

## 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, Chair

Susan E. Chilton

W. Hays Gilstrap

Donald R. Johnson

Leonard G. Stinson

(Tuesday, November 15, 2011)

(Directors Staff)

Linda Pollock, Assistant Attorney General

(Phillip Townsend called the meeting to order at **9:01 a.m.** This meeting followed an agenda dated October 25, 2011).

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

The Board introduced themselves: Sue Chilton of Arivaca; Hays Gilstrap of Phoenix; Phil Townsend of Yuma; Donald Johnson of Gold Canyon; Gary Stinson of Phoenix

Staff:

Linda Pollock, Game and Fish Assistant Attorney General

Jazmyn Taitingfong, Secretary to the Board

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### **2. Discussion and Deliberation of Board Process and Procedures, Including the Process for Evaluating Applicants.**

**MOTION:** Chilton Moved and Stinson seconded TO DETERMINE THE RANKING OF CANDIDATES, EACH BOARD MEMBER HAVE 25 POINTS TO ALLOCATE TO A MINIMUM OF THREE AND A MAXIMUM OF FIVE CANDIDATES. NO MORE THAN 10 POINTS MAY BE ALLOCATED TO ANY ONE CANDIDATE.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

Don Johnson asked if would be permissible to vote for only one candidate and give them ten points. Sue Chilton responded that according to her motion it would be permissible to vote for only one candidate. Gary Stinson said this voting system does not define the number of names to be forwarded to the governor and that in itself is a separate decision.

Gary Stinson proposed questions for the Board's consideration:

--What do you see as Arizona's number one wildlife issue?

--What is your perspective on the recent moratorium on uranium mining claims and the one million acre withdrawal in the Grand Canyon?

--Please give me your views on wolf management in Arizona and how that fits with national policies on the subject. What are the implications, pro and con on the subject?

--One of the issues we face in Arizona and the rest of the US is the recruitment of anglers and hunters, a large part of which is revenue for the department. Do you have any perspectives regarding this issue?

--Are you familiar with the Watchable Wildlife Programs? What are your thoughts on the programs?

--The Department is responsible for Arizona wildlife including flora and fauna which includes both Game and Non Game species. How do you perceive balancing these responsibilities?

--Do you have a hunter or angling license?

Phil Townsend asked if these questions were the only questions they should ask. Gary Stinson stated he shared the questions so the rest of the Board was aware of where his line of questioning would be going. He gave the example if a board member were to ask a wolf question in depth, he would skip asking this particular question.

Phil Townsend said that last year, each Board member asked two questions. If there was a particular question that needed to be asked to a candidate they could ask it and this ensured that they did not run over time.

Sue Chilton suggested the procedure that each Board member ask one question down the line and then go through the line again. As time allowed, the Board can continue to ask questions until they are satisfied all of their issues have been addressed.

Hays Gilstrap said he has preconceived questions but would like to direct his questions in response to the individual's presentation. He believes a challenge the Board will have with five board members asking questions is for any one member to not monopolize or extend the time. He is comfortable with the Chairman disciplining the questioning. Gary Stinson agreed with this point.

Sue Chilton agreed with Hays Gilstrap that a candidate may raise a point in the course of answering a question. Each member should be allowed one follow up question if it weren't too time consuming.

Donald Johnson shared a few questions that he would pursue with the candidates:

--A candidate's knowledge and experience throughout the state of Arizona (Example: Have you been to the Kofa Wildlife Refuge? Do you know where Anderson Mesa is?)

--What do you think makes a quality Director?

Sue Chilton acknowledged Sandy Barr in the audience. She stated it would not be fair for anyone to leave and tell the candidates what questions are being asked. Because this is an interview process, they would not want to unduly advantage any candidates. Gary Stinson said a fair first question for a candidate would be whether or not anyone had spoken to them about the previous interview. Phil Townsend stated that he believed everyone in the audience was trustworthy but it would be fine to make this request.

Hays Gilstrap said he would focus on the financial management and administration of the Department rather than wildlife issues to serve as a balance.

Sue Chilton said she intends to raise the issues of the importance of the access program and the work the Department and previous Commissions have done to build positive relations to open larger areas of land for hunting and fishing. And how do the candidates view the role of a commissioner? She stated that the Commission is not a publicity agent of the Department. The role of the Commission is to independently evaluate Department presentations to determine whether the actions being recommended actually do further the mission of the Department. She said there is a difference between only going to banquets and being interested and a thoughtful thinker on issues. Will they know enough rather than to just sit and listen?

Gary Stinson agreed with these comments and said that the role of a commissioner is an executive/administrative role.

Phil Townsend would want to know if the candidates have an understanding of the North American Model of Wildlife Management and if they understand the budgetary process and how the agency is funded. He also has a question about predators.

