

ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE

MONDAY

JANUARY 22, 2018

PRESENT:

Peggy Hughes, Chairperson
Eric Clifford, Member
Jim Curran, Member
Jason Sibley, Member
Tim Gubler, Member

ABSENT:

The Churchill County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife convened at 7:02 p.m. in the Churchill County Complex, 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 Hughes verified the agenda had been posted.

Agenda Item 5: Review and adoption of Agenda.

Chair Hughes called for any corrections to the agenda. Hearing none, the agenda was accepted.

Agenda Item 6: Review and adoption of Minutes for November 1, 2017.

Member Clifford moved to approve the minutes for November 1, 2017. Member Gubler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 7: Correspondence:

Chair Hughes stated she did not have any correspondence to review.

Agenda Item 8: Appointments:

- A. Consideration and possible action re: Items listed on the final Nevada Board of Wildlife Commission's Agenda for January 26 and 27, 2018 (copy of draft Agenda attached and marked as Exhibit "A" but the final Agenda may or may not

include additional items and the final Agenda will be the one considered for discussion and action).

Chair Hughes moved from the local agenda to the State's agenda.

Chair Hughes opened Item #7: Commission Policy #26, Re-establishing, Introducing, Transplanting and Managing Pioneering Rocky Mountain Elk. Member Gubler said he did not see anything new for the second reading. Member Clifford concurred.

Chair Hughes opened Item #8: Commission Policy #3, Appeals. Chair Hughes stated she did not see anything in the second reading regarding the procedures that had changed. Member Curran said he read it and determined it was based on the Attorney General's procedures for appeals and he did not think the Board had any jurisdiction.

Chair Hughes opened Item #9: Commission Policy #66, Management and Use of Wildlife Management Areas. Chair Hughes explained this had to do with population levels in certain areas and she did not see anything that needed comment. Members Gubler, Clifford and Curran all said they did not have any comments.

Chair Hughes opened Item #10: Commission Policy #51: William E. Kirch Conservation Award. Member Curran stated there did not appear to be anything to comment on.

Chair Hughes stated Item #11, Reports, all looked to be informational and there was no discussion.

Chair Hughes opened Item #13A: Commission General Regulation 475, Shed Antlers. She commented the Board had reviewed this Regulation regarding picking up shed antlers and the Board did not have comments on this item before.

Member Gubler said after reading through it, it seemed the problem was the dates; however, it did not affect Churchill County. He stated there were still seasons open in January, which would be an issue if you were in Elko and had a late season and could not pick up a shed. He said he agreed with everything except the date because he thought it should be moved to when big game season was over. He thought if it was modified to move the late December cow elk hunts to the middle of January that might eliminate that problem.

Member Curran said he was surprised how many counties were in favor of the regulation. He noted they originally were going to require a license to pick up sheds, but that was not in the regulation now. Member Gubler believed picked up sheds were for commercial use and someone was making money on them and that might be the reason for a license. Member Curran said making a little bit of money on the aftermath of wildlife was not like making money by a taxidermist. Member Gubler reported he held two licenses to do taxidermy work.

Chair Hughes opened public comment. Carl Erquiaga said he understood the problem came from Elk counties and his concern was how to enforce it. He wondered if someone would be considered a shed hunter if they were just out looking for them to take pictures. Member Curran

said Chapter 503 said a person shall not take or gather shed antlers on elk land from Elko, Eureka, Lander, Lincoln, Nye and White Pine counties before certain dates and hours. Mr. Erquiaga stated it looked like anyone who picked up antlers would be considered a shed hunter, but not unless they actually picked them up.

Chair Hughes opened Item #13B: Commission General Regulation 440, Trail Cameras and Other Devices. She remarked the Board had quite a bit of discussion at the last meeting and it seemed like they were divided on whether it was a good idea or not. She called for action to agree with or continue to not agree. Member Clifford said it was up for adoption, but he did not see it on Saturday's agenda. Chair Hughes said it was not up for adoption. Member Clifford said he was surprised the proposed language discussed in November was 200 feet from a water source, but now the Department prohibited use of a trail camera within 300 feet of a water source. He said he did not carry a measuring tape with him. He thought he could go either way on this issue. Chair Hughes said she would like to see what the other Boards thought. Member Curran was surprised that White Pine, Lincoln and Clark counties were in favor, because they experienced problems with outfitters saturating some of their water holes. He said it did not impact wildlife for a camera to be near a water source. He did not think guys coming in to check cameras bothered hunters either. He thought they were trying to pass regulations that would affect the general public and not hunters (wildlife photographers) because it was restricted to hunting season, but he did not think it was a necessary regulation.

Chair Hughes called for public comment. Mr. Erquiaga said he had thousands of trail camera pictures and there was nothing in the regulations to preclude anyone sitting near a water hole taking pictures all year long. He never found anyone checking their cameras, just out to check for tracks. If someone came to check their cameras during a hunt, he thought that guy was just a jerk and this regulation would not stop him from checking his camera. He said one of the major reasons why people were going away from hunting was because of too many confusing and overbearing regulations. Member Curran wondered if it was headed toward eventually not being able to scout if you drew a tag. Mr. Erquiaga stated he also thought that would happen. Member Sibley said he had a lot of pictures of a guy checking for tracks.

