

**Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision Stakeholder Advisory Group
Governance and Mission Working Group
Summary Notes
August 25, 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
2. Discussion of Group Structure and Need to Designate a Stakeholder Advisory Working Group Spokesperson
 - a. Structure and Schedule
 - i. Working groups meet at least once a week until the end of September
 1. Phase 1 product will be an initial draft of ideas.
 - a. Bringing all the ideas to the table, determining which issues are problems and which issues are symptoms of problems.
 - b. Moving on to recommendations if time.
 - c. Presented to Blue Ribbon Citizen Commission as well as Executive Committee
 - ii. Working groups will remain on a set schedule.
 - b. Spokesperson
 - i. There is an understanding of the issues of trust within the robust time frame for this process.
 - ii. Spokesperson would be responsible for briefing the SAG, BRCC, and Executive Committee meetings on the working group's progress and collection of issues.
 - iii. Spokesperson does not have to be present, but can attend discussions and brief via teleconference and/or webex.
 - iv. Options:
 1. Neutral spokesperson
 - a. For a simple presentation of notes and recording purposes.
 2. Neutral spokesperson from *within* group can be decided upon.

- 3. Rotating spokesperson, dependent upon issue that is discussed.
- 4. Multiple spokespersons
- v. Comments:
 - 1. Spokesperson would also be the secretary for the group?
 - a. To the discretion of the group, however, group members should be taking their own personal notes. Group summaries will be posted online after meetings.

3. Issues

- a. What is the potential outcome for this process?
 - i. Increased efficiency
 - ii. Make Fish and Game more modern
 - 1. Management to staff ratio
 - 2. Funding sources from many of the groups Fish and Game works with.
 - iii. Ways a typical person can receive better service from Fish and Game on permit review.
 - 1. Having a staff person to particularly handle a person's permitting experience.
 - 2. Paying a little more for better service.
 - iv. Redistribute regional staff back into local communities or have better access to regional issues.
 - v. Improving public-private partnerships.
 - vi. Increased engagements in local issues and initiatives.
 - vii. Improved management, with training in management skills prior to promotion or early on in promotion.
 - 1. Management with better people skills or abilities to deal with public.
 - viii. Improved communication between local advisory commissions and Fish and Game.
 - ix. Better coordination with other state agencies.
 - x. Improved enforcement
 - xi. Have a training program and opportunities for current and incoming staff.

- xii. Hone departmental focus.
 - xiii. Align Fish and Game Commission with the Department of Fish and Game's responsibilities.
 - xiv. Fish and Game focused on the stewardship of the natural resources of California.
 - xv. Fish and Game showing and giving value to partners.
 - xvi. Role of local fish and game commissions should be better defined.
 - xvii. Increased information access.
 - xviii. Increased participation, coordination and collaboration with regional Fish and Game entities.
 - xix. New look at fishing and hunting or "consumptive" uses as a management tool, as opposed to a conflicting force with "non-consumptive" uses.
 - xx. Increased clarity of scientific reasoning behind decision-making.
 - xxi. Cultural shift towards improved relationship between Fish and Game and stakeholders.
 - xxii. Leadership is empowered to make changes within Fish and Game.
 - xxiii. Science unit at headquarters level with a qualified staff for science accountability.
 - xxiv. Managers should have plans in place for Fish and Game initiatives and responsibilities.
 - xxv. New look at the Commission's responsibilities.
 - xxvi. Increased coordination between headquarters' policy and the field's implementation.
 - 1. Increased input from regional Fish and Game entities.
- b. What are the threats to those outcomes?
- i. Schedule
 - 1. Fish and Game will not be able to address the issues presented by this process.
 - ii. Inaction on earlier strategic plans.
 - iii. Finding agreement.
 - iv. Budget.
 - v. Too many expectations, or too specific of issues raised.
 - vi. Resource issues and budget limitations.

- vii. Diverse groups.
 - viii. Resistance to change
 - ix. Presumption that things are broken.
- c. What are the opportunities for this process?
- i. Opportunity to look at new options of management for lands it manages.
 - ii. Diverse, committed group for working on these issues.
 - iii. Taking another look at the budgetary decisions and options that finance Fish and Game.
 - iv. Developing priorities.
 - v. Hone departmental focus
 - vi. A renewed look at the responsibilities of the DFG and their appropriateness for the department.
 - vii. Delegation of issues to the Commission and Department from the Legislature.
 - viii. New look at the Commission
 - 1. Qualifications for commissioners
 - 2. Appointment decisions
 - 3. Number of commissioners
 - ix. Coordination between the Blue Ribbon Citizen Commission and the Stakeholder Advisory Group
 - 1. BRCC has the expertise to help coordinate outcomes of this process.
 - x. Improving partnerships for increased cost-saving opportunities.
 - xi. Increased commission capabilities with increased responsibility.
 - xii. Representation of a variety of stakeholder's views in this process.
 - xiii. Offer tangible goals for the department to reach.
 - xiv. New look at the relationship between regional offices and headquarters.
- d. What are some solutions for dealing with those threats?
- i. Having two phases for the process, for opportunity to have an initial draft and an opportunity to polish those ideas.

- ii. Extension of deadline.
- iii. Positive outlook and public participation.
- iv. Remaining open-minded.
- v. Keep discussion open.
- vi. Department buy-in.
- vii. Working within budgetary limitations.
- viii. Tangible goals.
 - 1. Focus on specific action items.
 - 2. Identify problems and solutions.
- ix. Identify key priorities
- x. Have a list of primary items and usable solutions to present to the BRCC and Executive Committee.
- xi. Don't bite off more than we can chew.

4. Public Comment

a. Speaker:

- i. Needs to distinguish consumptive/non-consumptive users.
- ii. General public are ignored by process, even though they still care about the value and well-being of California resources and wildlife.
- iii. Pro-hunting focus of Commission and Department are lacking in reflecting the opinions and voice of the general public.

b. Speaker:

- i. Can list server be expanded to other public interests so they are included in this process?
 - 1. Answer: List servers were started with the Commission and Department lists, than other interests and public were added. There are at least a thousand people on this list server.
 - a. Input on additions to list server are welcome.
 - 2. Other comment: Have organization leaders forward information on to their group members as well.

5. Comments:

- a. The website provides an opportunity for public comments, other than in the Executive Committee, Blue Ribbon Citizen Commission, and Stakeholder Advisory Group meetings.

- b. Can emails be shared within the group for increased discussion?
 - i. Answer: Yes, but please remember Bagley-Keene when meeting or discussing any issues concerning the group and the number of individuals participating in the discussion.

- 6. Other: Committee follow-up; future meetings
 - a. Next Meeting: Wednesday August 31, 2011 1:00 pm Resources Building, Fish and Game Commission Conference Room. Room 1320
 - 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.