

DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE
Minutes of the May 12, 2009 Meeting

The DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE was scheduled for **5:30 p.m. on TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2009 in the CVIC HALL (SECOND FLOOR) 1602 ESERALDA AVE, MINDEN, NEVADA.**

PRESENT: Chairman Mike Turnipseed
Vice-Chairman Kevin Servatius
Craig Burnside
Eric Scheetz
Bob Cook

PUBLIC PRESENT: Carl Lackey, NDOW
Tyler Johnson
Mike Gabor, U. S. Forest Service
Doug Martin, Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

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** – Chairman Turnipseed called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and determined a quorum was present.
2. **ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 24, 2009** – MOTION by Cook/Servatius to approve the minutes as presented; carried unanimously.
3. **MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA** – None.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS** – Doug Martin talked about a newspaper article regarding sage grouse and the management plan.
5. **DISCLOSURES** – Chairman Turnipseed mentioned emails received regarding Gerry Lent and Bud Sonnentag and added he invited Tyler Johnson to tonight's meeting.

Bob Cook said he had contact with Doug Martin from Nevada Conservation District regarding the quotas in Area 192 and the road closures on Kingsbury. Additionally, he talked to Terri Marceron, Forest Service Supervisor, regarding attendance at tonight's meeting. He talked to Chief LeFever, Tahoe Douglas Fire, and Cam McKay, KGID, regarding the road closures.

Eric Scheetz said he exchanged emails with Mike Cox and Carl Lackey. He also contacted the Douglas County Comptroller's office regarding the board's budget.

Craig Burnside had conversations with Carl Lackey regarding turkeys on Highway 395S.

6. **REPORT AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE DISCUSSION BY THE USFS REPRESENTATIVE REGARDING THE CLOSURE OF THE GATES IN UNIT 192-KINGBURY GRADE/ SPOONER LAKE AREA**

Mike Gabor, U.S Forest Service, provided a history of the road closure (1981) and said the gate on Spooner is in the Humboldt-Toiyabe. That gate closure is coordinated with the Forest Service gate closure. He drove the road on November 18, 2009 and found 2' of snow at the top which had been driven on and resulted in damage to the road bed.

In regard to wildlife and the hunting season, they are required to close the gate by the stated date by Forest Service order. To change that policy, they would have to hold a public comment period to accept comments from other constituents in the basin. Snow records show that is the time snow accumulates in that area and that is what the closure is based on. There is only flexibility in the forest plan to close the gate earlier or open it later; not open it earlier or close it later.

Kevin Servatius discussed the hunts that occur at the times the gates are closed and suggested the regulations be highlighted to indicate there is no vehicular access except snowmobiles.

Chairman Turnipseed thought the supervisor or staff should have the flexibility to leave the gates open if there is no snow.

Mike Gabor explained the process to change the gate closures and the six month timeline to do so. He suggested the board write a letter and address the changes in the hunting regulations.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Doug Martin stated he would place this item on the Carson City agenda and would recommend crafting a letter in support of the gate closing later and suggested the addition of a gate 1,000' higher for staging purposes. A single letter could be drafted and signed by both Advisory Boards.

Public comment closed.

The board agreed to draft a letter suggesting an alternative date for the gate closure and a mid level gate. Reasons cited for these suggestions will include the changes to the hunting seasons and global warming.

7. REPORT AND DISCUSSION OF POINTS OF INTEREST FROM THE MARCH 27 AND 28, 2009 WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING – Chairman Turnipseed, Bob Cook, and Eric Scheetz attended. Topic included:

- Workshop for CAB members
- Advisory Board manual
- Financing for NDOW
- Upcoming legislation

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT SECTION OF DOUGLAS COUNTY'S MASTER PLAN – KEVIN SERVATIUS

Kevin Servatius presented the sections referencing wildlife in Douglas County's Master Plan. Those sections were Habitat & Wildlife Vegetation which shows deer migration zones and Deer Road Kills. The Master Plan will be updated in 2010 and it may be useful to put more teeth in

this at that time. The board could hold a workshop by the end of this year to create a document that could be incorporated into the Master Plan update.

9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE DEER HERD MANAGEMENT PLAN – ERIC SCHEETZ

Eric Scheetz said this is integrated with Douglas County’s Master Plan. Copies of the herd plans (Areas 19 & 29) were distributed to the board members. He stated he is interested in a Strategic Plan for Douglas County to provide a clear strategy, mission, goals, and objectives relating to deer management and other wildlife and integrate it into the Master Plan. He is seeking board approval to gather, organize and analyze data and to do trend analysis to provide definitive information that is reliable for the public. His focus would be with the sportsman in mind.

