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Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board
Minutes
April 11, 2011

The Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board met in the Eureka County Administrative Facility on April 11, 2011 at 5:30p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Jim Evans, Chad Bliss and Dale Hornickle

Members Absent: Mike Taylor and Chris Torres

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

Call to order

Chairman Jim Evans called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. A quorum was determined to be present.

Review and Approve Minutes-

The minutes of the March 2, 2011 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved, on a motion made by Dale Hornickle and seconded by Chad Bliss.

Correspondence and reports

Chairman Evans reported that he received a letter from Tom Belaustegui in response to the tour Chad Bliss, Mike Taylor Jake Tibbitts and Chairman Evans took of springs on the Ranch to consider for a pj thinning project. Chairman will reply explaining the way the board has prioritized the springs and the current direction the board is taking with the project.

Wildlife and Mule Deer Enhancement Projects in Eureka County- Discuss and consider further efforts to proceed with wildlife and mule deer enhancement projects, including guzzlers, in Eureka County:

Jake Tibbitts reported that Chairman Evans, Mr. Bliss and himself attended the April 6th Commissioners meeting to receive approval to move forward with projects on springs located on private property, to use the 2011 funding from the County. Commissioner Fiorenzi has issues with tax dollars being spent on private land. Mr. Tibbitts reported that while they did receive approval to move forward it was not unanimous and he is concerned that not all Commissioners are on board. Mr. Hornickle expressed concern with using sportsman/public funds for wildlife on private lands without having the assurance of sportsmen access. The Commissioners told Mr. Tibbitts that funding from the 2011 fiscal year could be rolled over into next fiscal year's funds (2011/2012) rather than losing the funds if they are not used by June 30, 2011. Mr. Hornickle asked if NRCS could be approved to move forward with private property projects. Mr. Tibbitts responded that the projects on private ground could go forward through NRCS funding and board members volunteer hours/ in-kind services can possibly be used as match funding. Mr. Tibbitts recommends not moving forward on these projects in this fiscal year with county funding. Chairman Evans questioned if funds used on these projects could be used to leverage Heritage Funds. Mr. Podborny explained that combining Heritage funds with other funding and volunteer hours improves the proposal although

DRAFT

matches or in-kind services are not required for Heritage Funding. Mr. Hornickle moved that ECAB wait and roll the money over until BLM permitting is received to work on public land and don't pursue private land projects with that money but pursue with NRCS funding. Mr. Bliss seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Evans reported that the EAs have been completed on the Vinini Creek and Henderson Creek blocks and NRCS can work on both public and private land projects. Mr. Tibbitts reported that Jim Wise of Fish Creek Ranch has submitted a proposal to use FS SRS Title II funds for a pinion-juniper (p-j) thinning and sage brush treatment project in the Faulkner Creek area. Within the treatment area is a spring that has been recommended for treatment through the ECAB's project. Mr. Tibbitts has contacted Dr. Tamzen Stringham and she has agreed to do the treatment plan. The NRCS may help and Mr. Wise will be petitioning the Diamond Valley Weed District also. Mr. Bliss recommended a special meeting with Dr. Stringham, who specializes in p-j treatments and Doug Furtado of the Battle Mountain BLM, to outline the exact criteria for the treatment proposal. Mr. Bliss suggested that the group attend the meeting prepared with sites, including photo and GPS coordinates. Mr. Tibbitts will work on setting up a meeting.

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Agenda and Support Material Packet –
The Board may discuss and act upon any or all items.

Action Item: 7 Deliberations for Director, Nevada Department of Wildlife

The Commission will deliberate on the interviews conducted on applicants for the director position of the Nevada Department of Wildlife and may take action to recommend the names of three or more candidates to the Governor for consideration and appointment to the director position.

No Recommendations were given.

Review and Discussion Fawn/Doe and Buck/Doe Ratios in Each Game Management Unit for the Past 10 Years as Provided by NDOW – Big Game Chief Gilbertson – Informational

The Commission will review ratios and population trends in big game and may request staff to provide further information necessary to develop big game quotas.

There was brief discussion regarding the deer population decline in area 14. Two drought years were followed by a year of low fawn ratio. Mr. Bliss asked about the reason for die offs in area 15. Mr. Podborny replied that it is too early to have answers.