Don Johnson pointed out a map in the Game and Fish Hunt Guidelines that has a disclaimer about homeland security issues and activity near the border that may affect the quality of a person's hunt. Fifteen game management areas are "enter at your own risk" and he wondered if the Department or Commission would have any role in publicizing and mitigating this situation. He is concerned that a quarter of our game management units have been yielded to outside forces. He asked if anyone felt that this would be an appropriate question to bring up to the candidates for the Commission. Sue Chilton noted that at her residence in Unit 36 B, a group of hunters at her door reported seeing narcotic/cartel spotters above them at their camp. She and her husband participate in a Border Patrol border residents' issues discussion. She said this point is well taken and topical as well. Don Johnson asked if any candidates have given this any thought and if the commission should take a leadership role in at least publicizing it.

For call to the public, Phil Townsend suggested having two calls, one right before or after lunch and another right after the conclusion of the interviews. Gary Stinson asked Sandy Barr if she had any comments at the time, she said no.

**MOTION:** Gilstrap moved and Johnson seconded TO HAVE A CALL TO THE PUBLIC PRIOR TO LUNCH AND AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE INTERVIEWS PRIOR TO THE VOTE ON WHICH CANDIDATES' NAMES WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE GOVERNOR.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

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The meeting recessed at 9:28 a.m.

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### **3. Interviews of Selected Applicants for the Arizona Game and Fish Commission.**

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The meeting reconvened at 9:50 a.m.

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**Mr. Kurt Davis** – Interview began at 9:52 a.m.

Opening Statement:

Mr. Davis brought a hat because he believes a hat tells a lot about a person, like a car does. His hat says “Salidis Man Hunt Club.” He has a passion for the Game and Fish Department and hunting and fishing. The story he wanted to share, says a lot about the job of a Commissioner. When he first came to Arizona in 1980 he was not a hunter, though he grew up fishing with his father. He met Dennis Wells (in the audience), a person he calls his mentor. Dennis taught him about hunting and it quickly became a passion for Mr. Davis; he has been hunting ever since. In 1982, in the North Kaibab in the snow, they said that they had to do something to get people more engaged: so they formed the Salidis Men Hunt Club. Today there are well over 50 members in this informal club. There are regularly 30 men who participate in hunts with them. At their last turkey hunt there were ages 4 to 70 in the camp, three generations. It is his passion to be a salesman for hunting and fishing, it is something very important to him.

He jokes with his wife and says there are some people that live to work and there are some that work to live. Working to live is important to him because hunting and fishing are what he likes to do in his time. His business partners tell him that he goes hunting and fishing a lot and he says that it is what he loves to do and it is one thing he will never give up in his life. Professionally, he served in the Reagan Administration after graduating from Northern Arizona University, worked in the Attorney General’s office and in the private sector. He also served as a vice president at Northern Arizona University. He started his own small business and is very proud because it has survived for nine years. He also tries to give back time in the form of public service. He served as president on the State Charter School Board, the Arizona Board of Regents, the Governor’s Vision 21 Transportation Taskforce and other private boards. He has always tried to give back through public service. He also served as a policy advisor in the Governor’s office. He said it was interesting learning about state government and all of its workings. He is a much better fly fisherman than bass fisherman and in the hunting realm he is an enthusiast for black powder.

The following questions were asked of Mr. Davis:

Chilton:

--Share more about your role on the Board of Regents

--The Board of Regents is the other state board with many parallels to the Game and Fish Commission. The Game and Fish Commission is not just a publicity arm, it has a very high level of academic expectation in the sense of your ability to evaluate options. You are interfaced with the federal and state government as well as state and federal laws. You have to know what the implications of game management for all of those.

--You mentioned in connection with the Board of Regents the subject of funding. That is a very high priority issue with the Department. The concern I have is the ability of a commissioner to recognize when a funding source supplants its mission in exchange for its money. For example, a federal funding source may come with mitigation or other requirements. Those requirements

may drive action in another direction that the commissioner might not think is in the best interest of furthering the mission but, in exchange for all of this funding or permission to carry out particular mandates, the Commission can end up changing its entire focus and priorities to match those of the funding source.

Gilstrap:

- Give some feedback on how you see yourself as a critical thinker.
- In your business career, and representing several different entities in the legislature, how will you be able to distinguish yourself from who you're representing knowing that a responsibility of the Commission is to interface with the legislature? How would you handle that situation?
- You have mentioned the term oversight more than once. You mentioned your turkey hunt and the variation of ages. Am I to assume that youth involvement is key to the future of the Department and the Commission?

Townsend:

- Are you familiar with and can you explain the North American Model of Wildlife Management?
- The Commission in a rule making body. What rule or rules would you like to see the Commission entertain?

Don Johnson:

- Have you ever attended a meeting of the Game and Fish Commission? If so, what did you take away from your visit in terms of the role of the Commission and the part you might play in it?
- One of the duties of the Commission is to make a decision on the retention, hiring or removal of the Director. Give us a sense of what you would look for as a Commissioner in the qualifications to be Director of the agency?
- Do you have an opinion or position on the wolf reintroduction in the state of Arizona?

Stinson:

- What do you see as Arizona's number one wildlife issue?
- How do see some of the habitat issues that are or aren't? What might the Game and Fish Commission do in that vein?
- Do you have any particular position with respect to the recent withdrawal of mining claims that Secretary Salazar has moved forward?

