

Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board
Minutes
November 29, 2010

The Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board met in the Eureka County Administrative Facility on November 29, 2010 at 6:00p.m.

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

Members Absent:

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

Call to order

Chairman Chris Torres called the meeting to order at 6:12p.m. A quorum was determined to be present.

Review and Approve Minutes-

The minutes of the September 16, 2010 and September 22, 2010 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved, on a motion made by Mike Taylor and Jim Evans seconded by.

Correspondence and reports

Mr. Taylor reported that he has received several e-mails regarding the firing of Ken Mayer last week.

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:

Chairman Torres reported that Barrick Ruby Hill Mine has completed the guzzler project and both tanks are completely full.

Mr. Tibbitts reported Mike Stom, UNR Extension Bootstrap crew boss, is waiting for a project proposal to be submitted to the BLM. The proposal needs to include GPS locations of the springs along with pictures of the area surrounding the springs. Mr. Stom called to remind us that the BLM is working on next year's work plan now so the proposal needs to be turned in soon. Three springs already have been approved and will fall under the Sulphur Springs Hazardous fuels reduction EA. Mr. Bliss asked Mr. Parman if he knew of any other springs in the Sulphur Springs project area around Table Mountain that may need some work done. Mr. Bliss and Mr. Parman may take a ride in the spring to look at some springs Mr. Parman is aware of but hasn't been to a long time.

Mr. Podborny, NDOW, reported that Clint Garret - Northern Nevada Supervisor, will meet in February to plan their 2011 projects. Mr. Garret plans to assign his guzzler crew to fix the three guzzlers in Spring Valley that the Eureka CAB was unable to fix this fall.

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

Action Item: 10 Petition- Action

Patricia Swain for Trailsafe Nevada is petitioning the Commission to address trapping issues relation to domestic pets and feral animals within the congested areas of Washoe County. The Commission may deny the petition, or accept the petition and put the matter on a future agenda.

Mr. Podborny reported that the Trailsafe group and the Nevada Trappers Association has come up with language. Mr. Bliss reported that the Trailsafe group is the same group involved in the trapping issues on the Tahoe trails. Mr. Podborny informed the Board that Washoe County already has a regulation prohibiting the use of firearms in congested areas. Mr. Evans asked if this language has been accepted by the Trappers association. Mr. Podborny replied that it had. Mr. Bliss commented that the board is unable to make a recommendation until both sides of the issue are heard. Mr. Bliss commented that this item will be put on future agenda's if accepted and can be worked on further.

Action Item: 11A Commission General Regulation Number 391, Guided Hunt Changes- T005-10 Program Officer III

The Commission may adopt a temporary regulation relating to revising provisions governing eligibility for the main draw if the application applied for the Restricted Nonresident Deer tag draw.

Mr. Bliss elects to stay with the original petition to allow for only one draw per year for all and to make the opportunity consistent for all non-resident applicants. If non-resident tags are left over after the general draw then both restricted non-resident guide draw and general draw unsuccessful applicants can apply for the left over tags. Mr. Bliss stressed that this is a fairness issue and has nothing do with the Tallman case as some are saying. Outfitters are claiming a loss of revenue due to this language; Mr. Bliss contributes the revenue loss to multiple factors rather than just the change to the language as it is to date. Mr. Taylor moved to oppose the proposed language change and stay with the original petition as Eureka CAB had previously voted, and supports not making any changes to the current language. Mr. Bliss seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item: 11B Commission General Regulation Number 393, Black Bear Hunt-Temporary- T004-10-Program Officer III

The Commission may adopt a temporary regulation relating to revising provisions governing the establishment of a black bear hunt, eligibility waiting period requirements, bonus point program, weapons restrictions, tag fees and other matters related thereto.

Mr. Podborny reported that the language establishes a black bear hunt. Quotas and season dates will probably be lined out at January meeting. Mr. Bliss felt the department did a really nice job in putting together the support material to justify the hunt. Mr. Evans moved to support deployment of the bear hunt in Nevada. Mr. Taylor seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item: 12 Commission Regulation 11-01- Raptors for Falconry – Chief of Wildlife Diversity Laura Richards

The Commission will establish 2011-2012 season dates, species, quotas, hours, limits, closed areas, application procedures and deadlines, and take for raptors for falconry.

Mr. Evans moved to accept the 2011-2012 season dates, species, quotas, hours, and limits, as written in the proposal. Mr. Taylor seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item: 13 Commission Regulation 11-02- Noncommercial Collection of Reptiles and Amphibians for 2011-2012 – chief of Wildlife Diversity Laura Richards

The Commission will establish 2011 and 2012 season and limits for noncommercial hobby collecting of live, unprotected reptiles and amphibians.

The Board gave no recommendation.

Action Item:14A Commission General Regulation 395- Temporary- T012-10 Changes to Regulations Concerning Heritage Projects

The Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners will consider proposed changes to regulations concerning Heritage Projects.

Mr. Bliss asked Commissioner Raine if the language change has to do with the lawsuit. Commissioner Raine replied that is one issue even though he is unsure the language change has to do entirely with the lawsuit. The Attorney General mentioned that it is difficult to give a township and range on equipment and other such projects that are not tied to one location. The Board agreed that changes will be brought up in the workshop and will later become an action item. The Board gave no recommendation.

Action Item: 14B Commission General Regulation 394- Temporary T006-10 Wolf Status

The Commission will discuss adoption of a temporary regulation revising the status of Gray Wolves from a game mammal to unprotected mammal and other matters related thereto.

