

DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE
Minutes of May 10, 2011 Meeting

The DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE was scheduled for **5:30 p.m. on TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2011 in the CVIC HALL 1602 ESMERALDA AVE, MINDEN, NEVADA.**

PRESENT:

Bob Cook, Chairman
Craig Burnside, Vice Chairman
Michael Turnipseed
Eric Scheetz
Kevin Servatius

STAFF:

Lorraine Diedrichsen, Recording Secretary

OTHERS STAFF PRESENT:

Kim Tisdale, NDOW
Matt Maples, NDOW
Carl Lackey, NDOW
Richard Vacirca, Lake Tahoe Management Unit

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Cook called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. and determined a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Turnipseed/Scheetz to approve the agenda as presented; carried unanimously.

ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 12, 2011

MOTION by Burnside/Turnipseed to approve the minutes as presented; carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1. **PRESENTATION BY LISA HEKI, US FISH AND WILDLIFE, ON THE REINTRODUCTION OF CUTTHROAT TROUT INTO LAKE TAHOE.** There will be an opportunity for Board questions and public comment during and following the presentation.

Public comment and discussion was taken throughout the presentation.

Lisa Heki, U. S. Fish and Wildlife, provided a background on the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout in the Lake Tahoe Basin and its eventual elimination. Using SNPLMA funds, efforts began in 2002 to reintroduce the trout into Fallen Leaf Lake since it is a similar ecosystem to Lake Tahoe but smaller. Highlighted were the phases of the Fallen Leaf Research and strategies, adaptive management tools used, challenges, and the data obtained. Their research is also looking at how the cutthroat interacts with other species in the lake. The ultimate intent of this long term project is to find a manageable niche for the native LCT and create a valuable recreational fishery at Lake Tahoe. Without precluding other species from being in Lake Tahoe, they are trying to find key areas for the natives.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tim Enderline raised many concerns about the methods being employed since he is an avid fisherman and has not seen any marked improvement.

An unidentified voice asked if any of the mackinaw caught were diseased and if not, could the fish be donated to a shelter. Ms. Heki responded a portion of them are donated to a local shelter.

Responding to an unidentified audience member, Ms. Heki addressed the question regarding possible relocation of the fish instead of using electroshock or netting and said fish often do not survive when brought up from 200' making relocation harder.

Leonard O'Malley expressed concerns about the lack of communication. He asked what shelter the fish is donated to with Ms. Heki responding she was unsure but would get that information. He is concerned the valuable resources of the LCT are going to be eaten by the lake trout.

Clay Johnson does not feel Fallen Leaf Lake is a good example of Lake Tahoe with Ms. Heki agreeing. He addressed the inaccessibility of Lake Tahoe for fishing.

Drew Thompson does not feel Tahoe offers the refuge necessary for the LCT with Ms. Heki responding Lake Tahoe has a historic underwater forest.

Tim Enderline feels some Fallen Leaf Lake homeowners are against this research. He feels too many eggs are being put into one basket; a 10 lb. mackinaw is a good catch. He is opposed to killing fish that go back and forth to Lake Tahoe. Ms. Heki talked about the success of LCT in Independence Lake and the challenges the fish face in the tributaries.

He feels the inaccessibility issue applies to Fallen Leaf Lake too. He asked about the LCT regulations and was informed the current state regulations would apply. He talked about the spawning habits of the LCT.

Richard Vacirca, Forest Service, provided information on the upper Truckee River program, which is different from this LCT program, and the attempt to recover a headwater population. They were trying to expand the population downriver by giving the fish more room outside the original restoration area. Habitat assessment work was completed, stocking records were analyzed and public outreach was done. This is a remote setting with the average size of a brook trout being 6-8". Valuable information and experience is being gained from these research efforts.

Mike Neilson asked which other tributaries are being considered.

Mr. Vacirca said they are measuring the aquatic habitat of many tributaries to determine which are quality and which are not.

Don Weirauch asked for more information about the Pilot's Peak strain and about the spawning mortality of them. Ms. Heki said they reach sexual maturity at four years and did not have any information on the spawning mortality.

Dru Thompson asked about the viability of the cutbow.

