

ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE

MONDAY

MARCH 12, 2018

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

The Churchill County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife convened at 7:05 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 in accordance with the Open Meeting Law.

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 January 22, 2018.

Member Sibley moved to approve the minutes for January 22, 2018. Member Curran seconded the motion, which carried unanimously with Members Clifford and Gubler absent.

Agenda Item 7: Correspondence.

Chair Hughes reported she did not have any correspondence to share.

Agenda Item 7A: Request to put dead animal carcasses to use.

Chair Hughes stated she spoke with John Swisher and asked why there was not a program to donate meat. He explained it was a safety issue because they could not know how long the kill had been there and how much damage had been done to the meat, which was a concern to everyone. She did not ask him about a statute, but it sounded like it was his judgment call to

make. He was concerned because there were not a lot of agencies that would want the meat and it could not be taken to a butcher because there was no tag. She thought the Board should tell Mr. Weishaupt that they were not going to pursue the issue. Member Sibley stated they could have the conversation about a scavenger tag like Montana used. If someone saw it hit and knew it was good they could take the meat and the State would not have any liability. Member Curran stated Alaska had the same program regarding notification to get someone to look at it. Member Sibley said the Department of Wildlife in Montana had a list of people and they had only so long to pick it up before it went to the next person. Chair Hughes said she could check with those states and see what they had and then the Board could look at it. Member Curran stated Nevada did not have a high number of highway kills and the Legislature may not want to set up an entire program when there weren't that many.

Agenda Item 8: Appointments:

- A. Consideration and possible action re: Items listed on the final Nevada Board of Wildlife Commission's Agenda for March 16 and 17, 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.

Item #6: Wildlife Damage Management Committee Report and Fiscal Year 2019 Draft Predation Management Plan. Chair Hughes read the item into the record. She did not see anything to warrant discussion.

Item #7: Commission Policy 51. Chair Hughes read the item into the record. Member Curran said this was strictly a Commission procedural policy and he did not see any reason for Churchill County to be involved in it. Chair Hughes said the Board looked at it when it came up for the first reading and there did not seem to be any changes.

Item #8: Commission Policy 50, Duck Stamp Procedure: Chair Hughes read the item into the record. She said since there were no more Nevada Duck Stamps required with a license, they were trying to determine whether or not to have a duck stamp contest. Member Sibley said they were trying to get it funded by the Nevada Waterfowl Association. Chair Hughes thought it was a pretty good thing and asked if the Board wanted to support the competition. Member Curran thought they were looking at eliminating Policy 50. The policy had last been revised in May, 2014, and the way he read it they wanted to revise, suspend or repeal. He thought there was no need to make a motion.

Item #9: Commission Policy Review: Chair Hughes read the item into the record. She said it looked like they were in good shape of revising the policies. No discussion or action was taken on this item.

Item #10B: Litigation Report: Chair Hughes read the item into the record. She said she looked at it and did not see there was anything new regarding litigation and no discussion or action was necessary.

Item #11A: Commission General Regulation 473, Safe Hunting Distance. Chair Hughes read the item into the record. She said they held a workshop regarding changing the hunting distances for rifles, bows, and crossbows. The regulation for release of an arrow from a bow or release of a bullet from a crossbow from within 500 feet of an occupied dwelling would require the consent of the owner/occupant of the dwelling. The regulation would prohibit the discharge from any firearm for the purpose of hunting from within 1,500 feet of an occupied dwelling without the consent of the owner or the occupant. She said the memorandum talked about 1,500 feet, but the proposed regulation said it was unlawful for a person to discharge a firearm within 5,000 feet of an occupied dwelling without the written consent of the owner or occupier of the dwelling or discharge a shotgun or draw and release an arrow from a bow or draw or release a crossbow arrow or bolt from a crossbow within 1,000 feet of any occupied dwelling.

Member Curran said those distances had been modified since this was first proposed in January, then it was pulled off the Commission's agenda and postponed. Then the proposal was modified to these new distances of 500 feet and 1,500 feet. He said he submitted two different letters to the Commission stating his strong opposition and that the Wildlife Commission should not get involved in a public safety issue. He believed that should be left up to the counties to regulate public safety. He explained what caused the proposed regulation and thought this could be one of the most controversial regulations ever proposed. He said what they were proposing, could and would have a major impact on hunting in nearly every agricultural valley in the State. He said if he had to get permission from all adjacent landowners within 1,000 feet to hunt on his own property, that would be eight people. He would have to get permission from each one of those people before he could hunt on his own property. He strongly recommended this Board oppose this regulation, because it was a function of a county to regulate public safety. He said this would also impact landowner compensation tags because of the provision they would have to allow public access. He thought the current Commission was trying to solve every problem and for some archer to shoot a deer in someone's backyard, that was stupidity and it would be easier for a county to amend their regulations to include archery, or it would be easier for the Commission to do away with those 20 archery tags that had caused problems with people hunting along the Mt. Rose Highway and within those subdivisions.

