

DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE
Minutes of the March 18, 2014 Meeting

The DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2014 in the HISTORIC COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' MEETING ROOM, 1616 EIGHTH STREET, MINDEN, NEVADA.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Craig Burnside
Michael Turnipseed
Bob Pohlman
Wes Emery
Bob Cook

STAFF:

Lorraine Diedrichsen, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Cook called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. and determined a quorum was present.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Cook thanked the public present for their attendance at the meeting and noted there was no representative from NDOW present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Cook stated it is time to prepare the budget request for the upcoming fiscal year and it is due by May 1st. He offered to prepare the request and submit it. He requested the Clerk provide him with the current balance in the fund.

Vice Chairman Burnside pointed out publicly vetting the budget will be difficult since it is due before our next meeting.

Also, Chairman Cook stated the Department of Wildlife puts out a manual on how to be an effective board and he thought this tool might be useful to the other members.

Vice Chairman Burnside referred to a newspaper article about the possibility of wild horse advocates being pitted against sage grouse advocates.

He read a resolution adopted by the Elko Board of Commissioners declaring the common raven a nuisance and a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of humans, wildlife, and livestock, including the sage grouse population, to the residents of Elko County.

Public comment closed.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 27, 2014

MOTION by Pohlman/Burnside to approve the minutes as presented; carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

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

MOTION by Cook/Turnipseed to nominate Craig Burnside as Chairman;

No public comment.

MOTION; carried unanimously.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Burnside to nominate Bob Cook as Vice Chairman;

No public comment.

MOTION; carried unanimously.

Chairman Burnside took a moment to recognize Mr. Cook’s service as the Chairman and thanked him.

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

Mr. Turnipseed stated they have not met so there is nothing to report.

Vice Chairman Cook questioned whether this item should remain on the agenda.

Chairman Burnside stated he received an email from another member of the group asking if the group should continue and he believes it should since there are issues that are common to all three counties. He believes the interaction and conversation of this regional group is valuable. This group has merit and he is not in favor of disbanding it. He suggested keeping this on the agenda.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Emery to keep the group but to table the item for this meeting;

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marshall Goldy, Nevada Big Game Restoration Group, agrees the group should be kept but it should be retasked back to its original intent which was the Tri County Mule Deer Restoration Group. They took on too much when they took on all wildlife and they got too much into the weeds. The group can provide information to sportsmen that they do not normally get.

Public comment closed.

MOTION; carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Pohlman said there is not much to report. Even though they have a well written plan, they have to wait until BLM and other final documents are completed. For Greater Sage Grouse, they are still determining whose plan to follow. He said White Pine County is using the sage grouse as a reason not to put in the waterline to southern Nevada. The final statement on whether the Bi-State is listed or not will come in the fall.

This was an update only.

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

Vice Chairman Cook stated he still has not received the review of last year's scientific studies so he had nothing to report.

This was an update only.

- 5. The following items, 5a through 5e, are items that will be heard before the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners at the next meeting, March 21 & 22, 2014 at the Truckee Meadows Community College, 7000 Dandini Boulevard, Sierra Building-Room 108, Reno, 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–5e. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING WHETHER THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD SHOULD TAKE A POSITION ON:

5a. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2015 DRAFT PREDATION MANAGEMENT PLAN (SECOND DRAFT). The second draft of the proposed Fiscal Year 2015 Predator Management Plan will be presented and the Commission may take action to provide recommendations for modification of the second draft for the May Commission meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jerad Lees said the rules have changed and now the advisory boards can only make recommendations. Even the Commission only provides guidance and recommendations and it is all up to the Department.

Public comment closed.

Chairman Burnside reiterated his understanding that the Commission will provide approval for the funding but it allows the Department to fund emergency projects as long as funding is available without

having to wait to take it to the Commission for approval. As long as there is adequate funding, the Commission will approve all projects.

Mr. Turnipseed said five of the predation management projects have to do with sage grouse; a lot of money is being put into sage grouse habitat.

Mr. Pohlman said some think that eliminating some of the coyotes will help the red fox proliferate.

Vice Chairman Cook thought the Diamond Roberts Mule Deer Fawns project was interesting and nearly 1,000 feral horses have been removed recently from a portion of the Project Area since they are eating habitat.

He asked about the pipeline construction between Utah and Oregon and its effect on the sage grouse habitat.

Mr. Turnipseed stated it is complete but construction had to stop during the breeding season. They tore up a lot of sage grouse habitat. Part of the reseeding took and part of it did not.

Mr. Pohlman cited an article about a rancher in Wyoming whose ranch ended up being in the core of the area they are trying to protect.

Chairman Burnside said Nevada is committing money to help protect the sage grouse as much as possible to avoid the listing. Nevada would like to be able to kill more ravens but Fish & Wildlife Service won't issue more permits unless nonlethal means for controlling ravens are explored.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Emery to support the predation management plan; carried unanimously.

5b. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON DUCK STAMP COMMITTEE REPORT AND FIRST READING OF COMMISSION POLICY #50, DUCK STAMP PROCEDURE. The Duck Stamp Committee chairman will report on the committee's recent meeting and actions, and the Department will conduct a first reading of Commission Policy #50 with the proposed updates.

Chairman Burnside said this will allow the committees to make a decision year by year on how many are printed and how many prints need to be produced for fund raising activities. Lots of stamps were destroyed last year since many people buy their duck stamps online.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Pohlman to support the changes to Policy 50; carried unanimously.

