

**DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE**  
**Minutes of the February 5, 2008 Meeting**

The DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE was scheduled for **5:30 p.m. on TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2008 in the CVIC HALL (SECOND FLOOR) 1602 ESMERALDA AVE, MINDEN, NEVADA.**

**PRESENT:** Vice-Chairman Kevin Servatius  
Craig Burnside  
Joe Denton

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Chairman Mike Turnipseed  
Bob Cook

**STAFF:** Lorraine Diedrichsen, Recording Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Elmer Bull, NDOW  
Pat Kelly, NDOW  
Carl Lackey, NDOW  
Eric Scheetz, Private Citizen  
Matt Bernard, Private Citizen

**NOTE:** A tape recording of these proceedings is retained by the Board Chairman and is available for review upon request.

1. **CALL TO ORDER, DETERMINATION OF QUORUM-** Vice Chairman Servatius called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. and determined a quorum was present.
2. **ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 18, 2007** – Motion by Burnside/Denton to approve the minutes as presented; passed 3-0.
3. **MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA** – Kevin Servatius asked to move item 7 before item 6.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS** – None.
5. **DISCLOSURES** – None.
6. **UPDATE REGARDING PROPOSED PIER AT LAKE TAHOE** – Bob sent a brief email advising the developments relating to the pier. He said the E.I.S. was published on January 3, 2008 and will have a 60 day comment period. The proposed pier has been reduced from 375' to 159' but is currently 109'. The pier, as proposed, will interfere with an established fishing hole. Various agencies as well as NDOW will review the plans and give public comment on their findings.  
  
Eric mentioned he was concerned about the length of the pier as well as its impact on the trout fishing.
7. **PRESENTATION BY NDOW WILDLIFE STAFF SPECIALIST ELMER BULL**

**REGARDING PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SHARECROP FARMING PROGRAM AT THE MASON VALLEY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA** – Elmer explained his responsibility for all the wildlife managements areas that NDOW owns or controls through management agreements. There are 11 areas in the state. Pat Kelly is responsible for the day to day operations in the Mason Valley wildlife area as well as 5 other areas. They are speaking to advisory boards to provide information and answer questions regarding the requested change in the farming program.

He said the first part of the Mason Valley Wildlife area was acquired in 1955 and the last part in 1993. The total area is 13,200 acres. Farming has been a part of the operation since the first acquisition and is done to provide food and habitat for wildlife. There are 1200 irrigable acres, with 900 in cultivation and 300 with poor soil condition. The farming program has enhanced this area and should be continued.

State law does not allow NDOW to enter into any contractual agreement for a period longer than 5 years. This presents a problem for farmers because farming plans are long term to help provide for continuing productivity. After 2-3 years into a contract, the farmer may be hesitant to invest money in the ground since there is a possibility the contract won't be renewed. There has been a long, steady decline of soil fertility on the wildlife area. This has led to decreased crop production and increased invasion of weeds.

One of the current farmers is an onion grower and has proposed allowing him to grow onions on the property. This could raise questions from the public as to why onions are being grown on a MVWMA since there is no direct benefit for wildlife. Farmers put large amounts of amendments in the soil, which would improve fertility of the soil. Onions can only be grown on the same field 2 years in a row but, in those 2 years, a tremendous amount of amendments will have been added to the ground. The return on onions is very high so a farmer is willing to put the money into the necessary amendments. After the crop is harvested, the farmer will have to laser level the field and plant winter grain. Currently, it is required that 40% of the ground is wildlife friendly crops and the remainder can be whatever the farmer wants.

8% of the irrigable acres are the proposed starting point for this program so it will not be a big impact on the overall program. The overall benefits will make it worthwhile. It will improve soil conditions, attract bidders, and raise bids.

Joe asked if the contract is flat fee or shared.

Elmer answered shared. A portion of the crop can be sold or left as food or cover for wildlife.

Craig asked if additional revenue would be raised for the department.

Elmer replied it would be but it has not been determined how their portion of the onion crop would be handled. It could be in the form of the check or perhaps the farmer could do projects in other areas of the wildlife management area.

Craig asked if this program would help improve the areas with poor soil condition.

Elmer answered it would.

Kevin asked what the downside to wildlife was. He also asked the maximum acreage being considered for the exploratory program.

