

Minutes of the Workshop Meeting of the
Arizona Game and Fish Commission
Friday, November 2, 2018, 1:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 3, 2018, 8:00 a.m.
Horseshoe Ranch Wildlife Area
22600 E. Bloody Basin Road
Mayer, Arizona 86330

PRESENT: (Commission)

(Director's Staff)

Commissioner Eric S. Sparks
Commissioner Kurt R. Davis
Commissioner Leland S. "Bill" Brake
Commission James R. Ammons

Director Ty Gray
Deputy Director Tom Finley
Special Assistant to the Directors Kent Komadina
Assistant Attorney General Linda Pollock
Assistant Attorney General John LeSueur

ABSENTIA: (Commission)
Chairman James S. Zieler

Interim Chairman Sparks called the workshop meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. This meeting followed an agenda dated October 30, 2018. With the exception of an Executive Session, this workshop meeting was an informal roundtable setting for discussion and informational purposes. The Commission took no action during this meeting.

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1. Executive Session

Chairman Sparks called for the Commission to meet in Executive Session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03 (A)(3) and (4) for the purpose of discussion and consultation with legal counsel. The Commission was in consensus.

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2. Discussion of Commission Priorities.

Presenter: Ty Gray, Director.

Director Ty Gray and several Department staff participated in an informal group discussions with the Commission as follows:

Group 1:

Increase Access/Landowner Relations:

Habitat Enhancement and Landowner Relations Supervisor Don Larsen discussed the Department objective statement to work with private landowners and land management agencies to enhance wildlife habitat and populations; and to protect or secure public access to public, State Trust, and private lands (to or through) ensuring continued recreational opportunities in the State of Arizona. The group discussed the following metrics: 1. Number of acres secured for public access. 2. Number of public access acres lost.

Habitat Improvement and Conservation:

Habitat Enhancement and Landowner Relations Supervisor Don Larsen discussed the Department objective statement to Conserve and restore habitat capacity in Arizona to promote abundant and thriving wildlife populations. The group discussed the following metrics: 1. Number of fish habitat project phases implemented. 2. Number of acres of habitat restored. 3. Number of catchments completed.

GROUP 2:**Business Enterprise Development:**

Information System Branch Chief Doug Cummings discussed the Department objective statement to identify and develop new approaches and strategies to ensure the long term financial and socio-political relevance and viability of the Department.

Public Affairs:

Information Branch Chief Bill Andres discussed the Department objective statement to use all available communication/information channels to communicate the vision, mission, goals and activities of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and Department; to promote public recognition, understanding and appreciation of the North American Model; and to build public support to ensure the continued relevancy in the 21st century.

Customer Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation:

Wildlife Recreation Branch Chief Scott Lavin discussed the Department objective statement to increase participation in, and public support for, hunting, shooting sports, angling and wildlife associated recreation utilizing best practices and promoting safe, ethical and responsible practices to support the continuation of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

GROUP 3:**Comprehensive Wildlife Management:**

Terrestrial Wildlife Branch Chief Josh Avey discussed the Department objective statement to Implement Comprehensive Game Management through landscape planning and projects and efficient/effective collection and use of data from wildlife populations to meet customer demand. This includes providing real-time input into the Department's newly developed portal. The group discussed the following metrics: 1. Wildlife enhancements (translocations/augmentations). 2. Development of enhanced analytical tools. 3. Number of recovery plan objectives met. 4. Percentage of disease episodes responded to. 5. Number of species and GMUs managed within guidelines. 6. Number of actions taken to enhance SGCN. 7. Number of times our data was used to inform listing or action (e.g. BO) decisions.

Sportfish Opportunities:

Terrestrial Wildlife Branch Chief Chris Cantrell discussed the Department objective statement to Provide, to the maximum extent possible, a quality fishing experience for anglers in Arizona by providing a variety of opportunities including warm water, community-based, and cold water fishing. This includes providing/introducing sportfishing opportunities to the public in an effective manner using the power of the Department's newly developed portal. The group discussed the following metrics: 1. Lbs. of sportfish produced. 2. Number of locations stocked. 3. Number of new communities established in the community fishing program. 4. Percentage of hatchery improvements. 5. Number of management plans completed.