[Candidate Davis responded to all questions propounded to him]

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The meeting recessed at 10:34 a.m.

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The meeting reconvened at 10:42 a.m.

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**Mr. Wayne Lackner** – Interview began at 10:43 a.m.

Opening Statement:

Mr. Lackner is 55 years old, a native Arizonan born in Southern Arizona in Safford. He is a third generation Arizonan whose family came to the Gila Valley in the 1880s. He is currently retired and is a partner in a ranching operation in the Klondyke area in Western Graham County on the Arivaca Canyon. His family has been on this canyon since the 1920's. The ranch is made up of forest state lease and private land. He is retired from the Border Patrol of 27 years and had varied experience there as an agent mostly here in Arizona. He started his career in south Texas and has worked Gila Bend and Sonoita where he did most of his career in Naco and in Arizona. About half of his career was in management or supervisory positions. His position for the last several years was a public lands liaison agent for the Border Patrol Headquarters in Washington D.C. This was during the fence construction, which was very complex. The Border Patrol is not exempt from any environmental laws. It was very complex making sure the Border Patrol was in compliance with environmental laws, which all came through his program. This is where a lot of his experience came from in building partnerships and working with stakeholders.

He is an avid outdoorsmen and hunter. He also enjoys being outdoors and fishing. His experience at working at the executive level with the Border Patrol and being a businessman managing a ranch gives him the experience and qualifies him for the position of Commissioner. He has a degree in biology, and although he does not consider himself a biologist, he understands the interface between man and wildlife and their environment, especially in a place like Arizona with so much growth and drought.

The following questions were asked of Mr. Lackner:

Stinson:

- What is the number one issue for Arizona wildlife?
- Are you familiar with the Watchable Wildlife Program that the Department is trying to propagate?
- How do you see the land availability issue figuring into that?
- Are you a long time participant in the landowner lessee access program on your ranch?
- As you know, we are going through a wolf reintroduction in Arizona and the rest of the US. What is your perspective on the wolf reintroduction in Arizona and how it fits both locally and with national policies.

Don Johnson:

- Have you had an opportunity to attend Game and Fish Commission meetings in the past? If not, have you had the chance to give some consideration to the qualifications needed to be a Director of the agency, since that would be one of the duties of the Commissioner to hire or retain that person? Have you given that any thought?
- Called attention to the Game and Fish regulations. On page 83 there is a disclaimer that states homeland security issues along the international border may affect the quality of a person's hunt. As a Commissioner are there any things that you or the Commission could do to publicize or mitigate to help or improve this situation? Do you feel that there is a role for the Commission to show some leadership in this area?
- Do you have an opinion or position on predator management and predator control relating to sensitive species like bighorn sheep or pronghorn antelope?

Townsend:

- Are you familiar with and if so can you explain the North American Model of Wildlife Management?

--The Commission is rulemaking body. What rule or rules would you like to see the Commission entertain?

Gilstrap:

--The area where your ranch has had some issues in relation to access. Could you give us any background and your perception of these conflicts?

--How would you look at the critical thinking process as a Commissioner? How would you use your experiences or philosophy to critically analyze and evaluate what you're hearing or seeing, whether it come from the public or the department?

Chilton:

-- Funding sources have a tendency to play a large role in the establishment of priorities in a Department. Game and Fish gets funding from hunters and fishermen as well as the federal government. Federal funding comes with a statement of priorities, or a set of requirements often called mitigation requirements, which tend to dominate the priorities that would otherwise be those of the department. It requires the Commissioners to see that the state's priorities are number one and the funding doesn't cause the efforts of the department to veer off. How would you deal with issues like that?

-- When the federal government designates conservation areas, refuges, monuments, etc. they often initially promise that access will be largely unimpeded. After the designation there are process setting priorities and many different groups weigh in. The final outcome is usually entirely different from what the Game and Fish Commission was told would be the access opportunity allowed. What is your position on further designations since there is an effort by Representative Grijalva to have a new wilderness designation right on the border? Since access for even the Border Patrol to the San Pedro and others is heavily restricted, management of fire and access is problematic. What is your position on these issues?

[Candidate Lackner responded to all questions propounded to him]

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The meeting recessed at 11:14 a.m.

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The meeting reconvened at 11:21 a.m.

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**Mr. Keith D. Manning** – Interview began at 11:21 a.m.

Opening Statement:

The Manning family settled down in Arizona in the summer of 1975 and three generations have hunted, fished, hiked, camped, biked, boated, floated and explored the state on horseback as well as in four wheel drive vehicles. Currently his family is a member of the Rio Salado Sportsman's Club. All of this activity has been made possible with Game and Fish. They recognize that the time they have spent together has been very important, and his children have grown up with Game and Fish. He wants to spend time giving back to the community and making sure that Game and Fish continues to be the success it has been for his family. Mr. Manning has been

married to Mary for 19 years and they will be celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in May. Mary is a Doctor of Pharmacy and is currently the Director of Pharmacy at the Banner Baywood Hospital in Mesa. They have two wonderful children: Grant, his son, is 16 years old and is a junior at Mountain View High School. He is a football player, an accomplished hunter, angler, and a Three Gun Competitor at the Rio Salado Sportsman's Club. He will be applying to West Point next year and is the lucky recipient of his grandfather's elk tag in Unit 27. On Thanksgiving they will be spending time pursuing the elusive bull elk. His daughter Meghan is 14 years old and a straight A student at Mountain View High School. She is an accomplished equestrian and the reigning 2011 Dressage Junior National Champion.

