

DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE
Minutes of September 17, 2019 Meeting

The Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting was scheduled for 5:30 pm on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 in the Douglas County Community Center, Carson Valley Medical Center Room, 1329 Waterloo Lane, Gardnerville, Nevada.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Craig Burnside, Chairman
Bob Cook, Vice Chairman
Robert Rittenhouse
JT Chevallier

MEMBER ABSENT: Mike Turnipseed

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Tisdale, Nevada Department of Wildlife's Western Area Fisheries Supervisor
Deanna Ackerman, Nevada Department of Wildlife Game Warden

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 5:37 pm and determined a quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Member Chevallier led the Pledge.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS – Chairman Burnside welcomed JT Chevallier, recently appointed to the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife. Noted was the absence of Member Turnipseed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Burnside explained Fisheries Biologist Kim Tisdale would be attending the meeting and in deference to her time, he requested the Board take her items as close to the front of the agenda as possible.

No public comment.

MOTION by Burnside/Chevallier to approve considering the agenda items in a flexible manner; carried with Turnipseed absent.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **August 6, 2019**

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Chevallier to approve the minutes as presented; carried with Turnipseed absent.

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

Member Rittenhouse feels there is a lack of interest among the three groups. He asked for focus item suggestions in hopes that having those would compel the other members of the group to attend and help the group be productive. He stated he had reviewed the file provided to him from Vice Chairman Cook and noticed the greatest focus in the past was on mule deer.

Chairman Burnside said he had spoken with the Washoe County representative who indicated they were still interested in pursuing the three county discussions. Chairman Burnside suggested they try scheduling a meeting more into the future to allow more flexibility.

The changes to the Open Meeting Law will be going into effect shortly and the group will have to consider those changes when scheduling and holding their next get together.

This was a discussion only.

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.

Member Rittenhouse has considered all facets of this program and now believes the best way to proceed is to look at all the public and private community programs that currently exist and develop a program that refers the youth to those. Many of the existing programs cover varied outdoor activities so having the schools take this on might be too much.

No public comment.

There was no action 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 said he would speak about this issue at the upcoming Commission meeting and to Kalkomey to see what would be involved in instituting this idea. He thought this could be another revenue stream and is a missed opportunity to get kids out fishing.

Chairman Burnside discussed the availability of daily permits but pointed out they are not specifically for youth. The one-day fishing license is \$8 but youth can get an annual combination hunting/fishing license for \$15. He feels the license simplification effort has made it easy to get a combination license online so this is a non-issue for him.

Member Chevallier added the only option for youth is a combination license.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Deanna Ackerman stated support for the concept of a one-day youth license. She said creating an online profile allows a person to buy a hunting, fishing, or combination license at any time. An adult can buy a fishing license online.

Kim Tisdale, Nevada Department of Wildlife's Western Area Fisheries Supervisor, talked about the Topaz Lake fish stocking done by Nevada and California. She also discussed the closure of Topaz Lake, the survey done to determine if the public is in favor of making Topaz a year-round fishery, and consistency between Nevada and California for bistrate lake regulations.

Public comment closed.

The consensus of the Board was to take no action.

4. DISCUSSION ONLY ON THE PROCEDURAL PROCESS USED BY THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AS IT RELATES TO THEIR HUNTER SAFETY PROGRAM. Member Robert Rittenhouse will provide information on the requirements of the Nevada Department of Wildlife's approved hunter safety education course. No action will be taken.

Member Rittenhouse discussed how adults can get a hunter safety certificate online. He feels this waters down the hunter safety program and he questions why it is being done this way. The youth must go through the hunter safety class, take the test, and then attend an in-person class.

Member Rittenhouse paid the fee, went through the workbook, took the test, passed, and was issued a hunter safety certificate.

Member Chevallier has personal experience with this and related his understanding of how the process works for anyone over 21 years of age.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Deanna Ackerman, Nevada Department of Wildlife Game Warden, said once an adult gets the online certificate, they only have to take the four-hour class. People who are 12-18 years old have to take an eight-hour class. She said there can be confusion over the completion certificate issued once someone passes the test.

Kim Tisdale, Nevada Department of Wildlife's Western Area Fisheries Supervisor, believes the process has recently changed and the adults no longer have to take the classroom portion.

Ms. Ackerman thought the classroom portion was required for people under 21.

Ms. Tisdale thought further clarification was needed because no one is sure of the actual process.

Public comment closed.

