



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

MEETING MINUTES

November 10, 2021

TRINITY COUNTY LIBRARY, WEAVERVILLE

Chairman Commissioner James Lee (Wildlife)

Vice-Chairman Commissioner Samantha Chilcote (Recreation)

County Supervisor

Supervisor Liam Gogan

Restoration

Commissioner Mike Dixon

Vacant

Recreation

Vacant

Fisheries

Commissioner Kyle De Julio

Commissioner Charles Holthaus

At Large

Commissioner Richard Cole

Wildlife

Vacant

7:00 PM Meeting Called to Order

All commissioners were present.

I. Approve the Minutes from September, 2021

Commissioner Lee identified a discrepancy in how elk tag numbers were characterized in the notes. Dixon moved to accept the notes subject to the correction from Commissioner Lee. Commissioner Cole seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

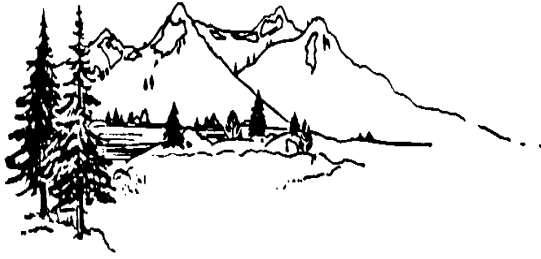
II. Public Comment

Two new employees of the Trinity County Resource Conservation District introduced themselves. There was discussion of the Commission's purpose and of ongoing commissioner vacancies. No other members of the public were present.

7:10 III. On-Going Reports

- a. Restoration Update: Commissioner Dixon provided a series of updates on ongoing activities in the county.

TCRCD: RCD has been working on road restoration in the August Complex footprint for both the Shasta-Trinity and Six Rivers NF. We are working on the contracts for the BAER work for the Monument and McFarland Fires. We have added a staff member, Molly Breitmun,



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that will be working to get landowners signed up with the NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program and Environmental Quality Incentives Program in Trinity County.

RCD is working on a planning document for water storage and watershed resiliency in the North Lake area. We are focusing on landscape level and in stream work. WRTC will have funding in the same area next year to evaluate the wetlands and the meadows for restoration.

No active implementation for instream or meadow restoration work at the moment. Just reopened the Moon Lee Ditch from the Trinco Water Treatment Plant to the Morris Residence, will be finishing that work in March or April of 2022 for water to run all the way to the Young Family Ranch. RCD is working with NRCS on a EQIP proposal to pipe this water in the future.

Still looking for funding for the West Weaver Diversion Enhancement Planning.

Forest Health – non-stop work, \$4 Million in CAL FIRE Funding is coming in for BLM and USFS land treatments, \$2 Million in CAL FIRE Funding is coming in for Defensible Space funding throughout identified neighborhoods throughout the County.

TCRCD would like to help/participate with the fish and game commission for the Youth Fishing Derby.

Watershed Center:

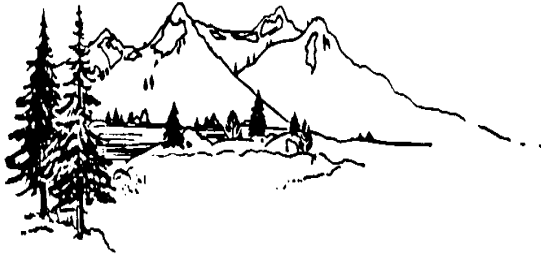
Salt Creek Floodplain – Mike Love and Associates have submitted 30% design. GeoServ has submitted Hydrogeologic Report.

Indian Valley Meadow Restoration – Decided to focus on Corral Gulch, the major tributary to Indian Valley Creek because it does not have the transportation and campground infrastructure problems, plus it can fit within a CE category. Have a cut/fill Stage 0 design completed by Paul Powers. They have support from the STNF's "small NEPA" team and have begun 3rd party NEPA for the Corral Gulch portion of the project.

SFTR large wood project –Have designs for the yarder portion of the project mostly completed and are currently working on the helicopter designs. Commissioner DeJulio elaborated some on the scope of the project relative to the first phase wood loading project.

W. Tule fish passage – Cascade Stream Solutions has produced an initial design for upgrading the diversion structure and new screen and is currently working on the 100% design.

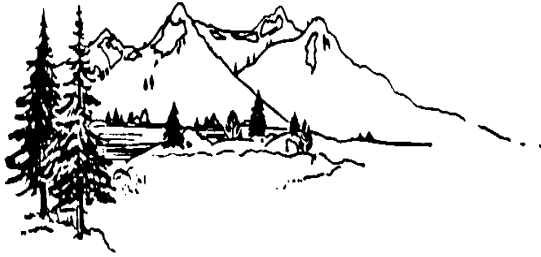
b. Trinity County Big Game Update: Commissioner Lee provided update. Deer season over; rough start with fires and closures. No info yet on harvest success. Bear



