

DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE
Minutes of the September 17, 2013 Meeting

The DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2013 in the CVIC HALL 1602 ESMERALDA AVE, MINDEN, NEVADA.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Cook, Chairman
Craig Burnside, Vice Chairman
Michael Turnipseed
Bob Pohlman

MEMBER ABSENT: Wes Emery

STAFF: Lorraine Diedrichsen, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Cook called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. and determined a quorum was present.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Cook noted the excused absence as Mr. Emery and he thanked Mr. Marshall Goldy and Mr. "Nevada" Jim Ornellas for attending as well as Kris Urquhart, NDOW.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Chairman Burnside requested Items 3, 4g and 4j be heard at the beginning of the agenda in consideration of Mr. Urquhart.

MOTION by Pohlman/Turnipseed to approve the agenda with the stated change; carried with Emery absent.

ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 30, 2013

MOTION by Burnside/Pohlman to approve the minutes as presented; carried with Emery absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

3. UPDATE (INFORMATIONAL ONLY) ON THE REINTRODUCTION OF LAHONTAN CUTTHROAT TROUT INTO LAKE TAHOE.

Chairman Cook read a string of emails between him and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service regarding the sampling planned for mysids and zooplankton at Lake Tahoe. He stated he requested a report be provided when the results of the research and data are completed. He indicated their willingness to present those results when they become available. Doug Martin has suggested the report be presented to the Tri County Wildlife Working Group and they could in turn bring the information back to their CABS. Chairman Cook appreciates the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services' efforts to keep the public informed of their activities at the Lake.

He added money has been allocated to continue with the LCT transplant and there is the possibility of using Emerald Bay as a hatchery.

4j. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION REGULATION 13-14 FISHING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR 2014-2016. The Commission will establish fishing seasons, bag and possession limits for the period of March 1, 2014, through Feb. 29, 2016.

Kris Urquhart, NDOW, reviewed the changes and stated none were specific to Douglas County; most affect Churchill, Lyon, Humboldt, and Pershing Counties. He stated the changes relate to wiper regulations similar to the ones for Ryepatch Reservoir to protect the hybrids a little bit and make the regulations consistent across the western region for any waters that wipers are stocked in; the study at Lahontan will probably not happen this year because of the low water level there; the slot limit on the ponds in the Mason Valley are being removed; and they are recommending a reduction in the possession limit for Kuenzli Pond to protect reproducing bass. Lastly he requested the Board consider a language cleanup that would remove the language from Lahontan Reservoir for Lyon and Churchill Counties“.....and Carson River downstream from Dayton” and remove”5 may be trout...” The reason for this is because a wiper regulation is not needed for the Carson River and there are no trout in Lahontan. For Humboldt County, he requested “trout” by removed from the Chimney Reservoir regulation since there is no need for it.

Vice Chairman Burnside asked about the cooling ponds in Churchill County and Mr. Urquhart stated they are privately owned and subject to their own regulations.

A brief discussion took place on the status of invasive species found in the western regions.

Vice Chairman Burnside questioned the language in the existing and proposed regulations for Andorno Creek, Colman Creek and North Fork and thought there was some confusion. Mr. Urquhart thought that was a typographical error. Vice Chairman Burnside asked about the 15 warm water fish limit of Topaz Lake and asked what other warm water game fish are in there beside black bass, which have a 5 fish limit. Mr. Urquhart said it could be anything that comes down the river or might be stocked in the future but that is a consistent regulation across the state and western region. Vice Chairman Burnside pointed out the Park is erroneously named

Douglas County Park on the website and should be called Topaz Lake Park.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Burnside to approve the proposed regulation changes with the recommended language removed for Churchill, Lyon and Humboldt Counties; carried with Emery absent.

4g. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE PROPOSED RESTORATION OF COMINS LAKE. The Commission has been requested by White Pine County to support restoration of Comins Lake. The Commission may decide to take action to draft a letter of support.

Since no background information was received on this item, Chairman Cook called and requested some information. He said White Pine County is applying for a \$15,000,000 grant and is proposing to reroute the road and fix the dam. This is likely not going to happen until 2015 so this could be a bit premature.