Member Rittenhouse believes there is much confusion on this item and he would like a clearer answer. Even the Department staff present tonight do not see it the same way.

Member Chevallier offered to seek clarification as he goes through the process this week.

This was a discussion only.

5. DISCUSSION ON THE RESULTS OF THE AUGUST 9 & 10, 2019 NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS. There will be no action taken.

There was no discussion on this item.

6. The following items, 6a through 6h, are items that will be heard before the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners at the next meetings, September 20 & 21, 2019, at the Clark County Government Center, Commission Chambers, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, 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.

6a–6h. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING WHETHER THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD SHOULD TAKE A POSITION ON:

6a. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF COMMISSION REGULATION 18-01, AMENDMENT #3, FISHING SEASONS AND REGULATIONS FOR THE TWO-YEAR PERIOD MARCH 1, 2018 THROUGH FEBRUARY 29, 2020. The Commission will consider amending CR 18-01 to change the ending date of this regulation from February 29, 2020 to December 31, 2019. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 6A*)

Kim Tisdale, Nevada Department of Wildlife's Western Area Fisheries Supervisor, said this would facilitate the transition from the old license year to the new calendar license year.

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Chevallier to recommend the Commission approve the proposed changes to Commission Regulation 18-01 after consideration of public and Commission input; carried with Turnipseed absent.

6b. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF COMMISSION REGULATION 20-01, FISHING SEASONS AND REGULATIONS FOR THE TWO-YEAR PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021. The Commission will establish fishing seasons, bag and possession limits for the period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 6B*)

Chairman Burnside explained this will establish the new two-year period.

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Rittenhouse to recommend the Commission consider adopting Commission Regulation 20-01 to establish fishing regulations for the two-year period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021; carried with Turnipseed absent.

6e. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 487, USE OF LIVE BAIT FISH AND TACKLE RESTRICTIONS, LCB FILE NO. R060-19. The Commission will hold a workshop to consider and recommend amendments to Chapter 503 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation is intended to update and simplify the use of bait and other fishing tackle in NDOW's Western Region and Southern Region. (This item is agendaized as a workshop on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' agenda) (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 7C*)

Kim Tisdale, Nevada Department of Wildlife's Western Area Fisheries Supervisor, provided an overview of the revisions being made to simplify the bait and tackle regulations. She highlighted the addition of the use of preserved commercially prepared bait fish in places where bait is permitted, not allowing the transfer of bait fish from one basin to another, and where live bait fish can be used.

For informational purposes only, Ms. Tisdale provided a brief update on the Mackinaw limit on Lake Tahoe, California's goal to simplify their fishing regulations, Bilk Creek Reservoir improvements, habitat renovations at North Pond and Bass Pond to improve the fisheries, and the Squaw Creek improvements.

No public comment.

The consensus of the Board was to take no action on this item until it comes forward as a regulation change.

6c. 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 second workshop to consider a regulation relating to 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 80th Legislative Session. At the first workshop, the Commission directed the Department to return with guidelines on extenuating circumstances. (This item is agendaized as a workshop on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' agenda) (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 7A*)

Member Chevallier would like to understand the definition of extenuating circumstances better before taking a position on this.

Vice Chairman Cook suggested the Department consider providing insurance for a fee, which could be another revenue source.

Chairman Burnside feels the Department is more concerned about customer service than revenue generation. He thinks the proposed language is unclear as to who the tag can be transferred to.

No public comment.

The consensus of the Board was to take no action on this until it comes back as a regulation change.

6d. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 486, VETERAN AND ACTIVE MILITARY WATERFOWL SEASON, LCB FILE NO. R027-19. The Commission will hold a workshop to consider a regulation relating to amending Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). Federal statute was adopted in 2019 enabling a veterans and active military waterfowl hunting season. Federal frameworks would allow for veterans and active military to exclusively hunt waterfowl for a period of two days within the existing season. If adopted, this regulation would allow the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to establish such a season. (This item is agendaized as a workshop on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' agenda) *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 7B)*

Chairman Burnside explained a change occurred at the federal level that allows individual states to do this; this only establishes the ability to have a season but does not establish a separate hunt.

No public comment.

The Board expressed much support for this.

MOTION by Cook/Chevallier to recommend the Commission provide direction to the Department on amending existing NAC to address this potential season structure for veterans and active military; carried with Turnipseed absent.

