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Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board
Minutes
November 28, 2011

The Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board (CAB) met in the Eureka County Administrative Facility on November 28, 2011 at 6:00p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Jim Evans, Chad Bliss, Dale Hornickel and Chris Torres
Members Absent: Mike Taylor
Others Present: Chris Crookshank, Jake Tibbitts, and Kathy Porter- Eureka County Natural Resources Assistant/Secretary

Call to order

Chairman Jim Evans called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was determined to be present.

Review and Approve Minutes-

The minutes of the September 19, 2011 meeting were reviewed and corrected, minutes will be tabled to next agenda on a motion made by Mike Taylor and seconded by Mike Taylor. Mr. Taylor asked that an Elk hunt for area 14 be placed on the next agenda and looked into, since it was over looked for this current meeting.

Correspondence and reports

Chairman Evans received a memorandum regarding fiscal year 2013 Wildlife Heritage Trust Account Project Proposal requests. NDOW's deadline for project proposals is December 1, 2011. Advisory Boards deadline for project proposals is March 1, 2012. The CAB discussed possible heritage projects proposals; bird guzzlers and big game guzzlers. The CAB was reminded that Mike Podborny already has clearance for possibly 2 locations. The CAB asked that this item be placed on the next agenda.

Wildlife and Mule Deer Enhancement Projects-update on and consider further efforts to proceed with wildlife and mule deer enhancement projects, including guzzlers, in Eureka County. (Action)

Chairman Evans gave a brief update on the mule deer enhancement project: Elaree Mariluch has completed the site visits. Mr. Tibbitts reported Ms. Mariluch found that Josephine, McCullough and few others are surrounded by Mountain Mahogany and not pinyon juniper (pj). Mr. Tibbitts met with Doug Furtado and discussed the project and what information needs to be submitted. Mr. Furtado informed Mr. Tibbitts that a formal proposal will be needed for the project. Mr. Furtado sent Mr. Tibbitts the Eagle Butte proposal to be used as an example of what needs to be included CAB's proposal. The project will be done under a categorical exclusion. The project needs to remain under 70 acres with all springs included in 1 proposal. In the proposal an estimation of acres thinned per site needs to be included. If there is evidence that fencing of the spring will be required then that also needs to be included, BLM will donate the fencing. Local BLM crews may be available to help with fencing between fires. The BLM also wants committed weed control in treated areas; reimbursement from BLM through the Diamond Valley Weed Control District will help with funding. Some discussion was had as whether to include guzzler projects into the project to maximize on match funding. Dave

DRAFT

Overcast, of the Elko BLM, likes the project and asked Mr. Tibbitts if the CAB would consider including treatment areas in the project proposal that are in the Elko District, within Eureka County. Discussion was had as to applying for Heritage funding and using that funding to work on projects on private property. Mr. Bliss reminded the CAB that Heritage projects have to be completed in the fiscal year that they are approved in. Discussion was further had as to whether the project was growing into an unachievable size considering the work relying on volunteers and possibly, the schedule of the bootstraps crew, if the crews are chosen. Chairman Evans pointed out there is still a lot of planning involved with schedules, work crews, costs etc. Mr. Bliss recommended not tying the guzzler projects in with the pj thinning project to simplify the plans and project.

Chairman Evans asked if Mr. Tibbitts had time to work on proposal. Mr. Tibbitts replied that he will have the pj proposal completed and to the BLM by next meeting January 30th

Fisheries—Discussion and consider further efforts to protect and/or enhance sustainable sport fisheries of importance to Eureka County.

Chairman Evans reported on the private lands transition; Barrick has purchased the JD Ranch and Tonkin Reservoir. Chairman Evans plans to contact the Surface Resource Manager- Gary Sunseth to recommend a fisheries management plan at Tokin Reservoir. Chairman Evans worked with Barrick on the rehab of Cold Creek. Chairman Evans will have a draft letter for the CAB's review at the next meeting. Chairman Evans would like the primary structure of the reservoir rehabbed to begin using as irrigation and save the fishery. Chris Crookshanks likes the idea, and reported that several fisheries have already been lost and believes NDOW would support the project even though Tonkin is not in his area. Mr. Crookshanks reported that Cold Creek has greatly improved. Bow cut and bass have been transplanted into Cold Creek and are thriving on the chubs.

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

Action Item: 8 Southern Nevada Water Authority Resolution – Vice Chairman Robb – For Possible Action

The Commission may adopt a position statement or resolution relative to Southern Nevada Water Authority drafted by the Great Basin Water Network, and the Commission may consider the alternative of amending Commission Policy #60.

There was some discussion of the monitoring, mitigation and management plan that should outline triggers, mitigation measures, impacts determined by proper monitoring and the management of. Mr. Bliss expressed his concern of loss of wildlife species, and grazing that will further hinder wildlife vegetation and habitat, and stated that money is unable to fix all impacts. Chairman Evans commented that he is concerned about watershed implications.

Mr. Torres moved to support SNWA commission resolution as written. Mr. Bliss seconded, motion carried unanimously.

DRAFT

Action Item:10 Solar Development Roadmap for Public Lands – Chief of Habitat Elmer Bull – For Possible Action

The Commission will hear a report from the Department identifying the areas proposed for solar development in Nevada and the wildlife issues associated with those proposed areas. The Department may recommend that the Commission draft a response letter in support of NDOW's comments and or assist in the process.

