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Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board
Minutes
May 2, 2013

The Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board (CAB) met in the Eureka County Administrative Facility on May 2, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Jim Evans, Raymond Hodson, Lester Porter,

Members Absent: Dale Hornickel

Others Present: Jake Tibbitts-Eureka County Natural Resources Manager, Jessica Contreras- Eureka County Natural Resources Assistant/Secretary, Mike Podborny-Nevada Department Of Wildlife (NDOW) Wildlife Biologist, Joe Maslach-NDOW, and Ken Gray -NDOW

Call to order

Chairman Jim Evans called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. A quorum was determined to be present.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Board Business

The minutes of the March 7, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion made by Raymond Hodson and seconded by Lester Porter. Motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence and Member Reports-

None

Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Projects-

Update on pinyon-juniper thinning project, wildlife guzzlers installation, and other potential projects and consider further efforts to move forward for successful implementation of projects.

Jake Tibbitts stated they received a grant from Land Owners Incentive Program for \$206,720 it is farm bill money which has to be spent on private lands. It is a 64% contribution and they need to come up with a matching 36%. The other commitments they have are as follows the Conservation District \$5,000, Board of Commissioners \$40,000, Dream Tag \$12,000, the Habitat Conservation fee \$35,000, and the Heritage Funding this year is \$31,796. The entire project is \$330,516 and it should cover all of the acreage they have permissions on. The Request for Proposal (RFP) will go out on the May 6, 2013 and have a deadline of May 22, 2013 by close of business. Mr. Tibbitts requested the board have a special meeting on May 24, 2013 to review the RFP's they receive and decide who they will give the reward to. They would like the contractor to begin work on June 3, 2013. The heritage funding needs to be spent and finished by June 30, 2013 and currently is at \$31,000.

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Mr. Porter motioned to have a special meeting on May 24th at 7:00 am and Jim Evans seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Board of Wildlife Commissioners Vacancies

Discuss and consider making recommendation(s) to Governor Sandoval on individuals for consideration to fill upcoming vacancies on the Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

Mr. Evans has been notified that Chad Bliss will be applying for the Wildlife Commission and would like the Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board's support.

Mr. Evans motioned to write a letter in support of Chad Bliss in becoming part of the Wildlife Commission and be sent to the Governor and seconded by Mr. Porter. Motion passed unanimously.

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Meeting Agenda and Support Material

Action Item 8: 2013 Legislative Session Update and Commission Bill Positions – Commissioner Drew

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.

Mr. Evans read through the following bills:

Assembly Bill (AB) 123: Exempts a person from the payment of a fee for the management of aquatic invasive species under certain circumstances. The Commission supported this bill and it has passed the assembly and is currently in the senate.

AB168: Requires a membership of each county advisory board to manage wildlife to include one qualified member who represents the interests of the general public. The Commission was neutral but with a support concept. The bill will go to work session as it reads and a vote will be taken.

AB293: Revises provisions relating to off-highway vehicles. The Commission opposed this bill and the bill was approved by natural resources.

AB345: Revises provisions governing the management of certain wildlife. The bill has changed by having habitats that would benefit sage grouse.

AB396: Revises provisions relating to the waters of the State. The Commission was neutral with the bill as written. The Bill was approved by natural resources with significant amendments and declared exempt by assembly.

AB461: Enacts provisions governing the management of sagebrush ecosystems. The Commission tabled the bill pending further amendments. The bill is still in the Assembly. The bill basically takes regulatory laws and makes them federal laws.

AB483: Limits the amount of fees that the State Engineer may charge and collect for certain applications to appropriate water for wildlife purposes submitted by the Department of Wildlife. The Commission supported the bill and has been approved in the Assembly.

Senate Bill (SB) 11: Prohibits possession in Nevada of wildlife that was acquired, hunted, taken, or transported in violation of law regulation of another state or country. The Commission supported as passed by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources.

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SB 82: Urges the Board of Wildlife Commissioners to review the hunting of black bears. The Commission opposed the bill and bill was approved on senate floor as written and has been sent to Assembly.

SB 132: Revises the period of validity of hunting and fishing licenses. Died.

SB 134: Revises provision governing animals, this is the guzzler bill. The Commission opposed the bill as introduced. The bill was sent to assembly.

SB184: Revises provisions governing. Died.