Member Gubler asked how it should be regulated; would NDOW have a storage shed full of cameras if they pulled them down. He said they may require you put your name and license number on your camera. Mr. Erquiaga said he would not put his name on it. He said he only took one animal out that he had a picture of on one of his cameras.

Member Curran moved to oppose the enactment of the proposed General Regulation #440 as written. Member Sibley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Chair Hughes stated #14A was removed from the agenda and rescheduled to the March meeting.

Chair Hughes opened Item #14B, Commission General Regulation 476, Processing Fees. She stated the changes in the fees looked to be a benefit to the sportsmen. She explained the difference in the fees. Member Curran stated they were doing away with paper applications and to keep the public from lynching them, they reduced the fees.

Chair Hughes opened Item #20, Draft Fiscal Year 2019 Predation Management Plan. Member Curran said it was the first reading and would be modified. Most projects were similar or a continuation for lion and coyote control.

Chair Hughes opened Item #21, Landowner Deer and Antelope Compensation Tag Program. Chair Hughes said this regarded compensation tags to be equitable and they had many ideas provided to them. Member Curran said this was the first year where they had more applications than statute allowed them to issue, so this was to govern them if it happened in the future. Chair Hughes said it would be interesting to see what they decide to do.

Chair Hughes opened Item #22A, Commission Regulation 18-02, 2018 Black Bear Seasons. Member Curran and Member Gubler said they did not see any changes to the season dates. Chair Hughes thought the season was extended because they had not filled all the tags that were available. Member Curran made a motion to approve the recommendation as submitted. Member Clifford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Chair Hughes opened Item #22B, Commission Regulation 18-03, 2018-2019 Mountain Lion Season and Harvest Limits. Member Curran moved to accept the recommendation for mountain lion seasons and quotas. Member Sibley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Chair Hughes opened Item #22C, Commission Regulation 17-05, Amendment 2, 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 Big Game Seasons. Chair Hughes said the Department presented an amendment to eliminate season overlaps. She noted the Department proposed eliminating three antlerless deer seasons because there were low tag harvests and were deemed unnecessary. Member Curran said page 8 of 22 highlighted January 25th. Chair Hughes stated some others changed to where they did not overlap. Member Curran said area 76 last year overlapped into general antlerless rifle by one day. Member Curran made a motion to accept the seasons for big game as presented. Member Gubler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Chair Hughes opened Items #18-4, #18-5, #18-6, and #18-7, and called for discussion. Member Gubler said he did not think the Board could do anything because one tag was sold last weekend. Member Clifford said a member of the public purchased a sheep tag for \$170,000. The Board discussed other states that had sold tags for significantly more money than that. Member Clifford moved to accept Items #18-4, #18-5, #18-6, and #18-7 as written. Member Gubler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Chair Hughes opened Item #18-08: Game application deadlines. Member Curran stated it appeared the Department recommended all applications be submitted on line and no applications be accepted by mail. He did not agree with that because there were people who did not have access to the Internet and were not able to submit an application on line. He said people who did not have a computer could go to the library, but they would have to get help using the computer. He felt it was extremely discriminatory and would weed out some sportsmen because they could not apply.

Member Gubler discussed the new contractor and the issues with the upland game stamps. He hoped everyone's bonus points would not be lost in the transition. Member Clifford agreed about

mandate that all applications be submitted on line because many submitted by mail for years and they did not use computers. He concurred it was not a fair way to weed people out and if that was a problem with the new contractor, that should have been figured out in the beginning. Chair Hughes concurred. Member Curran moved to support Item #18-08 except for the requirement that all applications be submitted on line and that no applications be accepted by mail. Member Clifford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Chair Hughes moved back to the local agenda.

Agenda Item 9: Future agenda items.

There were no items discussed for future agendas.

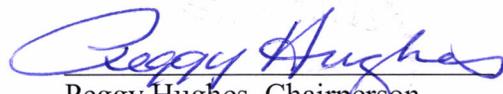
Agenda Item 10: Public Comment

Carl Erquiaga discussed the prices paid for sheep tags and the Governor's tag and the amount of money that was raised for individual states. He believed that money helped states considerably.

Dana Weishaupt said there had been a deer killed on the highway near his home recently and it was in good enough condition to be salvaged by someone. He asked if there was anything in place to salvage meat for individuals because the game warden said it had to be hauled off to a garbage dump. Member Curran said years ago it could be given to the County or underprivileged, but some states were sued because people got sick. Mr. Weishaupt said he thought Alaska had a program to allow people to get to an animal. He suggested a form could be signed stating they would not sue. He noted he had a tag he could not fill and to see that deer get hauled off was hard. Member Curran said he thought the animal should go to someone other than a garbage dump. Mr. Weishaupt said Mori meats could take the animal and decide if the meat was salvageable and if they determined it was not good, then it could be dumped. Chair Hughes said to check with NDOW and see if they could come up with something. Member Curran said he did not see how the Road Department could pick them up. Mr. Weishaupt concurred some were in really bad shape and should be taken off.

Mr. Weishaupt asked if he heard correctly that there would be no more state duck stamps. Member Curran said no state stamps, but there would still be federal. Mr. Weishaupt stated that was upsetting because he collected those stamps.

8:05 p.m. There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned without objection.



Peggy Hughes, Chairperson
Churchill County Advisory Board to Manage
Wildlife

*Minutes prepared by:
Jaime Deller, Independent Contractor*