

**TRINITY COUNTY FISH AND
GAME
ADVISORY COMMISSION
P O Box 1917
Weaverville, CA 96093**

MEETING MINUTES

July 14, 2021

TRINITY COUNTY LIBRARY, WEAVERVILLE

Chairman Commissioner James Lee (Wildlife) - present

Vice-Chairman Commissioner Samantha Chilcote (Recreation) -present (Notes)

County Supervisor

Supervisor Liam Gogan - present

Restoration

Commissioner Mike Dixon - present

Vacant

Recreation

Vacant

Fisheries

Commissioner Kyle De Julio - present

Commissioner Charles Holthaus -
present

At Large

Commissioner Richard Cole - present

Wildlife

Vacant

This meeting may be audio-recorded.

The TCFG assists in developing Fisheries and Wildlife Policy recommendations for the Board of Supervisors. The TCFG interacts and coordinates with federal, state and local agencies and other organizations involved in fish and wildlife conservation, restoration, enhancement and management programs.

Meetings of the TCFG are held bi-monthly starting in January and are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The meeting location is at the Trinity County Library (unless otherwise noted) in Weaverville at 7:00 PM. All meeting agendas will be posted at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. If you would like back-up to the agenda items please contact James Lee at trinityfishandgamecommission@gmail.com .

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodations for this meeting should notify James Lee three (3) full business days prior to the meeting at trinityfishandgamecommission@gmail.com .



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Zoom information:

Trinity County is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: TCFG

Time: July 14, 2021 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/5950072851?pwd=RHp6TDhNajNjMVJHZFJlRmhacmJjUT09>

Meeting ID: 595 007 2851

Passcode: 267684

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,5950072851# US (San Jose)

+13462487799,,5950072851# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 595 007 2851

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/abSS6Lp88d>

7:00 PM Meeting Called to Order

Introductions of Commissioners

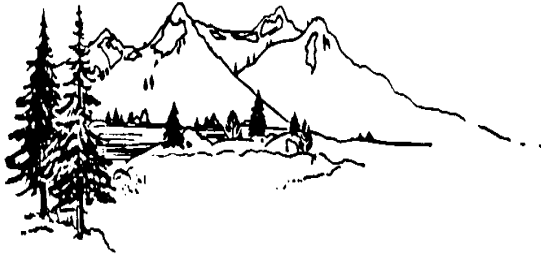
I. Approve the Minutes from May 12, 2021

a. Draft 051221 Minutes_TFGAC.doc

- Motion to approve Chilcote, Gogan Second, Approved unanimously

7:05 II. Public Comment

This time is for information from the public on matters not appearing on this agenda. All comments are limited to three minutes and must pertain to matters within the jurisdiction of this Advisory Commission. When addressing the Advisory Commission please state your name for the record and address the Advisory Commission as a whole, through the Chair. No action or discussion will be conducted on matters not listed on the agenda, however, the Chair may refer the subject matter to the appropriate Commissioner for follow-up or schedule the matter on a subsequent Advisory Commission Agenda.



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Public comment:

As a homeowner on Weaver Creek, he has a big problem with homeless camps. A lot of money is going into restoration but there is a lot of homeless and their trash which ends up in the streams. The speaker thinks it would be a good use of restoration funds to roust homeless and clean up their mess. He has tried to have various agencies out there to address the problem.

- Commissioner Gogan suggested the issue be taken up as a future agenda item.

7:10 III. On-Going Reports

a. Restoration Update (Dixen):

- There is a public information meeting in Trinity Center tonight. It is part of the planning process for WRTC and TCRCDD work to restore high mountain meadows. They are seeking external funding to increase planning capacity, acquire timber lands, and treat high meadows in the Alps. One of the objectives of this work is to increase inflow into Trinity Reservoir.
- The USFS is taking comments on August Fire rehab. Proposed actions include removing hazard trees, restoring target species, and decreasing encroachment from other species. IT might be a good future agenda item for this Commission, particularly from a wildlife perspective. TRRP is starting construction in JC on a large scale restoration project, Chapman Ranch Phase B.
- A week from today, the Trinity River Restoration Program is closing a call for proposals for an entity to handle the restoration grant program.

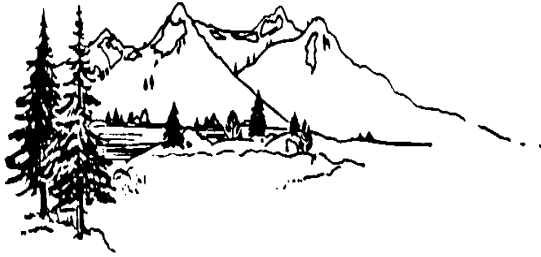
b. Trinity County Big Game Update- Chairman Lee

- Chair Lee has been in communication with Pete Figuero who is working on the update to big game regulations for CDFW. A complex statutory regulation governs big game management which makes it difficult to change. Pete suggested we come up with a draft proposal and circulate to other Fish and Game Commissions to get regional buy-in because it is a cross boundary issue. Chair Lee drafted a proposal and shared with other Commissioners recently outlining some of the primary issues (such as Trinity County's low hunter success given game levels, buck only hunts skewing sex ratios, and the early timing of hunting season during high fire danger weather causing access closures for prevention). He got good feedback from the Commissioners. He would like the BoS to weigh in prior to sharing externally. He needs to share feedback among Commissioners. De Julio would like to agendize for September meeting and get public feedback into our process. Chair Lee will compile all the feedback and share with all the Commissioners. Commissioners should get their additional feedback to Chair Lee prior to the opening of archery season.

