

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

Arizona Game and Fish Commission
Appointment Recommendation Board
5000 W. Carefree Highway
Phoenix, AZ 85086

PRESENT: (Board Members)

Phillip D. Townsend, Chairman
W. Hays Gilstrap
Susan E. Chilton
Leonard G. Stinson

THURSDAY, JANUARY 06, 2011

(Directors Staff)

Jim Odenkirk, Assistant Attorney General
Linda Pollack, Assistant Attorney General

Chairman Phillip D. Townsend called the meeting to order at **09:09 a.m.** This meeting followed an agenda dated December 10, 2010.

1. Welcome and Introductions of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission Appointment Recommendation Board.

Chairman, Phillip D. Townsend opened the meeting by addressing to the public that the Board would be operating off an agenda dated December 10, 2010. The purpose of today's proceedings is for the Board to review, approve, and conduct the signing of the Boards meeting minutes from the November 12, 2010 and November 15, 2010 meetings. The Board will also be discussing their 2010 Operating Procedures and any recommendations for change.

At this time the members of the Board introduced themselves to the public.

2. Review, Approval, and Signing of Minutes.

MOTION: Gilstrap moved and Stinson second THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING'S BE APPROVED.

VOTE: Unanimous

3. Discussion and Recommendations for the AZ Game and Fish Commission Appointment Recommendation Board Operating Procedures.

Chairman Phillip D. Townsend asked the public if there was anyone who would like to speak to the Board at this time.

Stephanie Nichols Young, with the Animal Defense League of Arizona was present and stated that she would like to address some concerns they have that the Board isolates the public from dealing directly with the Governor and they are concerned about that, especially during this time of budget crisis. Stephanie addressed that their concern is in the Boards selection process the last time when the Board started out with 73 applicants. There really wasn't an objective criteria so the public could understand and look at all the applicants and how the Board decided to go from 73 applicants, down to 19 applicants, then down to the five applicants that were interviewed. She feels it would be helpful that applicants be well informed in the subject of wildlife. She asked the Board, what things in those applications spoke to the Board? if that was the main criteria. If there were other criteria's that assisted in eliminating applicants, she feels it would be helpful for the people to understand that process both for future applicants and for the public to feel their interest were represented. Stephanie addressed that there are mandatory requirements that only one can be from each county and not any three of the same political party. People were screened out automatically for those kinds of things and that may have happened at the Governor's office and since this is a new process she feels that explaining all these things to the public as much as possible can be helpful. The more objective criteria and the more the Board are applying those and explaining how they are being applied is helpful to the public.

Board member Gilstrap addressed a question to Stephanie Nichols Young. "Are you suggesting that we do something in the order of a "job description"?"

Stephanie Nichols Young responded that would be part of it. In the statute it states people are suppose to be well informed on the subject of wildlife, so whether it's a job description or the Board addresses to the public the reason for moving an applicant forward in the process. She also suggested maybe a checklist of what the Board is looking for, something that the public would understand what the criteria's are.

The Board addressed that during future meetings of Review and Selection of Applicants for Interview. There should be more discussion amongst the Board members as to why they feel an individual should move forward in the process. As much as they do not want to get into the negatives, there are moments that they may not feel the same way about an individual. This will not be done in a negative way but in a way for the Board to engage more in a discussion of an individual and why they feel that individual should move forward and what that individual brings to the table that would make them a candidate to interview.

The Board discussed the window for submitting applications for Commissioner. The Board has received feedback from the public that they did not have enough notice of the meetings. If the public would have had more notice then they might have attended and invited other people to attend the meetings. The Board would like to have the application process start earlier to allow enough time for the public to submit all necessary documents, as well as having adequate notice of the public meetings.

MOTION: Gilstrap moved Stinson second THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD WORK WITH THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS IN ESTABLISHING A TIME FRAME FOR THE POSTING OF THE ARIZONA GAME AND FISH COMMISSION OPENING AND CLOSING, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE THE BOARD MORE TIME TO REVIEW APPLICATIONS AND ADVISE THE PUBLIC OF MEETINGS.

VOTE: Unanimous

Meeting days and times were discussed. The Board suggested that evening meetings or weekend meetings would make it more convenient for the public to attend.

Gary Hovatter, Deputy Director with the Arizona Game and Fish Department advised the Board that the department is willing to accommodate the Board with evening or weekend meetings, if that is what the Board decides to do in the future.

The Board discussed the vetting process of applicants. It was suggested that when the Chairman of the Board meets with the Governor's staff that the Chair ask, what process is done to check applicants before the applications are forwarded to the Board?

The Board discussed having verbatim transcripts of the applicants answers to the Boards questions during the interview process or the possibility of having the audio recordings of the meetings available to the public to view on the Boards website.

Subject to final legal review and technical analysis the audio files of the Boards meetings will be made available to the public on the Board's websites.

Chairman Phillip C. Townsend asked if there was anyone present at this time that would like to speak to the Board.

Sandy Bahr, Directory of the Sierra Club, Grand Canyon Chapter stated to the Board that she feels the more information that is available to the public the better. She agrees with the Board that it would be a bad idea to try to paraphrase what people say because we all interpret things differently. She advised either doing a full transcription or refer people to the audio recordings.

Sandy talked about the Boards process. Sandy stated to the Board that the Sierra Club is not a big fan of the Commission Appointment Recommendation Board and she believes in being up front and wanted to make sure the Board was aware of that. Since this is the process now the Sierra Club thinks that it is important for the Board to operate in a transparent of a fashion as possible. When each Board member agreed to serve they are agreeing to do the public business and in agreeing to do the public's business they agree to do that in public. There are just those few narrow exceptions for not doing that and so she wanted to encourage the board in the greatest degree possible to do that. She thinks there are ways the Board can present the qualifications that they have considered without being negative or without the casting of negativity of someone's character. She encourages them to think hard about that to the best of their ability to do things here or wherever the Board meets. She encouraged the Board to look for time when the public can participate, because people should be able to be present and not have to take vacation days from work and such. Regarding the applicants and what is expected of them Sandy really thinks it is a good idea to write out what is expected of them. Sandy feels people are looking at what is

the minimum of what is required and thinks they feel that is all they are suppose to submit. Public should have equal opportunity and equal access to information. The timing issue is really important; we all know that this was very rushed. Some of the individuals she knows that applied did not have the time to get letters of recommendations because it happened so quickly, so making sure there is enough time for people to do that is important.

4 Future Meeting Schedule and Locations.

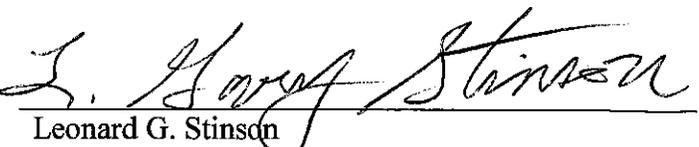
The Recommendation Board discussed and agreed that they will review, approve, and sign the minutes of today's meeting at their next scheduled meeting, when the Board reconvenes in the Fall of 2011.

The meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.


Phillip D. Townsend, Chair


W. Hays Gilstrap


Susan E. Chilton


Leonard G. Stinson