SB213: Revises certain provisions relating to the trapping of wild animals. The Commission opposed bill and has been amended in the Senate committee.

SB245: Enacts provisions relating to the importation, possession, sale, transfer, or breeding of dangerous wild animals. The Commission supports the bill in concept. It has been significantly amended in the Senate committee.

SB248: Allows a person who discovers an abandoned vessel on private property to apply for a certificate of ownership to the abandoned vessel under certain circumstances. The Commission opposed the bill as written. Died.

SB299: Revises provisions regarding governing falconry. The Commission took no action. Died.

SB333: Revises provisions relating to wildlife. The Commission opposed the bill as written. Died.

SB371: Prohibits a person from intentionally feeding any big game mammal under certain circumstances. The Commission supports the bill per the amendments discussed. Currently, at senate floor for general file.

SB434: Revises provision relating to vessels. The Commission supported the bill and sent it to the Assembly committee on natural resources.

AJR3: Expresses the intent of the legislature to establish a biomass industry to restore certain ecosystems on public lands. The Commission supports the bill and has been sent to the senate committee on natural resources.

SJR1: Expresses support for wild horses and burros in Nevada. Approved in senate and sent to assembly committee. The County supports this bill.

SJR7: Proposes to amend the Nevada Constitution to preserve the right to hunt, fish, and trap in this state. The Commission supported this bill. Died.

No action taken.

Reports – Informational: 9C

Wildlife Damage Management Committee Report - Commissioner McBeath

Report on the draft Predator Management Plan for FY14 and draft Policy 25 Revision.

Mr. Tibbitts stated this is the first opportunity to discuss their plan, cooperate and provide comment before June 1, 2013.

Mr. Evans asked the board if they would like to provide comment because it is in the budget structure and is associated with predation.

Mr. Tibbitts stated in the background there is a lot going around concerning this plan because it has a lot of habitat considerations. It impacts them directly because of number 29 in the project, the landfill problem. Basically, provide money to fill the

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landfill a lot faster and cover it up faster to avoid the raven problem. Also, number 34 is concerning the springs in our project area.

Ken Gray stated they have to apply for a 2500 raven permit in order to get rid of the ravens and they have to show that it is non-lethal to the ravens. Getting rid of the ravens is expensive for NDOW, they pay \$25 per raven.

Mr. Tibbitts stated the following item Wildlife Damage Management Comment Report-Predator Management Plan for FY14 and draft Policy 25 Revision will be an action item for the special meeting on May 24, 2013.

Action Item 15: Commission Regulation 13 – 09, 2013 Big Game Quotas for the 2013 - 14 Seasons - Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox and Western Region Biologist Carl Lackey

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.

Mr. Evans asked the board how they would like to move forward on the Big game quotas for 2013. The board agreed to go down each hunt and either agree or disagree and make one final motion at the end of the quota list.

The board agreed with NDOW proposed quotas:

- Black Bear
- Antelope
- Elk
- Desert Bighorn Sheep
- California Bighorn Sheep
- Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep
- Mountain Goat

Mr. Evans stated he is not concerned with the increase in youth tags. Looking at the budget number and area 14, last year's tags increased by an overall 65%. People in the county are coming back saying they only got to shoot a two or three point and not a four or five point. The biggest concern is that they have to compete for an area to hunt because there are a lot of people out there. They need to balance the population in Area 14 and maybe cut back tags.

Mike Podborny disagrees because overall 27% of all bucks harvested are actually under the state average. The main reason they harvested two points last year was because that was the biggest population out there. The bucks are still out there but people are going out and hunting early and they end up shooting only the two or three point.

Joe Maslach stated the number of two points harvested was huge and he checked about 23 two or three pointers and maybe a couple four pointers. Those people are very excited to have filled their tag and don't care what they just shot.

After discussion the board agreed with all deer hunts except in area 14 and recommended a reduction of 15%.

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Mr. Hodson motioned that they agree with all proposed quotas except with the area 14 deer hunts, recommendation is a 15% reduction of what is proposed except for the junior tags and seconded by Chris Torres. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting Date

The special meeting was scheduled for May 24, at 7:00 a.m.
The next meeting date was scheduled for June 13, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment

No Public Comment.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Hodson and seconded by Mr. Torres. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05p.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____ 2013.

Respectfully submitted: _____, Secretary
Jessica Contreras

Approved: _____, Chairman
Jim Evans