

DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE
Minutes of the June 17, 2014 Meeting

The DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE was scheduled for 5:34 p.m. on TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2014 in the CVIC HALL 1602 ESMERALDA AVE, MINDEN, NEVADA.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Wes Emery
Michael Turnipseed

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeremy Drew, Wildlife Commissioner

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Burnside thanked the public present for their attendance at the meeting and noted the absence members Emery and Turnipseed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Pohlman/Cook to approve the agenda as presented; carried with Turnipseed and Emery absent.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 5, 2014

Given some of the members did not have the opportunity to review the minutes and some members are absent, MOTION by Cook/Pohlman to table the minutes until the next meeting; carried with Turnipseed and Emery absent.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

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

The group has not met and are in the process of determining whether to continue meeting or not.

Chairman Burnside believes it is worthwhile to continue to work together on wildlife issues that are

common to the Sierra Front area.

Vice Chairman Cook would like the group to continue since it has value, especially on mule deer issues.

No public comment.

This was a discussion only and no action was taken.

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

Member Pohlman said the public comment period for Sage Grouse was extended. According to some of the USGS reports issued, the population is stable at this time. Also, the people who are planning to put a geothermal plant near Austin, Nevada had studies done on the Greater Sage Grouse. The decision on Sage Grouse is not expected to be made until the first part of November.

This was a discussion only and no action was taken.

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

Vice Chairman Cook updated the Board on the status of the report from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

This was a discussion only and no action was taken.

4. The following items, 4a through 4q, are items that will be heard before the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners at the next meeting, June 20 & 21, 2014 at the Tonopah Convention Center, 301 Brougner Avenue, Tonopah, 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-4q. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING WHETHER THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD SHOULD TAKE A POSITION ON:

4a. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 BIG GAME RELEASE PLAN AMENDMENT. Department staff are requesting to amend the Fiscal Year 2014 - 2015 (through June 2015) Big Game Release Plan to add a desert bighorn augmentation for the Garfield Hills in Mineral County.

Vice Chairman Cook is happy to see this being done.

No public comment.

MOTION by Pohlman/Cook to recommend approval of the Big Game Release Plan Amendment for fiscal year 2014-15; carried with Turnipseed and Emery absent.

4b. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE REQUEST FOR TRANSLOCATION OF CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP TO SOUTH DAKOTA FOR STUDY PROJECT. A

project is being conducted by principal investigators from Washington State University, South Dakota State University, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and U.S. Geological Survey National Wildlife Health Center to investigate the role of super-shedders in respiratory disease persistence and transmission in bighorn sheep, and are requesting that the Nevada Department of Wildlife provide eight to 15 California bighorn sheep from the Snowstorm herd to the study project entitled "Investigating the role of super-shedders in respiratory disease persistence and transmission in bighorn sheep." The animals will be captured in late November 2014 and will be transported to South Dakota.

The members indicated they did not receive any background information on this item.

Chairman Burnside feels he can support this if it helps prevent a massive die off similar to what happened in the Ruby Mountains.

The remaining members agreed that this research is necessary.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jerad Lees thinks the project has merit but he recalled the justification for the ewe hunt numbers and said no one wanted sick sheep. Now someone wants sick sheep so he sees this as 15 less ewe tags that could have been given out.

Public comment closed.

While no background was provided on this item and based on his limited knowledge of this subject, Vice Chairman Cook feels this could be a valuable tool to stop the shedding in the future.

MOTION by Cook/ Pohlman to support sending some bighorn sheep to South Dakota for study; carried with Turnipseed and Emery absent.

4c. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2015 FINAL DRAFT PREDATION MANAGEMENT PLAN. The final draft of the proposed Fiscal Year 2015 Predator Management Plan will be presented and the Commission may take action to finalize the 2015 Draft Predation Management Plan.

After the posting of the DCABMW agenda, this item was removed from the Commission agenda. Final action on this item was taken by the Commission at their May meeting.

No public comment.

There was no discussion or action taken on this item.