Matt Maples, NDOW, talked about efforts to maintain a pure population of cutthroat trout in Heenan Lake.

Public comment closed.

Mr. Scheetz would like to ensure commercial fishers and guides are not negatively impacted.

Ms. Heki thinks the opposite will occur and this will provide additional opportunities for the fishers and guides.

This was a presentation only and no action was taken.

2. INFORMATIONAL UPDATE PROVIDED BY KRIS URQUHART, NDOW, ON THE STATUS OF THE MITCH PARK POND.

Kim Tisdale, NDOW, explained the genesis of the project. It has been a long process and a 90% plan has been completed. She identified the location and displayed a blueprint of the site. NDOW will provide 75% of Q1 funding and GRGID will provide the remaining 25%. The engineering and design phase is completed and the construction phase is going before the Board of Examiners. The hope is to have the pond completed by fall.

The two acre pond will be aerated and the water will be piped in. It will be stocked with trout and several warm water species and there will be a three fish limit. This will be a full amenity park so trash receptacles will be available.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Liz Weirauch expressed concerns with the ADA ramp at Baily Fishing Pond is being used by people who do not need it. Ms. Tisdale explained the ramp cannot be designated ADA only.

Clay Johnson asked if Chichester pond would be stocked and Ms. Tisdale stated it is in the spring and fall.

Don Weirauch asked if the fish being used to stock this pond are coming out of the Douglas County allotment. He stressed the importance of the Carson River as an urban fishery and does not want it neglected. Ms Tisdale said urban ponds generally get a lot more fish than is in the stocking plans because extra fish are used in these ponds but understands the importance of the Carson River.

Public comment closed.

This was an update only and no action was taken.

3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO TAKE A POSITION OF SUPPORT TO RETAIN TOM CAVIN AS COMMISSIONER.

Mr. Turnipseed said Tom Cavin contacted him and asked to be considered for retention on the Commission and Mr. Turnipseed feels he is one of the more reasonable Commissioners and could support this request.

Vice Chairman Burnside agreed.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Burnside to retain Tom Cavin as Commissioner; carried unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION ONLY ON AN UPDATE OF THE BEAR HUNT AND ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS.

Chairman Cook highlighted the regulations of the hunt.

Carl Lackey, NDOW, distributed the 2011 Black Bear Seasons, Limits, and Application Regulations.

No public comment.

No action was taken.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TRI-COUNTY DEER RESTORATION WORKING GROUP. These recommendations may be forwarded on to Nevada Wildlife Commission.

There was no report because the group has not met since the last DCABMW meeting.

Carl Lackey, NDOW, stated collaring began a couple of months ago and will not collar again until December. Of the 60 collars out, there were five mortalities.

No public comment.

This was a discussion only and no action was taken.

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON REQUIRED TRAINING FOR ANY SPORTSMAN DRAWING AN ARCHERY TAG FOR ANY BIG GAME SPECIES.

This item was continued to a future meeting.

7. CORRESPONDENCE OR COMMUNICATIONS BOARD MEMBERS HAVE RECEIVED. This is an opportunity for Board members to discuss any correspondence or communication they may have received regarding matters over which the Board has jurisdiction and control. No action will be taken other than to possibly have an item placed on the next agenda for discussion and action.

Mr. Turnipseed stated he had a call from Tom Cavin and had received correspondence from NoBearHuntNV.org.

Chairman Cook cited an email received from NBU and read it into the record. He also received an invitation to attend the big game main draw.

8. DISCUSSION ON THE RESULTS OF THE April 15 & 16, 2011 NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING. There will be no action taken.

Chairman Cook attended and provided an update on the 68 domestic sheep killed in

015 and mountain lions were the culprit.

Carl Lackey, NDOW, feels the biology proves killing a large number of lions only increases the population.

Mr. Servatius talked about sheep predation issues and the impact wild dogs can have on the sheep population.

This was a discussion only and no action was taken.

The following items, 9A through 9L, are items that will be heard before the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners at the next meeting, May 12-14, 2011 at the Nevada Department of Wildlife, 1100 Valley Road, Reno, Nevada. The Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife may take the following action, or a variation thereof, on each item: support the item, not support the item or not take a position on the item. Public Comment will be allowed on each item.