6e. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 487, USE OF LIVE BAIT FISH AND TACKLE RESTRICTIONS, LCB FILE NO. R060-19. The Commission will hold a workshop to consider and recommend amendments to Chapter 503 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation is intended to update and simplify the use of bait and other fishing tackle in NDOW's Western Region and Southern Region. (This item is agendaized as a workshop on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' agenda) *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 7C)*

This item was heard earlier in the meeting.

6f. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 488, LANDOWNER COMPENSATION TAGS, LCB FILE NO. XXX. The Commission will hold a workshop to consider a regulation relating to amending Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation would provide direction for allocating landowner deer and antelope compensation tags if owner applicants cumulatively qualify for compensation tags in excess of the statutory limit. (This item is agendaized as a workshop on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' agenda) *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 7D)*

Chairman Burnside provided a brief history of this program.

No public comment.

MOTION by Burnside/Cook to support the Department's listed criteria for how those tags are distributed because it is fair and equitable; carried with Turnipseed absent.

6g. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 489, SHED ANTLER REGULATION, LCB FILE NO. XXX. The Commission will hold a workshop to consider a regulation amending Chapter 503 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation would amend the current shed antler regulation to increase penalties, change season dates, and provide for an educational

program for shed antler hunters. (This item is agendaized as a workshop on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' agenda) (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 7E)

Chairman Burnside provided a brief recap of last month's discussion on this topic. He pointed out the discrepancy between the April dates listed on the white paper provided by the Department. This proposed regulation includes an online shed antler course and changes the demerits.

Vice Chairman Cook wondered why it is not being applied to the whole state.

Chairman Burnside stated the majority of the elk are located in these six counties.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Deanna Ackerman believes the pressure on the elk is greater in the wintering areas than in other areas of the state. The pressure and the sensitivity of the herds vary greatly in other counties. She provided a scenario where a chukkar hunter finds a shed antler essentially making the hunter a criminal if the shed is kept, especially if the chukkar hunter does not have the certification. Enforcement of this is going to be difficult given the law enforcement staff the Department has. Requiring a certification is not going to fix this but she agrees with the dates being proposed.

Public comment closed.

Vice Chairman Cook knows these counties need help with this.

Chairman Burnside can support the dates proposed by the Elko County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife or the dates agreed upon by a consensus of the affected County Advisory Boards since they are impacted by this regulation.

MOTION by Burnside/Cook to recommend the Commission establish the closure period for shed hunting in those six counties per consensus of how those six counties would like to see the closed season. This Board supports the online course and the change to demerits; carried with Turnipseed absent.

6h. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON PETITIONS BY MR. LANCE J. LEDET, SR., DISABLED HUNTS. Mr. Ledet has submitted two petitions to change regulation (1) to allow a disabled hunt similar to a youth hunt at the beginning of each season, and (2) to allow a special tag for disabled individuals in wheelchairs who might draw an archery or muzzleloader tag. The Commission may take action to deny or accept the petitions and initiate rulemaking. (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 14)

Noting there is no separate youth hunt for big game and the hunt(s) is/are not clearly defined in the petition, the members could not support this request.

No public comment.

MOTION by Burnside/Chavellier to recommend the Commission deny the petition(s); carried with Turnipseed absent.

7. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. CORRESPONDENCE OR COMMUNICATIONS BOARD MEMBERS HAVE RECEIVED.

Vice Chairman Cook received an email from Ira Hansen and Bob Rittenhouse on SB316, public lands access; one from Jackie Rosen on the grey wolf; one from the Department about the use of paperless meeting packets; and he asked for nomination suggestions for next year's Wayne Kirch award.

Chairman Burnside sent an email to Barry Penzel on filling the vacancy on the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife.

8. **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.**

Vice Chairman Cook plans to attend the Las Vegas meeting and Member Chavellier will attend the Reno meeting.

9. **FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. DISCUSSION TO SCHEDULE THE NEXT DOUGLAS COUNTY WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING.** The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Nov. 1 and 2, 2019, in Reno. 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 **Monday, October 28, 2019.**

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

- Tri-County Wildlife Working Group
- Simplification of the one-day fishing license for youth, making it available online
- Nevada Department of Wildlife Hunter Safety Program

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT.

Member Rittenhouse stated California passed a no trapping and no shed hunting law, AB 273.

Public comment closed.

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to come before the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife, the meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

The minutes of the September 17, 2019 meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 28th day of October 2019.

Respectfully submitted:

Craig Burnside, Chairman