

DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE
Minutes of the January 22, 2020 Meeting

The Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting was scheduled for 5:30 pm on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 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
Mike Turnipseed
JT Chevallier

OTHERS PRESENT: Deanna Ackerman, Nevada Department of Wildlife Game Warden

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm and determined a quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Member Turnipseed led the Pledge.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Burnside noted all members were present. He introduced Deanna Ackerman, Nevada Department of Wildlife Game Warden and welcomed the members of the public.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Matt Bernard, Minden Town Board Member, updated the Board on the Town's acquisition of the Seman Pond property and their plans to improve it. Dredging, water line installation, picnic tables, and shade structures are planned improvements. The Town continues to examine which uses will be allowed under the open space agreement signed with the County, but the main and preferred use is a premier cold water put and take urban fishery. The pond will be 10-15' deep and will be stocked with trout provided by Nevada Department of Wildlife. The pond area already has an ecosystem and is surrounded by mature trees. He requested a deeper discussion to gain Board input on the proposed plans for the pond and on possible funding and/or grant options. He talked briefly about the Town's desire to establish public/private partnerships to leverage funding from a local foundation.

Scott Morgan, Community Services Director, provided information on the improvements made at Topaz Lake including remodeled restrooms, a self-pay kiosk, and surveillance cameras. This investment has resulted in a 20-30% increase in revenues. He noted they are now open year-round, which would support year-round fishing if it were to be available. The Department of Wildlife has indicated a willingness to invest in the boat ramp and staff is looking to add an engineered breakwater to help with launching a boat during windy days.

Mr. Morgan added an investment will be made at the shooting range primarily by refreshing the berms and removing all the rocks from them. Concerns have been raised by local residents about errant bullets or bullet fragments so removal of the cobble will help prevent ricocheting bullets. A grant has been applied for to help bring infrastructure up to the range in support of an indoor shooting facility and classroom.

Public comment closed.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No public comment.

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

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **October 28, 2019**

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Chevallier to approve the minutes as presented; carried with Burnside abstaining.

1. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN AND A VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE FOR THE 2020 CALENDAR YEAR.

Member Turnipseed would like to retain the current Chairman and Vice Chairman.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Chevallier to nominate Craig Burnside as Chairman and Bob Cook as Vice Chairman for the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife for the 2020 calendar year; carried unanimously.

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

Member Rittenhouse stated a meeting is tentatively planned for the week of February 7th or 8th in Carson City.

This was informational only.

3. DISCUSSION ON THE RESULTS OF THE NOVEMBER 1 & 2, 2019 NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS. There will be no action taken.

Members Chevallier and Rittenhouse attended and highlighted the discussions on:

- Commission General Regulation 485 and the discussions to define “extenuating circumstances” and how transfer, deference, and return could work. In the end, the Commission decided to hold another workshop on the regulation.
- Passage of the bait fish revisions.
- Overpass over I-80 on the east side of the state. ((Re)connecting Wild-Restoring Safe Passage). This was a partnership with Nevada Department of Wildlife and Nevada Department of Transportation to increase safety for the animals and the vehicles.
- Release of 51 bighorn sheep from Nevada to Utah.
- Chronic wasting disease.
- Mountain Lion and Black Bear activity and their effects on wildlife resources.
- Update on the restrictions to charitable gaming or lotteries for nonprofit organizations.

This was a discussion only.

- 4. The following items, 4a through 4p, are items that will be heard before the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners at the next meetings, January 24 & 25, 2020, at the Clark County Government Center, Commission Chambers, 500 South 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.**

4a–4p. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING WHETHER THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD SHOULD TAKE A POSITION ON:

4a. 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 fourth 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 narrow the options for the transfer or deference of a tag. At the second workshop, the Commission directed the Department to draft changes to the regulation encompassing the description of “extenuating circumstances” and a timeline to return the tag to the Department. At the third workshop the Department was directed to re-write the regulation to allow for the transference of tags only in life-threatening circumstances. (This item is agendized as a workshop on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners’ agenda) (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 8A*)

Member Chevallier provided a detailed report on the November Commission discussion on this item under item 3 on this agenda so the Board did not have anything more to add. Noting this is a workshop, the Board realizes this item will come before them again.

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Turnipseed to recommend the Commission review the changes to the regulation language with the recommendations from the August, September, and November Commission meetings and move that it be adopted at the March 2020 Commission meeting; carried unanimously.

