

TRINITY COUNTY FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMISSION P O Box 1917

Weaverville, CA 96093 www.trinitycounty.org/FG-Advisory trinityfishandgamecommission@gmail.com

Minutes – May 8, 2019

Chairman Commissioner James Lee (At Large) Vice-Chairman Commissioner Samantha Chilcote (Wildlife)

Trinity County Board of Supervisor District 5

Commissioner John Fenley

Recreation

Commissioner Cody Canale - Absent Commissioner Scott Dias

Restoration

Commissioner Mike Dixon - Absent Vacant

At Large

Commissioner Richard Cole Vacant

Wildlife

Vacant

7:00 PM Meeting Called to Order

Fisheries Commissioner Kyle DeJulio - Absent Vacant

Secretary Tina Duong

Chairman Lee welcomed our new Commissioner, Commissioner Scott Dias.

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.

Received comments from Andy Hill with Weaverville Fish and Game.

I. Approved the March 27, 2019 Minutes as submitted by the Secretary.

Motion: John Fenley Second: Richard Cole 5-0 Yays: Cole, Fenley, Dias, Chilcote and Lee Absent: Canale, DeJulio and Dixon

II. **Evening Program** – Future TCFGAC accomplishments.

Discussed our future goals for the next year. Chairman Lee would like to get the Commissioners ideas for what to pursue. He brought up his concerns of meeting once a month and not having time to react to issues that come up. He would like to create a policy statement to make it simpler for the future. Commissioner Cole brought up his concerns about how long it takes to get letters of support to the Board of Supervisors once the Commission has approved the topic. He would like the Chair to nominate someone to be the letter writer for the Commission. The letter's written would reflect the decision that was made at the meeting and should be sent out within 5-7 days to the Commissioners for review. They in turn respond within 3 days so the letter could be sent out within one to two weeks. He feels as long as the letter reflects the decision that was made at the meeting that it would short circuit the process. He said it would help eliminate the frustration that everyone has when dealing with these issues. He feels by doing this we are acting right now instead of waiting months for a letter going out. Vice-Chair Chilcote was concerned about making a decision when we were lacking so many Commissioners. She would like to hear what other Commissioners feel. She feels it's a really good discussion to have and it would be good to have a couple different options that would work for everyone. Vice-Chair Chilcote said what Commissioner Cole is proposing is different than what Chairman Lee is asking. She said that Chairman Lee would like when an issue is coming down to be proactive, addressing it so we can get it on the agenda. She thinks maybe a combination of the two. Chairman Lee said this is a little bit different but he likes this idea, it's kind of about efficiency. He appreciates it. Commissioner Fenley recommended putting together an Ad Hoc Committee with the Chair and Commissioner Cole. He said he trusts between the two of them that they could take care of correspondence, especially with letters we have previously that covers the same subject. He trusts that they could come up with what the Commission needs instead of passing correspondence around. Commissioner Cole said he would be willing to do that if the Chair so wishes. Commissioner Cole said we are talking about two things, one is long range planning and two is an efficient way of