9A – 9L. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING WHETHER THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD SHOULD TAKE A POSITION ON:

9A. ACTION REGARDING PETITION. NoBearHuntNV.org is petitioning the Commission for Declaratory Order on the validity of the temporary regulation of the Board of Wildlife Commissioners CGR 393 (LCB File No. T004-10) establishment of a black bear hunt. The Commission will make a determination as to the propriety of the adoption process. This item involves a quasi-judicial review and no public comment may be taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Clay Johnson is opposed to the hunt.

Public comment closed.

No discussion or action taken.

9B. ACTION REGARDING PETITION. Mr. Fred Jackson is petitioning the Commission to amend NAC 503.540 to allow the commercial take of crayfish from Lake Tahoe. The Commission may deny the petition, or accept the petition to initiate rulemaking.

Fred Jackson explained he would like to do commercial crayfish fishing but NAC 503.540 prohibits it. He is requesting an NAC change and not asking for an exclusive. He cited the crayfish population at the Lake and stated there is a link between the clarity and the crayfish. He would like to do invasive species removal at the Lake to affect the clarity. He would harvest the crayfish and sell them to a meat wholesaler. It is a win-win for the community.

His suggested language change is “.....except for the waters of Lake Tahoe by approved

NDOW permit only”.

Kim Tisdale, NDOW, stated this is the first step in the process. While NDOW is neutral on it, there could be some positives to doing this. They would monitor this and if there are negative impacts, they would reevaluate the regulation and permit.

Mr. Jackson discussed the different capture traps he is considering and will experiment to see what will work the best. However, there should be no impact on the fishing industry. At one point, crayfish helped clean the Lake up but now the population is too big. They are not looking to eradicate them but only manage the resource.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Leonard O'Malley has caught crayfish before. Since there is no commercial fishing at all in Lake Tahoe how are you going to keep it from going to the California side? Mr. Jackson stated his hope is to eventually do the same thing on the California side.

Public comment closed.

Discussion was held on the white report prepared by Sudeep Chandra.

Mr. Servatius does not feel he can take any position on this important issue until NDOW's biologists determine the impact that harvesting this food source will have.

Ms. Tisdale reminded everyone crayfish are non-native but it will be difficult to determine what impact removing the crayfish will have on the ecosystem since they have not assessed the crayfish population.

Matt Maples, NDOW, talked about the benefits of reducing the number of crayfish and increasing the native minnow production.

MOTION by Burnside/Scheetz to recommend the Commission accept Mr. Jackson's petition; carried with Turnipseed and Servatius voting Nay.

9C. ACTION REGARDING COUNTY ADVISORY BOARDS TO MANAGE WILDLIFE (CABMW) BUDGETS. The 17 CABMWs have been polled regarding travel and operating funds needed from the state's Wildlife Account for fiscal year 2012. In accordance with NRS 501.320. The Commission will be asked to approve fiscal year 2012 Advisory Board budgets.

No public comment.

Mr. Scheetz stated a travel budget of \$3588.52 was requested.

No action was taken.

9D. ACTION REGARDING WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES (WAFWA) ANNUAL CONFERENCE. The Commission will designate one Commissioner to attend WAFWA's annual conference in Big Sky, Montana.

No public comment.

No action taken.

9E. ACTION REGARDING WILDLIFE HERITAGE PROJECTS. The Heritage Committee will provide their recommendations to the Commission for approval of projects submitted for funding in fiscal year 2012 and including 2011 projects extensions.

No public comment.

No action taken.

9F. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION REGULATION 2012 WILDLIFE HERITAGE SILVER STATE, AND PARTNERSHIP IN WILDLIFE TAGS CR 11-09, AMENDMENT #1, HERITAGE TAG VENDORS. Presentation of the Heritage Committee's vendor recommendations to the Commission for approval for the 2012 Heritage tags.

No public comment.

No action taken.

9G. ACTION REGARDING HAGE LAWSUIT UPDATE AND RESOLUTION. The Commission will hear a report on the Hage lawsuit and may draft letters, resolutions and or policy concerning this item.

