursday, July 23, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.**  
**Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto