

Heritage Fund Public Advisory Committee (HPAC) Meeting

Meeting Minutes, September 14, 2013 (Approved 1/11/14)

Arizona Game and Fish Department, Region-5, Tucson, AZ

APPROVED January 11, 2014

Committee Members:

J. W. Harris, (Chairman) - Present

Nick Lund, (Vice-Chairman) – Present

Simone Westbrook Hall, - Absent

Jeff Williamson, - Absent

Ron Pearce, - Present

Steve Campbell, - Absent

Noah Stalvey, - Present

Clark Dierks, - Absent

Doug Von Gausig, - Absent

Danny Howe, - Absent

Jonathan Lines, - Absent

Louie Galaviz, - Absent

Kerry Baldwin, - Present

James Terlep, - Present

Gary Allen, - Present

Rex Stulting, - Present

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- 1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks:** Commissioner J. W. Harris, Chairman, called the meeting to order promptly at 8:00 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 Harris asked committee members and Department Staff to introduce themselves.
 - 3. Approval of Minutes from January 12, 2013 HPAC Meeting:** The committee did not vote to approve the January 12, 2013 HPAC meeting minutes as a quorum of members was not present to vote.
 - 4. Presenter: Mr. Jorge Canaca, Assistant Legislative Liaison, Arizona Game and Fish Department,** briefed the Committee with an update of the 2013 legislative session and highlighted legislative proposals affecting the Heritage Fund and the Department in 2014. Mr. Canaca stated that successful efforts led to protection of all Department funds from legislative transfer (sweeps) into the State’s General Fund. He also stated the Department retained all Heritage funding and received full appropriation of funding requested for 2014. In addition, Mr. Canaca stated that all 3 bills supported by the Commission were passed and signed into law by the Governor, to include the Department’s key legislation S.B. 1223 (License classification; fees), expanding Commission authority. Finally, Mr. Canaca also provided information on the Commission’s recently approved License Simplification Process for the Department.
 - 5. Presenters: Mr. Raul Vega, Regional Supervisor, AZ Game and Fish Department and Region-5 Staff,** presented to the committee an overview of the region’s Urban Program and how the regional staff interfaces with Pima County and the City of Tucson on urban wildlife related issues and public education projects. **Ms. Wendy Burroughs, Environmental Education Program Manager for Pima County’s Natural Resource Parks and Recreation Department,** presented the Living with Urban Wildlife (LWUW) Educational Display Trailer to the committee which is used to support urban wildlife education outreach efforts throughout Pima County. The LWUW display trailer was funded through an Arizona Game and Fish Department Heritage Grant awarded to the County in 2010. To date, the LWUW display trailer has taken part in thirty-two separate outreach events in Pima County, supported by over thirty trained volunteers who work with Pima County staff to host and support these outreach events.

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- 6. Presenter: Joe Sacco, Region-5 Wildlife Manager Supervisor Sector 9, AZ Game and Fish Department and Staff**, provided a presentation to the Committee on the increasingly limited Public Access to public lands for recreational use and the significant amount of access restrictions to these areas the public encounter's throughout Region-5. The staff also discussed the role of the Department's Heritage funded Landowner Relations Coordinator's in Region-5; the current status of public land access throughout the region; and how Heritage Grant funds are used to increase public access to public lands and waterways throughout the region.
- 7. Presenter: Nick Lund, HPAC Vice-Chairman and Region-1 HPAC Representative** provided information to the Committee about a recent Navajo County Sheriff's Office "News Release" relative to the TRACKS White Mountain Trail System. TRACKS received a Department funded Heritage Grant in 2013 to complete an emergency responder trail marking system. TRACKS implemented the trail marking system by placing reflective white diamond markers every ¼ mile on over 200 miles of trails throughout the White Mountain Trail System in Eastern Arizona. Each marker placed on the trail system is identified with a unique alpha-numeric coded number. Each of the approximately 1500 diamond marker locations has been GPS'd and those GPS points mapped and verified. This information was then provided to all regional and local emergency responders and dispatchers. The news release highlighted the recent rescue of five 70+ year old female hikers who became lost in the Porter Mountain area for over three hours. They could not tell deputies where they were located until they came upon a white diamond marker with T19 on it. Once NCSO Deputies had this information, they were able to pin point the lost subject's exact location. Without the marker system in place, the outcome could have been a lot worse for the lost hikers. Mr. Lund also stated that the Arizona State Committee on Trails recently voted to recommend this Heritage funded grant Emergency Responder project to State Parks as a possible model for other trail systems throughout AZ.
- 8. Presenter: Marty Herrera, Heritage Fund Administrator, Arizona Game and Fish Department**, provided the committee with a listing of the thirty-two Heritage Grant award recipients who received a Department Heritage Funded grant award in 2013.
- 9. Committee Business - Open Committee discussion:** The committee used this opportunity to discuss other issues and topics related to their roles and responsibilities as committee members. Proposed changes to the HPAC charter was discussed briefly and tabled as a future committee meeting agenda item. No additional items were motioned or voted on by committee members.
- 10. Call to the Public:** No members of the public requested to be heard.
- 11. Presenter: Bruce Prior, Lead Hydrologist, City of Tucson Water Department**, provided a presentation to the committee titled "*Sweetwater Wetlands – Behind the Scenes*" highlighting the ecological significance and role the wetlands has played in Tucson's overall water cycle. Mr. Prior provided annual water usage numbers and stated that comprehensive water conservation and usage efforts over the past decade, has actually allowed the Tucson water table to rise rather than continue to decline as seen in the previous fifty+ years. Mr. Prior also provided information about how three Department Heritage funded grants have impacted Sweetwater Wetlands Park.

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- 12. Future Meetings:** The Committee discussed the tentative date of January 11, 2014 for the next meeting in Phoenix to coincide with the annual “Meet the Commission” meeting and banquet. Marty Herrera stated he would follow up with tentative meeting dates and locations for the remainder of 2014 and forward this information to committee members to consider and coordinate their availability.
- 13. Awards:** No awards were presented during the meeting.
- 14. Adjournment:** Noah Stalvey motioned and Nick Lund seconded the motion to adjourn and the motion to adjourn passed unanimously. Committee adjourned at 11:15 a.m.
- 15. Elective – Sweetwater Wetlands Park Tour.** Several committee members met at Sweetwater Wetlands Park for an informal elective tour of the facility by Mr. Bruce Prior. No official HPAC business was conducted during the tour of the Sweetwater Wetlands facility.