

ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE

MONDAY

NOVEMBER 14, 2016

PRESENT:

Eric Clifford, Chairman
Jesse Lattin, Member
Jim Curran, Member
Peggy Hughes, Member
Mike Olsen, Member

The Churchill County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife convened at 6:03 p.m. in the Commission Chambers, Suite #145, Fallon, Nevada. The following business was conducted:

Agenda Item 3: Public Comment.

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 4: Posting of Agenda.

Chair Clifford verified the agenda had been posted.

Agenda Item 5: Review and adoption of Agenda.

Member Olsen moved to adopt the agenda for the November 14, 2016 meeting. Member Lattin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 6: Review and adoption of Minutes for June 20, 2016.

The minutes were not available for review; therefore, no action was taken.

Agenda Item 7: Correspondence:

Chair Clifford said he received lots of correspondence regarding the Modernization Plan so he decided to place it on the agenda as Item #8b.

Agenda Item 8: Appointments:

Chair Clifford directed the Board to the State Agenda for Friday, November 18th and 19th.

Chair Clifford went to Item #7: Commissioner Regulation 17-01 Taking of Raptors.

Member Curran moved to accept the recommendations for Commission Regulation 17-01 as proposed. Member Lattin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Chair Clifford next went to Item #8: Commission Regulation 17-02, Noncommercial Collection of Reptiles and Amphibians. He asked if the Board wanted to take action. Member Curran stated there was nothing controversial regarding this item. There was no action taken.

Chair Clifford next went to item #10: License Simplification Strategy Update. Member Curran stated he attended the workshop and thought they did a poor job of noticing the meeting. He said he supported what they proposed regarding doing away with all the stamps and the slight increase in resident license fees. He noted this would have to go before the Legislature. Member Olsen said he was appalled at what little public input they had and he agreed it was because of poor noticing. Chair Clifford stated he supported this item.

Member Olsen made a motion for full support behind the License Simplification Strategy. Member Curran seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Chair Clifford reported that the Agenda the Board had was not the same as the Final Agenda provided to him. He would note the correct item numbers for the record from this point forward.

Chair Clifford next went to Item #12: Guidelines for Harvest Management. Member Olsen asked if the Trappers Association would have input on this. Member Curran stated they had several meetings with the fur bearer staff specialist who had made some minor modification from the first draft to this draft. He spoke about kitten productions and adult ratios, trap nights, restrictions, standard and liberal seasons, 96 days versus 105 days, and opening dates. He said they went back and looked at 30 years of data, but the present Commission felt this was not justified.

Member Curran moved to support the current updated Guidelines for Harvest Management as submitted in the support data. Member Olsen seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Chair Clifford opened Item #13: Policy 2, Publication. Member Hughes suggested no action be taken as the Board had previously taken action.

Chair Clifford did not believe any action was necessary for Item 14: Policy 31, Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Management Guidelines.

Chair Clifford read and opened Items 15 (Friday Agenda), and 21, 21B, 22, 22B, 23 and 24 (Saturday Agenda). He asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, it was determined no action would be taken on these items.

Chair Clifford next went to Item 25: Commission Policy regarding Wildlife Contest. Member Curran said it didn't sound like the State was going to take any action. He looked at the first cut and then it said the Commission may choose to discuss the merits and amend forward. He did not know what this Board could say because it was not clear what the policy was going to be. Once we got something with a little more detail, he thought they could make a recommendation but he did not want to show support without knowing exactly what it was. He said it was extremely controversial when the animal rights activists came before the Commission and tried to get calling contests outlawed. All members agreed to take no action.

Chair Clifford opened Items 26 and 26A: Commissioner General Regulation 463, Duties of Persons Transporting Vessels or Conveyances: Member Hughes stated the Board looked at this before and made comments at that time. Member Curran said he understood why they were so nervous about aquatic critters getting transported around the State. He thought it sounded like you could be driving down the highway and the NHP could stop you to see if the plug was in or out. He explained that on opening day at Pyramid Lake, a couple of boats drowned because they forgot to put the plugs back in. Member Hughes suggested taking no action and all Board members agreed.

Chair Clifford asked if there was any discussion for Item 26B: Commission General Regulation 471, Truckee River Motorized Vessel Closure. Member Olsen said this had to do with the little motors they were putting in the River by Reno. Member Curran stated he was told this started because a concessionaire put little jet boats by Wingfield Park to run up and down the Truckee River. He said it would not impact anyone and the Board had no comment on this last time. The Board agreed to take no action.

