

DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE
Minutes of the June 26, 2018 Meeting

The Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting was scheduled for 5:30 pm on Tuesday, June 26, 2018 in the Douglas County Community Center, Ceramics Room, 1329 Waterloo Lane, Gardnerville, Nevada.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Craig Burnside, Chairman
Bob Cook, Vice Chairman
Mike Turnipseed
Chad Foster
Robert Rittenhouse

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Chairman Burnside led the Pledge.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 5:39 pm and determined a quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Member Foster commented on the new licensing system and the public feedback he has received regarding the inability to find out who drew tags and for which areas.

He added he has had public requests to have NDOW keep the fishing season open year-round at Topaz Lake.

Chairman Burnside discussed the difficulty in finding which tags/seasons/zones were still available for the second draw. He added that Douglas County staff is recommending the Topaz campground be open year-round.

Vice Chairman Cook talked about his successful effort to have the Board of Commissioners approve a Tahoe Township seat for the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife. He clarified the boundaries of the Tahoe Township.

Public comment closed.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No public comment.

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

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **May 1, 2018**

No public comment.

MOTION by Foster/Turnipseed to approve the minutes as presented; carried unanimously.

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

Member Rittenhouse was unsuccessful in gathering the group together for a meeting even though he made himself readily available.

Chairman Burnside suggested Member Rittenhouse pick a date/evening time/Carson City location for the meeting and provide that information to the other members.

Member Rittenhouse feels encroachment on public lands will be become more of an issue as the population grows and that should be discussed by the group to look for organized, thoughtful solutions. Water is a critical issue that needs to be discussed too as more people move in.

This was a discussion only.

2. FOR DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ONLY. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE UPCOMING CHANGES TO THE AGENDA PROCESS, MEETING LOCATION, POTENTIAL COSTS, AND ANY OTHER ITEMS ASSOCIATED WITH HOLDING A DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE MEETING.

Douglas County is initiating new policies relating to advisory boards including changes to the agenda process, term limits of members and of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, meeting location, and the requirement to sit on only one advisory board at a time.

The members feel the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife (DCABMW), which is advisory to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners, may be outside the parameters of some of these changes.

Chairman Burnside will contact the County Manager to set up a meeting to discuss how these changes may or may not apply to the DCABMW.

3. DISCUSSION ON THE RESULTS OF THE MAY 4 & 5, 2018 NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS. There will be no action taken.

Chairman Burnside attended and talked about the outcome of the quota setting, predation management plan, petitions, and trap registration. He said the Commission largely supports staff's recommendations for quotas because of they are based on buck to doe ratios, hunter success, population estimates, and demand/success.

This was an update only.

4. The following items, 4a through 4m, are items that will be heard before the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners at the next meetings, June 29 & 30, 2018, at the Dyer Community Center, Highway 264 at Blue Bird Road, Between Mile Marker 11 & 12, West Side of Highway North of Dyer, Dyer, 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–4m. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING WHETHER THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD SHOULD TAKE A POSITION ON:

4a. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON DUCK STAMP REQUEST. The Commission will review and may take action to approve up to \$128,510 for projects submitted for FY 2019 funding from the Duck Stamp account. The specific Duck Stamp projects that may be approved are listed below.

- Technician Support for Nevada Waterfowl Projects - Project # 384 (\$13,910)
- Ducks Unlimited Wetlands Conservation Support - Project # 352 (\$10,000)
- Mason Valley WMA Moist Soil Food Plots - Project # 382 (\$10,000)
- Key Pittman WMA Food Plots - Project # 330 (\$2,600)
- Overton WMA Pipe Replacement Project - Phase 2 - Project # 360 (\$7,000)
- Eastern WMA Complex Weed Control - Project # 349 (\$10,000)
- Overton WMA Pintail and Wilson Pond Leveling - Project # 351 (\$60,000)
- Mason Valley WMA Saltcedar Treatment - Project # 381 (\$15,000)

(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 6)

Vice Chairman Cook read through all the projects and supports the proposals.

