

ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE

MONDAY

SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

PRESENT:

Jim Curran, Member
Peggy Hughes, Member
Mike Olsen, Member

ABSENT:

Eric Clifford, Chairman
Jesse Lattin, Member

The Churchill County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife convened at 6:00 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.**

Member Olsen stated he saw the agenda had been posted.

Agenda Item 5: **Review and adoption of Agenda.**

Member Curran moved to adopt the agenda. Member Hughes seconded the motion, which duly carried with Chairman Clifford and Member Lattin absent.

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

The minutes were unavailable for adoption.

Agenda Item 7: **Correspondence:**

Member Curran and Member Olsen both stated they had not received any correspondence.

Agenda Item 8: **Appointments:**

Final Nevada Board of Wildlife Commission's Agenda for September 23 and 24, 2016.

The Members discussed how frustrated they were with not receiving the State's Agenda and information.

6. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Request for 20 Wild-trapped Female Sage Grouse or Translocation to the Yakima Training Center.

Member Curran stated he did not have any comment and no opposition to this item. Member Olsen and Member Hughes also stated they had no objections.

7. First Reading, Commission Policy #2, Sale of Publications.

Member Olsen said they did not have any comments on this item.

8. Second Reading, Commission Policy #10, Wildlife Heritage Tags and Vendors.

Member Olsen stated he thought this was just a housekeeping item and required no action from the Board.

9. Second Reading, Commission Policy #11, Wildlife Heritage Grants.

Member Olsen stated he thought this item did not need any action.

10. First Reading, Commission Policy #31, Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Management;
and,

11. First Reading, Commission Policy #33, Fisheries Management Program.

Member Curran asked if Mr. Urquhart had made a presentation to the State. Chris Urquhart, Fisheries Biologist, asked if the Board would like him to give a rundown on some of the changes to the regulations Member Curran said he had read the policy and Member Hughes said it looked like a lot of housekeeping. Mr. Urquhart said some regulations along the Truckee River to accommodate coming up from Pyramid Lake. There was a change in the season also. Member Curran stated policy 31 covered cutthroat management statewide by basin and he thought one thing that stood out was the Truckee River used to be the second most fished water in the State. He said they were talking about the stocking program only going to be rainbow and Lahontan cutthroat. He assumed there would be no browns planted anymore. He wondered if the hatcheries were capable of stocking the Truckee River that would still maintain. To him the whole stocking program seemed not to be the priority it used to be. He said they talked about the decrease in angler days. Mr. Urquhart stated severe decrease last four years, which had to do with the drought. They stocked rainbows into the Truckee River as well as the Lahontan cutthroat and made up the difference with the normal brown trout. He thought they had been able to keep up with it pretty well. Some of the issues they had going on in the hatcheries now limited some of the stocking in total, i.e. some disease issues in Mason Valley causing problems for them to raise as many fish as they used to.

Mr. Urquhart said he did not have the Truckee River numbers on angler days or how many fish per day. Member Curran said he had been concerned about the conversion to mainly the Lahontan cutthroat because rainbows and browns were put in there originally. He had always been concerned that the federal government was going to mandate and get pressure from the Pyramid Lake Indian Tribe to close the Truckee River during the spawning runs. Mr. Urquhart said that was an ongoing thing. Member Curran stated that was why they did not open up Derby Dam where they could spawn.

Member Olsen asked if there had been any support showing they did spawn upstream at Derby Dam. Mr. Urquhart said they used to way back before any of those diversions were put in, all the way up to Tahoe. He said Derby Dam had a fish ladder but it was not open. He said the feds and the Tribe anticipated a lot of fish coming up to the lower dams, but they would use the fish ladders that they put in place in anticipation of the fish coming up. He said this new regulation would protect those fish coming up. He was not sure if they would be able to spawn in that lower section, but they saw some activity in the lower section below the last dam and before the Lake last year.

Member Curran stated there were a lot of problems getting them above Derby Dam up to Reno and beyond. Mr. Urquhart said it would be a new fishing opportunity and fun to go catch them if they ever got up there. He said there were some pretty big fish in Pyramid. Member Curran said he had no problem with what he read and he knew they were managing the Humboldt and the Upper Humboldt. He said he also did not have a problem Agenda Item #11.

Member Curran made a motion to support Commission Policy #31 and Commission Policy #33. Member Hughes seconded the motion, which duly carried with Chairman Clifford and Member Lattin absent.

14. Commission General Regulation 463, Person Transporting Vessel or Conveyance.

Member Olsen said he read through it and only saw some changes to the wording. There was no action taken.

15. Commission General Regulation 465, Antelope and Elk waiting periods.

Member Olsen said this would change the waiting period for Antelope to three years and antlered Elk to five years. He wondered how they would implement that for hunters such as himself who was at six years. He wondered if he would be eligible to apply. Member Curran stated that was how he understood it. He noted the last time the Department made a change like this they were eligible and there was no stair-step for someone who had nine or 10 years. Member Curran stated they looked at a year's worth of data which showed the draw odds would still be about the same. He noted he could not get an answer as to why they wanted to do change this; however, he was not really opposed to it. He noted with the increase in the number of hunters, it would be tougher to draw tags.

