



Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 9, 2010
Location: Meeting Room: Art Room, William Pearson Community Center
1625 W. Carey Ave., North Las Vegas, Nevada 89032
Time: 6:00pm
Board Members Present: Paul Dixon, Chair Tracy Truman, Vice Chair Paul Harris
Gary Pratt John Sullivan John Michael Reese

The agenda for this meeting was posted in the following locations;

- Nevada Department of Wildlife, 4747 West Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89158;
- Clark County Government Center, 500 Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89108;
- City of Henderson, City Hall, 240 Water Street, Henderson, Nevada, 89015;
- Boulder City, City Hall, 401 California Avenue, Boulder City, Nevada, 89005;
- Laughlin Town Manager's Office; 101 Civic Way, Laughlin, Nevada, 89028;
- Moapa Valley Community Center, 320 North Moapa Valley Road, Overton, Nevada, 89040;
- Mesquite City Hall, 10 East Mesquite Boulevard, Mesquite, Nevada, 89027.

Date: March 3, 2010

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Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm by Paul Dixon.
- b. Roll call of Board Members was performed by Stacy Matthews. A quorum was present.
- c. The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on January 26th, 2009 were approved as written.
- d. The Agenda for this meeting was approved as written.

Public Comment:

- a. Mike Reese addressed Commissioner McBeath asking him to intervene on behalf of the CCABMW to obtain permission to hold the May 4th, 2010 meeting of the CCABMW at the Clark County Shooting Park. Board members have been in contact with Don Turner at the Shooting Park. The Shooting Park requires fee payment for use of meeting space, but the CCABMW has no budget for such fees. The CCABMW attempted to use the facilities under the NDOW educational use charter. Commissioner McBeath agreed to help. Mike

added that Senator John Lee is Chairman of the advisory board for the Shooting Park and may be able to help.

With no further input, Public Comment was closed.

Informational – Committee and Member Updates

A. Review of February 5th Wildlife Commission Meeting Actions- Paul Dixon

- 1. February Finance Committee Update on NDOW budgets by department**
 - a. Deputy Director Cates is in process of breaking up the NDOW budget into smaller distinct pieces to make management of NDOW funds easier. Commissioner McBeath endorsed the efforts of the Finance Committee in stating that they have made great strides to break up the wildlife accounts by division. This will be a great step forward.
 - b. The CABs were asked to submit their budgets. Stacy Matthews has drafted a tentative budget for the CCABMW (to be discussed later in this meeting).
- 2. Sheep discussions lead to Heritage going to 1 tag FY10 (Major Cab not in favor) and PIW going to 1 tag FY11 (Late input with no backup by Commissioner Raines)**
 - a. Considerable discussion at the Commission Meeting regarding the Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep influenza outbreak in the East Humboldt and Ruby Mountains. So far Desert and California Bighorn Sheep have not been affected. Nevada has chosen to use antibiotic injections to fight the disease rather than euthanizing entire herds (as other states have done).
 - b. Paul Harris summarized the actions of the Commission regarding Heritage Fund and Desert Bighorn tags for FY2010 and FY2011 as well as PIW and Silver State tags for Desert Bighorn. The reduction of Heritage tags from 2 to 1 is projected to be a loss of \$50K-\$100K. Commissioner McBeath stated last year 5 PIW tags and 2 Heritage tags were all issued for the same location. Which resulted in move to reduce special tags. He was opposed to cutting tags as they are a money making option in time of cutting budgets.
 - c. Paul Harris added comment that Chairman Lent made good on his threat that Nevada Bighorns Unlimited would not have a tag at its annual banquet this year.
- 3. Overall mood due to state budget crisis and impacts on NDOW/Heritage**
 - a. Extensive discussion at the Commission Meeting regarding the Heritage Fund and the State budget crisis. Assembly Speaker Barbara Buckley was alleged to be wanting to “sweep” up any unspent funds (including Heritage) to help meet State budget needs. Paul Dixon, Paul Harris, and Commissioner McBeath determined that this was not true, and that these actions were coming from the Governor’s office.
 - b. A letter from Paul Dixon to Sportsmen regarding the NDOW budget and the support it receives from the State’s General Fund had significant impact on the

outcome of the NDOW budget. The cuts in the NDOW budget were not as extensive as were originally proposed.

4. **Commission draft minutes additional items for discussion.** Discussion regarding the Board of Wildlife Commissioners Draft Minutes February 5th – February 6th, 2010. (Draft minutes are available upon request to Stacy Matthews (702) 455-2705 (smatthews@co.clark.nv.us) or at www.ndow.org/learn/com/mtg/)

B. Budget Town Hall meeting Feb 13 at Grant Sawyer Bldg debrief- Paul Dixon

1. Commissioner McBeath summarized the meeting with help from Paul Dixon and Paul Harris. The meeting was well attended and many used the forum to express their concerns. Few presentations at the meeting cited numbers as part of their argument. Paul Dixon worked with NDOW Deputy Director Cates to be able to state actual numbers regarding budgeted funds, matching funds, etc. Clear statement of those numbers helped Speaker Buckley ensure necessary funds were not cut during the recent Special Session of the Legislature.