4b. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 490, PARTY BONUS POINTS AND FIRST COME FIRST SERVE, LCB FILE NO. 103-19. The Commission will hold a workshop to consider a regulation relating to amending Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation would allow customers to purchase a bonus point for a type of hunt for a season that is not open. The regulation also addresses bonus points for sportsmen who apply as a party. Lastly, the regulation would allow a first-come-first-serve opportunity for returned tags that miss the 14-day deadline to be awarded to the alternate list. (This item is agendaized as a workshop on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' agenda) (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 8B*)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Matt Bernard asked what is being considered for the party bonus points.

Deanna Ackerman, Nevada Department of Wildlife Game Warden, believes this allows a party to buy a bonus point and not apply.

Public comment closed.

Chairman Burnside wondered how people will find out these are available once it is within the 14-day deadline if it is on a first-come-first serve basis.

Vice Chairman Cook suggested contacting the Department.

MOTION by Cook/Rittenhouse to recommend the Commission review the language for the regulation and move the regulation forward for an adoption at the March 2020 Commission meeting; carried unanimously.

4c. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON A REQUEST FOR UP TO 30 PYGMY RABBITS BY THE WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has requested up to 30 pygmy rabbits from Nevada during late winter-early spring 2020 to augment their restoration efforts. Pygmy rabbits from Nevada are similar genetically to the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbits, and these rabbits would be used to augment their semi-wild breeding population. The Commission may vote to endorse this request. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 16*)

Chairman Burnside hoped that Washington State has the approval of Fish & Wildlife Service to put the Nevada rabbits into the Columbia Basin since the Nevada rabbits are similar but not the same.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeremy Froland wondered if 30 will be enough to accomplish their goal.

Chairman Burnside thinks they are getting them from other states as well.

Public comment closed.

MOTION by Burnside/Cook to recommend the Commission approve the request from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; carried unanimously.

4d. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE DRAFT FISCAL YEAR 2021 PREDATION MANAGEMENT PLAN. The draft Fiscal Year 2021 Predation Management Plan will be presented to the Commission for initial review. Following this review, the draft plan will be updated and shared with the State Predatory Animal and Rodent Committee

(PARC). All comments from the PARC, County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife, and any other interested entity will be compiled and shared with the Wildlife Damage Management Committee (WDMC) for their consideration at their March 2020 meeting. The Commission will receive an update at the March 2020 meeting from the Wildlife Damage Management Committee and may provide additional direction at that time. (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 17)

The Board reviewed the plan.

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Chevallier to recommend the Commission vote to provide the Department with guidance on revisions to the fiscal year 2021 Predator Management Plan; carried unanimously.

4e. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 486, VETERAN AND ACTIVE MILITARY WATERFOWL SEASON, LCB FILE NO. R027-19. The Commission will consider adopting a regulation to amend Chapter 503 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). Federal statute was adopted in 2019 which, should a state desire, would allow for veterans and active military to exclusively hunt waterfowl for a period of two days within the maximum allowable days of the existing season. If adopted, this regulation would provide authority to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to establish such a season at some future point if they choose. The Commission held a workshop on September 20, 2019 and a second workshop on November 1, 2019. The Commission has requested that the Department bring the regulation back for possible adoption. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 18A)*

Member Chevallier reviewed the genesis of this item and the limitations on creating days before or after a season. If the state already has a maximum level of huntable days then days would have to be taken from the general public.

Vice Chairman Cook supports giving two days to the veterans and active military.

Member Chevallier agreed.

Chairman Burnside pointed out that this will allow the Commission to set a season, but it does not actually set the season.

As one who is charged with enforcement of these rules, Deanna Ackerman, Nevada Department of Wildlife Game Warden, said a two-day closure already exists in the season. She asked if a four-day closure is being contemplated. Also, she noted veterans and active military can already hunt during the season so she wondered what the advantage would be to have two days set aside for them. She was very adamant that she supports this but was questioning it just from an enforcement standpoint.

Vice Chairman Cook said it would be much less crowded.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeremy Froland stated support for this.

Public comment closed.

MOTION by Chevallier/Cook to recommend the Commission approve Commission General Regulation 486 Veterans and Active Military Waterfowl Season, LCB File No. R027-19; carried unanimously.

4f. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 488, LANDOWNER COMPENSATION TAGS, LCB FILE NO. R083-19. The Commission will consider adopting regulation to amend 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. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 18B)*

Member Turnipseed thought this discussion has been ongoing for too long.

