

DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE
Minutes of the September 19, 2017 Meeting

The Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting was scheduled for 5:30 pm on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 in the Douglas County Community Center, Carson Valley Medical Center Room, 1329 Waterloo Lane, Gardnerville, Nevada.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chad Foster
Robert Rittenhouse
Mike Turnipseed

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Mark Enders, NDOW Wildlife Diversity Division
David Catalano, NDOW Wildlife Biologist
Kris Urquhart, NDOW Fisheries Biologist
John Axtell, Bureau of Land Management

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Member Turnipseed led the Pledge.

CALL TO ORDER

Member Foster called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm and determined a quorum was present. Noted was the absence of Chairman Craig Burnside and Vice Chairman Bob Cook.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

In consideration of the Nevada Department of Wildlife representatives present, item 3h will be heard before item 2.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Rittenhouse to approve the agenda with the stated change; carried with Burnside and Cook absent.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **August 8, 2017**

No public comment.

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

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

Members Turnipseed and Rittenhouse attended a luncheon on September 14, 2017 in Carson City with two members of the Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife, Robert Boehmer and Gene Green; no members of the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife (WCABMW) were present. Topics discussed included commercial collection of reptiles, tortoises, and various other topics common to both groups. An attempt will be made by Mr. Green to set up an October meeting and hopefully have a member of the WCABMW attend from this point forward.

No public comment.

This was a discussion only.

3h. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMERCIAL COLLECTION OF REPTILES. The Commission will consider potential regulations for the Commercial Collection of Reptiles. Regulations could prohibit all collection of reptiles for commercial purposes. Regulation could limit collection of reptiles for commercial purposes based on season, species, collection area, and or take. Regulations will be discussed and the Commission may choose to direct the Department to advance a regulation to a workshop at a future Commission meeting. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 23*)

Mark Enders and David Catalano, NDOW, provided the direction given to staff to pursue two options relating to the commercial collection of reptiles; either prohibiting commercial collection of reptiles, temporarily or permanently, or developing regulations based on season, species, collection area, or take. Over the last 30 years, 450,000+ reptiles have been collected with 98% of them consisting of the Desert Horn Lizard, Collared Lizard, Leopard Lizard, Desert Iguana, Yellow Backed Spiny Lizard, Zebra Tailed Lizard, Western Fence Lizard, and Common Chuckwalla. Based on the collection data, a recommendation is being made to close nine game management areas to allow for population regrowth. Challenges exist with patrolling collection and the removal of illegal pitfall traps. Depending on the direction this takes, more data will need to be collected and analyzed to determine what has happened and what the regrowth period is.

No public comment.

Member Rittenhouse would like to see more data collected to answer some of the questions raised. Once that is done it would allow the biologists to determine the impact collection is having on the different species and areas.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Rittenhouse to recommend approval of regulating collection based on season, species, collection area, or take rather than a total ban; carried with Foster voting Nay and Burnside and Cook absent.

Member Foster believes there is not enough relevant data to make sound

recommendations at this time. We only know how many have been collected but not how many reptiles we have in Nevada. He feels that this is just the beginning of the discussion and he looks forward to where these discussions lead.

2. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. PRESENTATION BY JOHN AXTELL, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, ON THE STATUS AND DYNAMICS OF THE PINE NUT MOUNTAINS' WILD HORSE HERD.

John Axtell, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), provided an overview of the wild horse situation both locally and for the western United States. Currently there are 75,000 wild horses bureau-wide, with the population doubling every four to five years. The BLM feels public lands can handle about 26,000 horses. Currently there are 45,000 wild horses in captivity and $\frac{2}{3}$ of the budget goes to feeding those horses as there is no adoption or sale demand for them. In Nevada, the Department of Agriculture is the authority for wild horses. BLM spends \$80 million per year to manage the horses (collection, administering birth control, feeding, etc.) He reviewed the challenges faced by the Field Manager with managing the stray horses in the Fish Springs area and the impact of the horses on that area, an area that can support 10-20 horses but has about 70. The wild horse Appropriate Management Level (AML) for Nevada is 12,000 but there are 36,000-40,000 statewide.

No public comment.

