

DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE  
Minutes of the June 16, 2015 Meeting

The Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting was scheduled for 5:30 pm on Tuesday, June 16, 2015 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  
    Mike Turnipseed  
    Wes Emery

MEMBER ABSENT:                    Robert Rittenhouse

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm and determined a quorum was present.

Noted was the absence of Member Rittenhouse.

**ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

All members of the Board and of the audience had been previously introduced so further introductions were not necessary.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bob Pohlman commented on the possible ten year delay for the decision on the Greater Sage Grouse. A meeting for the Bi-State Sage Grouse will be held on July 18, 2015.

Public comment closed.

**FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

No public comment.

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

**FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- **March 17, 2015**

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Emery to approve the minutes as presented; carried with Turnipseed

abstaining and Rittenhouse absent.

- **May 12, 2015**

No public comment.

A quorum of the members in attendance at the May 12, 2015 meeting were not present at this meeting therefore approval of the minutes of May 12<sup>th</sup> were tabled to the August meeting.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA**

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

The group has not met therefore no update was available.

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

Member Rittenhouse attended the Bridgeport meeting. His report on the meeting stated the meeting was a celebration of the work of the Bi-State program participants, those who worked to accomplish the plan. He talked about the value of meeting the people he has corresponded with by email or phone. Also noted was the work being done to remove Pinon Pine and Juniper.

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

Vice Chairman Cook discussed the email he sent to Stephanie Byers regarding the status of the report of the studies done on LCT in Lake Tahoe. He received a response back stating the report will be finalized by the end of June and could be presented to the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife in July or August.

The Board thought the August 4<sup>th</sup> meeting would be a good time to have the report presented.

Member Turnipseed wondered why this study was done by the University of Washington instead of having an in-state agency perform the work.

Vice Chairman Cook explained the study was completed at the request of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and was funded with SNPLMA /Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee monies.

**4. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE DESIRE OF THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE TO HOST A FUTURE NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS' MEETING. The Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife (DCABMW) discussed the possibility of hosting a future Nevada Board of**

**Wildlife Commissioners' meeting in Douglas County. The DCABMW may provide direction to the Chairman to initiate that discussion.**

Chairman Burnside stated the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' meetings have been scheduled to 2017 and the August 2017 meeting is scheduled to be held in Minden.

No public comment.

- 5. The following items, 5a through 5j, are items that will be heard before the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners at the next meeting, June 19 & 20, 2015, at the Eureka Opera House, 31 South Main Street, Eureka, 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–5j. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING WHETHER THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD SHOULD TAKE A POSITION ON:**

**5a. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE DUCK STAMP REQUEST. The Commission will review and may take action to approve projects submitted for funding from Duck Stamp funds.**

Member Turnipseed thought the project relating to geolocating of wood ducks has not yielded much data.

Chairman Burnside commented the projects are basically the same year after year. He reiterated his opinion that some costs, such as paying for pump stations and noxious weeds, are operational expenses and not projects. However, NRS allows the money to be used for things that enhance habitat and for the acquisition, development, and preservation of wetlands. Therefore, he feels the things he was objecting to do meet the criteria set by NRS.

Referring to the account balance status provided in the supporting material, Chairman Burnside said the balance on hand is decreasing each fiscal year and he wondered if there is a target minimum account balance for the fund. He said many of the expenses seem to be operational and that is draining the fund.

While he can support the projects, Chairman Burnside stated his desire to bring his concern about the fund balance up at the Commission meeting and the other members agreed that would be appropriate.

Member Emery thought the fund has a limit on the amount that can be expended from it. He thinks the projects being untaken are diverse.

MOTION by Emery/ to follow NDOW's format and request to continue the duck stamp program;

No public comment.

MOTION; rescinded by the maker.

MOTION by Emery/Turnipseed to allow Chairman Burnside to address the Board's concern with the fund balance at the Commission meeting in Eureka in order to get more information;

The Board discussed the possible reasons the number of duck stamps are down.

MOTION; carried with Rittenhouse absent.

MOTION by Burnside/Turnipseed to recommend approval of the duck stamp projects as presented; carried with Rittenhouse absent.

**5b. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE 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 thought the projects are basically the same year after year. Reviewing the Upland Game Bird Stamp Account Budget Status information, he stated the account balance has decreased but not as significantly as it has in the Duck Stamp fund.

Vice Chairman Cook would like to see some accountability on how the money was spent. He questioned the reason for a 10% administrative charge; that seems too high. He thought the information provided should reflect the total project costs too so it clarifies the actual percentage of the investment from the fund.

Member Emery expressed support for all the projects and Chairman Burnside agreed.

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Emery to recommend approval of NDOW's recommendations for the Upland Game Bird Stamp Program projects for 2016; carried with Rittenhouse absent.

**5c. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE FISCAL YEARS 2015, 2014, AND 2013 HERITAGE PROJECT EXTENSIONS. Pursuant to NAC 501.340, the Commission may approve requests for extension of 2015, 2014 or 2013 Heritage projects.**

Chairman Burnside feels the projects must have had some merit in order to be approved to begin with so he can support the extensions so they can be completed.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Cook to support NDOW's recommendations on the extensions; carried with Rittenhouse absent.

