

**DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE**  
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Minutes of August 6, 2019 Meeting

The Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting was scheduled for 5:30 pm on Tuesday, August 6, 2019 in the Douglas County Community Center, Ceramics Room, 1329 Waterloo Lane, Gardnerville, Nevada.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Craig Burnside, Chairman  
Bob Cook, Vice Chairman  
Robert Rittenhouse  
Mike Turnipseed

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm and determined a quorum was present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Member Turnipseed led the Pledge.

**ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chairman Burnside stated all current members were present. He introduced Ethan Gray, a member of the public, and Travis Hawks, Nevada Department of Wildlife Regional Fisheries Biologist.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Travis Hawks, Nevada Department of Wildlife Regional Fisheries Biologist, advised about upcoming regulation changes. He highlighted the change to the regulation on the lower Truckee River from a three-game fish limit and no tackle restriction to a seasonal catch and release only on trout below Derby Dam with tackle restrictions. This was due to the cutthroat trout making their way into the lower river. Many of the issues prompting that change have been fixed so the Department is proposing a one trout limit using a single barbless hook year-round for a portion of the lower Truckee River. The three fish limit for the other game species will remain in place. This change will help protect the fishery in the lower river and also the cutthroat.

Member Rittenhouse asked if the restrictions apply to tribal lands and Mr. Hawks replied they only apply to the Nevada portion of the river and not tribal ground. Member Rittenhouse asked about spawning activity with Mr. Hawks saying some spawning has been recorded on tribal ground but because of the flow of water, finding the fish while they are spawning has been difficult.

Chairman Burnside asked if the long-term plan is to allow the cutthroat trout to go further up the Truckee river and Mr. Hawks answered yes. Chairman Burnside asked how that would affect the rest of the planted trout fishery. Mr. Hawks stated support for cutthroat in the Truckee River and any other of their native waters but not at the expense of any of the sport fisheries in those waters; no other trout will be removed to make room for the cutthroat.

Mr. Hawks talked about the State of California's process to simplify their fishing regulations across the state, but it has been met with much pushback. The change they proposed for Lake Tahoe was to lift the limit on Mackinaw Trout entirely. At this point, the Department can support that change if it ever comes about.

Vice Chairman Cook cannot support having no limit on the Mackinaw. He stated he would like to see a future resident fishery for Lahontan Cutthroat at Emerald Bay. Mr. Hawks thought Rainbow Trout would be the issue at Emerald Bay.

Chairman Burnside talked about the goal to have consistency between California and Nevada fishing regulations for Topaz Lake and Mr. Hawks agreed the goal would be same for Lake Tahoe.

Member Rittenhouse asked for an update on the fish transplants in the Walker River state park. Mr. Hawks said the surveys have shown the fish are doing well.

Public comment closed.

## **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Turnipseed to approve the agenda as presented; carried unanimously.

## **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- **June 18, 2019**

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Rittenhouse to approve the minutes as presented; carried with Turnipseed abstaining.

### **1. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TRI-COUNTY WILDLIFE WORKING GROUP.**

Member Rittenhouse said the group has not met.

Vice Chairman Cook provided a file he accumulated while serving on this group in previous years in hopes it would be useful to Member Rittenhouse.

### **2. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE OUTDOOR ADVENTURE EDUCATION PROGRAM. Member Rittenhouse will provide information on the program and the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife may take action to support or recommend support, not support, or take no position on the program.**

At this time there was nothing to report to the Board however Member Rittenhouse has discovered some interesting youth programs available through other clubs and agencies making school participation in this program a little less necessary.

No public comment.

This was a discussion only and no action was taken.

- 3. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE WILL DISCUSS AND MAY TAKE ACTION TO RECOMMEND SIMPLIFICATION OF THE ONE DAY FISHING LICENSE FOR YOUTH INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO RECOMMENDING MAKING THE LICENSE AVAILABLE ONLINE.**

Vice Chairman Cook explained the genesis of this item to Travis Hawks, Nevada Department of Wildlife Regional Fisheries Biologist. Mr. Hawks suggested Vice Chairman Cook contact Jack Robb to learn more about the feasibility of doing this.

No public comment.

This was a discussion only and no action was taken.

- 4. DISCUSSION ON THE RESULTS OF THE June 21 & 22, 2019 NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS. There will be no action taken.**

Member Turnipseed attended. The Board reviewed the agenda items for the meeting and briefly talked about the possible amendment to the Upland Game Release Plan to add beavers, budget requests, and proposed projects.

This was a discussion only.

