

DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE  
Minutes of the June 20, 2017 Meeting

The Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting was scheduled for 5:30 pm on Tuesday, June 20, 2017 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  
                                  Robert Rittenhouse  
                                  Mike Turnipseed

MEMBER ABSENT:           Chad Foster

OTHERS PRESENT:           Mark Enders, NDOW Diversity Biologist

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Held.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm and determined a quorum was present. Noted was the absence of Member Foster.

**ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chairman Burnside introduced the Board members, Mark Enders, NDOW Diversity Biologist, and Chris Crawforth, a member of the public.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

No public comment.

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

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

- **May 9, 2017**

No public comment.

MOTION by Rittenhouse/Cook to approve the minutes as presented; carried with Turnipseed recusing and Foster absent.

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

Chairman Burnside stated he sent an email to the interested members of the Carson City and Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife members suggesting the week of July 10<sup>th</sup> as a possible meeting time. He received positive feedback from a member of the Carson City CAB but did not get a response from Washoe County. Once the group is up and running, he hopes to have the Douglas County members rotate going to the meetings so all can be informed of the issues being discussed.

Chairman Burnside thought discussion points could include the bear/lion/deer study and discussion on development ordinances and their effect on migration corridors and critical winter range.

Two members of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife have heard that interest in participating in the group has waned from one Carson City member and Washoe County. Chairman Burnside indicated he would reach out to other members of the Washoe CAB.

No public comment.

This was a discussion only.

**2. FOR PRESENTATION ONLY. DISCUSSION ON A PRESENTATION BY MARK ENDERS, NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE DIVERSITY BIOLOGIST, ON WESTERN POND TURTLES ON THE CARSON RIVER. NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN.**

Mark Enders, NDOW Diversity Biologist, appreciates the opportunity to present some of the non-game work NDOW does.

Member Turnipseed asked what the difference is between western and eastern pond turtles. Mr. Enders stated the western pond turtle has a restricted range to the western United States. Western pond turtles are the only native fresh water turtle and are restricted to the Carson, Truckee, and Walker Rivers.

Mr. Enders has been studying the turtles at River Fork Ranch to gain a better understanding of the populations and habits of the turtles. He stated no sportsmen or PR money was used for the study; federal money specifically earmarked for sensitive species along with General Fund money was used.

In 2016, a trapping and radio telemetry study began to learn more about the population demographics, habitat use, home ranges, and movement patterns of the turtles. In June, turtles were captured in hoop net traps and each turtle caught was measured and notched. 15 were monitored with radio transmitters and tracked for four months. In

September, trapping took place again to try to get the transmitters back and to take blood samples to learn more about the genetic makeup of the Carson River population.

In June, 80 turtles were captured and revealed a skewed sex ratio with more males being caught. 35% of the females caught were gravid. He displayed the underside of several turtles noting their shell has a unique fingerprint, with no two shells being alike. In September, retrapping took place and 38 new turtles were caught and the ratio of males to females was higher than it was in June. None of the females caught were gravid.

Data was compiled from all the captures and revealed an older population of turtles, all 118 were missing the fifth claw on the hind feet, 86% were found in rivers and sloughs, 88% of the time a turtle was located it could not be seen, and their home ranges spanned 2 ½ km. In conclusion, they learned there are more turtles in the Carson River than thought, reproduction is occurring, the population trends older, there was a variation in the movement of the turtles, and the upland corridors were identified. The future goals are to obtain genetic samples from other rivers, retrap the River Fork Ranch, and expand the collaboration with The Nature Conservancy.

Vice Chairman Cook asked if any research was done at Walley's Hot Springs or the hot springs off Stephanie Way and Mr. Enders stated there are a lot of turtles behind the Walley's Hot Springs and he would like to know how the warm water affects their activity. Vice Chairman Cook asked what predator they have beside bullfrogs and Mr. Enders answered raptors and ground rodents.

Chairman Burnside asked how far down river they go. Mr. Enders said they have not learned that yet. Chairman Burnside added he would expect to see genetic differences between the different watersheds given the geographic barriers between them.

