

Minutes of the Work Session Meeting of the
Arizona Game and Fish Commission
Friday, May 17, 2013
Saturday, May 18, 2013
Sipe White Mountain Wildlife Area
Two Miles SE of Eager
Hwy 180/191 Near Mile Marker 405

PRESENT: (Commission)

(Director's Staff)

Chairman John W. Harris
Commissioner Robert E. Mansell
Commissioner Kurt R. Davis
Commissioner Edward P. Madden

Director Larry D. Voyles
Deputy Director Ty E. Gray
Assistant Attorney General Jim Odenkirk
Assistant Attorney General Linda Pollock

Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. This meeting followed an agenda dated May 15, 2013. 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. Discussion on Commission and Department Communications

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

Mr. Gray opened discussion on expectations concerning protocols for communications, and requests between the Department and Commission. Key points discussed included the following:

- Commission orientation process
 - Significant improvements have been made in the past couple of years
- Webcasting Commission meetings
 - Public interpretations and opinions are developed before the Department has an opportunity to put out an informational news release - This will be discussed at the next Information Branch workshop
- Teleconferencing with Regional Offices for Commission meetings
 - Few, if any, members of the public show up at regional offices to view Commission meetings, except for occasional hot topics; the Department will look at teleconferencing on Friday only, so that officers won't have to travel for license revocations and civil assessments; items of interest could be on Friday and items of less interest on Saturday
- Commission meeting topics
 - Instead of always regular business topics, topics could include presentations on the North American Model, Arizona Conservation, Why Hunters Matter, Tags 101, etc. Maybe a different theme for every meeting throughout the year
- On-the-Road Commission meetings
 - On-the-road meetings are valuable communication efforts with constituents; the Community Forums should be moved to Saturday instead of being on Friday, so participants don't have to miss work to attend
- Commission communication with Department staff

- Department staff communicates directly with the Commission; the Director should be kept advised of communications; Direction from the Commission should go through the Director to Department staff
- Brite Ideas
 - The Department has a process for employees to submit brite ideas
 - The Department will develop a Research and Development (R&D) think tank (possibly in Adjunct Facility) to look at organizing an R&D function/process.

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2. Budget Development Processes and Communications

Presenter: Lizette Morgan, Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Morgan provided the Commission with an overview on the budget development process, including opportunities, challenges, and the communication process. This item was a follow up to the March Commission meeting in which the Department provided a workshop item on the budget. Discussion included the budget as it relates to implementing the Department's Strategic and Operational Plans and to make sure that the Department is aligned with the Commission. Ms. Morgan will provide the Commission and Leadership Team with a breakdown of results from the prioritization exercise that the Commission and later, the Department Leadership Team participated in.

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3. Hunter Education Program Update

Presenter: Kellie Tharp, Education Branch Chief

Ms. Tharp provided the Commission with an overview of the Hunter Education program including ideas and efforts to eliminate barriers to public participation and access to the hunter education course. The Commission was provided with a packet of informational materials including a Hunter Education Update, FAQ Sheet, a brochure on the Arizona Hunter Education Program, and other informational materials. Discussion included the following:

- Out-of-state participants in the online Hunter Education course must still complete the field day; the Department makes every effort to accommodate the field day requirement when out-of-state participants are in Arizona
- Completing the Arizona Hunter Education course provides a bonus point
- A National Network could be possible through partnership with the National Rifle Association.

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4. Arizona Natural Resource Review Council Update.

Presenter: Bob Broscheid, Special Assistant to the Director

Mr. Broscheid provided the Commission with an overview of the Arizona Natural Resource

Review Council. The council has the ability for state natural resource agencies to engage and impact federal land and resource management plans. Cross agency coordination is critical to a sound and timely response to actions on federal lands that will impact state resources and economics. The council will protect state interests related to wildlife, land, water and natural resources by actively engaging in managing Arizona's natural resources. The council is fairly new and so far has met three times, established a website, made significant outreach efforts, and has been working on mitigation banking and coordinating approaches. Mr. Broscheid is currently working on a presentation that will highlight all of the aspects of this council.

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Meeting recessed for the day at 4:30 p.m.

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Meeting reconvened Saturday at 7:30 a.m.

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5. Bonus Point Processes

Presenter: John Bullington, Assistant Director, Support Services Division

Mr. Bullington opened discussion with the Commission on the process for evaluating and considering new bonus point proposals, including previous and potential proposals. Discussion included the following:

- Buying bonus points conflicts with the North American Model
- Proposals include: receiving a bonus point for OGT reporting, Advanced Hunter Education, ethical behavior, and as a reward to volunteers; there are many and it could be opening a Pandora's box
- In the current system, customer loyalty and Hunter Education are the only premises for a bonus point; discussion included a potential Hunter Education refresher course to maintain the bonus point
- The new legislation on license simplification and fees will provide the Department with flexibility for other ways to reward customers
- The bonus points were never intended to be used as incentive for third parties; the Department will begin drafting a related policy.