Action Items

A. Trail Camera Use

1. Presentation by Officer Pfiffner
 - a) Presentation
 - Trail cameras are legal in Nevada. No restrictions for use on public lands.
 - No baiting regulations in Nevada. Most western states allow trail cameras with no restrictions.
 - Arizona and Utah encourage use of cameras for recording of wildlife.
 - b) Discussion
 - Mike Reese asked how many calls does NDOW get for damaged or stolen cameras. Answer: probably 10-15 per year
 - Gary Pratt asked if NDOW gets involved with enforcement when cameras are damaged or stolen. Answer: That kind of enforcement is up to the local jurisdiction.
 - General advice, record serial numbers of any trail cameras you use.
 - Mike Reese asked about trap line regulations and use of remote access trail cameras. Answer: no regulations.
 - John Sullivan asked about baiting for trail cameras. Answer: Officer Pfiffner expressed the concern that baiting over a period of time would alter the animal's normal pattern and increase the likelihood of the animal being in the area during the hunt.
 - Mike Reese asked if there has been any assessment of use of trail cameras leading to poaching. Officer Pfiffner answered that there is no data at this time.
 - Technology will continue to advance and it is important to ensure any regulations proposed and enacted adequately address proper use of trail cameras.
2. A motion was made that this item be tabled and studied further. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

B. Swan and Crane Tags

1. Discussion on opening of the issuance of swan and crane tags to Southern Nevada (Nye, Lincoln, and Clark Counties).
 - a. Based on input from Craig Mortimer (waterfowl biologist), swan populations are not growing. Mike Reese is not in favor of issuing tags.
 - b. Commissioner McBeath reminded attendees of the Waterfowl Summit to be held in August at the NDOW offices in Las Vegas and recommended attendance.
2. Motion made and seconded to table discussion of swan and crane tags based on available information. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Wild Horse Round Ups & Removal of Horses

1. Discussion on the recent Wild Horse round ups and the issue of removing wild horses from the open ranges in Nevada
 - a. The Commission agreed and sent the drafted letter to Secretary Salazar regarding the wild horse roundup in Nevada.
 - b. George Knapp of Channel 8 has been reporting on the round-up recently
 - c. There is a strong need for positive publicity promoting the round-up of wild horses.
 - d. Commissioner Howell believes all stallions should be gelded to reduce herd growth.
 - e. Status of Wine Cup Ranch acquisition is uncertain at this time. Current owners are looking into making it a wild horse preserve.
 - f. Commissioner McBeath is concerned about Congressional action and recommends keeping an eye on this issue. Get the message out about how the current wild horse populations are impacting Nevada's wildlife. Take photos of herds and damage.
 - g. Mike Reese asked if NDOW can provide some education materials on the wild horse herds and the damage they cause. Officer Pfiffner said that falls under the Conservation Education Division at NDOW. Commissioner McBeath or Paul Dixon will make a request for information.
 - h. Commissioner McBeath recommended talking with Kelly Clark, NDOW Director of Conservation Education, about options for making wild horse information available through NDOW. Need to know where information and funding will come from. BLM could be very interested.
 - i. Tracy Truman asked if any analysis had been done on horses in Nevada only. Commissioner McBeath indicated that data on BLM website has most information as over 60% of the wild horse population is in Nevada. Further work needs to be done to educate Nevada's Congressional representatives.
 - j. John Sullivan recommended emails to Congressional representatives and Senators from the CCABMW board members and concerned public. Recommended having a BLM Horse expert to present for the May 4th CCABMW meeting.
 - k. Gary Pratt observed that many of the "wild" horses have brands on them and the truly wild horses are in poor physical shape. Any education campaign needs to include facts like these as well.

2. Action Items
 - a. John Sullivan will try to arrange for a BLM speaker for the May 4th meeting.
 - b. Mike Reese will talk with Kelly Clark regarding education options.
3. No recommendation to the Commission at this time.