- Deer Management Recommendations.doc

c. Trinity River Update - Commissioner Holthaus

- The JC weir went in on June 12th. So far this season, counts are above average for this time of year. This is likely due to the drought, a lot of fish moved in before flows dropped this year. A big issue is water temperatures. Commissioner Holthaus has been hearing that there was high fishing success in the estuary earlier in the season



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but it appears to have tapered off. Commissioner Holthaus also heard that the salmon downstream which didn't migrate earlier in the year are stuck and not moving upstream. Weir counters have reported visible fungus on the fish at the weir. Commissioner De Julio was part of a pre-spawn survey downstream that verified conditions.. Mortality was low but they observed a lot of stressed fish. Later this season when flows increase and fish resume migrations, the Yurok will monitor using Didson sonar to see if diseased spring chinook are transmitting the disease to fall chinook. Fish usually push in around the full moon so hopefully fish will be able to move upstream later in the season. Flows will also increase with a tribal ceremony in the first week of September.

- Spring Chinook- CA Fish and Game Advisory Commission voted to list Spring Chinook and summer Steelhead south of the Klamath, this will affect fishing regulations, that means that likely will not get June fishery back, would be good to get opinion out there to mark fish to separate hatchery and wild fish, wild populations in tributaries are driving the listing, might still be able to a fishery if we could increase marking from current 25% to harvest hatchery fish but preserve wild, Doxen says we need a ppt from CDFW to understand marking issue better,
- Trinity Anadromous Fishing Regulations- needs to bundle all these issues into a Trinity County policy recommendations on fishing regulations (opening fly water, hatchery vs wild, there is a lot of opportunities to increase fishing opportunity in Trinity County), De Julio and Holthaus will draft a proposal similar to Lee's hunting proposal to get ahead of the CA Commission issue, agendize for November meeting, Giogan: what is the differences is cost to mark different proportions, De Julio there is an economy of scale with code wired tags but the problem about how to mark (broodstock, incorporate into standing stock calculations means it would be very difficult to, developing program by CDFW for September meeting, Holthaus, too warm to release fish in Klamath som they are moving, motion to remove this as a standing agenda item, Dixen second, passes anonymously with Gogan abstaining,
- 1.1 million to Trinity hatchery, they will be 100% marked on the left ventral which is significant, estimate 60% mortality of Trinity River hatchery fish, retains smolt to release as fingerling, release yearly as fingerling,

d. Department of Fish & Wildlife Report

e. Trinity County Collaborative Report - Commissioner Dixon, meeting Friday (fire cameras, illegal pot grows)

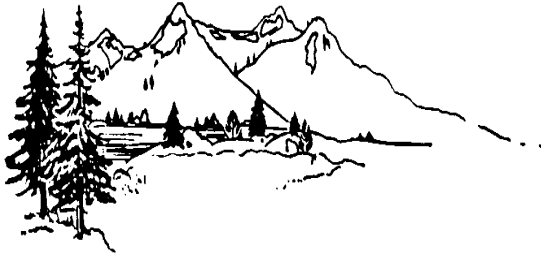
f. Pacific Fisheries Management Council – Commissioner Cole

g. Grant Program - no report

h. Correspondence Ad Hoc – Chairman Lee, Vice Chairman Chilcote and Commissioner Cole

- email password - Commissioner Cole

7:40 IV. Old Business

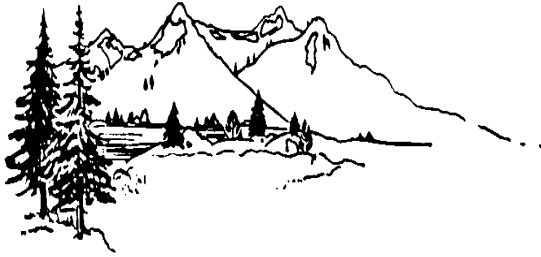


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- a. 2021 Programs and Goals, Evening Program Development- Chairman Lee
 - a. revisit as time allows
 - b. Standards of Conduct for Commissioners - Chairman Lee and Vice Chairman Chilcote
- De Julio move to approve, sign, and submit at next meeting, Gogan second, passes unanimously
- Code of Conduct.doc
 - c. Budget- Vice Chairman Chilcote
 - TCFG Budget FY22.xls
 - d. Brown Trout Policy Statement Letter – Commissioner Gogan
 - a.
 - e. Steelhead derby update – Derby Sub-committee (DeJulio, Holthaus, Chilcote)
 - f. Representation at PFMC- Supervisor GoganGogan thinks removing brown trout is a waste of money and doesn't seem that it would
 - g. Beaver Letter – Commissioner Chilcote
 - h. De Julio need to take a strong stance on beaver policy with the current drought etc
 - i. Holthaus recirculate letter to BoS and send to state Commission with edits for addresses and date, second by Cole, unanimously pass

