

DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE
Minutes of the May 7, 2013 Meeting

The DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2013 in the CVIC HALL 1602 ESMERALDA AVE, MINDEN, NEVADA.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Cook, Chairman (*Joined the meeting at 5:37 p.m.*)
Craig Burnside, Vice Chairman
Michael Turnipseed
Bob Pohlman
Wes Emery

NDOW STAFF PRESENT: Commissioner Jeremy Drew
Carl Lackey
Mike Doble

STAFF: Lorraine Diedrichsen, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. and determined a quorum was present.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Vice Chairman Burnside noted Chairman Cook would be a few minutes late tonight. He acknowledged the attendance of Commissioner Jeremy Drew, Carl Lackey and Mike Doble, NDOW, and thanked them for attending.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Turnipseed/Pohlman to approve the agenda as presented; carried with Cook absent.

ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 12, 2013

MOTION by Pohlman/Turnipseed to approve the minutes as presented; carried with Cook absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TRI-COUNTY DEER RESTORATION WORKING GROUP AND THE POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF THE GROUP TO INCLUDE OTHER SIERRA FRONT WILDLIFE ISSUES.

Vice Chairman Burnside stated the group now call themselves "Tri County Wildlife Working Group".

Mr. Turnipseed said Carl Lackey attended the last meeting along with a research student and they provided a report on the number of collared deer and their location. This is the last year of the capture and study. There are no conclusions yet from the study but they know where the deer are and where they are moving. Units 192/194/196 are doing fine. Trail cameras were discussed at length. The letter written by the DCABMW was circulated but it was not received very well. Mr. Turnipseed would like to submit the letter anyway and see if the Commission will discuss it.

Commissioner Drew said they are quite busy right now but encouraged the Board to submit the letter so it will be on the record.

Mr. Emery stated he sent the letter to the Nevada Guides Association and the feedback he has received so far support the removal of trail cameras. He talked about the high fees being charged by some to provide information on the location of the animals in the images.

Mr. Turnipseed does not think using trail cameras is fair chase and Mr. Emery agreed.

Mr. Lackey stated he personally has not had any issues of abuse with trail cameras but what is being described here could be a form of illegal guiding.

Vice Chairman Burnside acknowledges there are issues with the trail cameras but they can also be beneficial for the person who does not have the time or opportunity to scout prior to hunting.

Commissioner Drew thought this issue could be addressed at a regulation meeting and an informational report could be presented outlining some general concepts. Staff then would be directed by the Commission on how to proceed.

Mr. Doble added most of the problems with trail cameras occur in the southeast portion of the state.

The Board directed the Chairman to change the addressee and send the letter as

written.

2. UPDATE (INFORMATIONAL ONLY) ON THE BI-STATE SAGE GROUSE.

Chairman Cook joined the meeting.

Mr. Pohlman updated the Board on the activities of the Oversight Committee. He noted the spirit of cooperation between the Bi-State group and all the agencies. The next meeting will be May 17, 2013.

He talked about the effort to secure easements in the Desert Creek Road area to keep the land from being developed and ruining the area for sage grouse.

Commissioner Drew explained the formation, makeup, funding, and function of the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council. A mitigation bank is being set up for the mitigation fees collected when development is done in a sagebrush ecosystem or sage grouse habitat. These fees would go for restoration, rehabilitation, or pre-fire suppression efforts. Since this council is in its infancy, there are still some things that need to be worked out about the process and what the fees collected can be used for.

A short discussion took place on the Ruby Pipeline Project and its impacts.

This was a discussion only and no action was taken.

3. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON REDUCING THE SPEED LIMIT ON FOOTHILL/JACKS VALLEY ROAD.

Mr. Turnipseed has not followed up with the county on this yet but suggested a reduction in the speed limit to 35 mph near the Genoa Lakes bus stops to help with deer deaths. He requested this item remain on the agenda to keep it in the forefront.

4. UPDATE (INFORMATIONAL ONLY) ON THE REINTRODUCTION OF LAHONTAN CUTTHROAT TROUT INTO LAKE TAHOE.

Chairman Cook read two emails from Stephanie Byers, US Fish & Wildlife Service, into the record on the status of the spring survey.

