

DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE
Minutes of October 30, 2018 Meeting

The Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting was scheduled for 5:30 pm on Tuesday, October 30, 2018 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
Mike Turnipseed
Robert Rittenhouse
Chad Foster

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Recording Secretary led the Pledge.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm and determined a quorum was present.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Recording Secretary called the roll and all members were present. There were no introductions to be made.

PUBLIC COMMENT

On behalf of Scott Morgan the following comments were made: Topaz Lake should become a year round fishery. Youth should be able to get a fishing license without showing identification or even be required to be present.

Member Foster said he has a mule deer late season archery tag for Unit 208 and prefers to hunt in the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area (MVWMA). The specified holidays for allowed hunting in the MVWMA do not list New Year's Day yet his tag allows him to hunt on January 1st. He believes this is an oversight and he would like to see the language corrected.

Public comment closed.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No public comment.

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

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **September 18, 2018**

No public comment.

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

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

The group is not scheduled to meet again until January 2019. Member Rittenhouse requested input on potential concerns/discussion items.

2. FOR DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ONLY. DISCUSSION ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES ASSOCIATED WITH HOLDING A DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE MEETING.

Chairman Burnside recapped his discussion with then County Manager, Larry Werner, regarding the changes to Douglas County's policy regarding Advisory Boards. Mr. Werner acknowledged this board is not really a county board; the county only appoints its members. Chairman Burnside briefly touched on the changes to term limits, the number of boards a person can sit on simultaneously, the requirement to have a Tahoe representative if available, and how long a member can serve as Chair or Vice Chair. A brief discussion took place on the changes to the county's agenda process and launch of a new website.

Member Foster offered to facilitate the purchase of a new laptop and to work with Douglas County Information Technology on the installation of software needed to generate and post the agenda.

3. DISCUSSION ON THE RESULTS OF THE JUNE 29 & 30, AUGUST 10 & 11, AND SEPTEMBER 21 & 22, 2018 NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS. There will be no action taken.

Chairman Burnside reported on the results of the Dyer June 29 & 30 meeting:

- Duck Stamp and Upland Game Stamp projects approval.
- The recommended Heritage projects and extensions were approved. He highlighted the GPS tracking of migration on Highway 160 and the resulting over-crossings for the animals.
- Landowner tag program.
- Trap registration fee regulation passage.
- Department Activity Reports on the investigation of mysterious elk deaths in the "Tuscarora Trapezoid"; sodium chloride liquid spill in the Carson River and the subsequent fish kill; shed antler violation being prosecuted, bear poaching cases in progress; and the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA). Chairman Burnside had suggested to Director Wasley that these Department Activity Reports be moved to Saturday to allow more people to hear them.
- Tour of sheep big game guzzlers.
- LCT in the Upper Reese River complex.
- Budget approval.
- Addition of beavers to the small game release plan.

Chairman Burnside reported on the results of the Caliente August 10 & 11 meeting:

- Landowner tag program.
- Closure or restriction of sage grouse units due to fire.
- Tour of elk big game guzzlers
- Tour of Echo Canyon and Eagle Valley reservoirs and some of the private land in Lincoln County where forage is being lost and damage is occurring. A brief discussion took place on the consequences of mitigating the damage instead of “tolerating” the herds.
- Tag vendor report. He talked about the report by Kalkomey and the difference between the previous vendor and Kalkomey. Kalkomey reported on demographics and they will take that information and use it in marketing. Member Foster does not like the business model Kalkomey is using allowing them to make more money by advertising hunting in Nevada outside of Nevada.
- Department Activity Reports on pike caught in Comins after it was poisoned, suggesting it was planted. The trail camera regulation is in effect and there has been good voluntary compliance.

Vice Chairman Cook reported on the results of the Las Vegas September 21 & 22 meeting:

- Wildfires and their effect on wildlife habitat.
- Areas 061, 062, 071, and 072 are in need of habitat resistant foliage.
- The Tortoise Group was awarded the Wayne Kirch Award.
- RAWA update.
- Overview of the desert bighorn program by Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn.
- License simplification process.
- Deer and antelope compensation tags.
- Shotgun gauges for turkey.
- Mule deer update with statistics provided on the population of deer in various states.
- Number of fires and acreage burned.
- Presentation on Nevada caves and the efforts to preserve bats.
- Spring Valley wind farm and the effort to reduce mortality.
- Value of the bighorn sheep ewe and mountain goat online course.
- Transfer of 50 pronghorn to the Yakima Tribe.

4. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION TO CONSIDER FILING A PETITION WITH THE NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS TO ALLOW SHOTGUNS AS A LEGAL WEAPON FOR BEAR.

Vice Chairman Cook feels this topic will not be addressed until a petition is submitted with the Commission.

MOTION by Cook/Foster to support petitioning the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to allow shotguns as a legal weapon for bear;

Chairman Burnside has spoken with Chairman Johnston and Jeremy Drew and both indicated support for the idea but advised to delay the petition until the legislative session is over to avoid unintended consequences with new legislation. Chairman Johnston thinks the local sportsmen know where the bears are and is willing to have those discussions.