Member Foster, as a non-fowl hunter, finds this makes sense but would like to defer to the other members to determine if there is a benefit to the projects.

Member Turnipseed explained the purpose of the seed for food plots projects. The hay that is cut is for the Department's use and some of the food plots are only consumed by ducks.

The Board briefly discussed the importance of weed control projects on both public and private lands.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Foster to recommend approval of Duck Stamp allocation to the various projects; carried unanimously.

4b. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON UPLAND GAME BIRD STAMP REQUEST. The Commission will review and may take action to approve up to \$252,234 for projects submitted for FY 2019 funding from the Upland Game Bird Stamp account. The specific Upland Game Bird Stamp projects that may be approved are listed below.

- Greater Sage-grouse Statewide Monitoring – Project # 373 (\$55,000)

- Upland Game Translocation and Monitoring – Project # 368 (\$14,264)
- Dusky Grouse Ecology and Management in Nevada – Project # 365 (\$3,100)
- Monitoring the Effects of Landscape-Level Treatments on Greater Sage-grouse within the Desatoya Mountains – Project # 369 (\$15,000)
- Measuring Corticosterone Metabolites in Greater Sage-grouse - Project # 393 (\$25,000)
- Estimating Sage-grouse Vital Rates within Nevada’s Most Novel Habitats - Project # 367 (\$53,470)
- Effects of Conventional Raven Control and Wildfire on Greater Sage-grouse within the Virginia Mountains – Project # 370 (\$25,000)
- Mason Valley WMA Upland Food Plots – Project # 383 (\$10,000)
- Key Pittman WMA Food Plots - Project # 330 (\$3,900)
- Edwards Creek Lek Pinyon Juniper Hand Removal Project – Project # 282 (\$25,000)
- Eastern WMA Complex Weed Control – Project # 349 (\$10,000)
- Eastern Nevada Properties Restoration – Project # 390 (\$12,500)

(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 7)

Vice Chairman Cook read through all the projects and supports the proposals.

A brief review of the projects took place highlighting the Dusky Grouse Ecology and Management project.

Chairman Burnside noted the Measuring Corticosterone Metabolites project is intended to establish baseline levels before mining comes in and will help determine how the activity may stress the Sage-grouse.

No public comment.

MOTION by Foster/Turnipseed to recommend approval of Upland Game Bird Stamp request as written; carried unanimously.

4c. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE WILDLIFE HERITAGE COMMITTEE’S HERITAGE PROJECT EXTENSION REQUESTS. Pursuant to NAC 501.340, the Commission will review Committee recommendations and may approve extension requests from projects approved in previous fiscal years. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 8B)*

No public comment.

MOTION by Foster/Turnipseed to recommend approval of the Wildlife Heritage Committee’s Heritage Project Extension requests as written; carried unanimously.

4d. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE HERITAGE COMMITTEE’S HERITAGE FUNDING REALLOCATION. The Commission will review Committee recommendations and may approve reallocation of any unused Heritage funds from previously approved projects to other previously approved projects from the same fiscal year. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 8C)*

No public comment.

MOTION by Foster/Turnipseed to recommend approval of the Heritage Committee's Heritage Funding Reallocation as written; carried unanimously.

4e. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE HERITAGE COMMITTEE'S FISCAL YEAR 2019 HERITAGE PROJECT PROPOSALS. The Commission will hear recommendations from the Committee and may take action to approve up to \$887,474.01 for projects submitted for FY 2019 funding from the Wildlife Heritage account. The preliminary funding recommendations from the Committee are listed below and may be approved by the Commission. These recommendations may change at the 8am, June 29 Heritage Committee meeting.