Mr. Manning graduated from Brophy College Preparatory in 1985. He received his college education at the University of Arizona where he received a Bachelor of Arts in history with a specialty in military history. He received his Juris Doctor from the University of Arizona Law School in 1992 and completed his law school thesis on the second amendment dealing with the well regulated militia's right to keep and bear arms in self defense. He is currently a prosecutor and has been employed by the Maricopa County Attorney's Office since 1995. He passed the Bar in 1992 and worked for Pima County for nine months until his wife's work brought them to Phoenix. He worked for two years with the city of Phoenix as a prosecutor and then joined Maricopa County on September 11 1995. His areas of practice have included vehicular homicide, criminal street gangs, and repeat offenders. He currently specializes in firearms forensics and is currently the Maricopa County law enforcement liaison. This means that he is responsible for investigating all officer involved shootings in Maricopa County, including should Game and Fish Officers be involved in the use of deadly force. It would be his duty to respond and investigate that shooting. In addition to officer involved shootings he also handles all integrity and law enforcement corruption issues within Maricopa County. He is a certified NRA firearms instructor responsible for the education and the training of 300 prosecutors in areas such as firearms forensics as well as their CCW Program. He is frequently invited to travel around the nation to speak and lecture to other county attorneys and law enforcement officers in the area of firearm forensics and its related fields.

His contact with Arizona Game and Fish is both personal and professional. As a prosecutor he is familiar with the Arizona Revised Statutes of hunting, fishing, boating, and off road regulations. Maricopa County prosecutes Game and Fish violations. Recognizing the importance of this he has invited Game and Fish Officers into their offices to train attorneys so they can better handle criminal prosecutions, which is critical for Game and Fish's civil review of hunting regulation suspensions and revocations. He has worked professionally with Director Larry Voyles and his staff. Their collaboration has included the efforts to address the lawlessness in Tres Rios. There is an enforcement problem because there is no one in the river bottom taking jurisdiction. They have come together and formed the Tres Rios Taskforce, which has involved Goodyear, Avondale, Phoenix, and Game and Fish in an effort to try to clean up the river bottom. They have also worked together in the Tres Rios cleanup. Mr. Manning is happy to announce that Mr. Montgomery, the county attorney, will be continuing the tradition of working with Game and Fish and handling the tee shirt production of all of the volunteers that have come out and helped clean up the river bottom.

When he finds time off from his job he is an active three gun competitor, a frequent member of the Arizona Game and Fish's Rio Salado Sportsman's Club as well as a life member of the National Rifle Association. He has the support of his family and the County Attorney in his endeavor of becoming the next Commissioner.

The following questions were asked of Mr. Manning:

Chilton:

--Funding sources come from both hunters and fishers and government agencies. At times the funding from government agencies come with certain mitigation requirements or mandates that need to be evaluated to determine how they relate to the state's desire to manage the wildlife and habitat. Do you have an opinion on the interface of the role of a Commissioner as an evaluator of the funding streams to see that they are not reprioritizing the Department's issues?

-- The process of protecting can have various outcomes. Sometimes, different designations on the border become serious impediments to access for the management of fire, wildlife, and illegal drug trafficking. The Commission negotiates with the agency different access opportunities and sometimes is promised one thing and another becomes the case. What is your position on these designations and the position you would take on further designations?

--As a Commissioner you will need to learn and have the willingness and ability to not completely rely on others who are the experts on certain issues. What is your observation as the role of a Commissioner as an independent evaluator and judge of the options being presented to the Commission?

Gilstrap:

--There is a great deal of time necessary to serve in this capacity as a Commissioner. Are you comfortable with the time necessary?

--How will your experiences and historical knowledge help you as a critical thinker on this Commission?

---What is your perspective of the other activities of the department other than law, hunting, fishing and law enforcement? It is critical to be able to balance all of the inputs from the public and the Department.

Townsend:

--Can you explain the North American Model of Wildlife Management?

--The Commission is a rule making body. What rule or rules would you like to see the Commission entertain?

Johnson:

--Are you a member of or have you participated in any wildlife conservation organizations?

--Have you attended Commission meetings? Do you have a sense of the role the Commission plays in overseeing the agency?

--Do you have a position or opinion on predator management or control as it would impact some of our critical big game animal populations such as pronghorn antelopes and big horn sheep?

Stinson:

--What do you see as the number one wildlife issue in Arizona today?

--How do you see habitat issues in Arizona?

-- Secretary Salazar removed a million acres from Grand Canyon from any further mining claims. Do have a perspective on this directly or how it relates to wildlife?

