

Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board

Minutes

November 30, 2009

The Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board met in the Administrative Facility on November 30, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Chris Torres, Chad Bliss, Mike Taylor and Jim Evans

Members Absent: Dale Hornickle

Others Present: Mike Podborny-NDOW, Jake Tibbitts- Natural Resources Manager, and Kathy Porter-Natural Resources Assistant

Call to order

Chairman Torres called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. A quorum was determined to be present.

Review and Approve Minutes-

The minutes of the September 22, 2009 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved, on a motion made by Chad Bliss and seconded by Mike Taylor.

Correspondence and reports

Mr. Bliss reported that the Committee is still working on language for the Silver State Tag. Mr. Bliss reported that the last Committee meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for this Wednesday, December 02, 2009. The committee is currently formulating a simple format for applying for the Silver State Tag. The board discussed a check off format to keep it simple and also to keep the cost down. Chairman Torres recommended 1-2 deer and elk tags to establish the Silver State Tag. Mr. Bliss does not feel the Committee will have the language and application protocol prepared for this next hunting season of 2010. Mr. Bliss stressed again the importance of perfecting the protocol the first time and also having time to advertise. The board agreed that ample advertisement is important for hunters to know about and understand what the Silver State Tag is and for the success of the Silver State Tag.

The board discussed approaching the County for funding of wildlife and wildlife habitat projects with the county. These funds could possibly be used as matching funds for Heritage Projects. Mr. Bliss suggested Juniper and Pinyon treatments around springs and troughs. Mr. Tibbitts informed the board of the 3 Bars Landscape Restoration Project that the BLM has in the planning process. Mr. Podborny commented that it would probably be easier to complete a project within the BLM's project area. Mr. Tibbitts confirmed the BLM will begin the EIS process very soon. Mr. Tibbitts will contact Doug Furtado, Field Manager to invite him or a wildlife biologist to begin discussions on projects. Mr. Tibbitts will also begin putting a word in to the County Commissioners.

Later in the budget planning process the Eureka CAB can then approach the Commissioners for funding.

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Agenda and support material

The Board reviewed, discussed, and took action on a few of the support materials and agenda items for the upcoming Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' meeting. Any item that was not acted upon was either not of concern to the Board or there was not enough information to take any action. The specific items discussed and acted upon are as follows:

Reports-Informational

1. Action Item 3: Central Nevada Elk Plan Coordination and Oversight Team

Mr. Ray H. Williams Lander County commissioner nominated to replace Mrs. Midge Carver.

The Eureka CAB decided not to act on this item since Mr. Williams is replacing Mrs. Carver and there was no opinion about Mr. Williams ability.

2. Action Item 4/11: Commission General Regulation 370- LCB File No. R082-09

Take bullfrogs or crayfish without obtaining a license or permit.

Mike Taylor moved to support regulation 370, Chad Bliss seconded, motion carried unanimously.

3. Action Item 5/12: Commission General Regulation 372

New Language for defining certain antelope, elk and deer physical descriptions for hunting.

Mr. Bliss moved to support new language for defining certain antelope, elk and deer physical descriptions for hunting. Jim Evans seconded, motion carried unanimously.

4. Action Item: 6/13 Commission General Regulation 370

Regulation relating to wildlife management areas: providing that only vessels without motors may be used during certain periods on the Dacey Reservoir in the Wayne E. Kirch Wildlife Management Area.

Wildlife Biologist Mike Podborny informed the Eureka CAB that most other reservoirs have some motor restrictions. Dacey Reservoir is a small reservoir and one of the only reservoirs that does not have motor restrictions. Mr. Bliss brought to the attention of the board that some boats like bass boats are unable to remove their motors. Mr. Bliss suggested that language be incorporated into the restrictions to allow for these specific situation such as allowing these boats when there are no keys on board, no gas in tank, or propeller is removed. Mr. Evans moved to support vessels without motors during certain periods on Dacey Reservoir in the Wayne E. Kirch Wildlife Management Area. Mr. Taylor seconded, motion carried unanimously.

5. Action Item:7/14 Commission General Regulation 376-

Expanding the permissible radius of a cast net used in certain waters.

Mr. Bliss moved to support the expansion of the permissible radius of a cast net used in certain waters. Mr. Taylor seconded, motion carried unanimously.

6. Action Item: 8/15 Commission Policies

Commission's Administrative Procedures, Regulation Committee to Commissions Policy #50, #51, #22.

A. It was discussed that some CAB's have already had their meetings this month and the information on the policy changes of #50-Duck Stamp Procedure were not e-mailed out until today (11/30). Some CAB's will not have seen the procedures, regulations and policies before the Commission meeting on Friday and this could prove to be problematic. However, Mr. Taylor moved to support policy #50. Mr. Evans seconded, motion carried unanimously.

B. Recommendation for Commission Policy Number 51- Wayne E. Kirch Nevada Wildlife Conservation Award.

It was questioned who will fund the printing and administration costs if the department does not. It was also questioned why the reason for the change? Was the current policy not working? No one had an answer. Mr. Taylor moved not to support the changes to policy number 22 because there seemed no reason for the changes. Mr. Bliss seconded, motion carried unanimously.

C. Recommendation for Commission Policy Number 22- Introduction, Transplanting and Exportation of Wildlife

The Eureka CAB discussed the difference in the use the words previously or currently. Wildlife Biologist Mike Podborny reported his problem with number 6 -(the Big Game Release plan must include source population of animals to be released) because when writing a plan two or more years prior to release, the biologists are uncertain of the source until months before the animals are released. It was discussed that the definition of source population is very ambiguous and that the source could be stated in a very general area (i.e., Nevada bighorn or Intermountain West Mountain Quail). Mr. Bliss was concerned with number 12. While Mr. Bliss stressed the importance of protecting property rights he also stated this could put one special interest group against another. Without a clear definition of affected entities with pecuniary interest, efforts will be stymied as number 12 would lengthen the process and slow down the transplant. It was also pointed out that notifying the property owner's or permittees is currently being done by NDOW. Notifying the public is also already done through the environmental analysis that the BLM requires. It was questioned why the need for the change. Mr. Taylor moved not to support the recommendation until items are simplified or clarified and there are clear definitions in place to how number 12 will be accomplish. Mr. Bliss seconded, motion carried unanimously.

7. Action Item 16: Biennial Big Game Release Plan for Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011

Mr. Bliss moved to support the release plan. Mr. Taylor seconded, motion carried unanimously.

8. Action Item17: Wildlife Damage Management Committee

Recommendation for Commission approval of proposed Heritage Program projects.

No one had information regarding the Nevada Alliance for Wildlife. There was confusion in the difference between the Department's proposals and the individual group's proposals being they were in the same areas and had the same project numbers. No recommendation was given due to a lack of information and confusion in the proposals.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 1, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Mr. Podborny reported that Commissioner Scott Rain had requested and flew with Mr. Podborny during a deer survey.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Bliss and seconded by Mr. Taylor to adjourn. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____ 2009.

Respectfully submitted: _____, Secretary
Kathy Porter

Approved: _____, Chairman
Chris Torres