

**Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision Stakeholder Advisory Group
Regulatory and Permitting Working Group
Summary Notes
August 24, 2011**

Disclaimer: This summary is not meant to be the official meeting minutes. These notes were taken by a scribe that was in attendance at this meeting and summarizes the discussions to the best of the scribe's ability.

1. Welcome
 - a. Working Group Structure
 - i. Meeting once a week, until late September
 - ii. Large group meetings on Fridays with reports from smaller groups on their work.
 - iii. Will most likely be on the same day of the week as first meetings, and located in the Natural Resources building.
 - b. Schedule
 - i. Beginning with a collection of the issues, then moving towards a discussion of those issues, followed by a collection of solutions and recommendations to address those issues.
 - ii. Tentative:
 1. Phase one: Working on initial draft of ideas, end of September.
 2. Phase two: Polishing issues for presentation to the Blue Ribbon Citizen Commission.
2. Discussion of Group Structure and Need to Designate a Stakeholder Advisory Working Group Spokesperson
 - a. Spokesperson:
 - i. Suggested role of spokesperson: Briefing larger stakeholder group at Friday meetings on working group issues.
 - ii. Spokesperson does not have to be present, but can attend discussions and brief the larger stakeholder group via teleconference or webex.
 - iii. Comments:
 1. Neutral spokesperson, non-member.
 - a. Neutral spokesperson would offer greater amount of trust in presentation from working group.
 2. Two spokespersons to balance the group.

3. Rotation of spokesperson pending the issue being presented.
4. Questions posed to spokespersons should be discussed within group.

3. Issues and Potential for this Process

a. What are the potential outcomes for this process?

- i. Improved management skills
- ii. Actionable solutions
- iii. Increased communication and efficiency with local and regional entities.
- iv. Change can happen.
- v. Cultural shift towards working with landowners.
 1. Build relationships
- vi. Proactive manner with regulations already in place.
- vii. Increased opportunities for biologists to further their education.
- viii. Education of public on issues.
- ix. Improved process, and public understanding of Fish and Game process.
- x. Increased public knowledge of California resources.
- xi. Decrease the amount of “hollow” laws that will actually be enforced.
- xii. Continued strong resource conservation and management.
- xiii. Consistency in enforcement: Ability to both prosecute violators and enforce laws.
- xiv. Better alignment between permitting decisions and expertise.
- xv. Creating within the department an ability to be proactive restoration efforts.
- xvi. Consistency of priorities in regulation and permitting.
- xvii. Increasing time for public comment.
- xviii. Improving collaboration and partnerships between agencies and private entities.
- xix. Increase ease in working with the permitting process.
- xx. Streamlining and certainty in the permitting process.
- xxi. Effective managers with communication capabilities and scientific knowledge.

- xxii. Increased partnerships with people who can leave their biases at the door.
 - xxiii. Restructure responsibilities within department based on consumptive and non-consumptive uses.
 - xxiv. 21st century department with increased trust of the public and regulated bodies.
 - xxv. Formal partnerships
 - xxvi. Coordinated permitting and regulations.
 - xxvii. Consistency_determinations and 1600 permits.
 - xxviii. Better conservation outcomes through improved communication between Commission and Department.
 - xxix. Improved partnerships with other government agencies so as to do the most efficient job, even with reduced funds or resources.
 - xxx. Clarity, procedure, costs, expectations, effectiveness and protectiveness.
- b. What are the threats to those outcomes?
- i. End product will be less than efficient than current status quo
 - ii. Limited resources for increased enforcement.
 - 1. Particularly number of Game Wardens.
 - 2. Limited number of field biologists.
 - iii. Lack of representation of unassociated users.
 - iv. Skepticism
 - v. Timeline, schedule
 - 1. Establishing trust between stakeholder members.
 - 2. Public input
 - 3. Legislature schedule conflicts
 - vi. Lack of public knowledge for public support for this process
 - vii. Budget, enforcement is underfunded.
 - viii. Lacking in structure that allows department to be proactive.
 - ix. Commission and Departmental differences related to their responsibilities.
 - x. Implementability between money and staff.
 - xi. Attempting to do too much within the time frame.
 - xii. Goals, policies and outcomes from this process will not be actionable.
 - xiii. Differences in perspective between stakeholder interests.

- xiv. Unwillingness or inability of stakeholders to come together.
 - c. What are the opportunities for this process?
 - i. Flexibility for Fish and Game to look at the ecosystem as a whole.
 - ii. Simplicity and creativity in the process.
 - iii. Cultural shift of Fish and Game.
 - iv. Building relationships with land owners concerning issues they effect.
 - v. Educating public on California resources.
 - vi. Solutions that reflect a diverse number of perspectives.
 - vii. Raise awareness of the problems and solutions that face Fish and Game, or threaten California resources.
 - viii. Reviewing the appropriate role of the Fish and Game Commission.
 - ix. Proactive restoration efforts.
 - x. Proactive streamlining for landowners.
 - xi. Specific action items.
 - xii. A broad coalition with a suite of recommendations that is excepted and implemented.
 - xiii. Better conservation outcomes through improved communication between Commission and Department.
 - xiv. Creation of more enduring, sustainable protection from a wide variety of sources (climate change, development needs, etc.)
 - d. What are some solutions for dealing with those threats?
 - i. Have Fish and Game available to answer questions.
 - ii. Increased public outreach about this initiative.
 - iii. Increased public knowledge about limited resources available to agencies monitoring the state's resources.
 - iv. Prioritizing issues.
 - v. Specific action items.
4. Comments:
- a. Issues with having quorum and action items.
 - i. Answer: most of these sessions will deal with exchanges in information. However, a quorum will be needed for actionable items, and actions will have to be noticed 10 days in advance in accordance with Bagley-Keene.
 - b. Regulations need to be enforceable and prosecutable.

5. Public Comment

a. Speaker:

- i. Strict adherence to Bagley-Keene is necessary for this process to be successful.

b. Speaker:

- i. Encouraged by the caliber of the members in the working groups.
- ii. Summary notes are helpful for following the meetings.
- iii. Suggestion: It would be helpful if there was another tab on the website just for documents (in chronological order) with some mention of the day and meeting they are associated with.
 1. Clarification: all documents associated with the process.

6. Other: Committee follow-up; future meetings

- a. Next meeting at Fish and Game Commission Conference Room. Room 1320. Wednesday, August 31, 2011 9am

- b. Stakeholders Advisory Meeting Friday September 2, 2011 9:30am Resources Auditorium

c. Homework:

- i. Give/Send Carol Baker a hardcopy of issues you wish to present to your group or other working groups by Friday so the appropriate DFG employees can be available for your reference.

ii. Suggested Readings:

1. Previous Strategic Vision Plans for the Department of Fish and Game and the Fish and Game Commission.
2. DFG Seven Strategic Initiatives
3. AB 2376
4. Legislative Analyst's Office July 21, 2011 report to the Blue Ribbon Citizen Commission (BRCC)
5. July 21, 2011 stakeholder presentations made to BRCC (power points)
6. July 21, 2011 BRCC archived video, overview of the Department of Fish and Game and Fish and Game Commission

7. Documents can be found under “Reports” and archived video can be found under “Meetings” on the Vision website www.vision.ca.gov.
- d. Please RSVP to working group meetings by the Friday before the working group meeting.