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6. Update on Bison Management Strategies for House Rock Wildlife Area and Raymond Wildlife Area.

Presenter: Craig McMullen, Flagstaff Regional Supervisor

Mr. McMullen provided the Commission with updates on bison management strategies for House Rock Wildlife Area (HRWA) and Raymond Wildlife Area (RWA). Discussion included the following:

- RWA Bison Management
 - The Department is rebuilding approximately 7 miles of boundary fence
 - The Department is currently deploying all measures possible to retain the bison on RWA feeding them with specially formulated feed and widening the bull:cow ratio through selective harvest of bulls
 - If the measures to keep bison on RWA prove ineffective the Department may at some future time need to engage a process to consider; eliminating all RWA bison and manage range for antelope.
- HRWA Bison Management
 - Grand Canyon National Park has committed between \$500,000 and \$1M to complete the necessary NEPA to address bison on the park. Alternatives will include lethal and non-lethal means of removing them from the park. It's expected NEPA will take 1-3 years to complete
 - The Department is working with the US Forest Service and Grand Canyon National Park on experimental strategies to manage the bison while NEPA is gearing up. Strategies include attempts to make the herd more tractable through the use of feed, attempts to make them more available to harvest with population management tags on the National Forest, and attempts to relocate a small group to HRWA to see if a home range can be reestablished.

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7. Wildlife Conservation Education Center Capital Campaign Feasibility Study

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

Mr. Gray provided an update on the Capital Campaign Feasibility Study including a report from the Department's campaign consultant Randy Schilling. Mr. Schilling was present and participated in discussion. Discussion included the following:

- Capital Campaign approach to corporations
 - Need to build relationships
- Work with Wildlife for Tomorrow in fundraising
- Influential hunters and anglers need to be involved
- The Center will promote the North American Model; will not be a nature center
- Should start small, become functional, then grow
- Need multi-functional building; big enough for club meetings/banquets
- Most immediate need is a wildlife care facility.

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8. License Simplification Marketing Strategies

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

Mr. Gray, assisted by Information Systems Branch Chief Doug Cummings, led a discussion on potential marketing strategies related to the license simplification changes in the short and long term. Discussion included the following:

- Department development of an online Wildlife or Sportsman Portal that is personalized for individual customers; needs to go live by January 2014; the Department will provide the Commission with a presentation on the Portal at the August Commission meeting
- Department automated systems and potential impacts to retailers; license dealer automation
- Paper vs. online; no paper license with the 365-day licensing
- Customer relationship management; automatic renewals, reminder of expiration dates, HIP Stamp.

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9. Hunt Management on Military Installations

Presenter: Jim Hinkle, Assistant Director, Field Operations Division

Mr. Hinkle opened discussion of hunting limitations imposed by military installations and options for the Commission to control hunt management on military installations. Discussion included the following:

- Issues regarding Camp Navajo hunts; currently there is a 70/30 split between military and non-military tags; there are concerns about fairness; military and civilian base employees and family get preference
- A new Commander will begin soon; the Department will meet with him to discuss opening the hunt to everyone
- The Department may raise the issue at this year's Commander's Summit
- The Department will provide an update at the September Commission meeting.

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10. Meeting Wrap up and Future Agenda Items

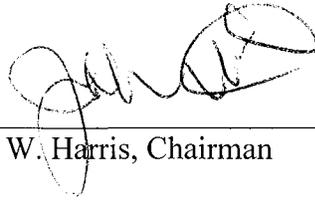
Mr. Gray noted the following action items:

- Draft a policy related to third party bonus point incentives
- Future workshop item to follow up on Camp Navajo and hunting on military installation issues
- Future workshop item on Customer relations ideas to include license simplification, bonus points, Sportsmen's portal, and the Draw.

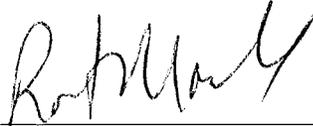
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Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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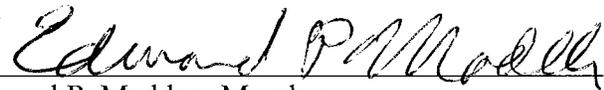
John W. Harris, Chairman



Robert E. Mansell, Vice Chairman

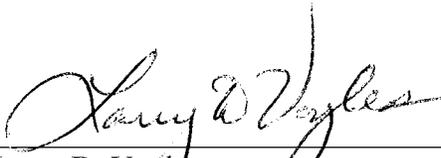


Kurt R. Davis, Member



Edward P. Madden, Member

ATTEST:



Larry D. Voyles
Secretary and Director