4d. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON DUCK STAMP REQUEST. The Commission will review and may take action to approve projects submitted for funding from Duck Stamp funds.

While there is sufficient monies in this fund, Chairman Burnside said these funds are earmarked for projects. Paying the power for well pumping costs is an operational cost that should be accounted for in the operational budget. Taking care of noxious weeds in wetlands is important but this is not a project cost. To get a handle on weeds, perhaps more money should be requested upfront to work to

eliminate them altogether so the project does not go on year after year. All the legitimate projects have merit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marshall Goldy agreed. He believes projects should have a completion date attached to them. Projects that go on year after year should not be funded with these monies since those should be considered operational expenses. Power for pumps is an operating cost.

Public comment closed.

MOTION by Cook/Pohlman to support the Duck Stamp requests as presented; carried with Turnipseed and Emery absent.

4e. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON UPLAND GAME STAMP REQUEST. The Commission will review and may take action to approve projects submitted for funding from Upland Game Stamp funds.

Chairman Burnside provided information on the characteristics of Medusa Head (a noxious weed) and the county's efforts to control it. Humboldt County has a great infestation of this weed.

Vice Chairman Cook noticed many projects have to do with enhancing sage grouse.

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Pohlman to approve the fiscal year 2015 Upland Game Stamp Request; carried with Turnipseed and Emery absent.

4f. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE FINANCE COMMITTEE'S FISCAL YEAR 2015 COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD BUDGET REQUESTS. The Commission may approve budgets for County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife for Fiscal Year 2015.

Chairman Burnside the estimated costs versus the current level of funds in the account were examined and it was determined that no funding was required for this budget cycle. Therefore no funds were requested.

No public comment.

This was an update only and no action was taken.

4g. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE FINANCE COMMITTEE'S FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 NDOW BIENNIAL BUDGET. The Commission may make recommendations to the Department for the biennial budget request.

No public comment.

No action was taken.

4h. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO) WILD HORSE LAWSUIT. The Commission will discuss the NACO wild horse lawsuit

and may take action.

Vice Chairman Cook supports this since BLM and Department of Interior are not doing their job.

Member Pohlman said he saw over 100 burros in the area where he was antelope hunting. The ranchers in that area told him that these animals were destroying their watering troughs by biting off the connections that feed water into the troughs.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeremy Drew, Wildlife Commissioner, explained the options the Commission considered and said input from their legal division would be provided at their next meeting.

Public comment closed.

MOTION by Pohlman/Cook to request the Commissioners make a decision to support this lawsuit; carried with Turnipseed and Emery absent.

4i. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON CROSSBOW USAGE. The Commission will discuss allowing the use of crossbows by disabled persons during the regular longbow archery hunt season.

The members indicated no background information was provided on this item.

Chairman Burnside recalled the discussion that took place a few years ago to allow crossbows to be used in the any legal weapon season.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jerad Lees asked how “disabled” is defined. He can support this if it helps someone get out and hunt.

Marshall Goldy does not understand how action can be taken on this without any background information.

Chairman Burnside believes the item is pretty straightforward as long as there is a clear understanding of what “disabled” is. He agreed with Mr. Lees.

Joel Blakeslee explained how disabled people draw the bow back.

Public comment closed.

MOTION by Burnside/Pohlman to support the use of crossbow by disabled persons for the archery hunt. A more clear definition of what constitutes a disabled person is needed; carried with Turnipseed and Emery absent.

4j. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE WILDLIFE HERITAGE COMMITTEE’S FISCAL YEAR 2014 AND FISCAL YEAR 2013 HERITAGE PROJECT EXTENSIONS. Pursuant to NAC 501.340, the Commission may approve requests for extension of 2013 and 2014 Heritage projects.

No public comment.

Vice Chairman Cook questioned whether the background information received directly relates to this item since it is for 2015 and the title of this item talks about reallocating 2013 and 2014 projects.

No action was taken.

4k. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON FISCAL YEAR 2014 AND FISCAL YEAR 2013 HERITAGE FUNDING REALLOCATION. Pursuant to NAC 501.300, the Commission may approve reallocation of unused Heritage funds from a previously approved 2013 or 2014 project to any other previously considered 2013 or 2014 project application.