Vice Chairman Cook understands the timing may not be right at this time but he also does not want to lose sight of it either.

Member Rittenhouse asked if submission of a petition can have a negative connotation.

Chairman Burnside explained that if a petition is submitted, the Commission must take action on it.

No public comment.

At this time, the maker of the motion and the second amended the motion to say "to support petitioning the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to allow shotguns as a legal weapon for bear but revisit it after the next legislative session;" carried unanimously.

5. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION TO CONSIDER FILING A PETITION WITH THE NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS TO ALLOW BEAR HUNTING WITHIN THE LAKE TAHOE BASIN.

Vice Chairman Cook discussed a recent incident with a trouble bear at Lake Tahoe. A bear trap was placed at the sewer plant but was disabled nightly by people opposed to the trap. The sewer district endured a month of threatening phone calls, trespassing, and public outcry and came to see the dedication of the BEAR League.

Vice Chairman Cook feels there are many bears in the basin and this is needed. A lot of hunting of other animals is done in the basin already and it is done without incident. He feels this topic will not be addressed until a petition is submitted with the Commission.

MOTION by Cook/Turnipseed to submit a petition to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to allow bear hunting in the Lake Tahoe Basin but revisit it after the next legislative session;

Member Turnipseed pointed out the California bear season closes when the take of sows reaches 1700 but they never get close to that number.

Member Foster feels the petition language will be very important and there may be a need to reach out to others for help. The important fact is hunting bears will not be taking place in people's neighborhoods; the bears will be hunted in places that other animals are already hunted without incident. He cautioned the members about the possible personal consequences with moving forward with this.

Chairman Burnside agreed with Member Foster's safety concerns. He pointed out that this action is not being driven by sportsmen's requests.

No public comment.

MOTION; carried with Burnside voting Nay.

6. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE OUTDOOR ADVENTURE EDUCATION PROGRAM. The Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife may take action to support, not support, or take no position on the program.

Member Rittenhouse addressed this educational program, which can be used in schools as part of the physical education curriculum. This is a terrific option for kids who may not be interested in sports. He provided the scope of the programs within it. He feels having kids exposed to outdoor experiences and get hands on education is important to the future of sportsmen. The financing comes from corporate funding with the cost to the school being \$1000.

Vice Chairman Cook asked if it would be better to approach the school board or an individual school first.

Member Rittenhouse asked if anyone had an administrative contact in order to get input from the school system.

Chairman Burnside thought funding, equipment needs, and storage space for the equipment could be stumbling blocks for the schools. It appears that Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) would have to train and certify the teachers.

Member Rittenhouse said the NDOW hunter education person has indicated she is willing to come and supply the necessary archery equipment for that component. This program would draw on the expertise within the community for teaching certain disciplines.

Member Foster thinks this program is a way to get the youth interested but Chairman Burnside's concerns are valid. He pointed out that youth mule deer tags are being reduced because of reduced interest in hunting. This is a great way to engage kids who don't have parents who are hunters yet the kids are curious about it.

Member Turnipseed said the Maison-Ortiz youth outdoor skills program is also an option.

Member Rittenhouse agreed that is a wonderful program but this would be part of the school's curriculum and would get kids out.

Member Turnipseed thinks this is a wonderful program but questioned what the board's involvement should be.

Chairman Burnside stated he would be willing to promote this program but he would like to talk to the administrator at a school where this has been implemented and is ongoing to ask specific questions before scheduling a meeting with the school district. He requested Member Rittenhouse contact the program coordinator to get contact information for administrators where this program is in place. His concerns lie with the funding, the storage space for the materials, and the liability incurred by the school district for taking these activities on.

Member Turnipseed pointed out the Department of Wildlife has a whole division devoted to conservation education.

Member Rittenhouse said 4-H already does a lot of these activities.

Chairman Burnside requested the members put together a list of questions a school administrator might be concerned about and forward them to Member Rittenhouse. Member Rittenhouse would take the questions and try to get answers from a school administrator where this program exists. After that this could be taken to the local school district administration to see if they are interested in moving forward with it.

No public comment.

MOTION by Burnside/Turnipseed to develop questions to ask a school district and send them to Member Rittenhouse. He will then contact the program representative to find an administrator to ask the questions to. This will be reagendaized for the next meeting.; carried unanimously.

- 7. The following items, 7a through 7g, are items that will be heard before the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners at the next meetings, November 2 & 3, 2018, at the Washoe County Commission Chambers, 1001 E. 9th Street, Building A, 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.**

7a–7g. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING WHETHER THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD SHOULD TAKE A POSITION ON:

7a. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 BIG GAME RELEASE PLAN. The Department will present the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Big Game Release Plan for the Commission’s consideration. The Commission may vote to approve or amend the planned big game releases for FY 2019 and 2020. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 7)*

Vice Chairman Cook wondered if there are enough sheep.

Member Foster said this 130 equates to +1% of our total population.

Chairman Burnside pointed out these are being moved from one place to another in Nevada so we are not losing any.

No public comment.