making decisions and getting them to where they need to go. As far as getting things done that's what he did do for thirty-five years. He said if he would like to meet with Chairman Lee regarding this. They can catch up on their chickens. Chairman Lee said now would be a good time to make a motion. Vice-Chair Chilcote expressed her concerns of not having everyone here. She said we just got Scott and we're about to get Alex. We will be talking about Alex tonight. Commissioner Dias said we'll have two new guys that will need to be brought up to speed. Chairman Lee said if we weren't ready to make a decision on that, he thinks it would be worthwhile for someone to write up what we are talking about that way we can act on it at the next meeting and everyone knows exactly what we are talking about. Commissioner Fenley made a motion that would allow you two to put together an ad hoc committee or a committee that handles our correspondence. Commissioner Cole asked what about planning and efficiency. Commissioner Fenley said he was going to keep his motion really narrow with correspondence; the Chair and Commissioner Cole at this point. Once they are given direction through a unanimous decision by an agendized item to send a letter that they take responsibility for putting it together and getting it out. Commissioner Fenley said he trusts that they would take care of it. Chairman Lee asked Vice-Chair Chilcote if that was closer to her comfort level. She said as she said before she would like to wait till more Commissioners are present. Commissioner Fenley said we really need a second to discuss. Commissioner Cole made a second for discussion. Vice-Chair Chilcote said at this point she would rather wait until we have everybody here to get more input on it. She feels like we are already moving towards an action. Commissioner Cole said we never have everyone here, it's very rare. He feels this is something that we are trying to move away from which is dithering for two months then having another meeting and not having everyone here again. Then what do we do. He doesn't feel we are making some incredible decision that is going to change the world. We are just trying to be more efficient in getting the letters out and Chairman Lee asked if we needed a majority of quorum or a majority of the Commission. Commissioner Fenley said a majority of the quorum. Commissioner Dias recommended having set boundaries. Commissioner Fenley said he had a feeling his motion wasn't going to pass and withdraw his motion and asked Commissioner Cole to withdraw his second. He requested it to be agendized at the next meeting for discussion. Commissioner Cole said that even without an ad hoc committee that he and Chairman Lee meet to discuss chickens. Commissioner Fenley asked Chairman Lee if he felt meeting every two months was insufficient. He

said it's not that he thinks it's insufficient but he feels if its every two months that we need to find a way to get out ahead of these issues better. He said he has some ideas on how to do it. Supervisor Fenley says he has a problem meeting every two months. He said we could keep the meetings every two-months and call a special meeting when needed. Commissioner Cole said if something big comes up we could call a special meeting. Commissioner Fenley recommended having a meeting every month. Vice-Chair Chilcote said we had to get the Board of Supervisors involved because it's in the bylaws that we meet every two months. Commissioner Fenley said it might be easier to by step the Board and call a special meeting. He said every other month we could call a special meeting at the same time on the same day. Chairman Lee asked how we know what venues are available. Secretary Duong said the library has a calendar on their website for the library boardroom and if you want to use the CD Hall you have go through General Services to reserve it. Commissioner Cole said we could use a conference room at HRN or at the PUD building. He said there isn't as much room for an audience as here. Commissioner Fenley said we could use the fire halls as well. Chairman Lee said he senses we are going to have a lot of special meetings. For the special meetings, he asked if another day would work for them because Wednesday's are hard for him. Commissioner Dias said he is about to get super busy in the summer so we pick a day he will try his best to get there. Vice-Chair Chilcote said Wednesday's are also hard for her. Commissioner Fenley recommended giving direction to do a doodle poll with certain dates and times. Vice-Chair Chilcote asked if we could organize position designations and revisit everyone's titles. She's under wildlife and Chairman Lee is At Large but they should be something else. Chairman Lee said we have an agenda item later that we can discuss that under. Chairman Lee said what he's getting out of this topic is that it's not necessarily what we were doing it's how were doing it and how we accomplish our correspondence which would affect policy which is one of the things we want to do. Commissioner Cole asked if it seems like a large part of what we do is in response to a rather small number of agencies. He said the long-range planning could be we have one person that monitor these agencies, like the Fish and Game Commission, Pacific Fisheries Management Council, the state legislature. If we have someone designated for each agency then that person could monitor and report back when there is something going on. Chairman Lee said that his opinion is that we kind of have responsibilities associated with our titles, Wildlife, Recreation, At Large, Restoration and Fisheries. Commissioner Cole said

he would be happy to watch legislature because he is more involved with our senator and assembly member. He thinks that the Senator McGuire would be willing to keep him in the loop, so he is willing to help with legislature. He said Vice-Chair Chilcote could do Fish and Game and so on. Vice-Chair Chilcote said that is one way to organize it. Chairman Lee said he doesn't see any problem with identifying Commissioner Cole as the person who keeps track of legislature. He said that Fish and Game is such a broad topic, it would be hard to limit, people just kind of pay attention with what they are interested in and focus on that. Chairman Lee said he agrees with what Commissioner Cole is saying but he doesn't think it's something they can commit to. Commissioner Cole asked whose responsibilities it is to watch these agendas. He said he agrees we need to be proactive instead of reactive. He said if we do this then we would have to go to people that would know exactly what they were talking about. Vice-Chair Chilcote said this is a two-part discussion, how we bring the item to the Commission and how we react to them. Bringing the issues to the Commission could be along areas of responsibilities. Vice-Chair Chilcote said that for any designation there could be a range of issues. Fisheries could be anything from the reauthorization of the Central Valley Project to Spring Chinook to the Hatchery Management Review.... Commissioner Fenley asked what the Central Valley Project was. Vice-Chair Chilcote reported that they are not redoing the whole infrastructure, they are redoing the biological opinion of it. Chairman Lee said it was the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. Commissioner Cole asked if it has to with the big pipeline that the Governor made a single pipeline. Vice-Chair Chilcote said it is related but not the same. The second part would be reacting to the letters. Chairman Lee questioned if the bylaws state the area of responsibility each Commissioner has. Vice-Chair Chilcote said she didn't think it says anything about it. Commissioner Fenley recommended starting very narrow with this topic. He said the Board of Supervisors like to stray away from items that are contentious, especially the current Chair. He said the Commission is going to need find where they want to focus their energy whether it's on fishing and hunting or stating political agendas. Vice-Chair Chilcote said that was why Pete was so successful as Chair of the Commission because he stuck to certain issues and made sure all the players were on board before he proceeded. Commissioner Fenley said he had a passion and he stuck to it. Commissioner Fenley said there is no reason the Chair can't assign, move forward or request a Commissioner participate in a certain way. Commissioner Fenley asked if there are descriptions in the bylaws. Vice-Chair Chilcote confirmed they were not. Commissioner Fenley said we

may want to change the type of positions there are. Chairman Lee recommended talking more about this when we got to agenda item (f). Chairman Lee said to restate what he is getting out of this is that we would like to talk about a new process of developing correspondence, which will be agendized for the next meeting. In advance of that, Chairman Lee asked Commissioner Cole if it would be possible to write up Step 1, Step 2, and Step 3 with the timeframes in between. He said he would get it ready within one day. He will submit it to Chairman Lee and Tina to distribute to the Commissioners. Commissioner Fenley said he is interested in mammal hunting regarding deer. Commissioner Cole said the Deer Plan is on the agenda. Commissioner Fenley said it is but it keeps moving from meeting to meeting. Commissioner Cole asked if we knew enough about the topic so whatever points we want to make we could respond. Chairman Lee said he thinks so. He said they are still working on a new draft of the Deer Management Plan and they will let us know when it is ready. Based on the 2015 draft we kind of know what it's going to be like. He said there are a lot of issues with the draft. Chairman Lee said he is not that close to the people who are working on the new Deer Management Plan. Sporty said he met the guy in charge; his name is Nathan Graveline. He said the deer plan was sitting on a vacant desk for awhile so it didn't go anywhere. He said his understanding is that Bob Schafer and the new biologist on the coast worked on it and sent it down. It went untouched until Nathan Graveline came on about two months ago; he is in charge of the deer plan. Sporty said he hasn't seen it. Commissioner Dias asked if it was an animal management plan or if it was just for deer. Commissioner Fenley said it was just deer plan. Commissioner Fenley said his vote is Deer Plan. Commissioner Cole said he would like spring salmon season. Commissioner Fenley asked what it would entail for the Commission. Commissioner Cole said if we have any pressure we should apply it here. He said deer and salmon are the two he would like to focus on. Vice-Chair Chilcote said she heard rumors about summer steelhead. Commissioner Cole said he would like to know if the CA State Fish and Game Meeting would be discussing this. Chairman Lee said the focus should be on efficiency in terms of getting info out, more meetings, deer plan, salmon and steelhead. Commissioner Cole to provide steps prior to next meeting. He would like to focus on the items that are important to us. Sporty said May 16th agenda is up and summer steelhead is not listed on it. They do have salmon sport on the Klamath River. Commissioner Fenley said anyone can go to the CA Fish and Game website and signup to receive the email regarding anything you want to see. He said he has talked about it before. Chairman Lee said the Gaines Report has a lot

of good information. The email address to request copies of it is listed at the end of the PDF. Vice-Chair Chilcote to send out the next one.

On Going Reports

- a. Restoration None received.
- b. Trinity County Big Game Update, Deer Management Plan Nothing to report.
- c. Trinity River update Vice-Chair Chilcote said the peak flows were interrupted because there was an oil leak at the dam. They fixed it and will try to ramp it back up to meet the third restoration flow, then they will hold off for a bit. She said to be careful when out on the river because it might come back up at any time. Commissioner Dias said the next release will be 7,500 on the 18th or the 19th. Chairman Lee said they should make it.
- d. Department of Fish & Wildlife Report There has been a proposed emergency fishing regulation on the Trinity on July 1st. It's not set and it hasn't been accepted yet. Starts July 1st and possibly goes up to Gold Bridge. 1 fish per day 1 in possession. They will decide on that on May 16th. Vice-Chair Chilcote to keep track of this.
- e. The season will begin Aug 15th on the Lower Klamath and Aug 31st on the Trinity River. Sporty began talking about deer. He said since the B Zone tags did not sell out before August 2nd they are not restricted this year. They have 35,000 tags this year and if they sell out by July 2nd, the B Zone would automatically become a premium zone for the following year. You would have to use it as your firstyear tag or put in for a draw. If it doesn't sell out before August 2nd it becomes a restricted tag like last year. This happens in other zones but is new to the B Zone where it flops back and forth. Commissioner Dias said he thinks they should make it a three point or better for three years to allow the young deer to grow up instead of letting people shoot deer with four spikes the size of a dog. Sporty said it probably won't happen because a long time ago when they had that rule more bucks were killed and left in the field. He said when someone goes hunting and is looking down range at a buck if the buck has his head aligned at the right angle it may look like a three pointer when it actually a fork and horn. Once the hunter realized what happened they left the buck in the field and got out of there, then they would still use their tag for another buck. Chairman Lee said the quickest way to get to what they are talking about is to limit the harvest and maybe antlerless hunting to take the pressure off the buck.

Commissioner Dias said we should have a doe hunt like other states have even if it's a draw. Commissioner Fenley said they looked into doe hunts/junior hunts and the most tags we could get was seven. Commissioner Fenley said he could bring it to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) but right now he only has two votes. He said if we put this in front of the BOS we are putting the Board in front of people screaming at them on both sides. Sporty said in other areas where they allow doe hunting you can see the herd really go down. He said the best bet would be to do a conservative number, nothing big. Commissioner Dias said he was thinking the whole state of California offering 1,000 or 2,500 tags. Commissioner Fenley said that each county can request within its jurisdiction a doe hunt or antlerless hunt. Chairman Lee said that CDFW have historically been a proponent of antlerless hunts but most of the counties in California can veto a proposed doe hunt including Trinity. The ordinance is called the County Veto Ordinance and has been around since 1956. Sporty said this ordinance came about because back in 1956, if you had both your buck tags three days before the end of the season you could shoot a doe. Chairman Lee said they were worried about overpopulation and crash starvation and they wanted to drop the population down more in balance with the habitat. People would see hunters driving through town with a doe in their trucks and they would get upset and scream 'you just killed all of next year's crops'. Sporty said interestingly enough two years after that they had the highest buck kills in state history. He said that was on the CDFW website, you can go to the search engine to search for surveys. Chairman Lee said there is a lot of science behind balancing the sex structure of the harvest, so hunting is more reflective of what natural predation is. There are benefits to the deer population from that. He said we are in a position where we can influence that but we just need to figure out how to do it. Sporty said another thing that might come out of the deer plan is that B Zones are considered an opportunity zone. They have done a couple survey's with hunters; one was 20 years ago and the second one was three or four years ago. They can be found on the CDFW website. The results of the statewide surveys was that people still wanted to have places in the state to have high quality hunt success rate with more trophy potential and they also wanted areas they could go to every year to have the tradition of hunting, acknowledging a lower percent rate. A zone and B Zones have a very large population of black tail deer and black tail deer are notorious for being very