- Bighorn Sheep Capture, Transplant and Monitoring – Project # 19-01 (\$75,000)
- NDOW Helicopter Acquisition – Project # 19-02 (\$200,000)
- Wildfire-Related Restoration and Seed Purchase – Project # 19-03 (\$100,000)
- Overton WMA Pintail and Wilson Ponds Leveling – Project # 19-04 (\$60,000)
- Willow Creek Reservoir Habitat Structures and Other Improvements – Project # 19-05 (\$21,500)
- South Steptoe Watershed Restoration – Project # 19-06 (\$35,000)
- Kern Mountain Habitat Improvement Project – Project # 19-07 (\$30,000)
- Izzenhood Basin Habitat Improvement Project – Project # 19-08 (\$30,000)
- Bighorn Sheep Gene Transcription Analysis – Project # 19-09 (\$84,500)
- Comins Lake Boat Ramp – Project # 19-10 (\$55,000)
- Rebuild of Last Chance #6 Hanging Basin Water Development – Project # 19-11 (\$25,100)
- Survey and Maintenance of Existing Big Game Water Developments – Project # 19-12 (\$36,700)
- Simkins/Doc Pass PJ Chaining Maintenance Project – Project # 19-13 (\$75,000)
- Cave Valley Ranch PJ Removal Project – Project # 19-14 (\$59,674.01)
- Delineation and Nutritional Value of Desert Bighorn Lambing Habitat – Project # 19-15 (not recommended for funding)

(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 8D)

Regarding the seed purchase project, Member Turnipseed talked about the short shelf life of some seed and how time can affect the germination rate.

Some members wondered how funding for the projects was determined since not all projects were funded fully and one not funded at all. In the future, they would like to see more supporting material regarding each project and how the level of funding was determined.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Cook to recommend approval of the Heritage Committee's Fiscal Year 2019 Heritage Project Proposals;

Chairman Burnside wondered if all the proposed projects met the requirements for Heritage fund use. The parameters for the use of Heritage funds was read into the record.

MOTION; carried unanimously.

4f. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 477, LANDOWNER DEER AND ANTELOPE COMPENSATION TAG PROGRAM, LCB FILE NO. 096-18. The Commission will hold a workshop to consider a regulation relating to amending Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation would provide direction for equitably allocating landowner deer and antelope compensation tags if the statutory limit is reached. *(This item is agendized as a workshop on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' agenda) (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 9)*

Chairman Burnside reviewed comments made at previous Commission meetings that characterized the landowner tags not so much as compensation, but as tolerance of the wildlife using their property. The wildlife populations that use those private land holdings would not be what they are if there were not the production fields, water developments, and the like that currently exist on those properties. Chairman Burnside agrees with these sentiments and supports giving the private landowner some tags.

Member Foster added providing the landowner a few tags give a lot of people a chance to hunt those animals. He added he appreciates Mr. Wakeling's efforts to find a fair way to handle this issue.

Member Turnipseed pointed out that much more damage is done by the animals than this tag offsets.

Member Foster added mitigation efforts would cause the deer herd to decrease; this pays for tolerance. If the ranchers support this compensation method, then we should continue going forward this way.

No public comment.

The consensus of the Board was to take no action until a regulation comes forward.

4g. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE ADOPTION OF COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 474, TRAP REGISTRATION, LCB FILE NO. R038-18. The Commission will consider adopting a regulation to amend Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 503.150. This regulation revises provisions relating to the registration of traps as mandated by Senate Bill (SB) 364 of the 79th Legislative Session. SB 364 states that with certain exceptions, each trap, snare, or similar device used by a person in the taking of wild mammals must be registered with the Department before it is used. It also states that for each trap, snare, or similar device registered with the Department, the person registering the device shall pay a registration fee of \$5. This proposed regulation provides a mechanism for the Department to register traps and charge \$5 per trap registered. The Commission held a workshop on May 4, 2018 and directed the Department to clarify the first sentence of the regulation as it relates to SB 364. The Commission also directed

the Department to gain clarity on the transfer of trap registration numbers. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 10*)

The Board quickly reviewed the clarifying language.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Cook to recommend approval of Commission General Regulation 474, Trap Registration, LCB File No. R038-18; carried unanimously.

