

Minutes of the Telephonic Meeting of the
Arizona Game and Fish Commission
Monday, February 22, 2010 – 10:00 a.m.
Arizona Game and Fish Department
5000 W. Carefree Highway
Phoenix, Arizona 85086

PRESENT: (Commission)

(Director's Staff)

In Person:
Chairperson Jennifer L. Martin
Vice Chair Robert R. Woodhouse
Commissioner Norman W. Freeman

In person:
Director Larry D. Voyles
Deputy Director Gary R. Hovatter
Deputy Director Bob Broscheid

Via telephone:
Commissioner Jack F. Husted
Commissioner John W. Harris

Via telephone:
Assistant Attorney General Jim Odenkirk

Chairperson Martin called the meeting to order and requested that Director Voyles conduct roll call. Chairperson Martin and Commissioners Woodhouse and Freeman were present and Commissioners Husted and Harris confirmed they were present via telephone. There were several Department staff members present and also two members of the public. This meeting followed an agenda dated February 18, 2010.

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1. Executive Session

The Commission voted to go into Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) and (4) for discussion and consultation with legal counsel regarding legislative matters including HCR 2008.

Motion: Woodhouse moved and Freeman seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Vote: Unanimous

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The Public Meeting reconvened at 10:54 a.m.

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2. State and Federal Legislation

Presenter: Anthony Guiles, Legislative Liaison

HB2375

Mr. Guiles briefed the Commission on the amendment to HB2375 (prohibits possession of dangerous wildlife). The Commission was provided copies of the amendment and copies were

available for the public. Mr. Guiles met with the sponsor of this bill to discuss issues with the language having an effect on some of the Commission's authority. Mr. Guiles stated that the sponsor doesn't want the bill to go forward without the Commission's support.

Motion: Freeman moved and Woodhouse seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO SUPPORT THE LANGUAGE IN THE STRIKE EVERYTHING AMENDMENT HB2375.

Vote: Unanimous

SB1200

Mr. Guiles briefed the Commission on the strike everything amendment to SB1200, which is scheduled for a hearing this afternoon in the Senate Natural Resources Committee. The Commission was provided the language on this bill, which would appoint an advisory board to screen and select the Commission applicants that would be sent to the Governor.

Public Comment:

Ben Altener, Arizona Wildlife Federation (AWF): AWF is opposed to the bill as it is drafted. AWF believes that all Arizonians should have a say on who is selected to the Commission, not just a few select board members.

Stephanie Nichols-Young, Animal Defense League of Arizona: Opposes this bill, not only in her role in the Animal Defense League but as an Arizonan. The current system has been working for the past eighty years and there shouldn't be any changes to the system.

Commissioner Woodhouse stated that the Commission's responsibility is to manage the wildlife of this state which is the property of all Arizona citizens, whether they have a hunting or fishing license or not. As a resident of this state, the wildlife is the property of each individual. As this bill is written it would preclude most all of those individuals.

Commissioner Freeman agreed and further questioned the finical basis for this stating that it's like they have contributed more dollars to wildlife so they should have a louder say. He also gets the feeling that they want uniformity in the Commission's voting, and that would be a tragedy if there was always uniformity in the voting. In that case there would be no need for the Commission.

Motion: Freeman moved and Woodhouse seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO OPPOSE THE STRIKE EVERYTHING AMENDMENT TO SB1200.

Vote: Aye – Martin, Woodhouse, Freeman
Nay – Husted, Harris
Passed 3 to 2

HCR 2008

Mr. Guiles updated the Commission on changes to the language to HCR2008, right to hunt legislation, from the last Commission meeting. Two of the changes incorporated into the language were “lawfully” and “lawful”.

Public Comment:

Ben Alteneder, Arizona Wildlife Federation (AWF): AWF is opposed to this bill as it is drafted.

Stephanie Nichols-Young, Animal Defense League of Arizona: The Animal Defense League of Arizona is strongly opposed to this bill and is very concerned about the statement that it could be a created Commission not the Game and Fish Commission.

Commissioner Woodhouse expressed concerns that the bill did not have the language previously agreed upon by both parties when the language was being drafted.

Commissioner Freeman shared the same concerns and also wants language added that will acknowledge the Commission as having the authority to manage Arizona’s wildlife.

Commissioner Husted believes the citizens have a right to hunt and the Commission will still have their authority under Title 17.

Commissioner Harris wants to see the Commission’s language back in the bill as well.

Chairperson Martin had many concerns with this bill, including the litigation that may come from supporting this bill based on litigation in other states that have made it a constitutional right to hunt.

Motion: Husted moved and Harris seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO SUPPORT THE STRIKE EVERYTHING AMENDMENT TO HCR 2008.

Vote: Aye – Husted
Nay – Martin, Woodhouse, Freeman, Harris
Failed 4 to 1

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3. Call to the Public

There were no requests to speak to the Commission.

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Motion: Woodhouse moved and Freeman seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADJOURN THIS MEETING.

Vote: Unanimous

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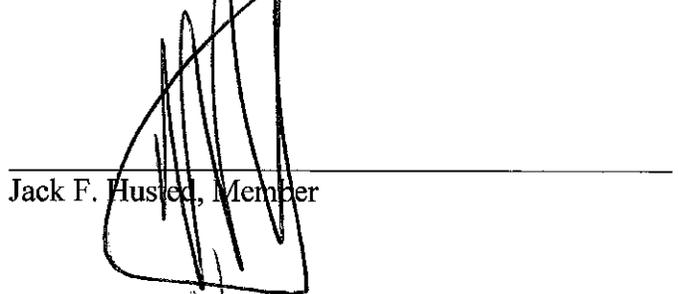
Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

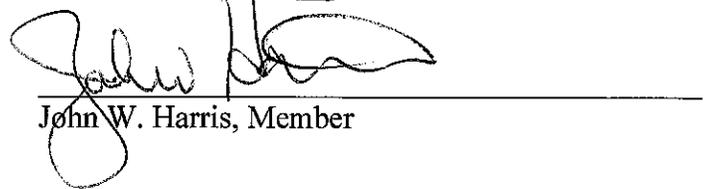
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Jennifer L. Martin, Chair

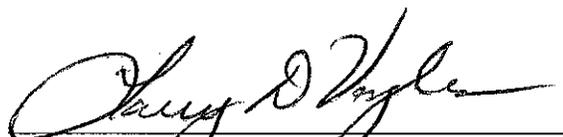

Robert R. Woodhouse, Vice Chair


Norman W. Freeman, Member


Jack F. Husted, Member


John W. Harris, Member

ATTEST:


Larry D. Voyles
Secretary and Director