Vice Chairman Cook suggested they visit Stillwater to get more answers. He asked how much money was spent on the project and Mr. Enders stated \$1,000. They were only able to accomplish all this because of the volunteer support they received.

Member Rittenhouse asked how the willow weirs held up on the Ranch and Mr. Enders stated they held up well.

Chris Crawforth asked what their food source is and Mr. Enders explained they are omnivorous and opportunistic and will eat whatever is available during a season.

The members thanked Mr. Enders for the presentation.

- 3. The following items, 3a through 3l, are items that will be heard before the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners at the next meetings, June 23 & 24, 2017, 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.**

**3a–3l. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING WHETHER THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD SHOULD TAKE A POSITION ON:**

**3a. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE DUCK STAMP REQUEST.** The Commission will review and may take action to approve up to \$87,511 for projects submitted for funding from duck stamp funds. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 5*)

Chairman Burnside is unhappy to see 15% of the money being used to run pumps to pump water in Mason Valley. That has been a “project” every year for the last 15 years. He feels it is no longer a project but is an operating cost. However, a lot of them are good projects and some of them will be using a combination of this funding and Upland Game Bird Stamp funds. He pointed out the total requests do not completely drain the fund.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Cook to recommend approval of the duck stamp request; carried with Foster absent.

**3b. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE UPLAND GAME BIRD STAMP REQUEST.** The Commission will review and may take action to approve up to \$335,094 for projects submitted for upland game bird stamp funds. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 6*)

Chairman Burnside is interested in the Bi-State Conifer Removal Project on the east side of the Pine Nut Mountains because he would like to look for sites on the west side as well. He talked about the Columbia Sharptail project and the loss of most of the birds augmented last year.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Rittenhouse to recommend approval of the Upland Game Bird Stamp Request; carried with Foster absent.

**3c. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 466, PARTNERSHIP IN WILDLIFE (PIW) DRAWING, CHANGES TO NONRESIDENT RESTRICTED DEER TAG, AND CHANGES TO BIG GAME RETURN CARD QUESTIONNAIRE DEADLINE, LCB FILE NO. R140-16.** The Commission will consider adopting amendments to Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation defines the term “main drawing;” revises the order in which the Silver State Tag drawing, PIW drawing and main drawings for tags are conducted; authorizes an applicant for a nonresident restricted deer tag to apply for a nonresident deer tag in the Partnership in Wildlife Drawing and the Silver State tag drawing in the same year; and revises the big game return card questionnaire deadline from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.

A workshop was held in Las Vegas on March 25, 2017. The Commission directed the Department to hold a second workshop due to questions the Commission

had: 1) What are the effects on the applicant and the party if the applicant is drawn for the PIW tag. 2) Why are the predator and/or other fees not collected when applying for PIW. The nonresident process for applying for PIW was also discussed. A second workshop was held for this regulation on May 13, 2017. The Commission did not have any recommended changes and all questions were adequately answered. The Commission asked to proceed with an adoption hearing. *(This item is agendized as a workshop and for possible adoption on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Agenda) (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 7)*

Chairman Burnside briefly explained the changes to the ordering of the draws, the big game questionnaire, and nonresident eligibility for a PIW tag.

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Turnipseed to recommend adoption of the regulation as amended; carried with Foster absent.

**3d. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE HERITAGE COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON HERITAGE PROJECT EXTENSION REQUESTS.** Pursuant to NAC 501.340, the Commission will review committee recommendations and may approve requests for extension of projects approved in previous years. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 8 A 1)*

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Rittenhouse to recommend approval of the extensions; carried with Foster absent.

**3e. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE HERITAGE COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON HERITAGE FUNDING REALLOCATION.** The Commission will review committee recommendations and may approve reallocation of \$175.75 in unused Heritage funds from previously approved projects to any other previously approved projects from the same fiscal year. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 8 A 2)*

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Cook to recommend approval of the Heritage funding reallocation; carried with Foster absent.

