

Minutes of the Telephonic Meeting of the
Arizona Game and Fish Commission
Monday, December 29, 2014, 8:30 a.m.
Arizona Game and Fish Department
5000 W. Carefree Highway
Phoenix, Arizona 85086

PRESENT: (Commission)

(Director's Staff)

In person:
Vice Chairman Kurt R. Davis
Commissioner Edward "Pat" Madden

In person:
Director Larry D. Voyles
Deputy Director Ty E. Gray

Via telephone:
Chairman Robert E. Mansell
Commissioner James R. Ammons
Commissioner John W. Harris

Via telephone:
Assistant Attorney General Jim Odenkirk

Vice Chairman Davis called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Director Voyles conducted roll call and all Commissioners were present. There were no members of the public present. Several Department staff members were present. This meeting followed an agenda dated December 24, 2014.

Moment of Silence – Commissioner Madden requested a moment of silence in honor of Flagstaff Officer Tyler J. Stewart who was shot and killed in the line of duty on December 27, 2014.

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1. Cooperative Agreements regarding Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery and Recreational Fishing between the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Presenter: Chris Cantrell, Fisheries Branch Chief

Mr. Cantrell briefed the Commission on two potential agreements with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), one to repair Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery and the other to institutionalize a partnership on recreational fishing. Commission action is required under the provisions of A.R.S. § 17-231 B.7 to enter into agreements with other entities for the operation of wildlife facilities and the conduct of related wildlife management. The Department and USFWS have developed a framework to further institutionalize a long term cooperative recreational fishing partnership between the two agencies. The Commission was provided with copies of the two unexecuted agreements prior to this meeting for review and consideration.

A summary of the terms of the agreements are as follows:

- The Department will cost share 50% of the pipeline repair (\$389,000) of Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery;
- The USFWS will repair the pipeline and produce Rainbow Trout for stocking in the Colorado River for five years;

- The USFWS will supply two million triploid Rainbow Trout eggs to the Department annually for five years;
- The USFWS will supply one hundred and sixty thousand Apache trout eggs to the Department for 10 years;
- The USFWS will coordinate annually with the Department on these efforts and the Department will be given the opportunity to provide input into the planning as needed;
- A few additional requirements on both parties to administer and implement the agreement.

The Department is requesting Commission approval to enter into these agreements with the USFWS. If executed, the agreements will bring to a close a yearlong effort over the course of which the Department and its partners have sought to return Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery to operational capacity and secure recreational fishing opportunities for trout into the future.

Commissioner Davis asked about requesting a target number or a minimum number of Rainbow Trout produced by the USFWS for stocking in the Colorado River for five years.

Mr. Cantrell stated that he could go back to the USFWS and request 150,000 trout annually, which would be consistent with the current trout stocking goal. If the Commission approves the agreements with that amendment, it would then be up to the USFWS to finalize the agreement with that language.

The Commission discussed and agreed with a target goal of 150,000 trout annually.

Commissioner Davis expressed his appreciation to the Department for their handling of the issues at Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery, in particular the way they pursued solutions and worked to keep the hatchery operational, including having to use Department resources on a federal facility to keep it open, but it was the right thing for the Department to do for the community and our constituents.

Motion: Harris moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR, AS SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION, TO EXECUTE, AND AMEND AS RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMISSION, AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, FOR THE REPAIR OF WILLOW BEACH NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY AND A RECREATIONAL FISHING PARTNERSHIP AS APPROVED OR RECOMMENDED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Vote: Unanimous

Commissioner Davis requested that the Department communicate to the Mohave County Board of Supervisors the Commission's actions at this meeting.

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Motion: Madden moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADJOURN THIS MEETING.

Vote: Unanimous

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Meeting adjourned at 9:01 a.m.

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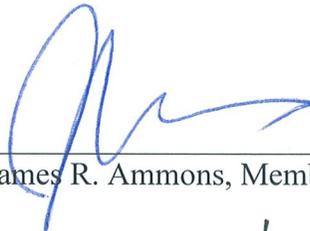
Robert E. Mansell, Chairman



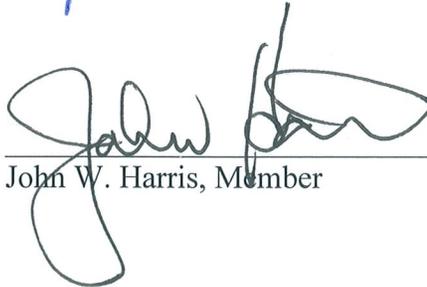
Kurt R. Davis, Vice Chair



Edward "Pat" Madden, Member

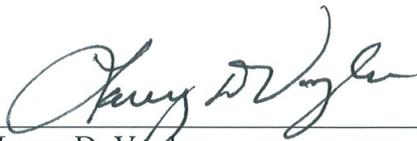


James R. Ammons, Member



John W. Harris, Member

ATTEST:



Larry D. Voyles
Secretary and Director