
SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Margie Namba
Mark White
Robert Bailey
Dana Curran, Vice-Chair
George "Buzz" Link, Chair
Dr. Anthony DeRiggi
Secret Charles-Ford
Mark Barry
Richard Hunn

A JOINT COMMISSION APPOINTED BY:
County of Sacramento
City of Sacramento
City of Isleton
City of Folsom
City of Galt

MEETING MINUTES

**MONDAY, MAY 19, 2014 6:00 PM
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO**

**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
10590 ARMSTRONG AVENUE MATHER, CALIFORNIA 95655**

ITEM

1. Call to Order – Chair Link

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Roll Call – Staff Secretary

Commission members present: Robert Bailey, Dana Curran, George Buzz Link, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Secret Charles-Ford, Marjorie Namba, Mark Barry, Mark White, Richard Hunn

Commission members absent: None

Staff members present: Val Siebal, Jill Koehn

3. Introduction of Commissioners – Chair Link

The Commission members introduced themselves.

4. Public Comment – Chair Link

There was no public comment.

5. **CONSENT ITEMS** – Approval of April 2014 Minutes

A motion was made by Robert Bailey and seconded by Mark White to approve the April 2014 minutes.

Ayes: Robert Bailey, Dana Curran, George Buzz Link, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Secret Charles-Ford, Richard Hunn, Mark White, Mark Barry, Margie Namba

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

6. Update on the Salmon Population- Andrew Hughan, Public Information Officer, CDFW

This year, the Federal government asked the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to truck all salmon from Sacramento's five regional hatcheries, along with a number from federally operated hatcheries, and release them in the San Francisco coastal waters due to the drought and high temperature of the river water. The hatcheries

included Coleman, Feather River, Nimbus, Mokelumne and Merced. Battle Creek didn't have enough water for federal hatcheries to simply release the salmon into the creek as had been done in the past. The total number of fish trucked by the CDFW was approximately 30 million. The salmon are released into a net pen, acclimate to the river, and then are released in the outer bay. Before they leave the hatchery, every fish is tagged in order to study return rate.

A bait barge is sometimes used to transport fish from the Sacramento River to and through, the San Francisco bay. The fish are contained in the belly of the boat on the trip out. This method of acclimation and transport has proven to be very successful, so the state is looking at building more barges to transport the fish in hopes of increasing the rate of salmon returning to spawn. Only 1% of hatchery released salmon make it back to spawn at their birthplace.

Because of the drought, the American River Nimbus hatchery is closing for the summer due to the lack of cold water to support the fish. The steelhead trout will be released early due to the fact that water coming out of Folsom Lake and Nimbus is too warm and would kill the fish in the hatcheries. The hatchery staff will be performing deferred maintenance and there will be some remodeling of raceways and water systems.

The fish spawned at the hatchery are recycled 100% by the hatchery. The flesh is dried, with half going to native american tribes and half to Northern California food banks. The remains of the fish is ground and used for fertilizer and cat food.

The Salmon industry adds \$300,000,000 to the Northern CA economy, so managing the health of the resource is of prime concern. Vice Chair Curran brought up the current news spot regarding Salmon farming that is taking place in Canada. This model is not feasible on the California coast line because it requires sheltered water. In California, the hatcheries essentially fulfill the same function.

Currently on the threatened or endangered species list are spring-run chinook salmon, winter-run chinook salmon, and coho salmon. Rice field nurseries in the Yolo bypass are being used to raise salmon as an innovative approach to raising the salmon population numbers.

Marine Protected Areas have been in effect 2 years, originally implemented by Governor Schwarzenegger. This measure, in addition to capping the total tonnage that commercial fisherman may catch, is aimed at protecting the salmon resource.

Earthmoving equipment is being used to shape gravel in certain areas of the American Rivers where the salmon spawn, to increase the natural spawning habitat. Commissioner Link commented that this has shown to be successful to some degree.

7. Update on Sandhill Cranes- Mike Savino

Speaker was unable to attend the meeting

8. SEC Draft Budget Review

The Commission reviewed the draft budget for 2014/15. A motion to adopt the budget was made by Mark White and seconded by Robert Bailey.

Ayes: Robert Bailey, Dana Curran, George Buzz Link, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Secret Charles-Ford, Richard Hunn, Mark White, Mark Barry, Margie Namba

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

9. Webpage Committee Update

Commissioner DeRiggi reported that the Committee agreed upon the guidelines and criteria for links that will be included under buttons on the website. Commissioner biographies will have a tab, along with meeting agendas and minutes. Links on the SEC webpage may only include local nonprofits whose mission is consistent with the SEC's mission and may not include any organizations involved with EMD enforcement issues. Organization's links must be professional, non-commercial and they must have non-profit IRS status (501C3). Proposed links should be presented to the commission for approval.

The Home page of the SEC website will also include the Secretary's contact information in a very visible spot. There will be a specific button for the SEC awards also.

Proposed buttons on the home page: Waste, Environmental Health, Energy Conservation, Water, Community Planning/ Environmental Justice, Air Quality, Transportation, Pollution, Hot Topic.

Action: Commission members need to send a one or two sentence biographical statement to the Secretary by the next meeting on June 16th, 2014.

10. Award Form Committee Update

The award committee discussed the need to evaluate the awards process as staying consistent with the vision of the SEC. The changes to the awards process/forms that were discussed included the need to simplify the form into a clear, one page form so that people would not be hesitant to nominate someone and revising categories to be clearer. The categories could be reoriented to include: non-profits, HOA's, schools, for profit organizations, government, other.

The committee agreed upon a sample format that they thought appropriate for the nomination form. Dana Curran will be originating the form, making changes and then forwarding to the next committee member to make tracked changes until all members have had a chance to edit it.

There was also discussion regarding the most effective way to solicit nominations which resulted in the following action item.

Action: Agenda item every October for Commissioners to report who and how many potential nominee organizations they contacted.

Action: Secretary will work with IT Staff at EMD to create the fillable form online and post on the SEC webpage.

Mark White suggested proclamations being presented instead of acrylic awards, as a cost saving measure. An SEC logo would be needed also.

11. Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD) Director's Report – Val Siebal

Director Val Siebal updated the commission on recent activities at EMD as highlighted in the monthly EMD Update Newsletter.

12. Environmental News Review – Vice Chair Dana Curran

Vice Chair Dana Curran reviewed three articles of environmental interest.

13. Commissioner Comments

Commissioners discussed topics they would like to see on the Master Topic List:

*Infill in City of Sacramento-SACOG
Jackson Highway Street Lights
Transportation Projects, upcoming
Southeast Corridor Build
Update on Bag Ban
Climate Action Change
City Food/Waste Pilot Project
Air Quality Speakers*

Vice Chair Curran brought up the possibility of viewing short news video clips for discussion and also submitting the articles of interest early enough to be distributed to the commissioners so they can read them and/or preview and be prepared for discussion. Richard Hunn suggested highlighting news articles of local environmental interest that the commission might want to take further interest in and action on.

14. Adjournment at 7:35pm. – Next Meeting, June 16th, 2014 at 6:00 pm, at EMD, 10590 Armstrong Ave., Mather, California 95655

This meeting is being audiotaped in its entirety and will be available at the Environmental Management Department office.

Agendas are posted in the offices of the City of Sacramento, Folsom, Galt, Isleton, Rancho Cordova, Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, and the County of Sacramento and also on the EMD Website at: emd.saccounty.net. Agendas are also forwarded to interested parties upon request.