

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

Friday, November 8, 2013

(Directors Staff)

Linda Pollock, Assistant Attorney General

Chairman Phil Townsend called the meeting to order at **9:00** a.m. This meeting followed an agenda dated September 23, 2013.

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

The Board members introduced themselves: Don Johnson of Gold Canyon, Susan Chilton of Arivaca, Phil Townsend of Yuma and Hays Gilstrap of Phoenix.

The staff introduced themselves: Debbie Carter, Secretary to the Board; Linda Pollock, Assistant Attorney General; Bill Andres, Public Information Office.

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

Susan Chilton suggested that the Board consider allocating 15 points to each board member to distribute among the applicants, with a maximum of 8 points to any one candidate. The points can be distributed among all of the candidates or not used at all.

MOTION: Ms. Chilton moved and Mr. Gilstrap seconded TO ALLOW 15 POINTS PER BOARD MEMBER WITH A MAXIMUM OF 8 POINTS AWARDED TO ANY ONE CANDIDATE IN THE EVALUATION PROCESS.

VOTE: Unanimous

Chairman Townsend announced that if any of the interviewees were currently in the room to please leave; the public was asked not to reveal the questions to any of the candidates. Mr. Townsend asked the Board if any member had proposed questions.

Mr. Gilstrap explained the standard question he uses is to ask each candidate to identify how they might enhance the Game and Fish Department through their leadership, i.e. Board of Directors of a large company with 600 employees, such as the Game and Fish Department. His follow-ups will probably be related to something that was in the context of their opening remarks and then might further ask about potential conflicts.

Ms. Chilton thinks that questions will arise from comments made in their presentation. She will be focusing on their view of how we recruit and prepare youth to participate in the sports and the management of wildlife, hunting and fishing and how we go about teaching the regulations, helping the public know what the rules are regarding participation in the wildlife sports. What would they do to continue improving access for hunting and other recreation, wildlife management, by improving relations with land owners so that more land is open to these sports and how they would react to our Federal Government efforts to shut off access to recreational lands in Arizona?

Mr. Johnson stated that he would probably follow the same line of questioning that he has in the past. He tends to represent the conservation and sportsman groups so he would question the candidates on wildlife populations, Predator Management and things of that nature. He would like to know their views on the declining game populations, particularly mule deer, and do they think there is a role for the commission to turn that around. Furthermore, Mr. Johnson will ask for their input on the wolf reintroduction issue as it affects Arizona's wildlife populations. He will also try to find out if they have been members of or active in any on-the-ground wildlife conservation issues. In addition, Mr. Johnson is concerned about the border security issue as it relates to about 15 or 20 of our game management units that are suggested by the department as not particularly safe to hunt in.

Chairman Townsend would like to address access to federal lands and the cooperation between the Game and Fish Department and federal agencies, whether it be the BLM Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service and those organizations, and what role the Commission may take in that. It was also agreed that the first question for each candidate would be as to whether they currently hold a hunting and/or fishing license.

Ms. Chilton wanted to clarify that they would not necessarily be asking the same questions of each person as the presentations may give rise to other questions; these were only general ideas and will be varied based on what they hear from the candidates. Mr. Townsend agreed and noted that one of the clubs that he belongs to has raised a conflict issue that he intends to address and let that individual respond to. Questions will be tailored to the individual.

3. Disclosures and Recusals

Chairman Townsend announced that this was for the Board to disclose to the public any knowledge or friendships with individuals and if there is any reason they need to recuse themselves, such as familial or financial relationships.

Phil Townsend stated that he knows James Ammons and James Carruthers as personal friends but that it will in no way affect what he does here today; this is a disclosure, not a recusal.

Don Johnson is acquainted with James Ammons and Don Martin and has known both through wildlife activities for many years but there is no conflict of interest or need for recusal.

Sue Chilton is slightly acquainted with George Z. Taylor as he was on a panel with her husband but no recusal is necessary.

Hays Gilstrap knows James Ammons, James Carruthers and Don Martin through wildlife activities and the legislature; no conflict or need for recusal.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

There were no requests to speak from the public.

The Board continued their discussion regarding interview questions and as to whether they could start the interview process ahead of schedule if the candidates were willing. As the interview times were not posted on the agenda, it was agreed that they may proceed.

4. Interviews of Selected Applicants for the Arizona Game and Fish Commission

Mr. James R. Ammons – Interview began at **9:21** a.m.

Chairman Townsend welcomed Mr. Ammons and asked him to give a five minute opening statement. Mr. Ammons spoke of his background and qualifications for the position. The Board then proceeded to question the candidate.

[Candidate Ammons responded to all questions]

The meeting recessed at **9:50** a.m.

The meeting reconvened at **10:00** a.m.