D. Transmission Line Planning Survey

1. Paul Dixon summarized the issue and his conversations with Corey Lytle, Chair of the Lincoln County CAB.
2. Information from Corey shows many wind and solar projects in planning stages.
3. Sage Grouse has been classified as “protected” not “endangered” so this has opened Sage Grouse habitat areas for development.
4. Paul Dixon offered support and assistance to Corey as many Clark County residents hunt and fish in Lincoln County.
5. Gary Pratt noted that areas once designated as wilderness areas have been reclassified to allow wind farms to be built.
6. Paul Dixon added that wind and solar facilities require transmission lines and that solar installations require extensive amounts of water as well.
7. Paul Dixon will continue to interact with Corey, and this item will remain on the Agenda going forward with potential actions as this evolves.
8. Commissioner McBeath added input on the Sage Grouse issue in that BLM had a requirement that no development within a quarter-mile of a Sage Grouse lek where the state wanted a two mile radius.
9. Jon Sjoberg, Dept. of Wildlife, noted that the Sage Grouse protection was “warranted but not precluded” and that having the Sage Grouse as a “candidate” species on the protected list, BLM will treat it differently.
10. No action taken.

E. Discussion regarding the Board of Wildlife Commissioners Draft Agenda March 19th & 20th, 2010.

1. Changes to Commission Meeting Draft Agenda.

- Paul Dixon discussed revisions and amendments to the Draft Commission Meeting Agenda, in particular, an item where the Commission was to discuss the actions of NDOW Director Mayer. This item was removed in the final Agenda.
- Paul believes the Commission wants to have Director Mayer removed prior to the Gubernatorial elections.
- Paul will draft a letter of endorsement of Director Mayer for review and action at the next CABMW meeting in May.

2. **Commission General Regulation 380, Application Amendment, LCB File No. R155-09** – A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify a regulation change

that would allow a tag applicant to withdraw or amend an application previously submitted.

- a. This is a formalization of proposals reviewed by the CCABMW previously.
 - b. The proposed wording option approved by the CCABMW is included in this regulation change.
 - c. Estimated cost to implement: \$12K. Projected revenue: \$28K.
 - d. Motion was made to approve Regulation change as written and seconded. In Favor:5, Opposed: 1 (Mike Reese). Motion Passed
3. **Commission General Regulation 354, Silver State Tag, LCB File No. R196-09** – A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise adopt a proposed regulation change that would establish language for the Silver State tag and drawing.
- a. Silver State Tag is the Sportsman Heritage Tag.
 - b. Paul Dixon, Commissioner McBeath, and Paul Harris discussed the positioning of the Silver State Tag vs. Heritage Tags and general draw. The points system was also discussed as it pertains to the Silver State Tag.
 - c. Danny Riddle asked if Nevada Driver’s License was required for Silver State Tag. Answer: Yes.
 - d. Motion was made to accept this regulation change as written and seconded. In Favor: 5 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 1 (John Sullivan)
4. **Commission General Regulation 381, Crayfish Regulation, LCB File No. R176-09** - A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise adopt a proposed regulation prohibiting the importation, transportation or possession of certain crayfish, authorizing the Department of Wildlife to issue certain permits or licenses to an institutional member of the Zoological Association of America.
- a. Jon Sjoberg, NDOW, summarized this proposed change as an extensive set of typographical changes to the regulation to ensure species notation is correct. None of the species that were previously designated as illegal have been reclassified.
 - b. Paul Harris asked about purchasing Louisiana crayfish and having them flown in. Would they be legal? Jon speculated that farm-raised crayfish from Louisiana would be legal.
 - c. Motion was made to accept this regulation change as written and seconded. Motion Passed unanimously.
5. **Commission General Regulation 382, Colorado River Regulation, LCB File No. R004-10** – A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise adopt a regulation relating to waterways; requiring vessels to be operated at a reduced speed along a certain portion of the Colorado River.
- a. Jon Sjoberg, NDOW, explained that the changes to this regulation added specific areas as “no wake” zones. One such area is designated as a conservation area as a

habitat for the flannelmouth sucker. The changes also address navigation issues due to frequent water level fluctuations.

- b. Officer Pfiffner added that the slower speeds will reduce the likelihood of serious accidents.
- c. Motion was made to accept this regulation change as written and seconded. Motion Passed unanimously.

F. Review FY11 CCABMW Budget

1. FY11 CCABMW Budget drafted at the request of Dale Hanson, ASO Fiscal Services.
2. Budget covers July 2010 through June 2011.
3. Budget drafted by Stacy Matthews from historical data (e.g., travel, meeting expenses, etc.) and added salary for administrative support.
4. Total request for FY11 is \$7,342.50. Funds to come from NDOW budget authorized funding for County Advisory Boards.
5. Motion was made to accept the proposed budget as written and for Paul Dixon, Chairman to sign the budget, there was a seconded. Motion Passed unanimously.

Informational Items – No action may be taken on these items.

A. Member Comments – any item requiring Board action will be scheduled on a future agenda

B. Next scheduled meetings of the Board and Commission

The next Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting is scheduled for 6:00pm, May 4th, 2010 at the Clark County Shooting Park. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for March 19th and 20th, 2010 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Adjournment

- Motion made to adjourn. Motion seconded.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.