difficult to hunt. A and B Zone are also the same and are managed for higher hunter success but have a lot less tags. X Zone doesn't work that way because the deer would get decimated. If you look at those areas over the last 4-6 years, they maintain pretty high 45-60%. B Zone tends to stay on the lower end 15-20%. The thing with B Zone is black tail love it when it storms so you have 35,000 tag holders hunting around during a storm. If there is a storm during opening day higher hunter success rates spike 8-9%. Commissioner Fenley said the hunters he deals with are families and they come back every year. He said a antlerless hunt or junior hunt is important. Commissioner Fenley said Trinity County was third in the state for bear harvest at one point now we don't have anything. He said he doesn't mind people standing in front of him screaming and yelling and wants them to tell him something he doesn't know. Sporty said there is still the idea out there that if you are killing the doe that you are killing the herd. Commissioner Fenley said that's why the tag number was so low. Commissioner Fenley said he sees a lot of people driving around to move the deer to where they want to hunt them. Sporty said that it doesn't take genius deer to figure out that on a road where there is an increase in trucks the deer disappear. A lot of deer go nocturnal because of this.

Supervisor Fenley's motion to create an ad hoc committee with Chairman Lee and Commissioner Cole was seconded by Commissioner Cole and later withdrawn.

Agendize: Correspondence Ad Hoc Committee, Doe Hunt

- f. NRA Collaboration Committee Report None
- g. Fisheries Council Commissioner DeJulio and Cole recreational only. Sport fishing from Horse Mountain to San Francisco will reopen in May to protect the Sacramento River. Chairman Lee questioned if we had a recreation report. Commissioner Dias wanted to have the timing of the smolt release on the Sacramento River on the agenda but it didn't make its way on the agenda.
- h. Grant Program Commissioner Fenley said that the CSD for Ruth Lake has a new manager and he didn't know that we have money for a fishing derby and asked how people know we have possible revenue for them. Vice-Chair Chilcote said that most of the people we work with already know about it. We don't advertise. Chairman Lee asked

if the Lewiston Lake and Carville Pond derbies were done by the Lion's Club. Commissioner Cole confirmed they are ran by the Lewiston Lions and the North Trinity Lions. He said it was very hard to find out anything about the fishing derbies. Commissioner Dias said to contact the owner of the Lewiston marina. She is active in the Lions Club and would be a good resource.

III. Old Business

- a. Discuss literature for deer hunters regarding reporting marijuana grown in the National Forest, sub-committee report. Commissioner Cole said he doesn't have anything new. As he said before the Sheriff wants us to make the flyer more positive. He said it is his impression that this will go nowhere. He said he will try to put something together to send to the CAO but he feels it won't go anywhere. He said the Sheriff told him if he liked it he would put it out. His reaction in the county is not positive.
- b. Discuss the letter of support for Justin Alvarez, Hoopa Valley Tribe regarding Brown Trout Management Project. Commissioner Fenley said it did pass unanimously. Commissioner Cole explained that it was a letter of support of Brown Trout Management. Chairman Lee will send the letter to Commissioner Dias. Commissioner Fenley recommended he watch the video of the board meeting.

IV. New Business

a. Discussed the 2019 Local Agency Biennial Notice and instructed the Secretary to complete the form and return it as requested. No change to conflict code is required.

Motion: Richard Cole Second: John Fenley 5-0 Yays: Cole, Fenley, Dias, Chilcote and Lee Absent: Canale, DeJulio and Dixon

b. Discussed the application of interest by Alex Ross to the Commission and made a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to appoint Alex Ross to the position of Wildlife Commissioner. If someone wants to help we normally don't question it. We discussed making changes to the categories of the Commissioners.

Motion: Scott Dias Second: John Fenley 5-0 Yays: Cole, Fenley, Dias, Chilcote and Lee Absent: Canale, DeJulio and Dixon c. Discussed SB395 and its impact on the Commission. SB395 is the road kill bill. Chairman Lee said that most states that he has lived in will allow you to get a road tag salvage if you hit a deer. The deer are owned by the people of the state so you have to get a salvage tag to take them. It would help the state to monitor road kill numbers. The program is web based and cell phone based. He said it sounds like it's complicated. Commissioner Fenley made a motion to support this bill.