Chair Clifford read Item 26C: General Regulation 464, Appeals. There was no discussion from the Board and no action was taken.

Chair Clifford opened Item 26D: General Regulation 465, Antelope and Elk Waiting Periods. Member Hughes stated she thought no action was necessary as the Board had made comments previously. Member Curran stated he could not find anything regarding whether someone would be grandfathered in. He said he did not understand why they came up with this recommendation because the draw odds were getting harder and harder for both species. Member Lattin questioned if a hunter drew an antelope tag now and did not harvest, they would not have to wait five years. Chair Clifford read that regardless of harvest the waiting period for antelope after receiving a tag would be three years with the new Regulation. He said it would stiffen the regulations for antelope but not elk.

Member Curran moved to support General Regulation 465 dealing with waiting period for both antelope and antlered elk. Member Hughes seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Chair Clifford returned to the local Board Agenda.

Chair Clifford went to Item 8b: Fallon Range Training Complex and Modernization Plan. He said his intent for placing this on the agenda was to develop a plan as to how to construct letters and who those letters should go to. He explained he went to the scoping meeting a couple of weeks ago and the company hired by Churchill County came and explained how to voice opinions. He said it was recommended to him by the company to have this Board submit a letter through the County as well to the Commission and directly to the Navy stating this Board's position. He noted the scoping letters needed to be submitted by December 18th or 19th.

Member Curran wondered what kind of direction they could get from the County Commissioners. He said even though this was an independent board, he thought they had to be cautious and not make any statements that would contradict what they would be submitting. He assumed they had a consultant to work with. He reported he submitted comments and recommendations personally in regard to those sites and sent a copy to the County Commissioners.

Member Hughes asked if the Navy was going to allow hunting in those areas or remove that totally. Member Curran responded those areas would be closed to the public. Chair Clifford explained that it would not be completely closed in Dixie Valley but there was language in there with not a lot of room for interpretation. Member Curran stated it looked like it would be closed north of the Highway all the way up to Table Mountain, which looked like they were trying to appease BLM in the wilderness area. Everything south of the Highway, Sand Springs Range and over to the Monte Cristo Range would be closed to the public. He thought that was where the County Commissioners and the State Wildlife Commission may come up with something to make it less restrictive for hunting sheep and antelope, kind of like they did at the nuclear test site. He said he had some concerns about the Sheckler bombing range expansion and his recommendation was that the Navy should look at Area 19 and expand to the south side of the Cocoon Mountains, because there was no value to wildlife or public there. He stated there was no reason to close all this country right up to the houses on Solias Road when they could take "no man's land" south of the Cocoon Mountains.

Member Olsen stated it was interesting how it closed all the Dead Camel Mountain Range, which if you go back to the BLM Sage Grouse deal that was the only area left for off-highway vehicles in that Plan too.

Member Curran stated in the Carson District BLM Plan they just finished, they designated the Dead Camel Mountains for off-road vehicle, recreation, hiking and shooting. He said he was out there quite often and there was not a day he did not see people on horseback, four wheelers or just walking. He said last week when they were playing Army games their machine guns were very noisy. Member Curran and Chair Clifford concurred they needed to know what the County Commissioner's plan was so this Board was not recommending something they might be opposed to. Chair Clifford asked if the Board would like him to seek direction from the County Commissioners as to what they would like this Board to do. Member Hughes said she would imagine the County Commissioners wanted to keep it open to the public for hunting on some kind of limited basis. Member Curran stated they had provided the public with such little data that it was hard to comment. Chair Clifford said he would contact the

County Commissioners and ask for direction in this matter. Member Lattin said if the Chair had to call a meeting solely for this purpose he would support that to get their comments in on time.

There was no action taken on this item.

Agenda Item 9: Future agenda items.

There were no future agenda items discussed.

Agenda Item 10: Public Comment

There was no response to the call for public comment. Member Curran asked if the Board could get email addresses from different organizations to get more people involved in these meetings. Member Lattin stated he would look into it and get on social media.

6:49 p.m. There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned without objection.



Eric Clifford, Chairman
Churchill County Advisory Board to Manage
Wildlife

*Minutes prepared by:
Jaime Deller, Independent Contractor*