- 5. The following items, 5a through 5c, are items that will be heard before the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners at the next meetings, August 9 & 10, 2019, at the Bristlecone Convention Center, 150 W 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Ely, Nevada. The Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife may take the following action, or a variation thereof, on each item: support the item, not support the item or not take a position on the item. Public Comment will be allowed on each item.**

- 5a–5c. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING WHETHER THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD SHOULD TAKE A POSITION ON:**

**5a. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS. In accordance with Commission Policy #1, the Commission will elect a chairman and vice chairman. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 2*)**

No public comment.

By consensus, the Board did not take any action.

**5b. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON A PETITION SUBMITTED BY JIM COONEY TO AMEND THE SHED ANTLER REGULATION. Mr. Cooney, on behalf of the Elko County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife, has submitted a petition to change regulation to amend Nevada Administrative Code 503.172, “season closure amended read: *February 1 thru March 31, with the ability of Nevada Department of Wildlife to extend season closure based on weather or herd condition for the shed antler collection*, to replace January 1 thru April 30.” The Commission may take action to deny or accept the petition and initiate rulemaking. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 9*)**

No public comment.

Chairman Burnside spoke to Jim Cooney, Chairman of the Elko County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife, to understand their reasoning for requesting this change. Mr. Cooney provided information on the public feedback they received to eliminate the shed season and the formation of a subcommittee to look into this issue. The public wants it eliminated because enforcement is an issue, especially as it relates to out of state collectors collecting during the closed season. The proposed change would give Nevada sportsmen a chance to collect sheds after the shedding occurs and it could result in better enforcement.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Travis Hawks recalled his input for the original regulation and thought extending it until the end of April would result in enforcement problems. He feels sportsmen from many states, including Nevada, are violating this regulation. As a shed hunter, this regulation has greatly impacted him and he feels this recommendation is a good one; it still protects the wildlife. If some type of shed hunting licensing/permit were done for commercial and other collectors, it would be beneficial for reasons including providing a small revenue source, might help control commercial collection, and would help quantify the number of people shed hunting.

Public comment closed.

MOTION by Cook/Turnipseed to recommend the Commission support the petition submitted by Jim Cooney to amend the shed antler regulation; carried unanimously.

**5c. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 485, TAG TRANSFER, DEFERENCE, AND RETURN PROGRAM, LCB FILE NO. R022-19. The Commission will hold a workshop to consider a regulation relating to9 amending Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation would provide direction for allowing the transfer, deference or return of tags under certain extenuating circumstances after the passage of Assembly Bill 404 of the 80<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session. (This item is agendized as a workshop on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' agenda) (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 11A*)**

The Board reviewed the language of the regulation at length.

Member Rittenhouse objects to being able to transfer the tag but he supports the remainder of the regulation. The tag was issued to a specific person and should not be transferable.

Chairman Burnside pointed out it is not unconditional and extenuating circumstances apply. It is not set up to be sold. If you transfer the tag, you lose all your bonus points. If you turn the tag in for a refund, you get all your bonus points back.

Vice Chairman Cook supports transfer to a family member only.

No public comment.

MOTION by Burnside/Turnipseed to recommend the Commission consider doing the Tag Transfer, Deference, and Return Program as concepted; carried with Rittenhouse voting Nay.

#### **6. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. CORRESPONDENCE OR COMMUNICATIONS BOARD MEMBERS HAVE RECEIVED.**

Chairman Burnside disclosed an email from Jim Cooney, Elko Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife.

Member Rittenhouse provided correspondence on RS2477. In turn, he emailed Ira Hansen and Senator Settlemyer regarding trash issues, road repair issues, etc. using this private property access to public land. He received a response from Ira Hansen.

This was a discussion only.

**7. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. DISCUSSION REGARDING ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER COMMITMENTS TO ATTEND UPCOMING WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS AND TO REPRESENT THE FINDINGS OF THE DOUGLAS COUNTY WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD. ONE MEMBER WILL BE DESIGNATED AS A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD.**

Chairman Burnside will attend the Ely meeting.

Vice Chairman Cook will attend the Las Vegas meeting.

**8. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. DISCUSSION TO SCHEDULE THE NEXT DOUGLAS COUNTY WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for September 20 & 21, 2019, in Las Vegas. The Commission will review and discuss potential agenda items for that meeting. The Commission may change the time and meeting location at this time. The chairman may designate and adjust committee assignments as necessary at this meeting.**

The next Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 17, 2019.

**9. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.**

- Tri-County Wildlife Working Group
- Outdoor Adventures Education Program
- Simplification of the one-day fishing license for youth, making it available online
- Representative from Nevada Department of Wildlife to discuss the Hunter Safety Program

**CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT.**

The Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife expressed their thanks to Tyler Turnipseed for his 25 years of service to the Department.

Public comment closed.

**ADJOURNMENT.**

MOTION by Turnipseed/Cook to adjourn; carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife, the meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

The minutes of the August 6, 2019 meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 17th day of September 2019.

Respectfully submitted:

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Craig Burnside, Chairman