

DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE
Minutes of the May 12, 2015 Meeting

The DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 in the Douglas County Community Center, Carson Valley Medical Center Room, 1329 Waterloo Lane, Gardnerville, Nevada.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Turnipseed
 Robert Rittenhouse
 Wes Emery

MEMBERS ABSENT: Craig Burnside, Chairman
 Bob Cook, Vice Chairman

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Member Turnipseed noted the absence of Chairman Burnside and Vice Chairman Cook.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **March 17, 2015**

Since Member Turnipseed would be abstaining from voting on these minutes, they were tabled to the June 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 report was provided.

No public comment.

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

Member Rittenhouse reported on the \$330,000 dedicated by NDOW for pinyon-juniper removal in an area north of Bridgeport; a joint NDOW & U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service project to remove pinyon-juniper in the China Camp area; \$60,000-\$70,000 dedicated by NDOW for raven predation; a Barrick Gold & Nature Conservancy joint partnership to protect sagebrush habitat; and he noted that the sage grouse would not be listed on the endangered species list.

No public comment.

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

Due to the absence of Vice Chairman Cook, no report was provided.

No public comment.

4. The following items, 4a through 4h, are items that will be heard before the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners at the next meeting, May 15 & 16, 2015, 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.

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

4a. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION REGULATION 456 LCB FILE NO. T004-15 (TEMPORARY LCB FILE) – ELK ARBITRATION PANEL; PROPOSED CHANGES TO NAC 502.42283. The Commission will hear a temporary regulation concerning amending NAC 502.42283 by which the Commission may facilitate decisions by appointing or serving as the arbitration panel should arbitration of elk incentive tag awards become necessary.

The Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners conducted a workshop on March 20, 2015 and the Commission approved the regulation as presented to move forward to take action at the May 2015 Commission meeting.

Member Turnipseed reviewed the purpose of the item.

Mr. Emery discussed the method used to determine the number of tags a landowner receives for a depredation hunt and the need to choose a weapon for an elk landowner tag but not for a deer or antelope landowner tag.

No public comment.

MOTION by Emery/Rittenhouse to support NDOW's recommendation on this item; carried with Burnside and Cook absent.

4b. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE DRAFT PROCESS FOR USE BY THE COMMISSION IN ARBITRATION AS DESCRIBED IN NAC 502.42283. The Commission will review a proposed process for arbitration as described in proposed amendment to NAC 502.42283 arbitration panel that will outline the responsibilities of the Department and landowner applicant when contesting issues associated with awards of special incentive elk tags, the establishment of a subcommittee to hear the contest, timelines associated with contest and decision, and recommendations to the Commission as decision making arbitration panel. The Commission may provide the Department with direction on further revisions or approve the draft process pending adoption of temporary regulation CGR 456 re: NAC 502.422.83.

No public comment.

MOTION by Emery/Rittenhouse to support NDOW's recommendation on this item; carried with Burnside and Cook absent.

4c. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE REQUEST FROM THE COLEVILLE CONFEDERATED TRIBES IN WASHINGTON FOR UP TO FIFTY PRONGHORN ANTELOPE DURING WINTER 2015-2016. The Commission may consider and act on a request by the Coleville Confederated Tribes in Washington regarding a request to capture and translocate up to 50 pronghorn antelope from Nevada to tribal lands in Washington.

Member Emery wondered if the antelope would be coming from the northwest part of the state since that area holds the greatest number of these animals. He is not opposed to doing what is being requested.

Member Rittenhouse wondered which agency(ies) would be handling the capture and transfer of the animals.

No public comment.

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

4d. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 457 LCB FILE NO. T003-15 (TEMPORARY LCB FILE) – AWARDS, ISSUANCE, AND USE OF TAGS. The Commission will hear a temporary regulation amending license issuance and use clarification for elk incentive tags. Elk incentive tags were designed to be issued in association with “bull” hunts and seasons. Subsequent to initial NRS and NAC adoption, “spike” hunts have been developed, and “antlered” tags do not clearly denote the appropriate quota or season for which the incentive tags are intended. The amended formula will account for the harvest of “spike” elk, but identify seasons for incentive tag use.

The Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners conducted a workshop on March 20, 2015. The Commission discussed the language with changes to Section 1, rewriting the formula to read as follows: $(NP \div NE) \times (DP \div 365) \times (NT + TSH)$ and adding $TSH = \textit{The total number of spike elk}$

harvested in the previous year in the unit or units within the management area or areas in which the private land is located. The regulation has been updated to reflect the changes requested by the Commission. The Commission approved to move forward to take action at the May 2015 Commission meeting.

Member Rittenhouse reviewed the supporting material for this item.

Member Turnipseed does not favor a spike hunt but he understands the reason for it. This amendment would eliminate ambiguity.

No public comment.

MOTION by Emery/Rittenhouse to support NDOW's recommendation on this item; carried with Burnside and Cook absent.

4e. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY ELK SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS. The Commission will continue the elk sub-planning process in accordance with the Nevada Elk Species Management plan for Humboldt County, and the Commission may select members of the Steering Committee from volunteers for this elk management sub-plan.

