

Fish and Game Preservation Fund Advisory Committee Meeting

Agenda
Thursday, August 15, 2019
1:00pm

County Administrator's Conference Room
2 South Green Street, 4th Floor, Sonora, CA

- 1) Call to Order: Welcome and Introductions: Meeting called to order at 1:00pm.
Members in attendance: Jim Maddox, Fred Vigil, Kevin Townsend, Bill Youngman, Jim Phelan
Kelle Schroeder, Ag Commissioner, Mark Abraham, CDFW unit biologist, Troy Bruce, Ron Anderson, Brian with USDA
- 2) Oral Communication: The public may speak on any item not on the printed agenda. No action will be taken by the committee.
- 3) Approval of Minutes: from the meeting held May 30, 2018. Kevin moved to approved minutes. Jim Phelan seconded. Approved 5-0.

Action Items:

- 4) Consideration of providing partial funding for Tuolumne County's contracted wildlife specialist services with USDA's Wildlife Services Division.

Kelle explained the background of the Tuolumne County budget and that the Board requested she pursue finding funding to cover half of the cost the County pays for the wildlife services specialist from USDA.

Farm Bureau was going to look at their budget and get back with her about what they could provide. Cattleman's Association was also going to look at what they could contribute.

Ron Anderson mentioned the majority of the calls he receives are from retired homeowners who have a skunk or a racoon that needs to be removed. However there is a balance with charging fees for health and safety. We want to encourage people to call with health or safety concerns. Also if a lot of calls are from seniors, we need to be careful about charging too much. We will need to differentiate between nuisances and health and safety

Kevin Townsend suggested developing fees for nuisance calls but not charging for health and safety calls.

Ron Anderson also discussed the issue of enforcing potential violations as they often cause a lot of the nuisance issues for private property owners. Long term, the County is going to have to look at how it packs up garbage to prevent bears.

Ron noted that regardless of if his contract is fully funded or not, the need for a trapper in Tuolumne County will not change. That burden of service will be transferred to another agency. If the County has to give up their contract, they would lose the 20% match of USDA funds that pays the remaining portion of the contract.

Jim Maddox asked about the deer study Ron had been completing and Ron said he still has more work to do for that. Jim felt the committee is getting additional value for wildlife with the deer study Ron continues to work on and helping to fund his contract would allow this project to continue and the deer study write-up to be completed.

Jim Phalen moved that the committee fund up to \$39,543 to keep Ron's contract whole for this fiscal year, pending contributions from the other agencies.

Troy from CDFW said that they are under a mandate to issue a permit to a homeowner if they have animal loss and they defer to USDA for traps and other things. Ron's services are invaluable for them. CDFW could not take on the services in his stead.

Motion seconded by Kevin Townsend. Approved 5-0.

5) Adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 2:00pm