5c. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON BLACK BEAR COMMITTEE REPORT. The Commission will hear a report from the Black Bear Committee meeting on February 21, 2014, and may take action relative to recommendations from the Committee.

Vice Chairman Cook did not have a report since he was unable to make the meeting.

Mr. Turnipseed summarized the minutes of the last meeting of the committee for the Board's information.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marshall Goldy said it seems like the NoBearHuntNv group has taken over the entire bear committee. They are trying to exclude sportsmen and have everything their way. That is not the way it should be and it was not set up that way. Doing that, only one side of the issue is being vetted.

Public comment closed.

The consensus of the Board was to take no action on this item.

5d. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION REGULATION 416, SHED ANTLERS, LCB FILE NO. R155-12. The Commission will consider the adoption of a regulation relating to shed antlers; requiring a hunting license for the taking of shed antlers from the field; providing for a shed antler collection season; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

The need for the shed antler regulation is to reduce disturbance of big game animals, by shed antler hunters, during the critical time of year when these animals' energy reserves are at a low. The need for such a regulation was initially expressed by the White Pine County Advisory Board with support from the Lincoln County Advisory Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jerad Lees said requiring a hunting license to collect sheds will make criminals out of people who will not know they need a hunting license for this. We need something better than a hunting license. They need to enforce the laws we have regarding the harassment of wildlife.

Marshall Goldy said this is nothing more than an attempt to raise revenue for NDOW. People who want shed antlers will go out and get them without a license. He asked if they can start asset seizure if the shed antlers were taken without a license and found in a vehicle. Is the state so bad off that they have to require people to get a hunting license for a hobby? The state should not be involved in this.

Public comment closed.

Mr. Turnipseed cannot make the connection between a hunting license and a closed season.

Vice Chairman Cook said many are coming from Utah to collect the sheds and that may be part of the motivation for the license requirement.

The members briefly discussed the commercial value of the sheds and how it is a big business.

Mr. Emery thinks a trapping license may be a better option than a hunting license. \$142 is a lot of money to collect sheds for the average person just looking for sheds. It seems this is a revenue raiser for NDOW. He talked about the amount of nonresidents that come to Nevada to collect sheds and he thinks something has to be done to control that.

Chairman Burnside recalled the previous draft of this item and said this item not only included a season but a collection permit too. If they are trying to avoid stressing out the animals during that time, having a

season should accomplish that.

Mr. Emery would rather see a season instead of a hunting license. The 4 wheelers and the people on motorbikes are brutal on the sheds. They ride all over the place. He thinks it is generally commercial people and sportsmen going out and picking up sheds while the average citizen is probably not out looking for them.

The money issue aside, Mr. Pohlman pointed out a hunter safety course is required to buy a license.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Emery to support draft Commission Regulation 416; carried unanimously.

5e. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION REGULATION 430, GUIDE LICENSE CHANGES, LCB FILE NO. R053-13. The Commission will consider guides; revising provisions relating to the issuance and renewal of a license as a master guide or sub-guide; permitting a master guide to use the services of another master guide or a sub-guide licensed under another master guide in certain circumstances; removing territorial limitations imposed by the state on the operation of master guides; revising the grounds for denying an application for a license or for revoking or suspending a license; extending the period within which a master guide must notify the Department of Wildlife after terminating the employment of a sub-guide; revising provisions governing the licensure of habitual violators and the submission of records relating to the clients of a master guide; expanding the circumstances under which a client must physically accompany the master guide or sub-guide during the entire pursuit and taking of an animal; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

The need for the guide regulation is to update the existing guide regulations that were requested by the Nevada Outfitters and Guides Association. The changes are designed to streamline the guide license application process and address other changes requested by the Nevada Outfitters and Guides Board.

Mr. Emery said they are basically trying to make it simpler for the Division of Wildlife to keep tabs on the master guides and sub guides. Better records will be kept and it will make the paperwork process easier. The Guides Association supports this and so does he. He indicated he did not like the requirement regarding the termination of an employee.

He discussed the difference between the special permits and the state license with regard to guiding hunting hunters. Some areas cannot be accessed for guiding without a special permit and some of the special permits limit the number of master guides allowed. Having Forest Service permits adds value to their business.

A brief discussion took place on how bear hunting in the Basin differs in California and Nevada.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Emery to support the amendments to Commission Regulation 430; carried unanimously.

6. 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.

Vice Chairman Cook stated he visited with a gentleman at the Senior Center, who is a trapper in Douglas County, and he did not know this Board exists. The gentleman indicated he may attend tonight's meeting since he had some things he would like to discuss.

Chairman Burnside stated he has heard from more than one person who would like to see some artwork come back for the Trout Stamp and possibly doing retro stamps if an art contest is too much of a hassle.

This was a discussion only.

7. DISCUSSION ON THE RESULTS OF THE JANUARY 31 & FEBRUARY 1, 2014 NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS. There will be no action taken.

There was no report.

8. 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 Saturday portion of the meeting.

9. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION TO SCHEDULE THE NEXT WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for May 9 & 10, 2014, 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.

Mr. Turnipseed stated he could attend both days of this meeting.

The next Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 6, 2014.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Tri County Wildlife Working Group
- Bi-state sage grouse
- Reintroduction of Lahontan Cutthroat Trout
- Sportsman role in the Bear Hunt Committee

MOTION by Turnipseed/Cook to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 p.m.; carried unanimously.

The minutes of the March 18, 2014 meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 6th day May, 2014.

Craig Burnside, Chairman