Kris Urquhart, NDOW, said Comins still has a population of Northern Pike and part of the restoration of that water body will include a project to remove the pike.

Mr. Turnipseed stated that has been tried before unsuccessfully.

No public comment.

Since the Board did not get any background on this item, no action was taken.

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

Chairman Cook stated he spoke with Doug Martin of the Carson City CAB who had some suggestions about future agenda items, rotation of the managing coordinator of the meetings, and location of the meeting (Carson City since it is between Reno and Douglas County). Mr. Martin would like the next agenda to include:

- Update from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Talk to the U.S Forest Service to get proposals on road closures in the Sierras on when and where they will be
- Update on the status of Incline Lake
- Bear regulations

Mr. Turnipseed would like Carl Lackey to come to the meeting and talk about the results of the trap and tag studies done in the Pine Nut.

No public comment.

This was a discussion only and no action was taken.

2. UPDATE (INFORMATIONAL ONLY) ON THE BI-STATE SAGE GROUSE.

Mr. Pohlman said there would not be a meeting until US Fish & Wildlife Service determines whether it will be listed or not.

BLM has run out of money so they will only be able to seed one third of the Pine Nut area affected by the Bison Fire and will concentrate on the areas used by the sage grouse.

The Mt. Grant study is moving forward.

No public comment.

This was a discussion only and no action was taken.

3. UPDATE (INFORMATIONAL ONLY) ON THE REINTRODUCTION OF LAHONTAN CUTTHROAT TROUT INTO LAKE TAHOE.

This item was heard earlier in the meeting.

- 4. The following items, 4a through 4n, are items that will be heard before the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners at the next meeting, September 20 & 21, 2013 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.**

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

4a. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE'S RECENT MEETING INCLUDING:

- FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE FIRST READING OF A NEW COMMISSION POLICY ENTITLED, #23 PREDATION MANAGEMENT.** In accordance with Commission Policy #1, the Commission will conduct a first reading of new Commission Policy #23, Predation Management, and may incorporate changes as recommended by the Wildlife Damage Management Committee from their September 30, 2013 meeting.
- FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON DRAFT FISCAL YEAR 2014 PREDATOR MANAGEMENT PLAN.** The Commission will review the draft Fiscal Year 14 Predator Management Plan and the Commission may take action to approve the plan and if needed, reallocate funds to projects previously approved at the August 2013 Commission meeting in Fallon.

Chairman Cook read both items into the record in order to take these items together.

Mr. Turnipseed questioned the non-lethal methods to remove magpies.

Vice Chairman Burnside thought that referred to removing nests and scraping up road kill.

Kris Urquhart, NDOW, said he thought the intent was to remove rabbits and road kill from the sides of the road in areas that have high numbers of sage grouse in hopes it reduces the population of predatory birds in those areas.

PUBLIC COMMENT

“Nevada” Jim Ornellas asked about the outcome of the letter he submitted. Chairman Cook stated he has not received any reply or response from the Commission. Mr. Ornellas wants to follow through because this is an important issue; we have a depredation program but no predators. A predator is a predator and a game animal is a game animal. He said he could provide more information if it is needed. He stated UNR did a study and has called the Mountain Lion Nevada’s top predator but Fish & Game is charging license and tag fees to hunt them as a game animal. He related an incident where a mountain lion killed a rancher’s sheep and the rancher had to buy a lion tag to kill the lion. Chairman Cook said he would contact Pete Bradley at Wildlife and have him contact Mr. Ornellas to get his questions answered. This policy may be their answer to Mr. Ornellas’ concerns and the Chairman suggested he read it through to try to determine that. Mr. Ornellas cited statistics on the number of lions killed and the resulting increase in the big horn sheep and mule deer herds.

Vice Chairman Burnside stated the report he has does not show those same increases in the herds and asked where Mr. Ornellas got his information.

Mr. Goldy pointed out the Trapline figures and the USDA figures have never jived with the state’s numbers.

Public comment closed.