Elmer said there is no negative impact. He said 100 acres to start and expand at a later date.

Joe asked about the irrigation demands of an onion crop.

Elmer said it would require 3 a.f. of water per acre of onions.

Carl said he was in support of the proposal.

Kevin thanked Elmer and Pat for their presentation.

**8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SUPPORT PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SHARECROP FARMING PROGRAM AT THE MASON VALLEY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA**

Motion by Denton/Burnside to support the NDOW program at Mason Valley to introduce onions on a sharecropping basis with a limitation of 15% of the acreage; carried 3-0.

**9. REPORT AND DISCUSSION OF POINTS OF INTEREST FROM THE NOVEMBER 2 AND 3, 2007 WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING** – Joe attended and noted there was good public support.

**10. REPORT AND DISCUSSION OF POINTS OF INTEREST FROM THE DECEMBER 17, 2007 TAG ALLOCATION AND APPLICATION HUNT COMMITTEE MEETING** – None.

**11. ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE CONSENT AGENDA. All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are agendized for the February 8 and 9, 2008 Wildlife Commission meeting and may be acted upon by the Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife with one action and without extensive hearing. Any member of the Board or any citizen may request that an item be taken from the consent agenda and acted upon separately during this meeting.**

Craig asked to remove item 11A, Kevin asked to remove item 11D, and Matt asked to remove item 11E.

**11-A. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION REGULATION 07-01, AMENDMENT #1 - MIKE COX. The commission will consider revisions to the 2008 big game hunting seasons for selected hunt units.**

Craig wanted to discuss the bi-state herds and the request to include some tags earlier in the season.

Carl said many people requested a split season to increase tags in the area and give youth a chance to hunt. It would be early and late for all 3 hunt classes. The benefits would be two different herds, more tags, and a reduction in hunter congestion.

Matt asked what the rationale was for compressing all the seasons.

Carl responded the recommendation was a split season but somehow there was a miscommunication and the motion was made to keep it all in December and it was approved.

Matt asked why it was done since there was not increased opportunity and there was increased density in the field. There seemed to be no advantage.

Carl said it would get some of the hunt out of the rut and have the migratory portion of the herd. He added that they are trying to amend the season this year since a compressed season is not what was recommended.

Kevin said he had heard the hunt quality was sensational.

Matt said in the past wildlife was managed to increase opportunity as opposed to trophy hunts.

The support material was reviewed, discussed, and clarified relating to compressed seasons and split seasons for both youth and adult.

Motion by Servatius/Denton supporting the revisions made for the 2008 big game hunting seasons identified on page 5 for Units 192, 194, and 196. This motion supports the concept of a separate early and late season for both youth and adult hunters with the hopes of improving hunt opportunity for both age groups; carried 3-0.

**11-B. ACTION REGARDING ELK DAMAGE, ELK INCENTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT, AND REVISION TO NEVADA ADMINISTRATIVE CODES 502.42259, 502.42261, 502.42263, 502.42266 - CHAIRMAN CLINT BENTLEY AND RUSS MASON.** The commission will consider and may take action on proposed changes to elk damage and elk incentive language.

**11-C. ACTION REGARDING APPEAL OF TODD ECKHARDT.** Mr. Todd Eckhardt appealed for reinstatement of his elk and desert bighorn sheep bonus points at the November commission meeting. Action was postponed to the February meeting pending research from the commission's legal counsel.

**11-D. ACTION REGARDING BIG GAME WAITING PERIODS - COMMISSIONER JEFFRESS.** The commission will be asked to take action on a recommendation from the Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee ("TAAHC") to allow successful draw applicants to return a tag for any reason.

Craig read from the November minutes of the Commission meeting and reviewed the conditions eligible for return, refunds, and process for reallocation applied to the return of tags for big game. All members support the recommendation.

Eric wondered if abuse could occur if this recommendation is adopted.

Matt recalled the organized effort that occurred years ago by a group of anti hunters to keep hunters out of the field by buying tags and not using them.

Motion by Servatius/Burnside to support item 11D as stated; carried 3-0.

