

DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE
Minutes of the March 21, 2017 Meeting

The Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting was scheduled for 5:30 pm on Monday, March 21, 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
Chad Foster
Mike Turnipseed

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Held.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 5:36 pm and determined a quorum was present.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

All members were present and there were no introductions to be made.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No public comment.

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

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **February 6, 2017**

No public comment.

MOTION by Foster/Cook to approve the minutes as presented; carried with Turnipseed abstaining.

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

No meeting has taken place but Chairman Burnside attended the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting and Member Rittenhouse attended the Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting to gauge whether any interest exists to reactivate the group. Both Advisory Boards were receptive to continuing with the group to discuss issues that are common to all three jurisdictions. Carson City will reach out to their District Attorney's office to determine whether the Open Meeting Law would apply to these joint meetings.

Potential issues to discuss could include trapping and trap checks, land transfers, urban/wildlife conflicts, hunting close to occupied dwellings, and lion-bear interaction.

Chairman Burnside talked about meeting procedures followed by the Washoe County board that could be helpful to our board.

No public comment.

This was a discussion only.

2. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON USING TRAINED TRACKING DOGS FOR BIG GAME RECOVERY.

As there are no tracking dogs or tracking organizations in Nevada, Member Rittenhouse stated he contacted United Blood Trackers to inquire about holding a communal training so these dogs would be available if needed once this use becomes allowed by law.

No public comment.

This was a discussion only.

3. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON A RECOMMENDATION BY THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE WAYNE E. KIRCH NEVADA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AWARD.

Pointing out that the nomination period is quite short, no nomination was made for 2016 by the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife. Possible nominations for 2017 could include John Ascuaga and/or the Park Family for their land conservation efforts.

No public comment.

No action was taken.

4. The following items, 4a through 4i, are items that will be heard before the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners at the next meetings, March 24 & 25, 2017, at the Clark County Shooting Complex, 11357 N. Decatur Blvd.,

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.

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

4a. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AND KLAMATH BASIN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES REQUEST FOR UP TO 20 WILD-TRAPPED GREATER SAGE GROUSE PER YEAR FOR UP TO THREE YEARS FOR TRANSLOCATION TO THE CLEAR LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE IN CALIFORNIA. The Department received a request from the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges and the California Department of Wildlife to capture and translocate up to 20 greater sage-grouse per year for up to three years for translocation to the Clear Lake National Wildlife Refuge. The Department is proceeding to fulfill the request and seeks the support of the Commission. The Commission may vote to support the Department's actions. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 6*)

Vice Chairman Cook stated this has been done before.

Chairman Burnside reviewed the Washoe County CAB discussion on this item and they questioned whether predator control had been done to ensure the birds survive.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Cook to support; carried unanimously.

4b. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT. The Department will provide an update on the status and process of refining A report will be presented on the committee's recent meetings. The Commission may review bills of interest, consider legislative committee recommendations and may take official positions on those bills. The Commission may also choose to develop platforms on bills by supporting or opposing general concepts contained within bills rather than specific language. The Commission will consider and may approve a spokesperson(s) who will relay Commission positions and platforms to the Legislature. (Support materials are as of the Legislative Committee meeting held on Feb. 22, 2017. These materials may be updated at the Commission meeting based on the outcome of the March 15, 2017, committee meeting. Bill and BDR language may be viewed online at: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/79th2017>) (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 7*)

The Board discussed AB138 (collecting rain water), AB29 (revising OHV provisions), AB187 (membership of the Board of Wildlife Commissioners), and AB101 (management of wildlife).

No public comment.

This was a discussion only and no action was taken.

4c. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT AND FISCAL YEAR 2018 DRAFT PREDATION MANAGEMENT PLAN. The Commission will hear a report from the Wildlife Damage Management Committee chairman regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2018 Predator Management Plan, and the Commission may take action to provide recommendations for modification of the draft for the May Commission meeting. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 8)*

Chairman Burnside stated the projects are essentially a carry-over of last year's projects.

The budget was reviewed and it was noted that state law requires 80% of the funds available be spent on lethal means of controlling predators. There is a proposal before the legislature to change this and allow the funds to be used to manage big game instead of just killing predators.

No public comment.

MOTION by Foster/Cook to recommend approval of the FY 2018 Draft Predation Management Plan; carried unanimously.

4d. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON NEVADA LAND LEGISLATION:

- 1. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE NEVADA LANDS ACT.** At the February Commission meeting the Commission designated Commissioners Drew and Johnston to draft a letter on the development of new federal legislation related to SJR 1. The Commission may take action to approve the draft letter to send. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 9A)*

Chairman Burnside stated there was no support for this at the Washoe County CAB meeting, either from their Board or the public. There is concern that the state cannot afford to manage all these lands. They say they are going to leverage the lands for maximum economic benefit for the people of the State of Nevada but what does that mean? It means sell it and/or develop it and then it is no longer public land.

Member Foster thought the letter was well written.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Cook to support the Wildlife Commission's draft letter opposing SJR1; carried unanimously.

- 2. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE WASHOE COUNTY LANDS BILL.** At the November Commission meeting the Commission designated Commissioner Drew to work with NDOW to draft a letter stating the Commission's concerns on the proposed

Washoe County Lands Bill. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 9B*)

Member Foster thought this letter was also well written and Member Rittenhouse agreed.