**5d. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2015 AND FISCAL YEAR 2014 HERITAGE FUNDING REALLOCATION.** The Commission may approve reallocation of unused Heritage funds from a previously approved 2015 or 2014 project to any other previously considered 2015 or 2014 project application.

No public comment.

Since there is no reallocation, the Board agreed to take no action on this item.

**5e. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2016 HERITAGE PROJECT PROPOSALS.** The Commission will hear the recommendations from the Heritage Committee and may take action to approve 2016 project applications for funding.

When reviewing the proposals submitted by NDOW and others, Chairman Burnside stated the recommendation of the committee will use all the available funds.

Member Emery believes the fund continues to grow and is substantial at this point.

The Board reviewed the summary of fiscal year 2016 Wildlife Heritage Proposals and the Heritage Committees Recommended Funding and discussed some of the proposals contained within it.

Chairman Burnside stated his intent to attend the Friday Heritage Committee and the TAAHC Committee meetings.

MOTION by Cook/Turnipseed to approve;

No public comment.

MOTION; carried with Rittenhouse absent.

**5f. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION REGULATION 15-08 AMENDMENT #1, 2016 HERITAGE TAGS ORGANIZATION/VENDOR SELECTION.** The Commission will consider selection of organization/vendor recommendations for the 2016 Heritage Tags.

Chairman Burnside reviewed the total number of tags (14) and the organizations they are proposed to be allocated to.

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Turnipseed to recommend approval of the vendor list; carried with Rittenhouse absent.

**5g. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2016 COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD BUDGET REQUESTS.** The Commission may approve budgets for

**County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife for Fiscal Year 2015.**

Chairman Burnside explained how he arrived at the budget request made on behalf of the DCABMW and he stated the amount requested has been approved.

No public comment.

There was a consensus to take no action on this item.

**5h. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION REGULATION 14-11 AMENDMENT #2, 2015-2016 UPLAND GAME AND FURBEARER AMENDMENTS. The Commission will consider amendments to the 2015 – 2016 Greater Sage-grouse open and closed hunt units, hunt areas and quotas for wild turkey and certain bobcat pelt sealing dates.**

Chairman Burnside noted the Douglas County Wild Turkey Hunt was missing from the list and he was unsure why.

Member Turnipseed recalled that there was a pheasant season in the past but he has not seen a pheasant near his home in many years.

Chairman Burnside thought the pheasant season was open statewide now. If they can be found, they can be hunted.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Cook to recommend approval of CR 14-11, Amendment #2; carried with Rittenhouse absent.

**5i. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE BIENNIAL UPLAND GAME RELEASE PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2016 AND 2017. The Commission will review and may take action to approve the Department's proposed biennial upland game release plan for fiscal years 2016 and 2017.**

*Vice Chairman Cook read Member Rittenhouse's comments into the record:*

Member Rittenhouse is proposing to include the Pinenuts and Sweetwaters for Mountain Quail and Chukar releases; the Buckskin Range for chukars; and East Sierra front for Ruff Grouse. The releases in this area should be easy to achieve owing to the contributions by the Carson Valley Chukar Club.

Chairman Burnside expressed his disappointment that no representative from NDOW was present as this meeting because there are questions about this plan that could have answered. He stated past plans included Mountain Quail releases in the Pinenuts.

Member Emery added that there are chukar in the Pinenuts also.

MOTION by Emery/Turnipseed to follow NDOW's Upland Game Release Plan for fiscal years 2016 and 2017;

No public comment.

MOTION; carried with Rittenhouse absent.

The consensus of the Board was to direct the Chairman to request the Wildlife Commission look at the feasibility of augmenting the Mountain Quail and Chukar in the Pinenuts and Chukar in the Buckskin Range.

**5j. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE ARBITRATION REQUEST BY WADE WEST REGARDING ELK INCENTIVE TAG AWARDS AS DETERMINED BY THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE. The Commission will hear a request for arbitration of the recommended Elk Incentive Tag Award as recommended by the Nevada Department of Wildlife.**

The Board members noted there was no supporting material included in their packet on this item.

No public comment.

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

**6. CORRESPONDENCE OR COMMUNICATIONS BOARD MEMBERS HAVE RECEIVED.**

Chairman Cook discussed an email from Kat Simmons opposing the bear hunt, which he distributed at her request.

Member Emery commented on a discussion he had with a biologist about the stock of Rainbow Trout at Third Creek and the transplant of the trout into Marlette Lake.

This was a discussion only.

**7. DISCUSSION ON THE RESULTS OF THE MAY 15 & 16, 2015 NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS. There will be no action taken.**

Member Emery was unable to attend Saturday's meeting.

Member Turnipseed reported on the presentation by the Yakima Tribe on translocating pronghorn antelope; testimony on the predator fees; outcome of legislative bills; and data on the bear harvest.

**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 Eureka meeting.

No public comment.

**9. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION TO SCHEDULE THE NEXT WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING.**

The next Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, 2015.

**10. 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 16, 2015 meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 4<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2015.

Respectfully submitted:

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Craig Burnside, Chairman