8:20 V. New Business

- a. Evening Presentation - David Delange
- b. purchased his property b14 years ago, dream home and raised 4 children, June 25th then 2014 they build a large dam, were there until 2016, left and reappeared in 2019, Brown Creek is one of the largest tributary on the TrinityRiver, ends at B Bar Rd, they own both sides of the creek, there is a large elk herd, science based family with a lot of pictures and documentation since they have owned it, the entire drainage is bedrock in an alluvial valley at this location, braided system that is constantly changing it's meander pattern, built a large dam over 2 years and the creek cut a new channel during a high water event in 2019, 1600 feet of cold water stored behind the dam can be seen in June 9, 2021 video, the water was flowing through the dam, one week before removal water temperature was 56 in the pond behind the beaver dam, dam was at equilibrium with outflow equating inflow, a lot of aquatic and terrestrial resources relied on the dam, 6/26/2021 at 8:45 at night, a fish and game officer approached him about illegal dams due to a complaint from a downstream user, the officer said he had to open the dam and had an exchange with the landowner and the property owner existed him off the property, 5 minutes later the officer returned and started ripping out the dam with his hands, this increased the flow into the old channel, the beavers returned and started rebuilding the dam, the next day it appears as if someone had returned and removed more of the dam, estimate 800,000 to 1.5 million of water of cold water pool released down the old channel, 1200 fish and other aquatic species stranded in the dry channel above the dam (Pacific lamprey, Pacific Giant Salamander, sculpin, salmonids), they have not seen the beavers since
- c. - Gogan: quarter of a mile of creek and perfect restoration project by nature,



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- d. De Julio: CDFW is the only entity that doesn't need a permit to alter a stream, the reason that he got on this Commission is due to the deprivation permit for the beavers on beaver along 299, offensive that a willing landowner was hosting the beaver and the agency csme and removed the dam on his property, 3 weeks ago there was a dramatic decrease in streamflow as a result of the drought, the focus should be the policy, after the Weaver 299 and issue M. Lancaster convened a workshop to educate CDFW, that's not enough anymore, need a policy, the previous letter was translocation for translocation of nuisance individuals, the focus of this needs to be a county policy to recognize the value of beavers and preserve existing structures and revise the process to defer to the private landowner on a case to case basis, a separate issue because there was no ticket issued, this affects this Commission because we get revenue from citations, actions needs to before the 3rd of August to get to the next BoS, we had comments from numerous public members
- e. DeJulio: we have a special meeting to draft a letter for the August 3rd BoS meeting to reflect the Commission's recommendation in the issue, Chilcote second
- f. member of the public wants to see the CDFW warden removed, he has lived here his whole life and this is not an isolated action by the warden, a slap in the wrist will not be sufficient, this was a biological hotspot,
- g. Continue Discussion of 2021 Programs and Goals
 - i. a. hunting regs
 - ii. fishing regs: fishing regulations only online or
 - iii. beaver policy
 - iv. homeless

Correspondence - <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/>

8:50 VI. Staff Reports

- a. Financial Report
- b. Fines and Fees
- c. Approval of Claims (none)

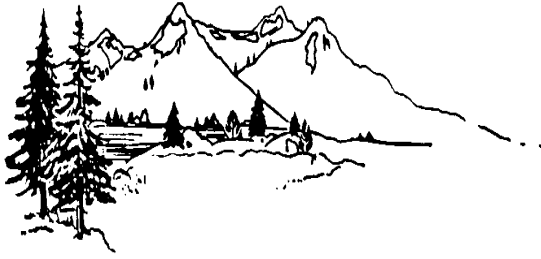
9:00 Adjournment

Our Next Meetings

September 8 2021
November 10, 2021

Special Meetings

**September Deer Management
November Fishing Regulations
January DA**



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James Doodle Pool, compile deer management comments and share with other Commissioners

Liam Who DA for evening program

Kyle and Charlie: draft fishing regulations for November

Samantha Evening Program tracker, meeting minutes

send our Google Drive link and previous beaver letter to Commissioners

Draft agenda for special, meeting

Other Meetings

CA Fish and Game Commission

July 20, 2021 Marine Resources, Sacramento

August 17, 2021 Tribal, Sacramento

August 18-19, 2021 Sacramento

September 16, 2021 Wildlife Resources, Sacramento

October 13-14, 2021 Sacramento

November 9, 2021 Marine Resources, Sacramento

December 14, 2021 Tribal, Sacramento

December 15-16, 2021 Sacramento

Trinity Collaborative

July 16, 2021

Sept 17, 2021

Nov 19, 2021

Pacific Fishery Management Council

August 22-25, 2021 PSMFC 74th Annual Meeting

September 8-15, 2021, Spokane, WA

November 15-22, 2021, Costa Mesa, CA

Pacific Flyway Council

August or September 2021, TBD

Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

July 18-23, 2021 Santa Fe, NM

Wildlife Conservation Board

August 26, 2021, webinar or teleconference

November 18, 2021, webinar or teleconference