It is anticipated that the Washoe County Lands Bill will still go forward but it will be in a different form. The wilderness areas will be removed from the bill.

No public comment.

MOTION by Rittenhouse/Cook to support the Commission's draft letter on the Washoe County Lands Bill; carried unanimously.

4e. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE SECOND READING OF COMMISSION POLICY 26A, TRANSPARENCY. The Commission will conduct a second reading of Commission Policy 26A, Transparency, and may take action to suspend, amend or repeal. At the Feb. 11, 2017, meeting the Commission voted to suspend Policy 26A until such a time the Administrative Procedures, Regulations and Policy Committee can revise and renumber the policy to be consistent with Nevada Revised Statutes and all wildlife data. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 17*)

Chairman Burnside said the current policy violates NRS and they are proposing to suspend Policy 26A until a new policy is drafted or the policy is renumbered.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Foster to support suspension of Commission Policy 26A; carried unanimously.

4f. 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 hold a workshop to consider a regulation relating to amending 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. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 18*) (*This item is agendaized as a workshop on the Wildlife Commission Agenda*)

Member Rittenhouse reviewed the discussion that took place at the last Commission meeting.

Member Turnipseed asked what these changes will cure and Member Rittenhouse thought nothing.

Member Rittenhouse pointed out a language conflict in the document regarding how the fee would be accounted for and used; one area stated it would be deposited into the Wildlife Heritage Fund (Section 4,2) and the other area (Section 8,a) stated it would support programs to control predators and protect wildlife habitat. The language should be consistent throughout the regulation.

He stated he does not like to see pre-preference drawings without a lot of money to them to go before the general public.

Chairman Burnside clarified how the PIW drawing and PIW money collection currently works. The proposed change would make the PIW fee paid upfront with the funds going into the Wildlife Heritage Account. More money will be generated.

Member Foster understands the concerns raised by Member Rittenhouse about the PIW tag because it provides an unfair advantage to some. He asked how party tags would work. Chairman Burnside said the party is considered as a whole and the highest number in the party becomes the one that is on top.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Foster to support the effort of Commission General Regulation 466; carried unanimously.

4g. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION REGULATION 17-05, AMENDMENT #1, BIG GAME SEASONS 2017-2018, NONRESIDENT DESERT (NELSON) BIGHORN EWE HUNTS. The Commission will consider Amendment #1 of the 2017 - 2018 Big Game Hunting Seasons and Dates, to specifically address nonresident Desert (Nelson) Bighorn ewe hunts that were inadvertently omitted at the February Commission meeting. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 19*)

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Cook to support NDOW's recommendation on the nonresident ewe hunt; carried unanimously.

4h. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION REGULATION 17-12, MIGRATORY GAME BIRD SEASONS, BAG LIMITS, AND SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR WATERFOWL AND WEBLESS MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS; PUBLIC HUNTING LIMITED ON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS AND DESIGNATED STATE LANDS. The Commission will consider recommendations for seasons, bag limits, and special regulations for migratory game birds for 2017 - 2018 seasons and adopt regulations that comply with the proposed regulations framework for the 2017- 2018 hunting seasons on certain migratory game birds established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Commission will also consider rules regulating public hunting on Wildlife Management Areas and designated state lands. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 20*)

The seasons and bag limits were reviewed.

Member Foster thought 20 snow and ross' geese limit was a lot of birds.

Chairman Burnside thought the population must be able to support that limit.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Rittenhouse to support the seasons, bag limits, and special regulations dealing with waterfowl and webless migratory game birds; carried unanimously.

4i. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE 2018 AND 2019 COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULES. The Commission may take action to approve a schedule of meetings and locations for calendar years 2018 and 2019. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 21*)

All members are looking forward to having the Commission meet in Douglas County in August.

No public comment.

No action was taken.

5. CORRESPONDENCE OR COMMUNICATIONS BOARD MEMBERS HAVE RECEIVED

Several members received legislative alerts from Larry Johnson, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited.

Chairman Burnside received an email regarding the Kirch Conservation Award.

6. DISCUSSION ON THE RESULTS OF THE FEBRUARY 10 & 11, 2017 NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS.

Member Rittenhouse explained the Commission spent much time refining their position on the land acts. He added the harvest guidelines will be rewritten.

This was an update 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.

Member Foster will attend the Las Vegas meeting and Chairman Burnside will attend the May meeting in Reno.

No public comment.

- 8. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION TO SCHEDULE THE NEXT WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING.** The next Commission meeting is scheduled for May 12 and 13, 2017, 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 and add or dissolve committees, as necessary at this time. Any anticipated committee meetings that may occur prior to the next Commission meeting may be discussed.

The next Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 9, 2017.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Tri County Wildlife Working Group
- Trained Tracking Dogs for Big Game Recovery

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT.

Chairman Burnside discussed the planning efforts associated with the release of water from the Lahontan Dam.

Public comment closed.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Cook to adjourn the meeting; carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the DCABMW, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

The minutes of the March 21, 2017 meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 9th day of May, 2017.

Respectfully submitted:

Craig Burnside, Chairman