[Candidate Manning responded to all questions propounded to him]

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Sandy Barr:

Sandy Barr is the Chapter Director for the Sierra Club of the Grand Canyon Club. They have about 12,000 members in Arizona. Sandy wanted to relay that the Sierra Club is not a fan of this process. They tried very hard to defeat the legislation that created this recommendation board. The reason is they believe it politicizes the Commission and Department even more and gives it too narrow of a focus designed to screen out those who do not hunt, for example. She wants to remind the Board that diversity is healthy and they have seen recently what happens to public officials and entities that only surround themselves with those who agree.

She believes it would be more helpful in the process if they relayed more criteria being used for Commissioners rather than just the qualifications in the statutes of party affiliation and county. It would be helpful for the public to know the criteria they are using and better understand the mission of the Commission. It is critical that people do not constantly feel like they are trying to push and have a seat at the table.

It would also be helpful to indicate to those who apply that they are able to submit additional information. It is not clear that someone can submit additional information. Those who do submit additional information may be those who are more politically connected. People who are not involved like the average hunter or wildlife watcher, may not know understand this. There are probably many people out there who may bring a different perspective to the Commission. She worries that they are narrowing it to only those who are politically connected.

Phil Townsend asked Linda Pollock if the Board was able to comment back to Ms. Barr. She said that a brief comment on Mrs. Barr's comments would be fine.

Gary Stinson said thank you for her comments and points. He would add that based on what they went through last year to this year and what they are potentially going through this year, that beyond this hearing and after the recommendations are made, it is important that the public be engaged in the political process and influence outcomes among the recommendations made. As a board they are trying to find a greater timeframe and more participation from the public.

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The meeting recessed at 12:00 p.m.

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The meeting reconvened at 1:38 p.m.

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**Mr. Brian Pinney** – Interview began at 1:38 p.m. (Telephonic Interview)

Opening Statement:

Mr. Pinney is 55 years old and retired. He sold a modest size business four years ago, so he now has the time as well as the interest and energy to devote five years to the Commission. Over the last 25 years he has been very active with various nonprofit and wildlife groups. He has worked with the Department on various issues and believes that he understands the workings of the

Department well enough that he can contribute as a Commissioner. He has served as a board member and chair of various organizations, none of which paid very well and he understands that this one does not pay well either. That is fine though, he is excited for the opportunity. He appreciates the time the Board is spending on this process because he believes that this process compared to the earlier one is a far more professional way to appoint a Commissioner.

The following questions were asked of Mr. Pinney:

Stinson:

- From your perspective, what is the number one wildlife issue in Arizona?
- With respect to the Watchable Wildlife Program as a part of HHWG, do you have any thoughts on how that program might be expanded in the public?
- Would you give us your perspective on the management of the gray wolf and how the reintroduction fits into national policies?

Johnson:

- In your time involved in the conservation community have you had time to observe Commission meetings? If so, having observed them, what do you think you could bring to the Commission to enhance these proceedings?
- The Department within their hunting and fishing guidelines brochure has stated that there are homeland security issues that may affect the quality of a person's hunt, specifically in about 15 units along the Southern border. As a member of the Commission, do you feel there is a role to be played by you and fellow Commission members to help publicize and mitigate this problem? If so, what would that be?
- Do you have an opinion on predator management or control as it would affect sensitive wildlife populations like pronghorn antelope or big horn sheep?

Townsend:

- If you are familiar with it, please explain the North American Model of Wildlife Management.
- The Commission is a rule making body. What rule or rules would you like to see the Commission entertain?
- Serving as a Commissioner is a great commitment of time and energy. He expressed his disappointment that this is the second time in two years Mr. Pinney was unable to interview in person, though he appreciated his willingness to do it telephonically. Can you reassure the members of this Board that you will have the commitment and dedication to make a good Commissioner?

Gilstrap:

- You have been involved with a lot of groups; could you give us perspective on how your background in those organizations or businesses have given you critical thinking?
- Would you give us your perspective on access issues for public land?
- You mentioned some ATV riders are not the best behaved. How can well behaved sportsmen assist in reducing the negative connotation and perception of sportsmen not behaving as they should?

Sue Chilton:

- Various sources of funding that come from federal sources have strings attached and mitigation requirements. Are you familiar with these issues and how do you feel you could evaluate the federal strings attached to see whether they misdirect Arizona game management priorities?
- Could you discuss your views of the impact of federal designations of refuges along the border on game management, access to the public, water maintenance, fire prevention and control, the production of resources and illegal activity?
- What would be a constructive approach to dealing with access issues along the border?

[Candidate Pinney responded to all questions propounded to him]

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The meeting recessed at 2:16 p.m.

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The meeting reconvened at 2:19 p.m.

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**Mr. George Taylor**—Interview began at 2:19 p.m.