Chairman Turnipseed said the board has tried not to interfere with the information provided by the biologists but thought the biologists would welcome thoughts on trends and data.

Kevin Servatius suggested making it broader than game species and supported the idea.

Carl Lackey talked about the development of the herd plans and noted they were a “wish list” that would be used to identify the issues. The plans are still considered “*drafts*” since they were never finalized. He indicated he supported this idea.

Eric Scheetz explained he would like to see habitat improvement for the wildlife such as guzzlers, replacement of the cheat grass, and the purchase of land.

No action taken but the board indicated support for this undertaking and suggested having this as a standing agenda item.

10. ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE CONSENT AGENDA. All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are agendized for the May 15 and 16, 2009 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.

Eric Scheetz asked to remove 10C for discussion.

Chairman Turnipseed asked to remove 10F for discussion.

Craig Burnside asked to remove item 10J for discussion.

MOTION by Burnside/Cook to approve the consent calendar minus item 10C, 10F and 10J; carried unanimously.

10-A. ACTION REGARDING WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES CONFERENCE (WAFWA) - CHAIRMAN GERALD A. LENT. The Commission will designate one Commission representative to attend the annual WAFWA conference being held in Newport Beach, California, July 10-15, 2009.

10-B. ACTION REGARDING WILDLIFE HERITAGE PROJECTS -

COMMISSIONER CAVIN. The Commission's Heritage Committee will provide recommendations to the Commission for approval of projects submitted for funding in fiscal year 2009.

10-C. ACTION REGARDING COUNTY ADVISORY BOARDS TO MANAGE WILDLIFE BUDGET REQUESTS - DAVE PRATHER. In accordance with NRS 501.320 the Commission will be asked to approve budget requests for the 17 County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife.

Eric Scheetz addressed the board's proposed budget and the possible shortfall of \$2,800 in the travel budget. He would be willing to justify this and was seeking board approval to do so.

The board indicated approval of that action.

10-D. ACTION REGARDING WILDLIFE RELATED LEGISLATION - SENATE BILL 411 - CHAIRMAN GERALD A. LENT. The Commission will hear a report from the Commission's Legislative Committee on Senate Bill 411, revising provisions governing the issuance of hunting, fishing and trapping licenses, and may vote to support or oppose.

10-E. COMMISSION POLICIES, FIRST READINGS - COMMISSIONER SCOTT RAINE. In accordance with Commission Policy #1, the Commission will hear first readings of the following policies, to review the Administrative Procedures, Regulations and Policy Committee changes:

- (a) Commission Policy #2, "Sale of Publications"
- (b) Commission Policy #21, "Game and Furbearer Management"
- (c) Commission Policy #22, "Introduction, Transplanting and Exportation"

10-F. ACTION REGARDING U.S. FOREST SERVICE NORTHEASTERN NEVADA TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLANS AND STAFF REPORTS - CHIEF OF HABITAT DAVE PULLIAM. The Commission will review Nevada Department of Wildlife staff reports on U.S. Forest Service Northeastern Nevada Travel Management Plans and may take action to direct staff to draft a letter to the U.S. Forest Service concerning travel management plans on behalf of the Wildlife Commission.

Chairman Turnipseed stated uncertainty with this.

Craig Burnside thought some of the comments made by NDOW were good especially relating to historical roads and new roads created by OHVs.

Kevin Servatius talked about the recovery of roads that have been closed.

Eric Scheetz related concerns about access to Tierney Creek/Arc Dome and wondered how he should pursue this.

Kevin Servatius noted reasonable access must be made available if the landowner is receiving landowner tags.

Craig Burnside noted the omission by the Forest Service of roads that were behind private property and stated his concern that access would eventually be moved further down the mountain.

No action was taken.

10-G. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 363 (PERMANENT) - CHIEF GAME WARDEN ROB BUONAMICI. The Commission may adopt regulation relating to watercraft; defining motorboat which is used for hire. This revision places “toy share” companies under the same provisions as boat rental companies. *Note: This item is agendized as part of an informational workshop on Friday, May 15th, and for action on Saturday, May 16th.*

10-H. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 368 (TEMPORARY) - PROGRAM OFFICER III MAUREEN HULLINGER. The proposed regulation change would establish language providing the general public with access to big game draw results 48 hours after the computerized system draw is complete. *Note: This item is agendized as part of an informational workshop on Friday, May 15th, and for action on Saturday, May 16th.*

10-I. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 369 (TEMPORARY) - CHIEF GAME WARDEN ROB BUONAMICI. The Commission may establish provisions pertaining to defining edible portion in the case of big game mammal, other game mammals, game birds and game fish. *Note: This item is agendized as part of an informational workshop on Friday, May 15th, and for action on Saturday, May 16th.*

10-J. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION REGULATION 09-07 - BIG GAME BIOLOGIST MIKE COX. The Commission will establish regulations for the numbers of tags to be issued for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep and mountain goats for 2009-2010.