**3f. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE HERITAGE COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2018 HERITAGE PROJECT PROPOSALS.** The Commission will hear the recommendations from the Heritage Committee and may take action to approve 2018 project applications for funding up to \$785,913.92. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 8 A 3)*

Vice Chairman Cook reviewed the requests and stated the proposal requests exceed the amount of funds available. He feels all the projects are worthy.

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Turnipseed to recommend the Heritage Committee subtract an equal percentage from each proposal so all proposals still get adequate funding; carried with Foster absent.

**3g. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION REGULATION 17-06 AMENDMENT #1, 2018 HERITAGE TAG ORGANIZATION/VENDOR SELECTION AND SPECIAL REGULATIONS.** The Commission will consider selection of the 2018 Heritage Tag vendors/organization recommendations. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 9)*

The members commented on the number of organizations/vendors that put in for these and noticed the Carson Valley Chukar Club was on the list. They reviewed the number of tags available for each tag type and the number of organizations/vendors vying for the tags.

Member Rittenhouse asked how they determine what the potential to raise funds is between the different vendors.

Chairman Burnside pointed out that the Carson Valley Chukar Club donates a lot of money to projects around the state.

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Turnipseed to recommend approval of CR 17-06 Amendment #1 as presented; carried with Foster absent.

**3h. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE DRAFT NEVADA AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN.** The Commission will hear a report on Nevada's Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan (AIS Plan). The AIS Plan is intended to provide guidance to AIS control and prevention programs in the State of Nevada and enhance coordination and effectiveness of AIS control efforts in Nevada and regionally through establishment of an inter-agency Nevada Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group. The Commission may take action to provide recommendations for modification of the draft for the August meeting. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 11)*

The members agreed this is a comprehensive plan and look forward to digesting the whole thing. Since it is a draft plan they would like time to read the whole thing before making recommendations on it.

Vice Chairman Cook talked about the work being done at Lake Tahoe to remove the weeds, non-native fish, and aquatic invasive species. A new method, a high intensity solar operated UV light, will be tested in Emerald Bay to try to remove invasive species.

No public comment.

Member Rittenhouse feels it will be expensive to have to recertify each time a vessel is moved back and forth from Lake Tahoe.

Vice Chairman Cook feels many people will leave the vessel in Tahoe permanently or not put it in Tahoe at all instead of having to recertify it each time it is moved. He advised a new pier will be built and its used shared by several agencies including NDOW, Tahoe-Douglas Fire, Forest Service, and Douglas County Sheriff.

Member Turnipseed pointed out the standards extend to float tubes, pontoon boats, canoes, and paddle boards and these have no storage of water so they should be exempt.

Member Rittenhouse wondered if emergency/rescue vessels will be held to the same standard as the public.

Chairman Burnside stated there are so many agencies, federal, regional, bi-state, and local entities, that have regulations, rules, and laws that must be included in the document.

Member Rittenhouse believes those all must be coordinated.

Chairman Burnside added it also must be consistent from state to state.

No public comment.

The consensus of the Board was to take no action at this time. They would like to take more time to review and fully digest the plan.

**3i. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION REGULATION CR 16-13, AMENDMENT #1-UPLAND GAME AND FURBEARER SEASONS, BAG LIMITS AND SPECIAL REGULATIONS 2017-2018. The Commission will consider amendments to this regulation for seasons, bag limits, and special regulations for upland game birds, rabbits, wild turkey, furbearers, and falconry seasons for 2017–2018. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 19*)**

The members reviewed the amendment.

Chairman Burnside thought separating out the quail makes sense.

No public comment.

MOTION by Rittenhouse/Turnipseed to recommend approval of CR 16-13, Amendment #1, Upland Game and Furbearer Seasons; carried with Foster absent.

**3j. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2018 COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD BUDGET REQUESTS. The Commission may approve an estimated amount of \$36,526 for County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife budgets for fiscal year 2018. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 20B*)**

Chairman Burnside stated NDOW is recommending no funding for the DCABMW for SFY 2018.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Cook to recommend approval; carried with Foster absent.

