

# **Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board**

## **Minutes**

**March 23, 2009**

The Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board met in the Administrative Facility on March 23, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Dale Hornickle

Others Present: Jake Tibbitts –Natural Resources Manager, Mike Podborny-NDOW, Joe Maslach-NDOW, Kathy Porter-Natural Resources Assistant, and Scott Raine Nevada Wildlife Commissioner

### **Call to order**

Chairman Torres called the meeting to order at 6:05. A quorum was determined to be present.

### **Review and Approve Minutes-**

The minutes of the March 23, 2009 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved on a motion made by Chad Bliss and seconded by Mike Taylor.

### **Correspondence and reports**

Jake Tibbitts reported to the board that his office had received a notice of the Austin/Tonopah Ranger District Travel Management Plan. A time has been set aside for interested parties to meet with Steve Williams, District Ranger, to look over maps, point out roads, routes, and trails of interest and give opinions on the proposed plan. Mr. Williams of the Forest Service will be at the Eureka Natural Resources office on Thursday, March 26, 2009 between 4 and 7 p.m. to meet with any interested parties.

### **Silver State Tag**

Chad Bliss gave an update on AB 183 the Silver State Tag. Mr. Bliss explained that he had been to Carson City to explain the bill and answer questions. Also, Mr. Bliss had had discussions with various Wildlife Commissioners and CABMW members. Mr. Bliss voiced frustration in the fact that the Assemblyman Claborn, Chairman of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee will not hold a hearing on the bill even when all of his committee members are listed as co-sponsors of the bill. Mr. Bliss also felt that it was not right that a bill that has so much support from sportsmen, CABMW, and legislators would fall prey to political games and felt that the Wildlife Commission should not get involved in politics but should be totally supportive of a bill that does nothing but benefit the wildlife and sportsman of Nevada. It was also noted that involvement in the Silver State Drawing would be totally voluntary and has the ability to augment the Heritage Account by tens of thousands of dollars. Scott Raine commented that the commission has not formally approved any wildlife related bills and also felt that there were too many underlying factors to place “political” blame on the reasons behind why AB 183 had not been brought forward to hearing yet.

## 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 Commission 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:

Friday, March 27, 2009

- Item #3—to increase desert bighorn sheep season (Nov.-Dec.)- more weekend and holidays available for hunters. Chad Bliss commented that the books have been printed and he did not see any reason to create unnecessary work and cost for NDOW since the change would cause a reprint of the books. Mike Podborny commented that extending the season decreases the amount of time the Department has to work in the field for on the ground management of wildlife since they do not work in the field during hunting season. The board took no formal action.
- Item #4—to consider a petition from Mr. John V. Zenz requesting to “reduce PIW Desert sheep quota to one.” Discussion was had that quota recommendations were given by this board at the last meeting and again that books have printed and he did not see any reason to create unnecessary work and cost for NDOW since the change would cause a reprint of the books. No formal action was taken by the Board.
- Item #5- a request from Mr. Rozar to receive a bull elk tag and/or his bonus point reinstated. The board did not feel they had enough information to make an informed decision on Mr. Rozar’s request.
- Item #7 a request to modify approved Upland Game Stamp projects and will request approval to fund a telemetry study of released Mountain Quail. Mike Taylor motioned to support the study that may increase hunting opportunities. Jim Evans seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- Item #9- to adopt language to change NAC to allow eligibility of any resident of Nevada or nonresident to obtain three mountain lion tags in any license year. The Board discussed the amount of bad press that proposed increases of mountain lion tags have brought to Nevada. Mike Podborny gave the Board some background on the history of allowing 2 tags. Chad Bliss moved not to support the 3<sup>rd</sup> tag as it will not affect many people and the 3<sup>rd</sup> tag would bring bad publicity to the hunting of mountain lions in Nevada with the fear of losing mountain lion hunting altogether. Mike Taylor seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.
- Item #10-Reports
  - G- Wildlife Damage Management Committee- Commissioner Raine, after being asked, gave some insight to where this committee was going. Mr.

- Raine stated that there are many proposals that need hashed out and that more detail on these proposals would be discussed at the meeting.
- P- Bassett and Comins Fisheries- Mike Podborny informed the Board what this entailed and explained that there was an issue of Pike in both fisheries in addition to water quality issues, mostly mercury.

### **Legislation**

Discussion was had on all of the wildlife related proposed legislation. The Silver State Tag was discussed again and the language of AB 516 was noted as a concern where any secondary funds to NDOW would be “required” to go to the Wildlife Commissioners for approval of those funds. AB 241 was discussed and it was noted that there is already a way to use Heritage funds for predator control and that many good projects would not be accomplished if AB 241 passes. AB 362 was also discussed and the Board felt that they were supportive of predator control but that there are many other means to control predators without bringing such a strong focus to it through legislation. It was felt that these bills need to come before CABMW to get sportsmen and public input before the Wildlife Commissioners make any support or opposition statement regarding these bills.

Chad Bliss moved to deny support for Assembly Bills 241, 362, 516. Mike Taylor seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mike Taylor moved to send a letter asking for AB 183 to be put on the next Wildlife Commissioners agenda during the current legislative session for a vote of support from the Commission. Jim Evans seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Evans volunteered to draft the letter and Jake Tibbitts offered his help if needed.

Mr. Taylor moved to write one letter to the Commission which would incorporate all of the bills discussed and for Chairman Torres to sign the letter outside of a Board meeting. Mr. Bliss seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 11 2009 at 6:00pm.

### **Public Comment**

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mike Taylor and seconded by Jim Evans to adjourn. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2009.

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_, Secretary

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_, Chairman  
Chris Torres