Member Turnipseed pointed out that there is a Master Plan for Elk Species Management and this would be a subplan for Humboldt County. A similar process was followed for Nye County.

Member Rittenhouse thought a group would be formed and the group would make suggestions to their CAB. This is a regional issue.

Member Emery stated a plan is being put together now to prepare for when the elk move into Washoe County.

No public comment.

MOTION by Emery/Rittenhouse to support NDOW's recommendation on this item; carried with Burnside and Cook absent.

4f. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION REGULATION 15-12, 2015 BIG GAME QUOTAS FOR THE 2015-2016 SEASON. The Commission will establish regulations for the numbers of tags to be issued for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, and black bears for the 2015-2016 seasons.

Member Emery stated he reviewed all the quotas and he would like to see the black bear tags raised to over 50 and include a Governor's tag for bear; he would like to see the resident tags at 46-47 and the nonresident tags at 4-5.

Member Turnipseed agreed. He added he has never been in support of the ewe hunt. If there is going to be a ewe hunt, the quotas for it should be set very low. He referenced a letter he received from Nevada Bighorns saying there are places in the state these animals could be located and if they are diseased, they will die.

Member Rittenhouse agreed with the other members on raising the black bear tags. As far as the rest of the quotas, he trusts the biologists' recommendations.

No public comment.

MOTION by Emery/Rittenhouse that DCABMW is recommending a slight increase of eight tags for the black bear hunt (to bring the total amount of tags to over 50) and to include one Governor's tag, which would raise substantial revenue over the years. Also, the DCABMW is recommending that the ewe hunt tags are reduced statewide; carried with Burnside and Cook absent.

4g. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE 2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE AND COMMISSION BILL POSITIONS. Staff will present a status update of tracked legislation since the last Commission meeting, and the Commission may consider any additional legislative positions or actions.

Member Turnipseed updated the members on the status of SB 130, SJR 11, and AB 136.

All members agreed on the importance of people passing a hunter safety course before going out in the field to ensure the safest possible conditions for all.

The members discussed AB 142, which removes demerits and revocations and eliminates Department and Commission authority to revoke or suspend licenses and grants the authority to a court, and all agreed they cannot support this bill.

No public comment.

The members stated their opposition to SB 130 is already on the record.

MOTION by Emery/Rittenhouse to oppose AB 142 and SB 130 as currently written; carried with Burnside and Cook absent.

4h. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE WILDLIFE DAMAGE COMMITTEE UPDATE AND FISCAL YEAR 2016 DRAFT PREDATION MANAGEMENT PLAN (FINAL DRAFT). The Commission will hear a report from the Wildlife Damage Management Committee chairman and consider an updated third and final draft of the proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Predator Management Plan. The Commission may take action to modify or approve the plan.

Member Emery stated this was a lengthy discussion at the last Commission meeting. Some felt there needed to be more detail on the predator plan and more studies done. The plan may be rewritten with more detail. He recommended no action be taken on this item until further clarification becomes available.

The consensus of the members was to take no action on this item at this time.

5. CORRESPONDENCE OR COMMUNICATIONS BOARD MEMBERS HAVE RECEIVED.

Member Rittenhouse talked about the efforts he makes to get the public involved in the DCABMW meetings and he asked if we should consider publishing an announcement in the local paper to attract more public to the meetings. The Recording Secretary will contact the local paper to get an idea of the

cost of publishing a public notice.

Member Turnipseed disclosed correspondence he received from NBU regarding limiting the ewe hunt. He received a request for volunteers for a couple of guzzler projects.

The DCABMW budget was reviewed and no concerns were stated.

Member Turnipseed stated his desire to host a Commission meeting in Douglas County. All members were excited about doing so and would like the Chairman to reach out to the Commission to start that discussion.

6. DISCUSSION ON THE RESULTS OF THE MARCH 20 & 21, 2015 NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS. There will be no action taken.

Member Emery referenced the Comins and Bassett Lake treatment plan and he talked about the historic value of the fishery to the local economy. It once brought \$2 million into that area but by 2013, it was reduced to \$73,000. They will shock the lake and kill it and then put in new trophy trout so hopefully that will restore the fishery.

He reported on the outcome of the Mr. Fred Anderson petition to get his bonus points back. Unfortunately, the Commission was not able to grant his request.

Member Emery stated he spoke to Commissioner Drew about the status of the trail camera/drone issue and Commissioner Drew said the item would be coming back for discussion.

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.

No public comment.

Member Turnipseed will attend Friday and Member Emery will attend Saturday.

8. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION TO SCHEDULE THE NEXT WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING. The next Commission meeting is scheduled June 19 & 20, 2015, in Eureka, 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.

No public comment.

The next Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, 2015.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

- Tri County Wildlife Working Group
- Bi-state sage grouse
- Reintroduction of Lahontan Cutthroat Trout
- EA for the Resource Management Plan for Carson City District BLM
- Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife would like to host a Commission meeting.

MOTION by Rittenhouse/Emery to adjourn the meeting; carried with Burnside and Cook absent.

There being no further business to come before the DCABMW, the meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

The minutes of the May 12, 2015 meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 16th day June, 2015.

Craig Burnside, Chairman