Opening Statement:

Mr. Taylor has always been involved in law enforcement and hunting. He has always been interested in Arizona even before he arrived here. One of the things he does, a characteristic of his family, is that they don't just join something, they become involved. There is a difference. From his resume you can see that instead of saying we need a preschool, he founded one. Instead of saying we need to be in boy scouts, he started a troop that became the envy of the other troops. Some of those boy scouts now, if you go to the doctor, are looking in your ears. The things that you can accomplish when you put your human resources to work are unlimited. He knows that, and has done it and knows the value of it. It's not always apparent when you look at someone; those are the ones who will surprise you. He did law enforcement along the border for 26 years in the most dangerous corridor in the United States while running a 66 man unit and is still smiling; whatever you throw him, he can handle it. He was a hunter education instructor. He took this a step further too. They taught hunter education safety and the program. He had every firearm imaginable available to them and educated them in how the ammo works, not just what was found in the books. He founded a preschool in Nogales because his children had that opportunity. He saw what was going on in Nogales and felt that these children needed to have the same opportunity. Within the first graduating class, one student received a scholarship to Harvard, another runs the guided missile program for Raytheon. One of his Eagle Scouts is a vascular surgeon. They tell him the ethic they learned from him is what carried them through.

Sue Chilton:

- Could you discuss the impact of federal border preserve designations on the ability of Game and Fish, Border Patrol, and or the general public to have access for multiple uses, maintain waters or fight fires?
- The Game and Fish department is funded by two sources, hunters and fishers, and the other is the federal government with grants and programs. Those programs come with mitigation

requirements. Sometimes the mitigation requirements redirect the department's priorities. How do you see the job of a Commissioner as evaluating the pulls of money and requirements being placed?

Gilstrap:

--Serving on the Commission is tantamount to being on the board of directors of a multimillion dollar company. How would you balance the input from the public and department with your own experiences and knowledge with your critical thinking in order to reach the correct decision?

--You are on the extreme southern end of Arizona, most of the Commission events are more far north and there are other meetings that Commissioners must attend, such as banquets or at the legislature. How can you represent the public and attend and participate geographically?

Townsend:

--Are you familiar with and can you explain the North American Model of Wildlife Management?

--The Commission is a rule making body. What rule or rules would you like to see the Commission entertain?

Johnson:

--How long have you lived in Arizona?

--Have you ever been to a Commission meeting?

--You had a comprehensive position on border security and how it affects access. Do you think there is a role and what would that be for the Commission to take an active role in publicizing or mitigating those problems?

-- Would you give us your opinion or position on control or management of predators such as mountain lions and coyotes and how they relate to sensitive wildlife populations like bighorn sheep or prong horn antelopes?

Stinson:

--With respect to wildlife in Arizona, what do you see is the number one issue involving wildlife?

[Candidate Taylor responded to all questions propounded to him]

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The meeting recessed at 2:58 p.m.

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The meeting reconvened at 3:05 p.m.

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**Mr. Bob Thomas** –Interviewed at 3:05 p.m.

Opening Statement:

Mr. Thomas began to think about his introduction and the only word that came to mind was “Service.” One of the defining moments of his life as a young man was during the Vietnam War

in 1972 while was being discharged. He walked into a room and an officer, a first lieutenant, was at his desk. His leg had been amputated, his face was caved in from multiple surgeries and he could not salute with his right hand because it was missing. The officer said to him, "You are relieved of your duty. You are honorably discharged, but you can never not follow the oath you took all your life: to protect your country from all enemies, foreign and domestic. You must follow that all your life."

This got him thinking as a young man, what he wanted between the dashes. He was a young parent, and this was another defining point in his life. He had to teach his child the things that he held sacred and what had been passed onto him from previous generations. He has five children. One recently called and informed him that he had just finished his Masters program at the University of Mississippi and had gotten a house and a job working for the agriculture program in the state of Mississippi. The first thing that Mr. Thomas and his wife said to him was, "Have you found a church? Have you found your school board and volunteered? Have you found your legislative district and your precinct and met those people yet? What organizations are you going to give to? We don't care what it is, those are your choices." These were questions that were taught to him and he has made his life about.

For the past 32 years he has served as a volunteer at many organizations and boards. Most of his energy for these 32 years has been with the National Wild Turkey Federation. He has been a state president, chapter member and developed 18 chapters during his tenure as an officer in this organization. The first thing he did upon arriving in Arizona was to find a local chapter to get involved with. He has held many different positions and been on different boards of directors. In Winslow he was asked to serve as a WCC, a representative of the NWTF. This is where he met Greg and the two have been serving as board members on the Arizona Sportsman's Wildlife Foundation. He is a small businessman, and has been successful for over 42 years. He is a parent of five and a grandparent of soon to be seven grandchildren. Now, he must again teach the legacy he taught his children of service and commitment to the next generation that follows.

He is a big supporter of his legislative district and precinct as well as the Republican Party. He is a cattleman, and in his former state of Mississippi dealt with the issue of land owner tags, private property and predators. He has strong opinions on these issues. He thinks he is qualified to sit as a Commissioner for the Arizona Game and Fish as a policy maker because of his business background and experience; he is always looking for a return on his investments. Being in the environmental equipment business, he is knowledgeable about air quality, abatements and water. Through his company he advises other companies about compliance issues and how to solve problems.

