

Heritage Fund Public Advisory Committee (HPAC) Meeting

Meeting Minutes, January 14, 2012

Carefree Resort & Conference Center, Carefree, Arizona

Committee Members:

Robert Mansell, (Chairman) - Present
Nick Lund, (Co-Chairman) – Present
Maggie Sacher, - Present
Jeff Williamson, - Present
Dale Turner, - Absent
Steve Campbell, - Present
Noah Stalvey, - Present
Rachel Edelstein, - Absent

Doug Von Gausig, - Present
Cindi Labash, - Present
Jonathan Lines, - Absent
Ron Pearce, - Absent
Kerry Baldwin, - Present
James Terlep, - Present
Gary Allen, - Absent
Eddie Corona, - Present

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- 1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks:** Commissioner Robert Mansell, Chairman, called the meeting to order promptly at 9:00 a.m. The Chair opened the meeting by expressing his appreciation to committee members on behalf of the Heritage Fund for their time, effort and dedication of service to the committee.
 - 2. Introductions:** Chairman Mansell asked committee members and Department Staff to introduce themselves. Members were provided a copy of the HPAC Charter.
 - 3. Approval of Minutes from August 20, 2011 HPAC Meeting:** Upon motion by Nick Lund and seconded by Kerry Baldwin, the minutes were unanimously approved.
 - 4. Presenter:** Mr. Bob Broscheid, Deputy Director, Arizona Game and Fish Department provided an update overview to the committee on current and future fiscal year budget status within the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Mr. Broscheid discussed several funding streams available to the Department and discussed the use of the Heritage Fund in particular and how important it was for the Department to fully utilize the fund by the end of each fiscal year. In addition Mr. Broscheid also mentioned how important it is for the Department to live-by the commitments we make in the award of Heritage Grants to successful grant applicant awardees.

Mr. Broscheid emphasized the importance of keeping all of our statewide constituents fully engaged in the Heritage Fund and how critical this is as match to federal funding streams received throughout the Department. He also discussed how the State Legislature had really supported the Department's efforts over the past couple of years in working through statewide budget shortfalls to minimize the impact of any budget sweeps affecting the Department.

Mr. Larry Riley, Wildlife Management Assistant Director, Arizona Game and Fish Department, who was in attendance also commented on how important the Heritage Fund has been to Department wide programs used as match to State Wildlife Grants received from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and without Heritage many Department conservation programs would be significantly affected by any loss to the Heritage Fund. In closing, Mr. Broscheid commented how important the Heritage Public Advisory Committee is to the Department to assist in getting the Department's critical strategic messages and talking points out to the public as well as constituent groups located within the communities they serve.

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In closing, Mr. Broscheid also commented about some of the challenges the Department faces in the Operation and Maintenance of Commission owned properties purchased with Heritage dollars. Although the Heritage Fund authorizes the purchase of properties to conserve, protect and enhance wildlife and wildlife habitats throughout the State, Heritage does not allocate dollars to support O & M requirements associated with maintaining these properties. He stated we need to come up with new strategies and partnerships to assist the Department's stewardship efforts in maintaining Heritage funded properties throughout the state.

Presenter: Mr. Tony Guiles, Legislative Liaison, Arizona Game and Fish Department, briefed the Committee that the State Legislature had just begun the new session and was looking to wrap-up the session within 90-120 days if possible. He stated the legislature would concentrate on the state budget first followed by hearings. Mr. Guiles also discussed the Heritage Fund and that it was always a point of discussion within each new legislative session. He also made mention that Arizona State Parks would be introducing a new bill in 2012 in an attempt to have the Parks Heritage Fund reinstated by the Legislature that was lost several years back.

Presenter: Marty Herrera, Heritage Fund Administrator, Arizona Game and Fish Department, briefed the committee on the status and results of the recently completed Heritage Fund Grants Program for grant cycle 2012, and how implementation of the new Heritage Grant process went. Mr. Herrera briefed that the Department had received a total of ninety-nine grant applications that were reviewed, scored and compiled by rank-order. Of these applications, a total of twenty-three grant proposals were recommended for approval to the Agency Director for subsequent grant award. Mr. Herrera also presented to the committee that the rank-order lists compiled were awaiting final approval by the Director before successful and unsuccessful grant applicants could be notified. Once notified, each successful applicant has 60-days to complete all requirements associated with a full Heritage grant application prior to grant award.

In addition, Mr. Herrera provided feedback received and compiled from several Heritage Grant evaluation and scoring team members for discussion by the group. After discussion ensued, HPAC members were asked to provide additional comments, concerns and feedback they had. Once this additional information is received by the Department, it will be compiled into a recommendation for any changes the committee wishes to propose towards the Heritage Grant evaluation and scoring process in an attempt to continually improve the process.