No public comment.

No action was taken.

4l. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON FISCAL YEAR 2015 HERITAGE PROJECT PROPOSALS. The Commission will hear the recommendations from the Heritage Committee and may take action to approve project applications for 2015.

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Pohlman to recommend approval of the Heritage Project proposals for 2015, carried with Turnipseed and Emery absent.

4m. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION REGULATION 14-07 AMENDMENT #1, 2015 HERITAGE TAG VENDORS. The Commission will select vendor recommendations for the 2015 Heritage tags.

No public comment.

No action was taken.

4n. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION REGULATION 14-11 - UPLAND GAME, MIGRATORY UPLAND GAME AND FURBEARER SEASONS AND LIMITS. The Commission will establish regulations for seasons, bag limits, and special regulations for upland game birds, rabbits, wild turkey, furbearers, American Crow, Mourning dove, falconry seasons, and White-winged dove for 2014 - 2015 seasons.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joel Blakeslee, representing the Nevada Trappers Association, stated that they had no problem with the shortening of the bobcat season, but thought the gray fox season should remain as it had been (Nov. 1 – February 28). The department has always linked the season of the two species together, even though there is no biological reason to do so.

Bob Brunner, Marshall Goldy and Jerad Lees all voiced similar sentiments.

MOTION by Cook/Pohlman to recommend approval as presented with the exception of expanding the gray fox season under Furbearers from November 1st to February 28th as it has been; carried with Turnipseed and Emery absent.

4o. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON AMENDMENT OF BIENNIAL FISCAL YEARS 2014 AND 2015 UPLAND GAME RELEASE PLAN. Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa is requesting an amendment to the Biennial Upland Game Release Plan for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 to add an additional release location for wild turkeys along the Humboldt River near Battle Mountain.

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Pohlman to approve the amendment of the biennial fiscal years 2014 and 2015 Upland Game Release Plan; carried with Turnipseed and Emery absent.

4p. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON SAGEBRUSH ECOSYSTEM COUNCIL POSITION. The Commission will select a representative to the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council due to Commissioner Drew's planned resignation from the Council.

Jeremy Drew, Wildlife Commissioner, said he has the discretion to designate an appointee or designee if he steps down from this position on July 1st. He has applied for reappointment and if reappointed, no action will be necessary.

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Pohlman to approve Sagebrush Ecosystem Council position; carried with Turnipseed and Emery absent.

4q. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE TRAPPING REGULATION COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS. The Commission will hear a report from the Trapping Committee. The Trapping Committee has received considerable testimony at various meetings around the state regarding various trapping related issues. The report may contain recommendations regarding the development of regulations related to the frequency of visitation of a trap, snare or similar device, in various areas of the state. Recommendations may also be brought forward on other matters related to trapping such as demerit points, education, trapping on private lands and other matters related thereto. The Commission may take action to provide guidance on the development of trapping related regulations.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeremy Drew, Wildlife Commissioner, stated he sits on this committee and recapped the committee meetings and the items that may be of interest to this Board.

Joel Blakeslee presented the Nevada Trappers Association map, which they would like to see in lieu of the maps presented as part of the background material. He believes this is not about shorter trap checks but about a cultural war. It is about people who do not want hunting, trapping, or fishing. It is very political and has nothing to do with biology or science. Why is a daily check different on the Sierra Front than it is in other areas? What are we trying to accomplish here? Passing this regulation could make this worse instead of better. The Trail Safe people and other "antis" should be against this because it will result in traps being set closer to roads and trails instead of up on ridges and further

away. It may be difficult at times to check the traps daily if other things arise and that sets people up for a fall. He suggested doing a three year study to gather some data before putting a regulation in place. He presented information from studies done in California showing attacks on people and pets increased when 24 hour trap checking was put into place.