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. Parman expressed his concern of wolves being established 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: 16 Report from Feral Horse Committee, Horse Monument and Letters and/or Resolutions for Commission

George Parman, public at large, asked the Eureka CAB to act to prevent giving water rights to wild horses that is meant for wildlife and to prevent the Pickens Wild Horse Monument from getting established. Mr. Parman concludes that access to wildlife and public lands will be denied by the Pickens Monument unless accessed through the Monument's form of transportation. Mr. Bliss added that the plan is to fence off the public lands. Mr. Parman was also concerned about the horses within the allotment that are all ready over HML. Mr. Parman commented that wild horses are not designated as wildlife and are not livestock therefore they have no right to water under state water law. Mr. Bliss added that we have to do whatever is necessary to prevent the transfer of water rights to wild horses.

A.The Commission may approve, modify, create, or deny a letter to the Nevada State Water Engineer in reference to the issue of giving water rights meant for wildlife to wild horses

Mr. Taylor moved to support the letter to the State Engineer's Office concerning waters rights of wildlife and wild horses. Mr. Bliss seconded, motion carried unanimously. Motion supports both A & B.

B: The Commission will discuss the Pickens Horse Monument in eastern Nevada, may provide guidance to staff on the matter and may approve, modify, create, or deny a resolution and/or letter on the matter

Action Item: 17A Bighorn Disease Update

Mr. Podborny reported there are still rams, ewes and lambs on the mountain and they will survey again this winter when it is easier to survey while on the sheep are on the mountain. Summer survey numbers are low. Commissioner Raine commented that it was reported at the last Commissioner's meeting that biologists have identified 40-60% corps of dead sheep.

Mr. Podborny also reported he has some wildlife mineral supplement blocks that he plans to put out for deer and see if they like them.

Action Item: 21 CABMW Budget Adjustments Fiscal Year 2011-ASO III Dale Hansen

The Commission will review CANMW budget status reports and may make adjustments to CABMW budgets for Fiscal Year 2011.

Mr. Tibbitts commented that Eureka CAB submitted a budget requested and the budget was reduced by 75% and Eureka County has had to augment the budget. Dale Hansen requested an expenditure report, which was sent to Mr. Hansen in October. Mr. Bliss informed Mr. Tibbitts that this has happened one other time when board members were not attending meetings. When petitioned, the Commission did pay the County back for expenses augmented. Mr. Hansen has been made aware this of the issue.

Action Item: 23 Findings of Mule Deer Restoration Committee

A report will be given by the Mule Deer Restoration Committee. The Commission will be asked to accept the findings of the Mule Deer Restoration Committee and adopt some or all of them as findings and recommendations of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

Mr. Bliss stated that he agreed with a big portion of the findings, but did not understand the firing of employees. Commissioner Raine answered that the goal is production and someone needs to be held accountable if the goal is not reached. If the goal is not production then the goal needs to be changed. Mr. Bliss added that there are a lot of others actions that could be taken to improve deer herds. The responsibility for drought years, severe winters or other natural factors should not be placed on an employee. Commissioner Raine replied if a livestock owner does not produce, that owner is out of business therefore the hired hand is fired. Commissioner Raine went on to say that the policies are broad, and they are trying to cut out micro managing. Individual circumstances are administration not policy. Mr. Bliss was also concerned with the termination of employees by the Commission. Mr. Evans asked Commissioner Raine what comments they are getting back from administrators and employees. Commissioner Raine replied that they will find out at the meeting. Mr. Bliss further added that there is a lot of good things in the findings, but is concerned with the whole restructuring of NDOW when many areas would have more positive -on the ground impacts then some of the personnel actions i.e.: water developments, fire, pj encroachment, predation work etc. Mr. Evans asked how they will coordinate state goals and objectives with federal dollars. Commissioner Raines replied it depends on the funding source. Commissioner Raine added that a lot of the language in the findings came from NDOW practices and policies. Mr. Evans was concerned with how state goals and objectives will coordinate with

federal dollars and how they can make all blend when there are so many factors with state verses federal dollars and getting all those blended and pointed in the right direction. Mr. Taylor had no comment since he did not receive the document. The Board chose not to make a recommendation but submitted comments and concerns.

Action Item:24G Waterfowl Management Changes for 2011 –

Mr. Podborny reported that this is informational and will come for a vote at the next meeting. Mr. Podborny asked the Board to please look at for next meeting.

Action Item 25: Incentive for Early Applications for the Big Game Draw-

The Department, in coordination with Systems Consultants, will make final recommendation to the Commission regarding details related to the proposed incentive for early application for the big game draw, to include incentive type, milestones, limitations on participation, and other related matters.

Commissioner Raines' clarified that Systems Consultants did not want a date to avoid a second peak in the system. The funds for the incentive come from Systems Consultants funds. Mr. Taylor moved to support, Mr. Bliss seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for January 27th at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Commissioner Raine offered to repay any comments at the Commission meeting later on in the week. Mr. Bliss asked Commissioner Raine if when the guide draw issue comes up, that he would assure concerned persons that the issue with the non-resident guide draw is a fairness issue and has nothing to do with the Tallman case

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Evans. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14p.m.

Approved this 31st day of January 2011.

Respectfully submitted: /s/, Secretary
Kathy Porter

Approved: /s/, Chairman
Chris Torres