- 5. Committee Business - Open Committee discussion:** The committee used this opportunity to discuss several issues and topics related to their roles and responsibilities as committee members. The following comments were provided by several committee members.

Maggie Sacher offered her feedback relative to the Heritage Grant evaluation and scoring process. She stated that even though the new process was an improvement over the previous process, additional improvements would still need to be made.

Ms. Sacher proposed a ½ point increment scoring breakout be considered as part of the scoring, in an attempt to separate the numerous applications that ended up with identical scores. She also felt strongly that due to the complexity of the applications received, the scoring teams for IIAPM

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and Urban Wildlife need to meet as a group to discuss the applications being scored rather than completing individually. Several other committee members concurred with this suggestion.

Committee member Steve Campbell commented about the importance of partnerships and working with other organizations as a way to assist with operation and maintenance of Commission owned properties throughout the state as well as keeping the Heritage Fund message at the forefront. Mr. Campbell suggested the Department look at the agriculture business model used by USDA that has had success in stewardship/O&M costs associated with Heritage purchased properties as a possibility.

Ms. Maggie Sacher commented that she has had past success working with Bureau of Land Management as a partner the Department might consider. She also stated that she has also worked with “Friends of BLM” who have the authority to solicit donations to assist the Department with costs in the stewardship of properties. Another recommendation was made for the Department to explore using “Wildlife for Tomorrow” as the umbrella when working with multiple partners. Ms. Sacher also commented that the economic impact of the Heritage Fund and Heritage Grants in the conservation of wildlife in rural communities has been tremendous. Ms. Sacher stated that in many ways Heritage has provided a critical stimulus for many rural communities throughout the state and we need to ensure this remains in place for the future.

Committee member Cindi Labash made a recommendation to the committee that the Department explore the possibility of developing an ongoing “Educate the Educator’s” program in partnership with high schools, colleges and universities throughout the state to enhance awareness of Heritage and wildlife conservation efforts. She suggested the Department host workshops quarterly at Horseshoe Ranch working with partners in order to reach the education masses.

Coming from academia, Ms. Labash stated there are still so many teachers in Arizona that do not have any awareness of Heritage and ongoing wildlife conservation efforts taking place. She commented that we need to reach students in high school and college, but in order to accomplish this, we need to form long-term partnerships with educators first. Mr. Broscheid suggested that we could have the Department’s Education Branch provide a presentation to the committee on current partnerships and ongoing educational efforts already developed as a starting point for future discussions on this particular subject.

6. **Call to the Public:** No members of the public requested to be heard
7. **Future Meetings:** The Committee discussed tentative dates in May, 2012 for the next meeting with possible meeting locations of Clarkdale, AZ or possibly the Department’s recently purchased Horseshoe Ranch north of Phoenix, AZ.

A brief discussion ensued where Kerry Baldwin thought the committee was restricted to conduct all future meetings in Phoenix, AZ due to budget constraints. Other committee members felt it was prudent and important to continue to conduct meetings at different venues throughout the state if possible if there was no significant fiscal impact to the Department. Kerry Baldwin

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commented that if and when possible, the Department should attempt to have teleconference capabilities available for future meetings to accommodate any committee members needing this service if they cannot travel to a given meeting location.

Marty Herrera stated he would attempt to accommodate any teleconference capability if the meeting venue site could support this capability. After discussion Jeff Williamson motioned that all future HPAC meetings could be held at any location throughout the State of Arizona. The motion was seconded by Eddie Corona and the committee passed the motion unanimously.

Marty Herrera stated he would come up with a couple of meeting locations and dates in May 2012 for members to consider and forward this information to committee members to coordinate their availability. He stated he would provide this information to members after the March 2012 Commission meeting, where the commission will approve the selection of eight new HPAC members. Mr. Herrera also stated he would coordinate with Education Branch to see if they could accommodate a presentation to the committee, on programs and initiatives they are currently involved with state wide.

- 8. Awards:** At the conclusion of the meeting, Commissioner Mansell presented several HPAC members whose three year term expires in March, 2012, with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the Commission and Department. HPAC members present who received certificates were Ms. Cindi Labash, Mr. James Terlep, Mr. Eddie Corona and Mr. Steve Campbell and Ms. Maggie Sacher who received a certificate for the past nine years of service (2003-2012). Absent members who will also receive a Certificate of Appreciation are Ms. Rachel Edelstein, Mr. Dale Turner and Mr. Ron Pearce.
- 9. Adjournment:** Nick Lund motioned that the Committee adjourn. Steve Campbell seconded the motion, and the motion to adjourn passed unanimously. Committee adjourned at 12:00 p.m.