No public comment.

No action taken.

9H. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION POLICY #10, WILDLIFE HERITAGE TAGS AND VENDORS, FINAL READING. The Commission may take action to adopt Policy #10 with changes from the first and second readings held by the Commission on April 16 and May 12, 2011.

No public comment.

No action taken.

9I. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION POLICY #50, DUCK STAMP PROCEDURE, FINAL READING. The Commission may take action to adopt Policy #50 with changes from the first and second readings held by the Commission on April 16 and May 12, 2011.

No public comment.

Mr. Turnipseed is opposed to removing any of the judges.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Servatius to leave it like it is; carried unanimously.

9J. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION REGULATION 11-10 BIG GAME QUOTAS 2011 AND 2012. 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 2011 – 2012.

No public comment.

Mr. Servatius thinks Units 192/194/196 are in good shape over prior year's quotas.

The Board discussed with Carl Lackey, NDOW, the number of survey flights each year, the status of the fawn ratio, mule deer estimate in 192, size of the resident herd, quota for 192, and the status of the population in 291. Mr. Lackey stated, overall, the herd is maintaining itself and the success rate is good.

MOTION by Servatius/Turnipseed supporting action regarding Commission Regulation 11-10 Big Game Quotas 2011 and 2012 in full support of the recommendations made by NDOW;

Mr. Scheetz wondered if it would be appropriate to vote on the quotas for the areas outside this Board's jurisdiction. He noted he did not review the quotas for the entire state.

Vice Chairman Burnside feels the numbers are provided by the biologists and he could support the recommendations made by them.

Mr. Servatius stated he reviews the total tags to determine the trends occurring.

Vice Chairman Burnside pointed out there is more opportunity for youth this year.

MOTION; carried unanimously.

9K. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION POLICY #28 MULE DEER POLICY, FINAL READING. The Commission may take action to make changes and adopt Commission Policy #28," Mule Deer Policy."

No public comment.

Mr. Turnipseed stated many are opposed to this policy because they completely ignored the biologists.

Vice Chairman Burnside said the policy was developed without consulting staff.

Mr. Scheetz talked about a committee charged with gathering resource information and thought there had to be some scientific evidence drawn on. He discussed the rebuttals made by WAFWA and Chairman Raine.

Carl Lackey, NDOW, explained why this proposal is not science based.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Burnside to oppose the adoption of Commission Policy #28; carried unanimously.

Mr. Scheetz feels a different direction is still needed.

9L. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION POLICY #67, "HORSE POLICY", FINAL READING. The Commission may take action to make changes and adopt Commission Policy #67 "Horse Policy."

No public comment.

Mr. Scheetz cited an issue he has with the language under Policy-Item A.

MOTION by Scheetz/Turnipseed to accept Policy #67 except to remove under "Policy-Item A", it states "the Board of Wildlife Commissioners or the Nevada Department of Wildlife determines a conflict exists....." remove "the Board of Wildlife Commissioners"; carried unanimously.

10. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION REGARDING BILLS PENDING BEFORE THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE.

Updates were provided on AB322, AB329, and AB167.

This was a discussion only and no action was taken.

11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER COMMITMENTS TO ATTEND UPCOMING WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS AND TO REPRESENT THE FINDINGS OF THE DOUGLAS COUNTY WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD. ONE MEMBER WILL BE DESIGNATED AS A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD.

Mr. Scheetz will attend the Saturday portion of the meeting. Vice Chairman Burnside will go to the Eureka meeting.

12. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO SCHEDULE NEXT WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING. The next meeting of the Wildlife Commission is scheduled for June 24 & 25, 2011 in Eureka, Nevada. The next meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 21, 2011.

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13. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS. This is an opportunity for Board members to request that items be placed on future agendas. There will be no deliberation or action taken other than to request the Chair to place the item on an agenda.

- Tri County Deer Restoration Working Group
- Legislative bills.
- Required training for archery sportsmen.

MOTION by Servatius/Burnside to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.; carried unanimously.

The minutes of the May 10, 2011 meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 9th day of August, 2011

Bob Cook, Chairman