4h. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE SECOND READING OF COMMISSION POLICY 50, DUCK STAMP PROCEDURE. The Commission will conduct a second reading of Commission Policy 50 and may take action to officially suspend the policy. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 18*)

Member Rittenhouse pointed out the Department is losing money by producing the stamps.

Member Turnipseed thought stamp collectors were the only people buying the stamps. Very few people requested the stamp last year.

Member Foster suggested people wishing to collect the stamps should cover the printing costs or the program should be discontinued because they will continue to lose money otherwise.

No public comment.

MOTION by Foster/Cook to recommend approval of the second reading of Commission Policy 50, Duck Stamp Procedure as written; carried unanimously.

4i. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION REGULATION 18-01, AMENDMENT #1-FISHING SEASONS AND REGULATIONS FOR THE TWO YEAR PERIOD MARCH 1, 2018 THROUGH FEBRUARY 29, 2020. The Commission will consider Amendment #1 of CR 18-01, the Fishing Seasons and Bag Limits for March 1, 2018 through February 29, 2020. The Department is proposing an amendment to the harvest limit for fish in that portion of the Upper Reese River and tributaries from the Arc Dome wilderness boundary south of the Yomba Shoshone Tribe Reservation to its headwaters, and Stewart Creek from its confluence with the Reese River to its headwaters, in Nye County, to remove harvest limits on trout species. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 19*)

Member Rittenhouse asked if the Reese River habitat could support LCTs.

Chairman Burnside said the river system did sustain LCTs before.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Cook to recommend denial of Commission Regulation 18-01, Amendment #1-Fishing Seasons and Regulations for the two-year period March 1, 2018 through February 29, 2020;

Member Rittenhouse understands this item is to remove harvest limits on this river in order to give people the opportunity to catch them before the river is poisoned but asked if the project to eliminate all existing trout would come before this Board before it happens.

Chairman Burnside thought reinstating harvest limits on those waters after LCTs are planted would come back before the Board but that is not to be considered today.

Chairman Burnside thought there were plenty of places to catch rainbow, brown, and brook trout so he supports having a few waters with native fish.

Vice Chairman Cook added he believes eventually this will be done on all waters and all non-native trout will be eliminated leaving only LCTs.

Using the number of lakes in South Dakota as an example, Member Foster has a problem with how the west coast does this because all kinds of fish species coexist in those South Dakota lakes.

Vice Chairman Cook recalled the days when Tahoe was a real fishery before mackinaw were introduced. He talked about the current efforts to reintroduce fish back into Fallen Leaf Lake.

MOTION; failed with Burnside, Foster, and Rittenhouse voting Nay.

The members briefly reviewed the intent of this item and what actions might come forward in the future.

Member Foster displayed the map showing the waters proposed for removal of trout harvest limits and thought the fish in the other portions of the Reese River would make their way up the tributaries and feed on the small LCTs.

Vice Chairman Cook thought that everything had already been removed from the other portions of the river or they plan to kill everything in the whole system and plant LCTs. It does not make sense to remove trout from only part of the river because they will have the same problem they have now.

Chairman Burnside thought the planted LCTs would be pulled from other places in the Reese River sub-basin. Somewhere else there are already streams that have just LCTs in them.

MOTION by Burnside/Foster to recommend approval of Commission Regulation 18-01, Amendment #1-Fishing Seasons and Regulations for the two-year period March 1, 2018 through February 29, 2020 as written;

Member Foster thought poisoning the whole Reese River system at once would prevent having to redo it again in five years. He does not want to see projects being done just for the sake of doing projects.

Member Turnipseed pointed out the river is slow and meandering as it nears the Yomba Reservation so it may not be a trout fishery anyway.

MOTION; failed with Turnipseed, Cook, and Rittenhouse voting Nay.

Vice Chairman Cook thought having more information would have made making a decision easier.