Chairman Cook thought it would be beneficial to engage the local people in this effort as they have knowledge of the location of the fish.

This was a discussion only and no action was taken.

5. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS THAT MAY IMPACT THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISH AND WILDLIFE IN GENERAL.

Since this item closely ties with item 6b on the agenda, the Board requested this discussion be carried forward to that item.

Mr. Turnipseed has followed the legislative process and reported on the bill regarding the makeup of the CABS (AB168) and said he testified at that hearing.

Chairman Cook added his opinion that everyone present at a meeting is “public” and should be able to give public comment. When they want a Board member that represents the interests of the general public, all should be qualified to fill that position.

Commissioner Drew reviewed the most recent version of the bill and said a definition of “public” was intentionally left out of the language so it would not be too restrictive. Whether the number of members of a CAB would increase remains to be decided.

Mr. Turnipseed said the bill that changed the makeup of the Commission died as did many other bills. The guzzler bill has been completely changed.

Commissioner Drew said the no bear hunting bill is in the Assembly. It is a resolution that has a list of findings of fact and directs the Commission to work with all stakeholders to try to reach consensus and report the findings back to the legislature.

He cited NRS 501.181 as to what must be considered when setting hunting and fishing regulations.

Mr. Lackey added they will annually look at bear harvest criteria and analyze it on a running three year basis; that provision is already contained in the bear management plan.

Mr. Turnipseed touched on bear and lion interaction and what they eat.

Commissioner Drew said SB 213 (trapping bill) was heard today and he talked about the registering of traps, trap check times, flagging traps, and tampering with traps. SB 371 (feeding of mammals) does not include all wildlife but is better than nothing.

Mr. Lackey was hoping the bill would contain language that it would be a violation if bears are attracted when a person is feeding rodents or other things that are not big game.

A quick discussion took place on the biomass joint resolution and how biomass is currently being used.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jerad Lees asked about SB 213. Commissioner Drew read from the text of the bill and thought a trapping license is not needed if the animal is not sold but he indicated he would check on it. Mr. Lees noticed the work session did not address tampering with traps but it is in there. Commissioner Drew said it should be amended out. Mr. Lees believes this bill as written means a mouse trap would have to be registered.

Commissioner Drew thinks this bill is specific to fur bearing mammals. Mr. Lees asked if anyone has opposed SJR 1 (wild horses). Commissioner Drew said the Commission did not take a position on it but it was amended to take out any reference to BLM and Forest Service.

Public comment closed.

Chairman Cook said SJR 7 (preserve the right to hunt, fish and trap in Nevada) failed.

This was a discussion only.

- 6. The following items, 6a through 6c, are items that will be heard before the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners at the next meeting, May 10 & 11, 2013 at the City of Reno, Reno City Hall Council Chambers, 1 East 1st Street, 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.**

6a–6c. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING WHETHER THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD SHOULD TAKE A POSITION ON:

6a. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON PINE FOREST RECREATION ENHANCEMENT ACT. A report will be provided on the Pine Forest Recreation Enhancement Act designating the Pine Forest Range Wilderness Area. The Commission will discuss and may take a position on the Pine Forest Recreation Enhancement Act and may take action to draft and submit a letter regarding its position.

For this locally driven process, Commissioner Drew explained there are two wilderness study areas and they formed a local working group and spent 1 1/2 to 2 years defining the boundaries and other things and developed through Humboldt County, a package to go in so it would go from a wilderness study area to a formal wilderness area. Once that happens, a management plan can be drafted.

No public comment.

This was a discussion only.

6b. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE 2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE AND COMMISSION BILL POSITIONS. Staff will present a status update of tracked legislation since the last Commission meeting. The Commission may take action to be neutral, support or oppose proposed legislation and may propose to insert language/amendments to legislation pending in the 2013 Nevada State Legislature.

Please see the discussion under item 5.

6c. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION REGULATION 13-09, 2013 BIG GAME QUOTAS FOR THE 2013-14 SEASONS. The Commission will establish regulations for the numbers of tags to be issued for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goats and black bears for the 2013 - 2014 seasons.