He wants to be at the table and part of the policy of what goes on in the Commission and what goes on at the Game and Fish Department. Some of the issues that will come up are the landowner tag issues and others and he would like to have a voice in this. He has a lot of questions he wants answered and would like to be a part of. When he starts anything and becomes involved he gives it 100%. There are a lot of questions he has for the Department. Being a Republican he is all about transparency, something he does not see as he would define it. He sees a 100 million dollar revenue coming in and does not know how much of it goes to administration. He does not know why some employees in the Department are paid from three or four different pools or funds and would like to know these things. He does not point fingers but tries to find solutions.

He looks at the hunter harvest report surveys and it disturbs him. The number of species and the number of tags are being reduced: is that because of drought or are we not putting enough dollars toward growing wildlife? Is it because of mismanagement? Is there a better way to channel some of that money to increase and support the issues of conservation, habitat and enhancement? These are questions he would like to be involved with and help direct policy towards. He does not understand why, when we have 1.3 million people in the state of Arizona who are observing wildlife, that it is reverse revenue and not revenue positive. Should the parks department and tourism be chipping in or should it just be the responsibility of Arizona Game and Fish in supporting these things? Should we have a stamp program perhaps as revenue positive to let the people who are enjoying those resources contribute? He is happy with the Heritage Fund but he does not want to see those funds slip. He knows most of the state legislators, the Governor and people from all over the state both in the Senate and the House. He thinks he would be important in conversations speaking for the Department in issues and areas that will come up in that relationship.

The following questions were asked of Mr. Thomas:

Stinson:

- What is your perspective on the number one issue affecting Arizona wildlife?
- In particular, do you favor managed reintroduction of the wolf or no reintroduction at all?
- If there are any other comments along the lines of expanding revenues for the department beyond fee based and the Heritage Fund that you might have ideas about we would like to hear them.

Johnson:

- Have you had an opportunity to attend previous Commission meetings?
- Do you feel comfortable that you fully understand the role of a Commissioner and overseeing the Department's activities? Do you feel comfortable that you can dedicate the time required?
- Are you widely familiar with the rest of the state of Arizona, like the Kofa Refuge and the White Mountains? Have you been to the Kaibab and other places like that?

Townsend:

- Are you familiar with and can you explain the North American Model of Wildlife Management
- The Commission is a rule making body. What rule or rules would you like to see the Commission entertain?

Gilstrap:

- How would you take your personal philosophies onto a board of directors of a 100 million dollar company and make that company better?
- You mentioned Indian gaming. A couple of us served on the Commission when that came into effect. It was the intent and the objective at the time that those monies be supplemental income. There might be some concerns about whether that philosophy is being continued. Could you give me your perspective on how those monies could be most efficiently used?

Chilton:

- The Game and Fish Department has two primary revenue sources – hunters and anglers and the other is government programs. The strings that come attached with federal dollars present the Commissioners with certain dilemmas. You must decide whether those strings attached and mitigation requirements agree with what your interpretations of the Department's mission is or

whether those monies or federal requirements should be questioned and looked into for both their impact on wildlife and the people of Arizona. How would you be able to address those conflicting money vs. mission issues?

--All along the Southern Border of Arizona there are numerous federal designations of reserves, refuges, etc. These present issues of game management, water maintenance, fire control and management, infestation problems, as well as the monitoring and control of illegal activity. Right now there are further proposed wilderness sights. What would be your view of the Commissioner's role in dealing with the federal proposals of current management of present areas or increases of more federally designated lands?

[Candidate Thomas responded to all questions propounded to him]

**Mr. Jim Ammons** –Interview began at 3:43

Opening statement:

Mr. Ammons has given a lot of thought as to why he would want to be on the commission. He has heard about the travel and time that is involved and he thinks he could be a good commissioner. Many of the things he has done in the past will help out. He does not have any preconceived ideas or radical notions that he would push on others. He has good common sense, is a good listener and problem solver, some things that would help make decisions and more or less carry on what the commission has been doing. He is not trying to come up with a way to steer the Commission in any one direction. Personally, he has been involved with the Rod and Gun Club and has been the president for five out of six years. The club has always taken these Commission appointments very seriously. They interviewed a lot of people before this committee was formed. When he was president he would invite two or three people to come down and interview them, something they would also do with local politicians. He is a third generation Yuman and started going hunting and camping with his father when he was about 12. As he got older, he did more hunting. When he met his wife to be, they went shooting together and he got her interested in it. When he had his son, he took him deer hunting at the age of two months. They did the same thing with his daughter at four months old and have done the same thing every year since. He is a believer in doing things as a family and a group. He has five grandchildren and takes them to meetings and fundraisers. Friday the fourth, the first day of deer season in the dessert, he received a call from his grandson who turned ten in July and was drawn for a deer tag in Unit 41. He took a hunter safety course and told his grandfather over the phone that he got his first buck. From 30 yards he shot eight times. They went out to where he shot it and his grandson picked up some of the empty shell casings and passed them out to his cousins. Mr. Ammons thought right then, that is why he is interested on being on the commission, so he can make sure that these things are there for future generations.