No Recommendation was given; there were no support material to review.

Mr. Tibbitts reported there are some areas in Eureka County targeted for potential solar areas.

Action Item: 17A Commission General Regulation Number 390 - LCB File No. R102-10 - Inland Navigation Rules - Chief Game Warden Buonamici

The Commission may adopt amendments to recommend changes relating to watercraft; applies any federal law or regulation applicable to navigable waters within this State to all other waters within this State. Note: See agenda item #11 A for support material.

Mr. Bliss moved to not support changes relating to watercraft, because of a lack of a reason why the change is needed and the potential unintended consequences. Mr. Taylor seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item :17B Commission General Regulation Number 398 – LCB File No. R025-11 – Interstate Boundary Water License – Program Officer III Maureen Hullinger

The Commission may adopt a regulation relating to wildlife and the implementation of a new nonresident annual fishing license pursuant to Assembly Bill 19 for use solely in the reciprocal waters of the Colorado River, Lake Mead, Lake Mohave, Lake Tahoe and Topaz Lake. This regulation adds clarification language needed to implement this new license. Note: See agenda item #11 B for support material.

Mr. Torres moved to support the adopting of regulation relating to interstate boundary water license. Mr. Taylor seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item:17C Commission General Regulation Number 400 – LCB File No. R054-11 – Commercial Crayfish/Filleting of Fish/Restrictions Import/Transport – Chief of Fisheries – Mark Warren

The Commission may adopt a regulation relating to wildlife; authorizing the commercial taking of crayfish without the imposition of demerit points under certain circumstances; authorizing the importation, transportation or possession of a certain species of shad; prohibiting the importation, transportation or possession of a certain species of eel; authorizing a person to obtain a permit to take crayfish commercially from the waters of Lake Tahoe under certain circumstances; and authorizing the filleting of fish before transport under certain circumstances. Note: See agenda item #11 C for support material.

Mr. Torres moved to support the adopting of regulations relating to commercial crayfish/filleting of fish/restrictions import and transport. Mr. Bliss seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item: 17D Commission General Regulation Number 401 – LCB File No. R056-11 – Classification Reptiles/Furbearing/Game Bird – Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici

The Commission may adopt a regulation declassifying the red fox as a furbearing mammal; classifying the Eurasian collared dove as an upland game bird; classifying the rosy boa as a protected reptile; providing for the possession, transportation, and importation and exportation of certain wolves without a permit or license issued by the Department of Wildlife. Note: See agenda item #11 D for support material.

DRAFT

Mr. Torres moved to support the regulation classification of reptiles, furbearing and game bird. Mr. Taylor seconded, motion carried unanimously.

2006 Management Plan for Mule Deer – Wildlife Staff Specialist Tony Wasley

Wildlife Staff Specialist Tony Wasley will review the 2006 Management Plan for Mule Deer. Chairman Evans commented on the 2006 Management Plan for Mule Deer; really liked the formatting and the report was put together well.

Walker Lake Update – Chief of Fisheries Mark Warren

Mr. Crookshank gave a brief update on Walker Lake including water quality, lake levels and fish quality and quantity.

Action Item:18 Trapping Regulation Committee Report – Commissioner McNinch – For Possible Action

Commissioner McNinch will report on the substance of two committee meetings held on Nov. 7, 2011, in Las Vegas, and Nov. 9, 2011, in Reno, and the Commission shall consider revisions and additions to a draft regulation and may provide direction to the committee.

Mr. Bliss moved to support draft. Mr. Taylor seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item:19 Heritage Regulations and Policies – Deputy Director Patrick Cates - For Possible Action

The Nevada Department of Wildlife will present the status of Heritage Program regulations and policies and make recommendations for possible changes for the Commission's consideration.

After brief discussion, Mr. Bliss moved to support the regulation and policies with the change: funds not used, are available for distribution only through the Heritage account. Mr. Torres seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item: 20 Change Classification of Gray Wolf - Chairman McBeath – For Possible Action

The Commission will determine whether to pursue the change of classification of the gray wolf (Canis Lupis) from a game mammal to unprotected mammal.

Mr. Taylor moved to not pursue the change of classification of the gray wolf. Mr. Evans seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item: 20A First Reading of Commission Policy #27, Protection of Nevada Wildlife Resources – Chairman McBeath – For Possible Action

The Commission will have a first reading for proposed changes to Commission Policy #27. The Commission may choose to retain Policy 27, modify all or part of Policy 27, or to eliminate Policy 27 in its entirety.

Mr. Taylor moved to support to either retain or modify but not eliminate Policy 27. Mr. Torres seconded, motion carried unanimously.

There was brief discussion of the Wildlife Services report regarding coyotes taken in fiscal year 2011. There is the challenge of farmers wanting to keep the coyotes around to help control rodents in hay fields and ranchers and sportsmen wanting coyotes taken to reduce threat to deer herds and livestock.

Next Meeting Date

DRAFT

The next meeting date was schedule for January 30, 2012 at 6:00pm.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Torres and seconded by Mr. Taylor. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30p.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____ 2011.

Respectfully submitted: _____, Secretary
Kathy Porter

Approved: _____, Chairman
Jim Evans