Craig Burnside said the board has always been big proponents of the youth tag and have voted youth tags should never go below 3,000. Last year it did.

Kevin Servatius said, due to the drought, there has been a mathematically proportional drop in tags.

Craig Burnside did not understand the percentage drops in the youth tags, rifle tags, muzzleloader tags, archery tags, and resident tags.

Carl Lackey said the youth tags are now part of the demand/success process.

Craig Burnside cited tag numbers in various units and hunts for youth tags versus the number of tags in the general rifle hunts and asked for an explanation of those numbers. He would expect all the tags to go down and not just the youth tags.

Carl Lackey responded it had to do with demand/success or compacting issues.

Kevin Servatius discussed the archery hunts and said those numbers are being reduced. The data for archery was reviewed and he said he would like to see 6 tags on the early hunt and 6 tags on

the late hunt. The deer herd can support it. He pointed out the big increases in the sheep.

MOTION by Scheetz/Cook to recommend the biologist's recommendations on the quotas;

Craig Burnside stated he is disappointed youth tags are being reduced by the amount suggested.

MOTION; carried unanimously.

10-K. ACTION REGARDING APPEAL - MR. GUY W. ROZAR. The Commission will hear a request from Mr. Rozar to receive a bull elk tag/and or his bonus points reinstated.

- 11. DISCUSSION REGARDING INFORMATIONAL REPORTS TO BE PRESENTED AT THE MAY 15 AND 16, 2009 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.

11-A. CORRESPONDENCE - CHAIRMAN GERALD A. LENT. The commission will review and may discuss written items sent or received by the Commission since the last regular meeting and provide copies for the exhibit file.

11-B. ONLINE HUNT APPLICATION CHANGES/AMENDMENTS AFTER APPLICATION SUBMISSION - CHAIRMAN GERALD A. LENT.

11-C. NEVADA WILDLIFE DATA SYSTEM ELECTRONIC DUCK STAMP PRIVILEGE - CHIEF OF OPERATIONS BOB HAUGHIAN.

11-D. COMMERCIAL WIND ENERGY PROJECT IN LINCOLN COUNTY - CORY LYTLE, LINCOLN COUNTY RESOURCE COMMITTEE GROUP.

11-E. SPRING VALLEY STIPULATED AGREEMENT - CHIEF OF HABITAT DAVE PULLIAM.

Chairman Turnipseed talked about the agreement signed in 2006.

11-F. CLARK COUNTY SHOOTING PARK - VICE CHAIRMAN RON LURIE.

11-G. 2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE - MANAGEMENT ANALYST III KIM JOLLY.

11-H. FINANCE COMMITTEE - COMMISSIONER RON LURIE.

11-I. LITIGATION REPORT - DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL NHU NGUYEN.

11-J. DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES/LEADERSHIP TEAM NOTES - SECRETARY KEN MAYER.

11-K. WOLF HYBRID OWNERSHIP IN NEVADA - CHIEF GAME WARDEN ROB BUONAMICI AND CHIEF OF GAME MARK ATKINSON.

11-L. BIG GAME HERD STATUS, HARVEST ANALYSIS AND QUOTA

DEVELOPMENT - BIG GAME BIOLOGIST MIKE COX.

- 12. ACTION REGARDING FUTURE COMMISSION MEETING - DIRECTOR KEN MAYER.** The next Commission meeting is scheduled for June 26 and 27, 2009, in Lovelock; and the Commission will review potential agenda items for that meeting. The chairman may designate and adjust committee assignments and create new committees.

No discussion on this item.

- 13. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER COMMITMENTS TO UPCOMING WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS.**

Eric Scheetz will attend the Reno meeting and Chairman Turnipseed will attend the Lovelock meeting.

- 14. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO SCHEDULE NEXT DCABMW MEETING.**

The next meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, 2009.

- 15. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Wildlife Plan
- Douglas County Community Assessment/Wildlife component missing

- 16. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT.**

MOTION by Burnside/Cook to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm; carried unanimously.

The minutes of the May 12, 2009 meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 23rd day of June, 2009

Mike Turnipseed, Chairman