Regarding demerits, Mr. Blakeslee believes this too is political. He does not favor raising demerits on trappers because oftentimes trappers cannot get to their traps because of extenuating circumstances and each trap is a potential separate violation so it will result in fewer people trapping.

There are three options for the Wildlife Commission: one is to reject this, one is to accept the maps and move on, and the last one is to study the issue.

Chairman Burnside asked who would conduct the studies and how would they be funded. Mr. Blakeslee said NDOW would do the study and Nevada Trappers Association may be willing to help with the funding. He challenged the animal rights people to participate financially also.

Mr. Blakeslee said they are proponents of education for trappers and the public.

Bob Brunner provided information on SB 213 and on the direction given to look at the close to trails issue. Most all of the people who took part in the meetings were opposed to the change. Regarding trapping on public lands without written permission, he stated the challenges faced with checkerboard lands. He urged the Board to reject the subcommittee's proposal since minutes were not available for more than 90 days; votes were taken without public comment; and the LCB document has been paid for and printed but has not been seen by the Commission, CABs, or the public. In short, things were just not done right.

Chairman Burnside clarified that the LCB document was put in as a placeholder; it does not indicate support or non-support.

Jerad Lees thinks this is horrible and being pushed through by one lady in Las Vegas who is claiming she represents everyone. He agrees with what has been said already.

Marshall Goldy indicated he agreed with the last three speakers. This is a political move and it is time the sportsmen stand up and say they are not going to give any more. He recommended denial.

Public comment closed.

Chairman Burnside understands the need for regulations but he has no desire to make criminals out of honest people by putting this regulation in place.

Vice Chairman Cook said this is a livelihood for some people and has been for a long, long time.

MOTION by Cook/Pohlman that the DCABMW reject the committee's recommendations and the committee pride themselves in the fact that they have taken SB 213 to heart and they have done their job and have considered it. They need to consider it more and have a science and biology based approach. It is a great suggestion to have a three year study done by the Department of Wildlife. The Nevada Trappers Association and the animal rights people could possibly help participate in the funding mechanism for that. They should talk about enforcing the return of trapper questionnaires and use that as some of the science based information they can collect over the years. It will give them a couple of years more to go through the legislature and they can revisit SB 213 and maybe come up with a better recommendation. They are asking the trappers to do all these things that are almost

impossible for the normal human being to do. Vice Chairman Cook feels some of the activists are pushing us into a corner similar to what is being done with the bear hunt. The bear hunt has turned into being a real mess; we have given into them and they want more. We have tried to satisfy their needs and it has not worked for us so at this point he feels this will put us into the same situation; carried with Turnipseed and Emery absent.

5. CORRESPONDENCE OR COMMUNICATIONS BOARD MEMBERS HAVE RECEIVED.

Member Pohlman distributed information on an Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition workshop regarding PJ removal to be held July 15-17th.

Jeremy Drew, Wildlife Commissioner, stated Pete Coates will give a presentation on Thursday on the potential impacts of PJ treatments on Sage Grouse.

This was a discussion only.

6. DISCUSSION ON THE RESULTS OF THE MAY 10 & 11, 2014 NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS. There will be no action taken.

Vice Chairman Cook attended the Friday session and reported on the discussions relating to Heritage Wildlife proposals and the tag sales of the Rocky Mountain Elk, Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, and the Safari Club; discussion also took place about videoconferencing versus onsite meeting locations and the opportunities each presents; the final report for mule deer hunting and management was presented; a few legislative ideas were presented; and suggested changes to the units for big game hunts were presented.

A brief discussion took place with Commissioner Drew on the use of videoconferencing.

This was a discussion only.

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.

Chairman Burnside will attend the meeting in Tonopah.

8. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION TO SCHEDULE THE NEXT WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for August 15 & 16, 2014, in Fallon, 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 Tuesday, August 12, 2014.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

- Tri County Wildlife Working Group
- Bi-state sage grouse
- Reintroduction of Lahontan Cutthroat Trout

There being no further business to come before the DCABMW, the meeting adjourned.

The minutes of the June 17, 2014 meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 12th day August, 2014.

Craig Burnside, Chairman