This was informational only and no action was taken.

3. The following items, 3a through 3i, are items that will be heard before the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners at the next meetings, September 22 & 23, 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–3i. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING WHETHER THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD SHOULD TAKE A POSITION ON:

3f. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION REGULATION 18-01, FISHING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR 2018-2020. The Commission will establish fishing seasons, bag and possession limits for the period of March 1, 2018 through Feb. 29, 2020. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 21*)

Kris Urquhart, NDOW Fisheries Biologist, provided the minor changes being recommended; one relates to a technical change for the listing of the Stillwater Refuge as closed waters and the other recommendation changes the open hours and/or the age limit for the children's fishing derby at the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area.

The Advisory Board members pointed out youth hunts already exist for waterfowl, mule deer, elk, and antelope.

No public comment.

MOTION by Foster/Turnipseed to recommend approval of Commission Regulation 18-01, Fishing Seasons and Bag Limits for 2018-2020, as written with the recommended option #1 for the hatchery near Mason Valley to change the age to 16 years or younger with option #2 of changing the start time being the second choice if the first option does not pass; carried with Burnside and Cook absent.

3a. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE SECOND READING OF COMMISSION POLICY 9, AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA). The Commission will conduct a second reading of Commission Policy 9, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and may take action to officially repeal the policy. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 8)*

No public comment.

MOTION by Foster/Turnipseed to recommend approval of Commission Policy 9, Americans With Disabilities Act, as written; carried with Burnside and Cook absent.

3b. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE SECOND READING OF COMMISSION POLICY 29, ARBITRATION PROCESS FOR APPLICANTS DISSATISFIED WITH ELK INCENTIVE TAG AWARDS. The Commission will conduct a second reading of Commission Policy 29, Arbitration Process for Applicants Dissatisfied with Elk Incentive Tag Awards, and may take action to officially implement the policy. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 9)*

No public comment.

MOTION by Foster/Turnipseed to recommend approval of Policy 29, Arbitration Process for Applicants Dissatisfied with Elk Incentive Tag Awards; carried with Burnside and Cook absent.

3c. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE SECOND READING OF COMMISSION POLICY 63, PROTECTING WILDLIFE FROM TOXIC PONDS. The Commission will conduct a second reading of Commission Policy 63, Protecting Wildlife from Toxic Ponds, and may take action to officially revise the policy. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 10)*

The Board members reviewed the added verbiage to the policy.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Rittenhouse to recommend approval of Commission Policy 63, Protecting Wildlife from Toxic Ponds; carried with Burnside and Cook absent.

3d. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE FIRST READING OF COMMISSION POLICY 27, PROTECTION OF NEVADA WILDLIFE RESOURCES. The Commission will conduct a first reading of Commission Policy 27 and may take action to repeal or revise the policy. The Commission may

advance the policy to a second reading for possible adoption at a future meeting. (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 11)

Member Foster read from the summary and reviewed the action of the Commission.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Rittenhouse to recommend approval of Commission Policy 27, Protection of Nevada Wildlife Resources;

Member Foster thinks a wolf population could be somewhat beneficial but it is hard to determine that at this point because to date all we have done is eliminate them. Wolves in Yellowstone have helped to control the elk population and beavers are coming back creating more riparian assets. While he understands the position of the ranchers and others on wolves and their impact on livestock, he feels that all the information is not available yet.

Member Turnipseed recalled that U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's listing of the wolf would be shut down when there were 200 active pairs and now there are over 3,000.

Member Rittenhouse does not think a number of wolves would establish residency here. If there is not enough food, they will retreat. He compared this issue with the wild horse issue; having a limited population would not be a problem but letting them get out of control is not acceptable.

MOTION; carried with Foster voting Nay and Burnside and Cook absent.

3e. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 472, LICENSE SIMPLIFICATION, LCB FILE NO. R029-17. The Commission will hold a workshop to consider and recommend amendments to Chapters 488, 501, 502, and 504 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation is designed to implement the hunting and fishing license simplification structure approved during the 79th Legislative Session in Senate Bill 511.

The Commission will consider adopting amendments to Chapters 488, 501, 502, and 504 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation is designed to implement the hunting and fishing license simplification structure approved during the 79th Legislative Session in Senate Bill 511.