Chairman Burnside explained the need to determine how the tags will be distributed in the event the cap is ever reached.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Chevallier to support the adoption of Commission General Regulation 488, Landowner Compensation Tags, LCB File No. R083-19 and bring this item to a conclusion; carried unanimously.

4g. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF COMMISSION REGULATION 19-05, AMENDMENT #1, 2019-2020 AND 2020-2021 BIG GAME SEASONS. The Commission will consider amendments to the 2020–2021 hunting seasons and dates for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat, including limits, hunting hours, special hunt eligibility, animal sex, physical characteristics and legal weapon requirements, hunt boundary restrictions, and legal weapon requirements, and emergency depredation hunt structure and statewide quotas. The Department is limiting amendments to those that correct errors from last year, address emerging management needs, address substantial changes in wildlife abundance, or address conflicts. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 18C)*

The Board reviewed the amendments being recommended.

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Chevallier to recommend the Commission vote to adopt Commission Regulation 19-05, Amendment #1, 2020-2021 Big Game Seasons as presented; carried unanimously.

4h. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF COMMISSION REGULATION 19-12, AMENDMENT #1, 2019-2020 AND 2020-2021 RESTRICTED NONRESIDENT GUIDED MULE DEER SEASONS AND QUOTAS. The Commission will consider amending 2020–2021 hunting seasons and quotas for restricted nonresident guided mule deer including hunt boundary restrictions. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 18D)*

Chairman Burnside explained the need for the amendment is being driven by Nevada Revised Statutes, which outlines the formula for the restricted nonresident guided quotas.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Chevallier to recommend the Commission adopt Commission Regulation 19-12, Amendment #1; carried unanimously.

4i. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF COMMISSION REGULATION 20-02, 2020 BLACK BEAR SEASONS. The Commission will consider adopting 2020 hunting season dates, open management units, hunting hours, special regulations, animal sex, legal weapon requirements, hunt boundary restrictions, and dates and times for indoctrination courses for black bear. (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 18E)

The Board reviewed the number of bears taken in 2019 and pointed out most were taken in Units 203 and 209. The take fell short of the number needed to close the hunt.

Vice Chairman Cook expressed a desire to expand the hunt boundaries down to the Lake, as is done with every other legal hunt. He proposed having shotgun added as a legal weapon for bear.

Chairman Burnside asked if Vice Chairman Cook has had any sportsmen making these requests for changes.

Vice Chairman Cook responded that he has heard from them in the past expressing the desire to hunt bears in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Chairman Burnside indicated a willingness to pursue this if it is something hunters would like to see.

Deanna Ackerman, Nevada Department of Wildlife Game Warden, clarified that at least one bear was taken in Unit 192 and at least two were taken in Units 195/196.

Chairman Burnside asked Game Warden Ackerman how extending the legal boundaries for hunting bear to include Units 192 and 196 would affect enforcement. Game Warden Ackerman said opening it to the Basin would create a clearer and more concise definition of the boundary. However, she feels most people will stay out of the Basin because of its proximity to California and because of the perception it would give to nonhunters and antihunters. Houndsmen do not want to run into neighborhoods or risk having their dogs run into California. She pointed out there are many bears in the Genoa Peak area and it is not overcrowded with people. Personally, she feels that area would be appropriate for hunting bears; this would be a great opportunity for spot and stalk hunters. From an enforcement standpoint, it not a bad idea but it could raise a lot of concerns. Shotguns will not make any difference when it comes to enforcement.

Chairman Burnside reminded everyone of the need for sportsmen to be cognizant of all segments of the population when making recommendations. If sportsmen are requesting these changes then he would take this on.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Deanna Ackerman, speaking as a private party, indicated she has contact with hunters every single season that say they want to hunt in the Basin. If this is allowed in the Basin the same requirements would have to be met by the hunters and they would have to decide whether "just because it is legal does not necessarily mean it is a good idea for the future of hunting."

Public comment closed.

Chairman Burnside believes firsthand evidence has been provided that hunters want to hunt in the Basin.

MOTION by Chevallier/Turnipseed to recommend the Commission modify the western boundary to the edge of Lake Tahoe and to allow shotgun as a legal weapon for bear for Commission Regulation 20-02, 2020 Black Bear Season; carried unanimously.

4j. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF COMMISSION REGULATION 20-03, 2020-2021 MOUNTAIN LION SEASON AND HARVEST LIMITS. The Commission will consider adopting 2020–2021 mountain lion hunting season open units, harvest limits by unit group, hunting hours, and special regulations. (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 18F)

The Board reviewed the recommendations.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeremy Froland talked about his experience using the hotline before hunting mountain lion and feels it could be improved. He suggested making the hotline a simple recording.