Motion: John FenleySecond: Richard Cole 5-0Yays: Cole, Fenley, Dias, Chilcote and LeeAbsent: Canale, DeJulio and Dixon

Commissioner Cole will need to have the letter to Tina by May 13, 2019 so she can get it on the BOS agenda for the May 21, 2019 meeting. Vice-Chair Chilcote reminded everyone what Pete Finney recommended is that you talk to each Supervisor prior to bringing the item to the Board to inform them of the item. Commissioner Fenley recommended having this letter come from the CAO Richard Kuhns instead of him. The author of the bill is Senator Archuletta.

- d. Discuss the two options presented at the March 27, 2019 meeting regarding the Fisheries Council and make a decision on how to proceed. Option 1 Cost sharing and having our own representative to go to the Fisheries Council. Option 2 Receiving updates from Nor Cal Guide and Sportsman Association.
 Commissioner Cole recommended we continue on a two track process using both options above, until we have a commitment from other counties.
- e. Advertising for vacant positions. We have 3 vacancies after appointing Alex Ross. Vice-Chair Chilcote feels the advertising doesn't bring more people. Sheila ran the last newspaper ad and it didn't bring on any new members. Vice-Chair Chilcote feels we should reshuffle the titles for the Commissioners. Commissioner Fenley said we have been informal with the titles and they don't really mean anything at this point. Vice-Chair Chilcote feels we shouldn't spend the money to post in the paper and recommended on finding other avenues like Facebook because of our budget. Secretary Duong will post at the Courthouse. Commissioner Cole said he could write

an article in the paper which would not have a cost. They also recommended that Commissioner Cole contact the fish report writer in the Trinity Journal, Ed Duggin, to see if he would write something about the Commission.

- f. Discussed adopting a clean version of the By-Laws. Secretary Duong stated that there is confusion about the way Shelia wrote up the bylaws and County Counsel Margaret Long recommended reconfirming them. Commissioner Fenley said he isn't used to red mark-ups on documents that go before the Board so there was some confusion with the document. Commissioner Fenley said we only need to remove the red items and not correct the spelling error and resubmit it to the Board. Commissioner Fenley said to email a copy out to the Commissioners and recommended all Commissioners read it.
- g. Tabled to July 10, 2019: Discuss including the Pledge of Allegiance on the agenda. Chairman Lee said Commissioner Dixon recommended that we discuss this again but since he is not here we can table it.

Motion: John Fenley Second: Samantha Chilcote 5-0 Yays: Cole, Fenley, Dias, Chilcote and Lee Absent: Canale, DeJulio and Dixon

h. Discussed our options for posting our agenda online and if we can use NovusAgenda. Secretary Duong checked with Suzie Hawkins with Administration and she said we don't have to post our backup agenda online. We just have to include a comment online and in the agenda that says to contact her to receive a copy of the backup.

Motion to add the following statement to the agenda: If you would like back-up to the agenda items please contact Tina Duong at trinityfishandgamecommission@gmail.com.

Motion: Richard Cole Second: Scott Dias 5-0 Yays: Cole, Fenley, Dias, Chilcote and Lee Absent: Canale, DeJulio and Dixon

i. Tabled to July 10, 2019 from March 27, 2019: Discuss the use of the Travel Expense per the Trinity County Fish and Game By-Laws.

Motion: John Fenley Second: Richard Cole 5-0 Yays: Cole, Fenley, Dias, Chilcote and Lee Absent: Canale, DeJulio and Dixon

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

V. Staff Reports

• Financial Report – Budget Balance as of March 31, 2019: \$21,209.41

Motion: Richard Cole Second: Scott Dias 5-0 Yays: Cole, Fenley, Dias, Chilcote and Lee Absent: Canale, DeJulio and Dixon

- Fines and Fees Court Distribution for January 2019 \$198.36 and for February 2019 \$204.85 for a cumulative total of \$2,802.41 from July 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019.
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VI. Approval of Claims

• Secretary Fee for May 8, 2019 meeting: \$150.00

Motion: Richard Cole Second: Scott Dias 5-0 Yays: Cole, Fenley, Dias, Chilcote and Lee Absent: Canale, DeJulio and Dixon

Adjourned 9:12

Next Meeting July 10, 2019