(This item is agendized as a workshop and later for action on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commission Agenda) (Wildlife Commission Agenda Items 14 and 20)

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Foster to recommend approval of Commission General Regulation 472, License Simplification, LCB File No. R029-17; carried with Burnside and Cook absent.

3f. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION REGULATION 18-01, FISHING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR 2018-2020. The Commission

will establish fishing seasons, bag and possession limits for the period of March 1, 2018 through Feb. 29, 2020. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 21*)

This item was heard earlier in the meeting.

3g. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR RECIPROCAL FISHING AND WATERCRAFT REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS ON THE WATERS OF THE COLORADO RIVER IN COMMON TO THE STATES OF NEVADA AND ARIZONA. The Commission may consider changes to the Memorandum of Understanding for Reciprocal Fishing and Watercraft Registration Requirements on the Waters of the Colorado River in Common to the States of Nevada and Arizona (MOU) between the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the Arizona Game and Fish Department. The MOU currently identifies a requirement for Nevada anglers to possess a Colorado River Special Use Stamp when fishing on common waters of the Colorado River or on the Arizona shoreline. That language is no longer needed as the Colorado River Special Use Stamp will be eliminated on January 1, 2018 as part of proposed Nevada fishing license changes. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 22*)

Member Foster explained what will now be incorporated in the fishing license so the Special Use Stamp will no longer be needed.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Foster to recommend approval of the Memorandum of Understanding for Reciprocal Fishing and Watercraft Registration Requirements on the Waters of the Colorado River in Common to the States of Nevada and Arizona as written; carried with Burnside and Cook absent.

3h. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMERCIAL COLLECTION OF REPTILES. The Commission will consider potential regulations for the Commercial Collection of Reptiles. Regulations could prohibit all collection of reptiles for commercial purposes. Regulation could limit collection of reptiles for commercial purposes based on season, species, collection area, and or take. Regulations will be discussed and the Commission may choose to direct the Department to advance a regulation to a workshop at a future Commission meeting. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 23*)

This item was heard earlier in the meeting.

3i. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON PRONGHORN ANTELOPE TRANSLOCATION. A request for up to 200 pronghorn has been received by the Department from the Yakama and Colville Tribes in Washington. The Department will provide an update on the status of Nevada's pronghorn population and potential source herds for translocations. The Commission may approve the translocation requests for 2017 and 2018, as well as provide direction to the Department for fulfilling these requests. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 24*)

Member Foster referred to a tongue-in-cheek public comment submitted by Mr. Scheetz

regarding including translocation of 100 wild horses with this request.

The Board recalled the previous request was under-filled.

Member Foster would like to see our wildlife stay in Nevada but someday we may come to a point where we need help from surrounding states.

Member Rittenhouse added we are repopulating mountain quail out of California.

Member Foster would like to know what is going to be done with these animals since he thought hunting is not allowed on reservation land.

Member Turnipseed said hunting is allowed on reservation land but they would not have a hunt for five years.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Rittenhouse to recommend approval of the pronghorn antelope translocation as written; carried with Burnside and Cook absent.

4. CORRESPONDENCE OR COMMUNICATIONS BOARD MEMBERS HAVE RECEIVED.

All members received a public comment about translocation of pronghorn from Mr. Eric Scheetz and an email from Bob Pohlman regarding the Sweetwater Summit.

Member Foster received an email from Rob Boehmer regarding the Tri-County Working Group.

5. DISCUSSION ON THE RESULTS OF THE AUGUST 11 & 12, 2017 NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS. There will be no action taken.

Most members of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife attended the last Commission meeting so no update was needed.

Member Turnipseed would like to see a copy of the recently completed bean/lion interaction study.

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 Foster will attend the Las Vegas Commission meeting and Member Turnipseed will attend the November Commission meeting to be held in Carson City.

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 Monday, October 30, 2017.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Tri-County Wildlife Working Group
- Bear/Lion Interaction study results

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife, the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

The minutes of the September 19, 2017 meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 30th day of October 2017.

Respectfully submitted:

Craig Burnside, Chairman