Public comment closed.

Deanna Ackerman, Nevada Department of Wildlife Game Warden, stated the mountain lion quota has never been reached in the history of the quota. She said it is still a good idea to call first to ensure you can hunt mountain lion in a certain area. She said she would look into the hotline to see what is occurring with it.

MOTION by Chevallier/Cook to recommend the Commission vote to adopt Commission Regulation 20-03, 2020-2021 Mountain Lion Seasons and Harvest Limits; carried unanimously.

4k. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF COMMISSION REGULATION 20-04, 2021 HERITAGE TAG SEASONS AND QUOTA. The Commission will consider adopting a regulation to set the 2021 Heritage Tag species, seasons and quota. (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 18G)

The Chairman stated there are no changes recommended from the current year.

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Chevallier to recommend the Commission review and adopt the proposed regulation as presented; carried unanimously.

4l. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF COMMISSION REGULATION 20-05, 2020 DREAM TAG. The Commission will consider adopting a regulation to set the 2020 Dream Tag species, seasons and quota. (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 18H)

The Chairman stated there are no changes recommended from the current year.

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Chevallier to recommend the Commission adopt the proposed regulation as presented; carried unanimously.

4m. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF COMMISSION REGULATION 20-06, 2020 PARTNERSHIP IN WILDLIFE TAGS. The Commission will consider adopting a regulation to set the 2020 Partnership in Wildlife tags hunt species, seasons and quota. (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 18I)

The Chairman stated there are no changes recommended from the current year.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Cook to recommend the Commission review and adopt the proposed regulation as presented; carried unanimously.

4n. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF COMMISSION REGULATION 20-07, 2020 SILVER STATE TAGS. The Commission will consider adopting a regulation to set the 2020 Silver State tag species, seasons and quota. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 18J)*

The Chairman stated there are no changes recommended from the current year.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Chevallier to recommend the Commission review and adopt the proposed regulation as presented; carried unanimously.

4o. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF COMMISSION REGULATION 20-08, 2020 BIG GAME APPLICATION DEADLINES. The Commission will consider adopting regulation to set the 2020 big game tag application deadlines and related information. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 18K)*

The Chairman reviewed the proposal to push the deadline back and when the draw results would be posted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeremy Froland stated support for this.

Public comment closed.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Chevallier to recommend the Commission review and adopt the proposed regulation as presented; carried unanimously.

4p. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF COMMISSION REGULATION 20-09, 2020 BIG GAME TAG APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY AND TAG LIMITS. The Commission will consider adopting regulation to set the 2020 big game tag application eligibility and tag limits and related information. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 18L)*

The Board reviewed the changes to the language.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Cook to recommend the Commission review and adopt the proposed regulation as presented; carried unanimously.

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

Member Chevallier talked about a recent incident in the Town of Genoa where a person was hunting on their property and the animal travelled to other properties and eventually died there.

This raised safety concerns among the residents about discharging a bow near people's houses. The Genoa Town Board is working to find a satisfactory resolution to this issue including a possible ordinance relating to discharging a firearm or prohibiting hunting within the Town of Genoa. The Town Board will work with the community, county, Nevada Department of Wildlife, and the district attorney to consider all options.

Chairman Burnside received emails from Member Rittenhouse on the Tri-County Working Group. He indicated he sent an email to Director Wasley regarding this board's attendance at the next Commission meeting.

This was informational only.

6. 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.

Member Chevallier will attend the video conference on Friday and Chairman Burnside will attend the video conference on Saturday.

7. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. DISCUSSION TO SCHEDULE THE NEXT DOUGLAS COUNTY WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for March 20 and 21, 2020, in Reno and 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 and add or dissolve committees, as necessary at this time. Any anticipated meeting that may occur prior to the next Commission meeting may be discussed.

Due to a scheduling conflict, the next Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Monday, March 16, 2020.**

8. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

- Tri-County Wildlife Working Group
- Town of Minden's acquisition of the Seman Pond property
- Simplification of the one-day fishing license for youth
- Consider drafting a letter to BLM regarding the loss of habitat due to vehicle traffic and wild horses.

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT.

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to come before the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife, the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

The minutes of the January 22, 2020 meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 16th day of March 2020.

Respectfully submitted:

Craig Burnside, Chairman