The following questions were asked of Mr. Ammons:

Chilton:

--The Game and Fish Department receives funding from different sources, primarily from the State of Arizona and hunters and anglers as well as federal programs that promote various intentions of the federal laws. Sometimes the funding requirements of the federal dollars raise questions of influencing the priorities for the department. What is your perspective about

looking carefully at the requirements that go along with the federal funding and their impact on the setting of priorities of the Department?

Gilstrap:

--You have a long and quality experience working with wildlife and the department. How would you take those assets and serve on a five person commission which is in essence, a board of directors of a 100 million dollar company and make that company better?

--There are a lot of other activities besides just Commission meetings that a Commissioner must attend, such as time at the legislature or banquets. These all present demands on your professional and private life. Can you make us comfortable about these demands?

Townsend:

--Are you familiar with and can you explain the North American Model of Wildlife Management?

--The Commission is a rule making body. What rule or rules would you like to see the Commission entertain?

Johnson:

--The Game and Fish Department publicizes border security issues along the southern border. Twelve to fifteen game management units are impacted and affecting the quality of someone's hunt. As a member of the Commission, do you think there would be a role for the Commission or the Department to mitigate this problem or inform the public?

--Are you indicating that you would favor more quality hunting than quantity hunting?

--Do you have a position or opinion on predator control or management and how it would affect sensitive species like pronghorn antelope or big horn sheep?

Stinson:

--What is your perspective regarding the wolf management program in Arizona. What do you think the pros and cons of this program may be?

--The Department is responsible not only for game but non game species as well. How do you see yourself as Commissioner working to balance the way we collect fees to run to the Department?

Chilton:

--There are many federal designations along the Southern Border of Arizona. They include conservation areas, refuges, wilderness areas and monuments. They all have restrictions to access for multiple uses, maintenance, control of illegal activity and fire management. There are still actions to increase the numbers of these federally controlled lands. What are your views on these issues?

[Candidate Ammons responded to all questions propounded to him]

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

No one responded.

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The meeting recessed at 4:11 p.m.

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The meeting reconvened at 4:20 p.m.

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#### **4. Recommendation of Candidates for the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to be forwarded to the Governor for Consideration.**

Sue Chilton reviewed the previous discussion and decision that everyone has 25 points. You can allocate all or only part of them to a maximum of five persons with no more than ten points per person.

Phil Townsend said that each person will cast their votes on papers and pass it to the Chair to tally them.

Linda Pollock informed the Board that all ballots and Board deliberations must be public and that the ballots themselves are public record.

The point break down for each candidate was as follows:

Bob W. Thomas	39
Kurt R. Davis	26
Brian Pinney	19
Keith D. Manning	17
George Taylor	10
Jim R. Ammons	10
Wayne W. Lackner	0

**MOTION:** Gilstrap moved and Chilton seconded TO MOVE THE FIRST TWO CANDIDATES, THOMAS AND DAVIS FORWARD FOR THE GOVERNOR'S CONSIDERATION.

Gary Stinson called for discussion. He would prefer to send three names to the Governor.

**VOTE:** 3 ayes (Chilton/Gilstrap/Townsend) 2 nays (Stinson/Johnson). The motion passes 3 to 2.

Linda Pollock recommended that each Board member's name appear on their ballot. This will serve as public record of the Board's deliberation.

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#### **5. Future Meeting Schedule and Locations.**

The Board inquired about the next meeting and whether or not they would need to meet again to finalize the minutes of these meetings. It was suggested that the Board approve them next year when they are called together by the Governor again. Linda Pollock stated it should not take a year to have minutes formalized. Don Johnson asked whether this could be done through the mail or by email.

Linda Pollock suggested that the Board approve the minutes at a telephonic meeting so that no Board member would have to travel simply to approve minutes. Hays Gilstrap also said that those members within town could meet and this would constitute a quorum and the other Board members would be able to telephone in.

Sue Chilton asked about an electronic vote or through email. Linda Pollock explained that is a legal action to review and approve minutes and did not know if it would comply with the Arizona Open Meeting Law. She stated she will look into it. She said the better course would probably be a telephonic meeting and if it was found that an email would be acceptable they would choose it over the telephonic meeting.

Jazmyn Taitingfong, the Board's Secretary, will contact the Board about how the approving of the minutes will be conducted.

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## **6. Future Agenda Items.**

Gary Stinson asked whether or not the Governor's Office had any plans to move up the dates the Board was able to meet. Phil Townsend responded that the date had been moved up and this is probably the best that can be done.

Don Johnson asked about the time frame and Phil Townsend explained that the application deadline closed on October 7th, the candidates had to be interviewed by the 15<sup>th</sup> of November with the names submitted to the Governor no later than the 25<sup>th</sup>. These are hard dates written in the statute.

**MOTION:** Townsend moved and Gilstrap seconded THAT THE BOARD VOTE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

**VOTE:** Unanimous

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The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

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\*\*These minutes were approved telephonically on December 16, 2011\*\*