GROUP 4:**Facility Maintenance, Improvement & Real Estate Strategies:**

Development Branch Chief Mark Weise discussed the Department objective statement to Employ a data driven approach to effectively identify, prioritize and implement specific maintenance, repair, and replacement requirements that preserve the condition and extend the life of the Department's principal facilities and associated infrastructure; provide oversight to ensure that capital improvement projects are mission sensitive and meet professional design, engineering and construction practices and comply with applicable building codes, local ordinances and federal guidelines including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The group discussed the following metrics: 1. Inventory and assess facility/infrastructure to establish condition indices at Department facilities/Commission owned properties that have employee housing. 2. Ensure all potential property acquisitions have a defined facility inspection/assessment completed which includes all potential repair and O&M costs. 3. Evaluate and complete the due diligence to dispose of one determined property per year, as feasible.

Maximize Officer Field Time:

Law Enforcement Branch Chief Gene Elms discussed the Department objective statement to maximize the Department's law enforcement presence, within budgetary and staffing limitations, to ensure high levels of compliance with Game and Fish laws and rules and promote safe and responsible watercraft, off-highway vehicles, and wildlife associated recreation. The group discussed the following metrics: 1. Maintain 10% increase in customer contacts over FY17 levels.

Fair Chase:

The group discussed the following metrics: 1. Maintain engagement with the Fair Chase Committee members through emails communication, with a minimum of one meeting per year. 2. Develop two outreach materials (e.g. graphics stickers, brochures. 3. Promote Fair Chase through social media outlets at least twice per year.

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Meeting recessed at 5:00 p.m. on Friday.

Meeting reconvened at 8:00 a.m.

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Saturday, November 3, 2018 – Meeting starts at 8:00 a.m.

1. Discussion of (1) Commission Priorities, (2) Civil Assessments/Legislation, (3) Recreational Access on State and Federal Lands, (4) Commission-Department Staff Communication, and (5) Authorization and Issuance of Special Big Game Hunt License Tags to Organizations process. Presenter: Tom Finley, Deputy Director. The Commission will participate in an informal discussion with Department staff to include topics listed herein.

Commission Priorities**Maintaining State Authority for Conserving Wildlife:**

Special Assistant to the Director Kent Komadina discussed the Department objective statement to protect the Game and Fish Commission's legal authority and responsibility as trustee to manage wildlife for sustainable populations and protect public access and use of wildlife

resources. The group discussed using the following threat metrics: 1. Issues will be labeled as Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3. 2. Progress is measured with a color-code system.

Process Improvement:

Community Engagement Administrator Pat Barber discussed the Department objective statement to implement a robust and integrated and continuous process improvement process through the Arizona Management System (AMS), allowing all employees the opportunity to identify and solve problems, identify improvement opportunities, and to escalate issues through the chain of command when necessary. The group discussed the following metrics: 1. Use the metrics already used in the AMS Assessment that is sent to the Governor's Office on a quarterly basis; the assessment tool tallies percent of deployment within the agency and within divisions, as well measuring the maturity of the program. 2. Individual process improvement success stories can also be periodically reported as highlights.

Director Ty Gray mentioned that Kent will provide a briefing of today's discussion at the December commission meeting.

Civil Assessments/Legislation

Legislative Liaison Ed Sanchez discussed the word "trophy" may possibility eliminating it from statue and removing the associated minimum civil assessment of \$8,000 for illegal take of a trophy animal. The Department will be able to provide the right value and reduce a regulatory burden.

Recreational Access on State and Federal Lands

Field Operations Assistant Director Craig McMullen briefed the Commission on unauthorized locked gates on state land.

Commission-Department Staff Communication

- The first year all presenters will call the new commissioner to answer any questions regarding to their item on the agenda.
- Commissioner Brake would like all presenters to call him directly.
- The agenda will have the presenter cell and office number.
- Chairman Zieler and Commissioner Davis will read the agenda first then reach out to staff for any questions.
- When you call a Commissioner leave your name and call back number.

Authorization and Issuance of Special Big Game Hunt License Tags to Organizations process.

Wildlife Management Assistant Director Jim deVos discussed that the Department will use the hunt guideline committee to provide their recommendation to the Commission for the final vote.

2. Meeting Wrap up and Future Agenda Items.

There was nothing further to add.

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Interim Chairman Sparks adjourned this meeting.

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Meeting adjourned at 11:41a.m.

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Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SB' or 'Shay Bernal', written over a horizontal line.

Shay Bernal, Recording Secretary