Dr. James Ross Carruthers – Interview began at **10:02** a.m.

Chairman Townsend welcomed Dr. Carruthers and asked him to give a five minute opening statement. Dr. Carruthers spoke of his background and qualifications for the position. The Board then proceeded to question the candidate.

[Candidate Carruthers responded to all questions]

The meeting recessed at **10:44** a.m.

The meeting reconvened at **10:56** a.m.

Mr. Lynn Godfrey – Interview began at **10:57** a.m.

Chairman Townsend welcomed Mr. Godfrey and asked him to give the Board a five minute opening statement. Mr. Godfrey described his background and qualifications for the position. The Board then proceeded to question the candidate.

[Candidate Godfrey responded to all questions]

The meeting recessed for lunch at **11:39** a.m.

The meeting reconvened at **12:54** p.m.

Mr. William “Don” Martin - Interview began at **12:55** p.m.

Chairman Townsend welcomed Mr. Martin and asked him to give a five minute opening statement. Mr. Martin distributed a handout and spoke of his background and qualifications for the position. The Board then proceeded to question the candidate.

[Candidate Martin responded to all questions]

Mr. George Z. Taylor - Interview began at **1:36** p.m.

Chairman Townsend welcomed Mr. Taylor and asked him to give a five minute opening statement. Mr. Taylor distributed a handout and spoke of his background and qualifications for the position. The Board then proceeded to question the candidate.

[Candidate Taylor responded to all questions]

The meeting recessed at **2:18** p.m.

The meeting reconvened at **2:31** p.m.

5. Recommendation of Applicants for the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to be forwarded to the Governor for Consideration.

Chairman Townsend reviewed the selection process. Each of the four Board members will have 15 points to be divided among the five interviewees, with no more than 8 points going to any one of the individuals. He then explained that since the Board is not covered by any form of liability insurance they would not be discussing the candidates. Assistant Attorney General Linda Pollock will look into the issue for next year's meeting.

The Board then passed their vote tallies to Mr. Townsend, who read the totals aloud.

The votes were as follows:

James Ammons	19 points
George Z. Taylor	13 points
William "Don" Martin	10 points
James Carruthers	8 points
Lynn Godfrey	7 points

MOTION: Ms. Chilton moved TO SEND THE NAMES OF THE TOP TWO VOTE-GETTERS, JIM AMMONS AND GEORGE TAYLOR, TO THE GOVERNOR FOR HER SELECTION.

There was no second.

MOTION: Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Gilstrap seconded TO SEND THE NAMES OF THE TOP THREE VOTE-GETTERS TO THE GOVERNOR FOR HER SELECTION.

VOTE: Unanimous

6. Future Agenda Items.

Chairman Townsend discussed a conference call to be scheduled in the future to review and approve the minutes of the Board's meeting.

The Board discussed last year's letter to sportsman groups, newspaper and media encouraging people to apply for the Commission position. They want people to be aware that a resume must be included with the application and a maximum of 10 letters of recommendation; these items should be included in future letters.

Mr. Gilstrap asked if the Board was allowed to establish criteria required for a potential commissioner in addition to what is in the statute. The question was whether the Board had that authority. He understood from the Governor's office that if they chose to do that, it would be welcome. At the telephonic meeting they could discuss whether or not they want to formally establish or develop or elaborate on further skills and values that a potential commissioner might want to have before they apply.

Chairman Townsend asked Assistant Attorney General Linda Pollock if they would be allowed to discuss setting more stringent guidelines for applicants during a telephonic meeting, which is not public. Ms. Pollock stated that the telephonic meetings are also public meetings and if they would like to create an agenda item for their telephonic conference call, they were free to do so.

It was agreed that if they wanted to do this prior to the next selection process, the telephonic meeting is the only one scheduled prior to next October.

Ms. Chilton stated that they needed legal advice to know if the statutory requirements that establish the parameters for commissioner are a minimum or are they fixed. Could any additional requirements be challenged in court as not founded in statute?

Ms. Pollock responded that the statute provides the minimum qualifications for appointment to the Commission but if the Board wants to place additional emphasis on certain skill sets, they can certainly have a meeting to discuss that. They could even communicate their thoughts to the Governor's office.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know if they could establish a minimum residency requirement for eligibility to serve on the Commission. Ms. Pollock replied that residency requirements would be the prerogative of the Arizona Legislature; the Board could not establish their own minimum requirements as a condition for recommendation of candidates to the Governor.

MOTION: Mr. Gilstrap moved and Ms. Chilton seconded THAT THE BOARD VOTE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

VOTE: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at **2:47** p.m.

Phillip D. Townsend, Chair

W. Hays Gilstrap

Susan E. Chilton

Don Johnson

W. J. "Jim" Lane

These minutes were telephonically approved on February 28, 2014*