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- season still open, nowhere near quota. Commissioner Dixon brought up the record low irrigated acreage irrigated in the Klamath Basin and Sacramento Valley and asked for any updates on waterfowl use in TC.
- c. Trinity River Update: Commissioner DeJulio provided update. Exceptional year (relative to recent years) for chinook. JC weir has its highest run since 2015. Will be extending weir operation to monitor and manage coho. Steelhead also at highest level since 2015. Willow Creek weir blew out but prior to it blowing out it had a banner year. Cole asked if there is speculation as to why; Commissioner DeJulio opined that it is likely due to a good water year coupled with two good ocean rearing conditions. Also, YT has closed or reduced its commercial fishery. Spring run had a higher than normal natural/hatchery ratio; fall chinook and coho are tracking as normal proportions. There was discussion of the disconnect between apparent run size and redd counts; it is too early to say why but numbers need to be corrected for effort. Amelia Fleitz asked if anyone was picking up former USFS surveys of tributaries; DeJulio stated that there was no funding available.
 - d. Department of Fish & Wildlife Report: No one from CDFW present.
 - e. Trinity County Collaborative Report: Commissioner Dixon has been monitoring agendas. There has not been much of interest to the commission. The Recreation committee will meet November 12; only topic of relevance is status of Minersville Boat Ramp extension.
 - f. Pacific Fisheries Management Council: No update provided.
 - g. Grant Program: Commissioner Lee brought up the grant solicitation that was forwarded by Commissioner Dixon. Federal funding administered by a 3rd party group soliciting project to improve reservoir fisheries. Fairly small dollar grant proposal and prefers match, but is a good nexus for volunteer action with local groups. Supervisor Gogan inquired about whether it had to be habitat-focused or not. There was discussion of potential tailwater monitoring for gravel augmentation, monitoring associated with recent boat ramp improvements, massive kokanee mortality this fall that resulted from reservoir operations at Trinity Dam, and gravel augmentation below Grass Valley Creek Reservoir.
 - h. Correspondence Ad Hoc – NSTR, though Commissioner DeJulio inquired about the status of the original beaver letter. It was approved by the board. Confirmation that the second letter was submitted though. Mentioned that there was a 2019 CDFW Beaver Policy which should have prevented beaver dam removal issue which had been a recent topic at the commission. Reiteration by Commissioner Chilcote of the need to identify an individual to follow topics through from inception to completion.

IV. Old Business



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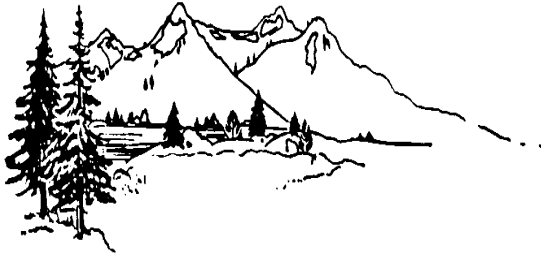
- a. 2021 Programs and Goals, Evening Program Development- Chairman Lee led the discussion. Commissioner Chilcote's recollection was that the topics discussed for this year were broodstock collection, steelhead derby, deer regulations, and anadromous fishing regulation simplification. Discussion of anadromous fishing regulation simplification; Supervisor Gogan asked what the number one priority would be. Commissioner DeJulio said that extended season in the fly water below Lewiston should be the first priority, also suggested potential improvements to how spring chinook fishery is managed. There was substantial discussion of how simplification could happen; there was enough conversation that it was agreed that this should be a standalone agenda topic. Commissioner DeJulio will come up with a handful of options and do some outreach to gauge public perception of potential solutions. Lee proposed that we should have a future topic to discuss fractional marking of chinook.

Commissioner De Julio proposed a future evening program of reservoir stocking program. The evening program spreadsheet was updated with proposed dates and potential presenters with individuals assigned to follow up.

- b. Sign Standards of Conduct for Commissioners: All commissioners signed.
- c. Steelhead derby update – Derby Sub-committee (Commissioners DeJulio and Holthaus) provided update: Commissioner Holthaus reached out to DFW and USBR re: broodstock component of derby. USBR said that because the steelhead aren't listed, it isn't in their agency interest. DFW said it was a good idea but in the absence of funding or resources, they wouldn't pursue. Commissioner DeJulio suggested pursuing the derby separate from the broodstock program; also said that likely funding for hatchery improvements could free up some options in the future. Conversation shifted to holding a separate derby possibly hosted by NorCal Guides and Sportsmens Association. There is concern that there is nothing for the derby to raise money for in the absence of a broodstock program; there is a chicken and egg problem of needing a nonprofit to hold revenue raised until there is sufficient capital to get a broodstock program going. Decision was to table it for now.

V. New Business

- a. Deer Management Recommendations: Chairman Lee proposed submitting the proposal as is to CDFW for feedback on regulatory concerns. Commissioner DeJulio made a motion for Chairman Lee to incorporate revisions he has received and submit it to commissioners one more time for fatal flaw review.
- b. Trinity Anadromous Regulations: Addressed earlier in the meeting; Commissioner DeJulio will develop a flier for outreach.



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- c. Hatchery Carcass Augmentation: Commissioner DeJulio detailed the proposal for coho carcass augmentation that had been proposed as part of the Hatchery Genetic Management Plan for Coho salmon at Trinity River Hatchery. Yurok Tribe will be taking 2800 carcasses from the hatchery and placing them below Buckhorn Dam on Bureau of Reclamation managed property. Carcasses will be handled in a way that mitigates disease risk. This will be the first structured carcass augmentation other than the hatchery's disposal of some carcasses through the hatchery effluent tube into the river. Commissioner Dixon offered to carry forward this topic to a future meeting. Supervisor Gogan was supportive. Commissioner DeJulio said that the coho effort could build capacity to expand this to other areas.
- d. Homeless encampments: Tabled to future meeting
- e. Election of Officials: Chairman Lee reminded the commission that Chair and Vice Chair will be up for election in January.

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

VI. Staff Reports

- a. Financial Report: Brief update on financials including new fines and fees collected this year was provided by Vice Chair Chilcote.
- b. Approval of Claims: Commissioner De Julio proposed to pay Vice Chair Chilcote retroactively for the work she has done filling the void left by the absence of a Commission Secretary. Commissioner Cole seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

9:10 Adjournment