The Board requested NDOW staff highlight areas where there are significant changes from last year.

Mr. Lackey stated there were no changes to the quota and number of tags for the bears. They have committed to three years of little change in order to obtain solid data before making changes to the tags or quotas. He reviewed the number of applicants for the tags since inception of the hunt and noted it is increasing. He said he would love to see a tag be made a Heritage Tag.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jerad Lees asked about the success of last year's hunt and Mr. Lackey responded 11 bears were shot. A short discussion took place on the scoring of the bears shot.

Public comment closed.

Mr. Doble reviewed the populations, tag history and recommended number of tags, fawn to doe ratio, buck to doe ratio, maintenance levels, and hunter success as they applied to pronghorn, doe antelope (horns shorter than ears), elk, desert sheep, California big horn sheep, Rocky Mountain big horn sheep, mountain goats, and mule deer (for this species, Mr. Lackey highlighted the local area hunts).

Mr. Doble said shed antler hunting is a result of how hard it is to draw an elk tag. Shed antlers have a monetary value and some people are making a living collecting and selling them.

Commissioner Drew reviewed the history of the nonresident cow hunt and noted it was very expensive. The fee was \$1200 so there was little demand for the tags. The unallocated nonresident tags were eventually reallocated to the resident second draw. Until the nonresident fee changed, the nonresident cow hunt sort of went away and this is the first attempt to bring it back and see what the demand is. Mr. Doble said the fee is now \$500.

Commissioner Drew provided some information on the transplant of 8 ewes and a lamb

from East Humboldt to Lamoille Canyon and 3 rams to Washington University to be studied and researched. All the existing sheep in the East Humboldt were captured and moved and the new sheep from Alberta are in the East Humboldt.

Vice Chairman Burnside was glad to see an increase in the junior mule deer tags. Mr. Doble explained the demand for the tags has increased and some of the tags have been reallocated to areas where there is more demand.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jerad Lees said he has noticed a decrease in the antelope in a particular part of Smith Valley. He added he has seen mule deer in the Ranchos. Mr. Turnipseed said he has seen them by the Methodist Church.

Mr. Lackey identified the areas where he has seen the animals when doing fly overs.

Public comment closed.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Burnside to approve the recommendations as written; carried unanimously.

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.

Some Board members received communication from BLM regarding a public comment period on the draft supplemental EIS for the Ruby Pipeline project.

The big game draw will be held on May 22, 2013 in Fallon, Nevada.

The Legislative Shoot was held on Sunday and was a success.

The Tag Allocation Application Hunt Committee, Heritage Committee, and Wildlife Damage Management Committee will all meet on May 9, 2013.

Commissioner Drew said Policy 25 (predator management plan) will be overhauled. The FY 14 draft predation plan has come out and input is being solicited. Money is raised from the \$3 application fee so if someone opposes how the money is proposed to be spent then they should voice their concerns.

Discussion took place on projects 32 (ecology of cougar-black bear interaction) and the intent of the study and also 30 (landfill waste stream management to enhance sage grouse) of the plan, which Vice Chairman Burnside finds to have some unrealistic goals.

Mr. Doble said this plan is a completely different look at how the \$3 fee paid might be spent. This plan is only suggestions on ways to accomplish some of the things that need to be done and it can be changed completely if that is the desire.

8. DISCUSSION ON THE RESULTS OF THE MARCH 15 & 16, 2013 NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS. There will be no action taken.

No one attended.

9. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION 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.

Chairman Cook and Mr. Emery plan to attend the Saturday portion of the meeting.

10. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION TO SCHEDULE THE NEXT WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for June 21 & 22, 2013, in Ely; and the Commission will review and discuss potential agenda items for that meeting. The Commission may change the time and meeting location at this time. The chairman may designate and adjust committee assignments as necessary at this meeting.

The next meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 18, 2013.

11. 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 Wildlife Working Group
- . Bi-state sage grouse.
- . Reintroduction of Lahontan Cutthroat Trout
- . Speed limit on Foothill Road
- . Legislative update

MOTION by Turnipseed/Burnside to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m.; carried unanimously.

The minutes of the May 7, 2013 meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 18th day June, 2013.

Bob Cook, Chairman