4j. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION REGULATION 18-12, 2018-2019 UPLAND GAME AND FURBEARER SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS. The Commission will consider and may vote to establish regulations for upland game birds and mammals as well as furbearers for the 2018 and 2019 seasons. This regulation will also include fall wild turkey seasons for 2018 and 2019 and spring wild turkey seasons for 2019 and 2020. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 20)*

Chairman Burnside reviewed the changes to the seasons for sage-grouse and turkeys.

No public comment.

MOTION by Foster/Rittenhouse to recommend approval of Commission Regulation 18-12, 2018-2019 Upland Game and Furbearer Seasons and Bag Limits as written; carried unanimously.

4k. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION REGULATION 18-04 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 21)*

No public comment.

MOTION by Foster/Turnipseed to recommend approval of Commission Regulation 18-04 Amendment #1, 2019* Heritage Tag Organization/Vendor Selection and Special Regulations as written; carried unanimously.

*The agenda title incorrectly states this is for the 2018 season.

4l. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE FINANCE COMMITTEE'S FISCAL YEAR 2019 COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD BUDGET REQUESTS. The Commission may approve an estimated amount of \$39,186.01 for County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife budgets for fiscal year 2019. Carson City estimate \$1,742.50; Clark estimate \$9,389.69; Douglas estimate \$2,127.02; Eureka estimate \$373.71; Humboldt estimate \$583.54; Lander estimate \$2,063.99; Lincoln estimate \$2,378.27; Lyon estimate \$1,347.17; Mineral estimate \$5,477.85; Pershing estimate \$4,982.56; Washoe estimate \$3,771.37; White Pine estimate \$4,948.34. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 22B)*

Chairman Burnside explained how he arrived at the original request. The amount being recommended for Douglas County is \$234 less than what was requested.

The members reviewed all CAB estimates and requested the DCABMW member attending the next Commission meeting get a clarification on how all budget recommendations were determined.

Chairman Burnside requested the Recording Secretary prepare her timesheet for the remainder of the fiscal year.

No public comment.

No action taken was taken.

4m. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE AMENDMENT TO THE BIENNIAL UPLAND GAME RELEASE PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019. The Commission will review and may take action to amend the Department's biennial upland game release plan for fiscal year 2019 to include beavers. (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 23)

Chairman Burnside stated beavers are not upland animals nor game animals, they are a riparian species, so they should not be included in this game release plan; it should be totally separate from the Upland Game Release Plan. He does not want any Upland Game Stamp money spent to conduct translocation of beavers if there is ever a desire to introduce them into waters. This is not the place for this.

Member Foster wondered if they are included in this plan because they do not want to create a furbearer release plan. This is not a good place for this amendment as it is going to get lost. We have many other release plans so we should have a furbearer release plan too and that is where this belongs.

No public comment.

MOTION by Foster/Burnside to recommend denial of the Amendment to the Biennial Upland Game Release Plan for Fiscal Year 2019; carried unanimously.

5. CORRESPONDENCE OR COMMUNICATIONS BOARD MEMBERS HAVE RECEIVED.

Vice Chairman Cook met with Mr. Larry Werner, Douglas County Manager, regarding making one of the seats on the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife Board a Tahoe Township seat.

Member Rittenhouse talked to Todd Wilcks, Carson Valley Chukar Club, about a reduction in the request for wild turkey Heritage Tags.

This was informational only.

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.

Chairman Burnside will attend the Dyer meeting.

Members Turnipseed and Foster will attend the Caliente meeting.

- 7. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION TO SCHEDULE THE NEXT DOUGLAS COUNTY WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING.** The next Commission meeting is scheduled for August 10 and 11, 2018, in Caliente. 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.

The next Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, August 7, 2018.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

- Wildlife Working Group
- Changes to the agenda and meeting process

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT.

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

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

There being no further business to come before the DCABMW, the meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

The minutes of the June 26, 2018 meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 7th day of August 2018.

Respectfully submitted:

Craig Burnside, Chairman