**11-E. ACTION REGARDING REVIEW OF THE 2008 JUNIOR DEER HUNT QUOTA DEVELOPMENT PROCESS - WILDLIFE STAFF SPECIALIST MIKE COX.** The commission will be asked to reaffirm its position on the junior deer hunt quota development process.

Craig noted the lack of support material for this item.

Matt asked what the allocation for the youth hunt was last year.

Craig said the number was 3,000.

Kevin said the youth tags were reallocated across all of the units using a demand/quota formula.

Matt said each year there are less tags for youth. He is concerned about less opportunity for youth by changing the quota.

Motion by Servatius/Denton to support the allocation process for youth tags that was used in 2007. In addition, youth quotas held at minimum to the numbers approved in 2007; carried 3-0.

- 12. DISCUSSION REGARDING INFORMATIONAL REPORTS TO BE PRESENTED AT THE FEBRUARY 8 AND 9, 2008 WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING.** A report on each of the following informational items will be provided by a Nevada Department of Wildlife representative or a Wildlife Commissioner at the upcoming Commission meeting.

**12-A. WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES - DIRECTOR MAYER AND COMMISSIONER McNINCH**

**12-B. CLARK COUNTY SHOOTING PARK - COMMISSIONER LURIE**

**12-C. STATUS OF GRAY WOLF DELISTING AND OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO NEVADA - WILDLIFE STAFF SPECIALIST KEVIN LANSFORD**

**12-D. WILD LAND BLACK BEAR POPULATION ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC OPINION - WILDLIFE STAFF SPECIALIST KEVIN LANSFORD AND CHIEF OF CONSERVATION EDUCATION KELLY CLARK**

Carl said before a hunt is proposed, it is necessary to know the composition, density, and distribution of the huntable population of bears. Nuisance bear population is a separate situation and should be treated differently than the hunt. 2010 is the earliest year a hunt could occur.

Kevin supports a limited hunt to raise funds.

**12-E. GREAT BASIN ECOSYSTEM HEALTH INITIATIVE - WILDLIFE STAFF HEALTH SPECIALIST MARK ATKINSON**

**12-F. HIGHLY PATHENOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA - WILDLIFE STAFF HEALTH SPECIALIST MARK ATKINSON**

**12-G. TROUT PRODUCTION PROGRAM - CHIEF OF FISHERIES RICH HASKINS AND WILDLIFE STAFF SPECIALIST DAVE SANGER**

**12-H. STATUS OF SAGE GROUSE AND OTHER SAGEBRUSH ECOSYSTEM ISSUES - WILDLIFE STAFF SPECIALIST SHAWN ESPINOSA**

**12-I. DEPARTMENT BUDGET - DEPUTY DIRECTOR DOUG HUNT**

**12-J. AUDIT COMPLIANCE UPDATE - DEPUTY DIRECTOR DOUG HUNT**

**12-K. DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES REPORT - DIRECTOR KEN MAYER**

**12-L. WHITE PINE COUNTY ELK MANAGEMENT PLAN, 2007 REVISION - LARRY GILBERTSON.** The commission will hear a summary of the final Whit Pine County Elk Management Plan.

**12-M. APPLICATION HUNT SYSTEM (“AHS”) 2008 UPDATES - CHIEF OF OPERATIONS BOB HAUGHIAN AND DON SEFTON**

**12-N. SILVER STATE TAG UPDATE - CHIEF OF OPERATIONS BOB HAUGHIAN**

**12-O. GREAT BASIN PARK UPDATE - CHIEF OF HABITAT DAVE PULLIAM**

**12-P. STATUS OF WATER AND WATER RIGHTS AT OVERTON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA - CHIEF OF HABITAT DAVE PULLIAM**

**12-Q. LITIGATION REPORT - DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL DAVID NEWTON**

**13. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING BOARD MEMBER COMMITMENTS TO UPCOMING WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS** – Craig will attend the Winnemucca meeting. Joe and Kevin will attend the May meeting in Reno.

**14. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO SCHEDULE NEXT DCABMW MEETING.** The next meeting of the DCABMW is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, March 18, 2008.

**15. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Update on Lake Tahoe pier
- DCABMW budget
- Recording secretary time sheet

**16. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT** – Motion by Burnside/Denton to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.; carried 3-0

The minutes of February 5, 2008 meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 18<sup>h</sup> day of March, 2008