Member Curran said they would be holding the public workshop in Laughlin, Nevada, and he believed there would not be one sportsman in attendance during this most important conversation because it was so far away. He sincerely believed this regulation would impact all hunters.

Member Curran moved to strongly oppose General Regulation 473 in its entirety. Member Sibley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously with Members Clifford and Gubler absent.

Item #11B: Commission General Regulation 470, Miscellaneous Petitions. Chair Hughes read the item into the record. It was determined that no discussion was necessary.

Item #12: Commission Regulation 18-10, Migratory Game Bird Seasons. Chair Hughes read the item into the record. She asked if the Members wanted to look at each one individually. Member Curran said no. He said he received a call from members of the Canvasback Gun Club requesting the Board consider recommending the second Saturday in October as the opening versus the first Saturday the Department was recommending. He noted they had several reasons for that and he knew over the years, it had fluctuated between the first and second Saturday's. He said their Board of Director's argument was they wanted to open the same weekend as Chukar, which would eliminate some of the hunting pressure. He said the first Saturday would actually open up just the day after deer season started, which would accomplish the same thing. He said he talked to Norm Sake and he recommended the first Saturday and the existing structure for waterfowl, the youth hunt and the goose hunt. He discussed the two-day closure in October to duck hunting utilized for the youth hunt. Right now, it was somewhere during the peak of the waterfowl season in early October. Their suggestions were that the County Advisory Board make a recommendation that the two-day closure should be moved to mid-November during a slower success portion of the waterfowl season. He said he tried to get a hold of Gib Mackedon, President of Greenhead Club, to see if that Board had taken a position, but he thought most boards would go along with the State's recommendation.

Member Sibley moved to accept the dates as written by the Department. Member Curran seconded the motion, which carried unanimously with Members Clifford and Gubler absent.

Member Curran moved that the two-day closure date in the northwest zone for waterfowl be November 12th and 13th versus the recommended dates of October 22nd and 23rd. Member Sibley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously with Members Clifford and Gubler absent.

Item #13: Landowner Deer and Antelope Compensation Tag Program. Chair Hughes read the item into the record. She said this was based on the fact they ended up with more requests for compensation tags over and above the 1.5 percent they had in the past. She explained the regulation was set to limit the number of landowner deer and antelope compensation tag quotas to 2.5 percent of the total quotas adopted annually by the Commission, which was increased to 1.5 percent during the last legislative session. She further explained that compensation tags could not be issued in excess of the limit established pursuant to subsection 6(a) of NRS 502.145. She said the Department would proportionately reduce all compensation tags until the total was less than the statutory limit. If that reduction resulted in the issuance of less than all compensation tags that could be issued, the remaining compensation tags would be issued in increments of one to cooperators with the longest, continuous agreement until all tags were issued.

Member Curran said they had held public hearings and had several different suggestions as to how to handle this, and he thought what they developed, was as equal a distribution as they could come up with. He said the Legislature increased the number of tags available, so they did not anticipate the problem would come up again for another couple of years. Chair Hughes thought it was a good idea to reduce them and then hand out extras.

Member Curran moved to accept the draft policy as submitted. Member Sibley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously with Members Clifford and Gubler absent.

Chair Hughes moved back to the local agenda.

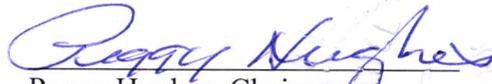
Agenda Item 9: Future agenda items.

Member Curran discussed the preparation of the next Fiscal Year travel budget for the Board. Chair Hughes said she did not go anywhere during the last budget cycle. Member Curran said the NRS dictated the Chair or Vice Chair would attend all season setting commission meetings, but during the last few years he did not think this Board had used much of the travel money. He said the Department sent the County so much money for travel and before anything could be developed, he suggested the Chair see how much was available. He said he would definitely attend the meeting in Reno wherein discussion would take place on the shooting distance issue. Chair Hughes said she would check into it and see how much funding was available. Member Sibley stated he wanted to attend and asked if he would be reimbursed. Member Curran thought he should be able to be reimbursed.

Agenda Item 10: Public Comment

There was no response to the call for public comment.

7:45 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*