Review of Ruby Mountain Research Project – Big Game Chief Gilbertson - Informational

The Commission will review language of all project contracts and research goals of the Ruby Mountain Research Projects.

Chairman Evans had reviewed the materials and made a few comments although this is an informational item.

Action Item: 17 2011 Legislative Session Update and Commission Bill Positions – Commissioner Capurro

The Commission will hear a report from staff and Legislative Committee chair, and may take action to support, not support, oppose, or be neutral on tracked bills.

The ECAB had discussion regarding legislation of interest.

AB 19-was briefly discussed, no recommendation was given.

DRAFT

AB322- The board acknowledged the bill had already passed committee, but still had concerns and did not support the bill as read. They suggested their opinions be made known to legislators.

AB347- Mr. Bliss moved to absolutely not support. Tags are very costly and sold on a first come first serve basis which elevates people with money over the average citizen, and does not specify where tags come will from. Chairman Evans added that there are already enough tags; the Department does not need the money. Mr. Hornickle second, motion carried unanimously.

AB 419- Mr. Tibbitts explained that this is Assemblyman Pete Goicoechea's bill that would give the State Engineer authority to move forward with enforcing groups to self improve over-appropriations to basins in a 10 year timeframe. No Recommendation.

AB503- Conservation fees for non tag holders to access wildlife area, was briefly discussed no recommendation was given.

AB 525- Accepting of donations and accounting for, there was no discussion.

AB 102- Shed Antler hunting: have supported in past. No dates have been set, department will set regulations.

SB 262- Unlawful to trap fur bearing animals within certain distances of dwellings using leg hold traps. There are no exemptions for Wildlife Services or NDOW to remove animals with traps. This was briefly discussed, no recommendation was given.

Action Item: 18 Commission Policy #26, "Transparency" Final Reading – Commissioner Lent

The Commission may take action to make changes and adopt Commission Policy #26, "Transparency." In accordance with Commission Policy #1, the first and second readings of this new Commission policy were held at the March 11 and 12, 2011, Commission meeting and subsequently may approve the policy.

No Recommendation was given.

Action Item: 19 Commission Policy #27, "Wolves/Protection of Nevada Resources" Final Reading – Commissioner Lent

The Commission may take action to make changes and adopt Commission Policy #27, "Wolves/Protection of Nevada Resources." In accordance with Commission Policy #1, the first and second readings of this new Commission policy were held at the March 11 and 12, 2011, Commission meeting and subsequently may approve the policy.

The CAB had covered this topic at the November 29th, 2010 meeting. Their comments remain the same and are as follows:

Mr. Bliss recommended that, whatever action is taken with the wolf status, the action be well thought through and that Nevada is protected at the highest level to ensure wolves do not get established here in Nevada. Mr. Evans commented that it is a difficult issue considering the uncertainty of the direction that the Federal Government will take with the wolves. Mr. Bliss and Mr. Evans agreed that they do not want wolves in Nevada but are unsure of what to recommend.

Action Item: 20 Commission Policy # 51, Wayne E. Kirch Nevada Wildlife Conservation Award – Commissioner Howell

DRAFT

The Commission may take action to make changes and adopt Commission Policy #51, Commission Lifetime Commitment to Wildlife Award. In accordance with Commission Policy #1, the first and second readings of this new Commission policy were held at the March 11 and 12, 2011, Commission meeting and subsequently may approve the policy.

No Recommendation was given.

Action Item: 22B Falconry Regulation Process- Chairman Raine

The Commission may discuss falconry regulation and give instruction to staff on development of such regulations

No Recommendation was given.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for May 9 at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Hornickle would like an agenda item to recommend that all state wide NDOW offices be able to license boats. And to recommend that NDOW not go fully online with computer hunting applications and registrations. Mr. Hornickle feels it is discrimination against those who do not use credit cards or computers. Computers/online services may be convenient for some but not all.

Public Comment

Jeannie Higgs the FS Director will be at the May 11th NRAC meeting to discuss protocol for quarterly meetings.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Hornickle and seconded by Mr. Bliss. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____ 2011.

Respectfully submitted: _____, Secretary
Kathy Porter

Approved: _____, Chairman
Jim Evans