Member Olsen agreed stating in areas where the odds were low to draw a tag it would be even harder under these new regulations. Member Hughes stated they did not offer any explanation as to why they wanted to change the regulations. Member Curran stated it seemed to him that they wouldn't want to change the regulations unless they were running out of hunters to apply and the herds were getting bigger. Member Olsen stated it looked like it may have been considered because of public comment.

Member Curran made a motion to accept Commission's General Regulation 465. Member Hughes seconded the motion, which duly carried with Chairman Clifford and Member Lattin absent.

16. Commission General Regulation 467, Special Assistance Permit.

Member Olsen asked if the Board wanted to discuss Agenda Item 16. Member Hughes stated she thought they had received comments on it before when it came before them and she did not see any reason to take action on the item.

17. Commission General Regulation 471, Closure of Truckee River to Motorized Vessels.

Member Olsen stated he called Reno to see what the reason was for this change and was told they saw in the last couple of years, little miniature air-boats cruising on the Truckee River in downtown Reno and currently there was no restrictions on motorized use of the Truckee River. He said they investigated and there was a company that wanted to rent those types of boats for the white water parks and there was a concern over public safety. He said they were like a little air-boat that you could ride in. There was no action taken on this item.

23. Commission Regulation 16-02, Fishing Seasons and Bag Limits.

Member Olsen said he thought the one change was on the Truckee River below Derby Dam. Member Curran stated he was surprised that it was a zero limit up to May 31st, because it used to be into June. He wondered about the limit on game fish (catfish). Mr. Urquhart said there was some bass in the River too, but he didn't know if they were trying to limit them. Member Curran asked if the Truckee River was still at a limit of 10. Mr. Urquhart said yes for warm water fishing. It was closed for the first 1,000 feet and then it would open. Mr. Urquhart said that wasn't very much.

Member Curran made a motion to approve Commission Regulation 16-02. Member Hughes seconded the motion, which duly carried with Chairman Clifford and Member Lattin absent.

25. Commission General Regulation 469, Truckee River Tackle Restriction.

Member Curran stated this just changed the definition of tackle that could be used on the Truckee River. There was no action on this item.

26. Commission General Regulation 458, Electronic Rifle Triggers, Caliber and Cartridge Length.

Member Olsen said there had been several workshops on this and he thought it was beat to death. Member Hughes stated the Board already made their comments to the State. There was no action taken on this item.

27. Fire Related Emergency Antlerless Deer Hunts.

Member Curran asked Mr. Urquhart if he knew anything about whether they were going to establish a new quota and have a new drawing. Mr. Urquhart stated he was not sure how they were going to go about issuing the tags. Member Curran stated after reading it he was not really sure what their intentions were. He did not think that was really a doe hunt area in the first draw and there wasn't an alternate list. Member Olsen stated that in previous fires they actually called applicants to put in for that area and give them tags, so it could possibly go that way. There was no action taken on this item.

28. License Simplification Strategy Update.

Member Curran stated he thought this would be a legislative decision. He said he went to the public hearing and he was the only one there and they wanted to do away with all the stamps, and raise the fee a couple of dollars, except for the Federal Water Stamp. He said all you could hunt for free were rabbits and dove without having to buy some other supplemental stamp for birds. He said they thought they could make more money by doing away with the stamps and just raising the license fees a few dollars and it would make it easier for the hunters. Mr. Urquhart explained the formulas they would be using to calculate the fees and the percentages of how many stamps were sold and where the funds would be allocated. He said they did quite a lot of research on it and it would be a challenge to get it through the Legislature. Member Curran stated it would be reduced for seniors. Member Olsen asked if there had been any talk about any kind of lifetime deals such as was done in Idaho. Mr. Urquhart stated there was not. There was no action taken on this item.

Member Curran discussed the background surrounding Agenda Item 29 and why they were looking at changing the harvest seasons. He said antelope and deer were generic, but there was nothing to comment on at this time.

Member Olsen next went to the local Board's agenda.

Agenda Item 9: **Future agenda items.**

Member Olsen stated Member Lattin wished to put on a future agenda the Navy/BLM matter wherein the Navy wanted to talk about expanding their ranges in Bravo 16, 17, and 20. Member Curran stated from the County Game Board was an advisory group to the State Commission not the County Commissioners. He said they were talking about closing a lot of land to hunting and off-roading. Member Olsen stated that between the Sage Grouse habitat that the BLM was talking about closing down and then they wanted to shut down the Dead

Camel Range that would close off almost everything. Mr. Urquhart concurred stating Fairview, Rawhide and also some other areas would be closed also. Member Curran stated it was hard to argue against National Defense and the Marines wanted to use the Dead Camel Rabge. He said he was sure the County Commissioners were going to be very involved in the decision and expansion. Member Olsen said they did not find out until about a month ago and haven't had a lot of time to prepare. Member Curran stated it still could be several years before it was all finalized. There was discussion regarding sonic booms and there effect on the wildlife in those areas. It was so ordered to place this on a future agenda.

Agenda Item 10: **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

7:06 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:
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