

Heritage Fund Public Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2008

Marble Canyon Lodge

Marble Canyon, Arizona

Committee Members:

Bob Hernbrode, Tucson (Chairman) - Present
Jim Jett, Kingman (Co-chairman) - Present
Lorna Thurman, Overgaard - Absent
Thom Mackin, Flagstaff - Present
Maggie Sacher, Marble Canyon - Present
Paul Gomben, Show Low - Present
Randy Lamb, Prescott - Present
Albert “ John” King, Yuma - Present

Valerie Morrill, Yuma - Present
Sharon Foltz, Tucson - Absent
Roseann Hanson, Tucson - Absent
Thom Hulen, Tempe - Present
Gary Barcom, Payson - Present
Heidi Vasiloff, Goodyear - Absent
Mary Jo Miller, Scottsdale - Present
Dr. Jack Miller, Gilbert - Absent

1. **Call to Order and Opening Remarks:** Commissioner Bob Hernbrode, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
2. **Introductions:** Commissioner Bob Hernbrode, Chairman, asked committee members to introduce themselves.
3. **Approval of Minutes from September 20, 2008:** Upon a motion by Jim Jett and seconded by Maggie Sacher, the minutes were unanimously approved.
4. **Presenter: Jeff Sorensen, AZGFD Invertebrates and Native Fish Program Manager.**
Over the past 14 years, the Department has led recovery actions, monitoring, and research on the endangered Kanab ambersnail in Grand Canyon National Park. Department staff helped mitigate habitat loss for the snail at Vaseys Paradise, along the Colorado River, for both the November 2004 Beach Habitat-Building Flow and the March 2008 High Flow Experiment water releases from Glen Canyon Dam. The 2004 mitigation effort succeeded in fully recovering ambersnail habitat in less than 6 months, as opposed to the 2.5 years for that habitat to recover from the 1996 high flow. Unfortunately, snail counts during the twice year monitoring visits over the past several years are down, not only at Vaseys, but also at the translocated population at Upper Elves Chasm. Lower counts at the Elves Chasm site appear to be attributable to drier habitat and reduced springflow at their release area. However, there is some good news...recent findings from a USGS-funded study of ambersnail genetics and morphology indicate that the Vaseys population along with 11 other populations of ambersnails in southern Utah and northern Arizona are members of the same species. Additional specimens of ambersnails from the northwestern USA and Canada were also tested—the results should be available this winter. If “Kanab ambersnail” no longer appears to be a valid subspecies, but instead is the more common nominate species, then the interagency working group may consider petitioning for de-listing based on these new findings, once they have been peer-reviewed and published.

Heritage Fund Public Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2008

Marble Canyon Lodge

Marble Canyon, Arizona

5. Presenter: Scott Rogers, AZGFD Lee's Ferry Trout Biologist.

Scott Rogers (Research Branch) presented a talk on Lees Ferry and Grand Canyon projects. Scott works with six other research biologists on projects in Glen, Marble and Grand Canyons out of a research office in Flagstaff AZ. The primary task of this office is to provide data and recommendations to the Department and the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group to enable them to better manage the fisheries resources from Lake Powell to Lake Mead. Scott reported evidence that the Lees Ferry sport fishery has experienced a boom and bust over the past decade but is currently recovering. His data also indicated that while non-native species are declining downriver of Lees Ferry, native fish, including the endangered humpback chub, are showing evidence of recovery. This is encouraging since this area is managed for native fish. It is likely that this increase in native fish abundance is because of the reduction in non-native fish and/or warmer water temperatures in the Colorado River downstream of Glen Canyon Dam over recent years. Mechanical removal of non-native fish near the confluence of the Little Colorado and Colorado River is in part responsible for this reduction in abundance of non-native fish. Warmer water temperatures and reduced numbers of non-native fish are confounded; therefore, it is impossible to determine which factor(s) influenced the increase in native fish abundance.

6. Presenter: Tony Guiles, AZGFD Legislative Liaison.

Tony provided the committee with a detailed summary of the past legislative session (also available to the public), and briefed the Committee using a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation included analysis with charts and graphs of the votes of the Arizona State Legislature.

7. Presenter: Maggie Sacher, Heritage Fund Advisory Committee Member

Maggie discussed bringing together a small committee to create up to five sentences to identify the relationship between The Arizona Game and Fish Department and The Heritage Fund. The committee should represent hunters, anglers, conservation groups and also include someone from the Heritage Alliance, and someone from The State Parks board. Once the language is worked out we can create an awareness brochure explaining the "Quail Club." This brochure will be provided to kids and with parental permission we will ask for their address information to create a database. This database could then be used to show kids' support of the Heritage Fund.

8. Presenter: Harry Seck, AZGFD Assistant Director.

Harry provided a presentation on "Trends in Outdoor Recreation" from 1993 through 2008. According to the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) only 25 % of youth from hunting households are active hunters. Over the past 25 years the number of hunters has dropped 23%. For every 100 hunters lost, only 69 hunters take their place. Discussions included some of the reasons for the decline such as demographic implications for hunters and anglers, population trends, family demands and millennial influences.

Heritage Fund Public Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2008

Marble Canyon Lodge

Marble Canyon, Arizona

9. Call to the Public: No members of the public requested to be heard.

10. Committee Business:

a) **Open Committee discussion:** The Chairman opened discussion.

b) **Future Meetings.** The next meeting will be held January 2009 in Phoenix, Arizona at the Arizona Game and Fish Department 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, Arizona 85086. The spring meeting will be in April in Tucson and the summer meeting will be in August at **Sipe White Mountain Wildlife Area**. Exact location and activities will be announced as they become available.

11. Adjournment: Committee adjourned at 12:00 p.m.