**3k. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE BIENNIAL UPLAND GAME RELEASE PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2018 AND 2019. The Commission will review and may take action to approve the Department's proposed biennial upland game release plan for fiscal years 2018 and 2019. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 21*)**

No public comment.

MOTION by Rittenhouse/Turnipseed to support the Biennial Upland Game Release Plan; carried with Foster absent.

**3I. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE LANDOWNER DEER AND ANTELOPE COMPENSATION TAG PROGRAM. The Department will provide a briefing to the Commission on recent developments regarding the Landowner Deer and Antelope Compensation Tag Program. The Commission will discuss and may direct the Department to develop a draft Commission Regulation regarding options pertaining to the Landowner Deer and Antelope Compensation Tag Program. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 22*)**

Chairman Burnside stated there was much discussion about this at the last Commission meeting. There was a cap on the landowner tags available that was 1.5% of the approved number of tags. The requests would exceed the cap by quite a lot so an amendment was made to a legislative bill (SB 511) to raise the cap to 2.5%. The bill has not been signed by the Governor yet. Since the data that was collected that determined what tags the landowners were eligible for was collected the previous year, Jeremy Drew suggested using the quotas for the tags from last year instead of this year's numbers to bring them closer to filling the requests. That lowered the number of tags that would be short. They recognize there is a problem with the program and it will be addressed going forward.

Chairman Burnside spoke at the Commission meeting in favor of using last year's numbers to determine the number of tags but it must be applied consistently.

Chairman Burnside stated no one spoke against the landowner tags but a comment was made that some people may be putting land in production just to get the tags.

No public comment.

No action was taken.

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

Chairman Burnside stated he personally sent a letter to the Governor recommending Rex Flowers to replace Jeremy Drew; personally sent a letter to Jim Wheeler supporting SB 511; and sent out an email to the other members of the Tri County Wildlife Working Group suggesting they meet in July.

Member Rittenhouse referred to an incident in the Pine Nuts where a bear advocate confronted a person who was using dogs and hunting lions and who had stopped to water his dogs. The person threatened to shoot the dogs if he saw them being used to chase or hunt bear. The hunter reported it to the sheriff but they could not do anything because the man did not pull out a gun and threaten the dogs or the person. He wondered if that is an issue.

Chairman Burnside thought this was an NDOW issue and not a local law enforcement issue.

Chris Crawford said his experience has been that you cannot harass a hunter who is actively hunting but this man was not doing that so this is probably not an offense.

Vice Chairman Cook disclosed an email sent by NBU asking for support of Carl Lackey's lawsuit and he did donate to that, an email from Chairman Burnside on SB 511, several communications relating to Rex Flowers and one from Rex Flowers, Vice Chairman Cook sent a letter supporting Mr. Flowers to the Governor, receipt of an email from Bob Pohlman advising of a Bistate Sage Grouse meeting to be held in Bridgeport, and receipt of an email from Chairman Burnside and Doug Martin on the Tri County Working Group.

**5. DISCUSSION ON THE RESULTS OF THE MAY 12 & 13, 2017 NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS. There will be no action taken.**

Chairman Burnside provided an update on:

- Passage of the predation management plan
- Approval of the first reading to change the order of the draws
- Presentation on how the Department determines quota recommendations
- SB 511
- He presented the DCABMW desire to increase the bear tags to 45 resident and 5 nonresident in order to have a Governor's Tag with the harvest limit remaining at 20 and the Commission agreed to do that.

**6. 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.**

Member Rittenhouse will attend the Las Vegas meeting.

No public comment.

**7. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION TO SCHEDULE THE NEXT DOUGLAS COUNTY WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING.**

The next Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, August 8, 2017. The next meeting will be held in the Music Room of the Community Center.

**8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.**

- Wildlife Working Group
- Bear/lion/deer study
- Commercial collection of reptiles issue

**CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT.**

No public comment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Cook/Turnipseed to adjourn the meeting; carried with Foster absent.

There being no further business to come before the DCABMW, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

The minutes of the June 20, 2017 meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 8th day of August 2017.

Respectfully submitted:

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Craig Burnside, Chairman