MOTION by Foster/Cook to recommend approval of the fiscal year 2019-2020 big Game Release Plan as written; carried unanimously.

7b. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE REQUEST FROM THE STATE OF UTAH FOR DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP. The Utah Division of Wildlife resources has requested desert bighorn sheep for translocation into the State of Utah. The Department will provide a briefing to the Commission of recent efforts with Utah and potential options for consideration. The Commission may consider this request for possible approval. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 8)*

No public comment.

Chairman Burnside pointed out the success Utah has with their habitat improvement program.

Member Foster added there may come a time when we need their help with mule deer or elk.

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Turnipseed to recommend approval of the request from the State of Utah for Desert Bighorn Sheep; carried unanimously.

7c. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 482, PUBLIC AND SELLABLE LISTS, LCB FILE NO. R192-18. The Commission will hold a workshop to consider amending Chapters 488 and 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation clarifies the authority of the Department to remove specific personal information from any list sold or distributed by the Department or the Department's licensing vendor and makes it confidential. The regulation also simplifies how a person can request that their personal information remain confidential by removing the requirement that the request be in writing. (This item is agendized as a workshop on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' agenda) (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 9A)

Member Turnipseed asked for a clarification on the intent of this item.

Chairman Burnside explained that currently they can sell the information they have and this regulation would prevent them or their vendors from selling personal information if a person requests it not be sold.

Member Rittenhouse wondered if this would stop the myriad phone calls one receives from guides and taxidermists when one gets a trophy tag.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Cook to recommend the Commission pass Commission General Regulation 482, Public and Sellable Lists, LCB File No. R192-18; carried unanimously.

7d. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE ADOPTION OF COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 480, SHOTGUN GAUGES LEGAL FOR TURKEY HUNTING, LCB FILE NO. R194-18. The Commission will consider adopting a regulation relating to amending Chapter 503 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation would remove the prohibition against using a shotgun smaller than 20 gauge to hunt wild turkey. It would also clean up unnecessary language regarding shot size used on a wildlife management area. The Commission held a workshop on September 21, 2018 and the Commission directed the Department to reverse the changes on page 1, keeping the prohibition against using a shotgun smaller than a 20 gauge and retaining the cleanup language on page 2 relating to shot size used on a wildlife management area. (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 16A)

Vice Chairman Cook said this was discussed at length at the September Commission meeting.

Chairman Burnside thought 20, 12, 16, and 10 gauge would be legal for turkey and nontoxic shot will be required on wildlife management areas.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Foster to support the amendments to Commission General Regulation 480, Shotgun Gauges Legal for Turkey Hunting, LCB File No. R194-18; carried unanimously.

7e. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION REGULATION 19-01, TAKING OF RAPTORS FOR FALCONRY FOR 2019-2020. The Commission will consider and may take action to approve the 2019-2020 season dates, species, quotas, limits, closed areas, application procedures and deadlines, and take of raptors for falconry. (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 17A)

Chairman Burnside said no changes are being recommended.

No public comment.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Rittenhouse to recommend approval of Commission Regulation 19-01, Taking of Raptors for Falconry for 2019-2020; carried unanimously.

7f. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION REGULATION 19-02, NONCOMMERCIAL COLLECTION OF REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS FOR 2019-2020. The Commission will consider and may take action to approve 2019-2020 season and limits for noncommercial hobby collecting of live, unprotected reptiles and amphibians. (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 17B)

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Foster to recommend the Commission adopt Commission Regulation 19-02, Noncommercial Collection of Reptiles and Amphibians for 2019-2020 as presented; carried unanimously.

7g. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE 2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION. The Commission will consider legislative platforms and proposals. The Commission may vote to adopt legislative platforms and take action with respect to legislative proposals. (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 18)

No public comment.

The consensus of the Board was to take no action.

8. CORRESPONDENCE OR COMMUNICATIONS BOARD MEMBERS HAVE RECEIVED.

All members received bear articles from Vice Chairman Cook and the Outdoor Adventures Education Program information from Member Rittenhouse,

Vice Chairman Cook received an email from Maggie Orr, Nevada Association of Conservation Districts, regarding a wild horse update.

Member Foster received an email from Commissioner Tiffany East, thanking him for participation in the Tri-County Working Group and for committing to supporting Nevada's wildlife. She provided information on the petition process.

9. 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 Reno meeting.

- 10. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. DISCUSSION TO SCHEDULE THE NEXT DOUGLAS COUNTY WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING.** The next Commission meeting is scheduled for January 25 and 26, 2019, 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, January 22, 2019.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

- Tri-County Wildlife Working Group
- Outdoor Adventures Education Program

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT.

Vice Chairman Cook discussed the public comment made in Las Vegas by Paul Dixon about the urban wildlife conflicts with ravens and horses. He also said Worth Nelson, Lander County CAB, commented on the need for more youth tags.

ADJOURNMENT.

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

There being no further business to come before the DCABMW, the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

The minutes of the October 30, 2018 meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 22nd day of January 2019.

Respectfully submitted:

Craig Burnside, Chairman