Because they are developing a predator management plan and creating a policy that dictates how the plan gets implemented, MOTION by Burnside/Turnipseed to recommend approval of the Commission Policy #23, Predator Management, and the predator management plan; carried with Emery absent.

4b. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON FISCAL YEAR 2014 HERITAGE PROJECT MODIFICATION. Pursuant to NAC 501.300, the Commission will consider and may take action on a request to transfer approved Heritage Project #14-13, Conservation Planning Tool for Greater Sage-grouse in the Mount Grant Population Management Unit from the management of the U.S. Geological Survey, Michael Casazza to the Nevada Chukar Foundation.

The members thought redirecting the grant to save money was a good idea.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Burnside to approve; carried with Emery absent.

4c. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR RECIPROCAL FISHING AND WATERCRAFT REGISTRATION ON THE WATERS OF THE COLORADO RIVER IN COMMON TO THE STATES OF NEVADA AND ARIZONA. Arizona is in the process of restructuring their licenses and will require a fishing license for 10 year old children. Nevada does not require a license until age 12. This amended agreement which the Commission may take action to approve addresses that issue for Nevada youth fishing on those waters and the Aquatic Invasive Species decal issue.

No public comment.

No action was taken.

4d. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE PROPOSED TRAIL CAMERA COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION. The Commission may take action to direct the Department to promulgate a regulation relating to trail cameras and associated provisions.

This item was heard in conjunction with item 4e because the items are related.

4e. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED TRAIL CAMERA REGULATION. The Douglas CABMW requested the development of a regulation to limit trail camera usage. The Commission will accept public input pertaining to usage of trail cameras and a proposed regulation.

Chairman Cook read items 4d and 4e into the record.

The Board members discussed the intent of Section 3 and thought it was not clear.

Vice Chairman Burnside does not think the non-hunter has been addressed yet. The non-hunter is not listed under the exceptions. There will be problems with that.

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS 4d AND 4e

Mr. Goldy thought someone just taking pictures of wildlife with a trail camera that is not on the exempt list results in them violating the law.

Public comment closed.

Chairman Cook said they can use trail cameras but not during hunting season or 30 days before.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Burnside to adopt the proposed trail camera general regulation as written; carried with Emery absent.

4f. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON BEAR MANAGEMENT. The Commission will report on the letter authorized at the last meeting soliciting involvement of additional entities to assist with bear awareness education and may take action to amend the letter to address other bear management related issues.

Chairman Cook stated the Board still has not received the letter. He has learned Washoe County pulled the letter and it will come back as a future agenda item.

He has received emails from the Bear League and they want a bear proof trash container at every home. He does not support this especially for Douglas County but it could be a good idea for Incline Village since they have issues with bears getting into the trash there. Bear awareness is needed but bear proof containers are not needed everywhere.

No public comment.

The Board decided they will not take action on this item until the letter comes forward.

4g. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE PROPOSED RESTORATION OF COMINS LAKE. The Commission has been requested by White Pine County to support restoration of Comins Lake. The Commission may decide to take action to draft a letter of support.

This item was heard earlier in the meeting.

4h. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE SECOND READING OF COMMISSION POLICY #23, PREDATION MANAGEMENT. In accordance with Commission Policy #1, the Commission will conduct a second reading of Commission Policy #23, Predation Management, and may take action to adopt.

No public comment.

No action was taken on this item since action was already taken earlier in the meeting on the first reading of this policy.

4i. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION REGULATION 14-01 AMENDMENT #1, MIGRATORY WATERFOWL, SPECIAL YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNT SEASONS AND SPECIAL REGULATIONS. The Commission will consider changes to seasons and special regulations for the Special Youth Waterfowl hunt for the 2013 - 2014 season and adopt regulations that comply with the proposed regulations framework for the 2013 - 2014 late and early hunting seasons on certain migratory game birds established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

No public comment.

The changes were reviewed.

MOTION by Burnside/Turnipseed to approve; carried with Emery absent.

4j. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION REGULATION 13-14 FISHING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR 2014-2016. The Commission will establish fishing seasons, bag and possession limits for the period of March 1, 2014, through Feb. 29, 2016.

