

Minutes of the Work Session Meeting of the
Arizona Game and Fish Commission
Friday, November 2, 2012
Arizona Game and Fish Department
5000 West Carefree Highway
Phoenix, Arizona 85086

PRESENT: (Commission)

(Director's Staff)

Chairman Norman W. Freeman
Vice Chair Jack F. Husted
Commissioner John W. Harris
Commissioner Robert E. Mansell
Commissioner Kurt R. Davis

Director Larry D. Voyles
Deputy Director Gary R. Hovatter
Deputy Director Bob Broscheid
Assistant Attorney General Jim Odenkirk

Chairman Freeman called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. This meeting followed an agenda dated October 31, 2012. This meeting was an informal roundtable setting for discussion and informational purposes only. The Commission took no action at this meeting.

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1. Legislative Matters – License Simplification Legislative Proposal and Other Legislative Matters.

Presenter: Anthony Guiles, Legislative Liaison

The Commission was provided with draft legislation on changes to the license tag and permit structure for introduction in the next regular legislative session. Handouts included a pamphlet on hunting and fishing licenses, draft legislation and constituent responses to the proposal. Discussion included the public process if the Commission should decide to raise or lower fees, discussion of a cap with a five-year sunset, and discussion of free hunt/fish licenses and associated costs for youth under 18 years of age. The Department will bring some potential options to the Commission for consideration at the December Commission meeting.

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2. Pneumatic Weapons Demonstration.

Presenter: Dana McGehee, Wildlife Manager, Region 6

The Department provided the Commission with a pneumatic weapons demonstration at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility in Practical Pistol Bay C.

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Meeting recessed for lunch at 11:30 a.m.
Meeting reconvened at 12.30 p.m.

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1. (continued) Legislative Matters – License Simplification Legislative Proposal and Other Legislative Matters.

Presenter: Anthony Guiles, Legislative Liaison

The Commission discussed OHV issues and legislation as it relates to some unilateral federal actions. The Department will bring back a recommendation at the December Commission meeting.

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3. Call to the Public

There were no requests from the public to speak.

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4. Discussion of Commission Rules of Practice and the Process and Procedures for the Commission to Make Decisions.

Presenter: Bob Broscheid, Deputy Director

The Commission was provided with a copy of the draft Commission Rules of Practice as discussed and revised at the Commission's September meeting. Discussion included the Commission's practice for a Commissioner requesting an item on the agenda, the selection of Commission Legislative Representatives, and Commission committee assignments. The Commission will be provided with a revised draft Commission Rules of Practice for review and approval at the December Commission meeting.

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5. Briefing on the U.S. Forest Service Travel Management Rule and Update on Department Activities.

Presenter: Larry Riley, Assistant Director, Wildlife Management Division.

The Department provided the Commission with an overview of the background leading up to the Travel Management Plans that are currently being developed by the Forest Service, and a summary of the Department's engagement in Travel Management planning.

The Commission discussed key issues and concerns including:

- Reasonable motorized big game retrieval for lawfully taken big game – one trip in, one trip out, no resource damage
- Accommodate CHAMP hunters
- Reasonable and appropriately distributed disbursed camping sufficient to accommodate hunters in season
- Sufficient road access
- Decisions consistent with Commission/Department policies, plans, objectives

The Commission discussed the Department's process for commenting and appealing the Travel Management Rule. The Department has a link on its website for constituents to comment but it needs to be highlighted and easier to find. This item will be brought back to the December Commission meeting for the Commission to discuss taking a position and possibly developing a Commission policy on the Travel Management Rule.

Public Comment

Steve Clark, President, Arizona Elk Society stated that it's time to take a harder stance and litigation is probably the next step.

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6. Commission Property Portfolio.

Presenter: Rod Lucas, Mesa Regional Supervisor

The Department provided the Commission with an overview of all Commission owned or managed properties ranging from acquisition to management and disposal. Discussion included the Director's Goal and Objective #8: Commission-owned Lands and Properties, and working towards a GIS based portfolio.

Assistant Director John Bullington commented that it was probably time to provide the Commission with individual briefings and updates on the Department's Architectural Enterprise that will include GIS capabilities related to the Commission lands portfolio.

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7. Update on the Strategic Planning Process.

Presenter: Sherry Crouch, Funds and Planning Manager

The Department provided the Commission with a brief update on the Strategic Planning Process and public input. Several handouts were provided along with a draft Wildlife 20/20 Strategic Plan. The Department is on schedule to meet the timeline according to the Director's Goal and Objective. An electronic version will be emailed to the Commission next week. The final Wildlife 20/20 Strategic Plan will be presented to the Commission at the December Commission meeting.

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8. Discussion of On-the-Road Game and Fish Commission Meetings, including Public Outreach efforts and Agenda Format for 2013.

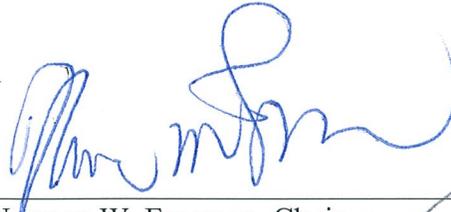
Presenter: Ben Alteneder, Community and Congressional Relations

The Department provided the Commission with the current status of the plans for the On-the-Road Commission meetings scheduled for 2013. The Commission is committed to two-day on-the-road meetings and to use some of that time to connect with the local community and constituents through a social activity.

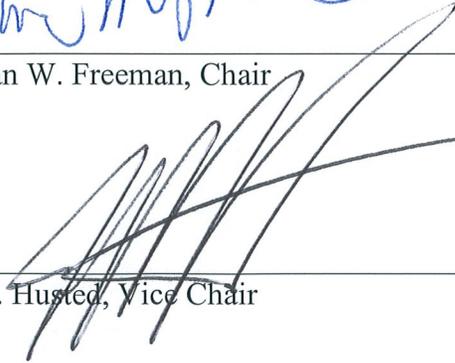
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Meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

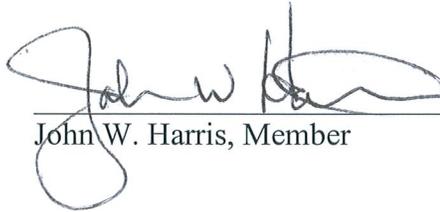
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Norman W. Freeman, Chair



Jack F. Husted, Vice Chair



John W. Harris, Member

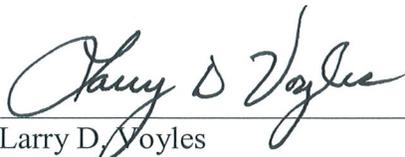


Robert E. Mansell, Member



Kurt R. Davis, Member

ATTEST:



Larry D. Voyles
Secretary and Director