This item was heard earlier in the meeting.

4k. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 414, DESERT TORTOISE, LCB FILE NO. R004-13. The Commission will hear a regulation relating to desert tortoises; prohibiting a person from possessing more than one desert tortoise under certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto. The Wildlife Commission will consider taking action to restrict the number of pet desert tortoises for adoption/possession as approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to *one* per person as of May 1, 2013. Pet desert tortoises in possession prior to enactment are not affected by the regulation (only new possessions of pet desert tortoise). The amendment is needed due to the over breeding of pet desert tortoises in captivity primarily in southern Nevada.

No public comment.

No action was taken.

4l. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 424, TRANSPORTATION PERMIT, LCB FILE NO. R003-13. The Commission will hear a regulation relating to wildlife; setting forth the manner in which a portion of the game tag may be used as a transportation permit; requiring certain signatures and information to be included on a tag or permit; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Vice Chairman Burnside explained the current regulations require a department employee to sign and this will eliminate that.

No public comment.

MOTION by Burnside/Turnipseed to recommend approval; carried with Emery absent.

4m. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 427, TRAPPING VISITATION LIMIT, LCB FILE NO. R018-13. The Commission will hear a regulation relating to trapping; interpreting the phrase “visit or cause to be visited” for certain purposes relating to trapping; specifying the minimum period during which a person must visit or cause to be visited certain traps, snares or similar device; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

This item was heard in conjunction with item 4n since the items are related.

4n. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 429, TRAPPING REGISTRATION NUMBER, LCB FILE NO. R017-13. The Commission will hear a regulation relating to trapping; revising provisions governing the registration of a trap, snare or similar device; setting forth the requirements for affixing a registration number to the trap, snare or similar device; and the issuance of trap registration numbers and established the manner of marking traps, snares, or other lawful devices.

Chairman Cook read items 4m and 4n into the record.

Mr. Turnipseed said some people are questioning what constitutes “visiting a trap”. It is not defined well.

An email was received from Joel Blakeslee, Nevada Trappers, verifying the fact that they can support the 96 hour visitation and trap registration.

Mr. Turnipseed said the Trail Safe group wanted 24 or 48 hour visitations in congested areas.

No public comment for items 4m and 4n.

MOTION by Burnside/Pohlman to recommend approval of Commission General Regulation 427, Trapping Visitation Limit, and Commission General Regulation 429, Trapping Registration Number; carried with Emery absent.

- 5. CORRESPONDENCE OR COMMUNICATIONS BOARD MEMBERS HAVE RECEIVED. This is an opportunity for Board members to discuss any correspondence or communication they may have received regarding matters over which the Board has jurisdiction and control. No action will be taken other than to possibly have an item placed on the next agenda.**

Chairman Cook stated he received a phone call from Jerad Lees expressing concern with seniors and youth having to drive to a regional office to get an Apprentice License. Chairman Cook stated the Chief of Operations told him they are working toward being able to complete this process online.

- 6. DISCUSSION ON THE RESULTS OF THE JUNE 21 & 22, 2013 NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS. There will be no action taken.**

Mr. Turnipseed attended Friday and highlighted the discussion on trail cameras, election of Chairman and Vice Chairman, and the predation management plan.

- 7. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. 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.**

Mr Emery will attend Friday's meeting in Las Vegas. It was requested Mr. Emery keep an eye on the trail camera discussion.

Mr. Turnipseed may attend the Reno meeting.

- 8. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION TO SCHEDULE THE NEXT WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING.** The next Commission meeting is scheduled for December 6 & 7, 2013, 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 as necessary at this meeting.

The next Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Monday, December 2, 2013.**

- 9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.** This is an opportunity for Board members to request that items be placed on future agendas. There will be no deliberation or action taken other than to request the Chair to place the item on an agenda.
- Tri County Wildlife Working Group
 - Bi-state sage grouse
 - Reintroduction of Lahontan Cutthroat Trout

MOTION by Burnside/Turnipseed to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m.; carried with Emery absent.

The minutes of the September 17, 2013 meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 2nd day December, 2013.

Bob Cook, Chairman