

DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE
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Minutes of June 18, 2019 Meeting

The Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting was scheduled for 5:30 pm on Tuesday, June 18, 2019 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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike Turnipseed
Chad Foster

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 5:36 pm and determined a quorum was present. Noted was the absences of Members Turnipseed and Foster.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Recording Secretary led the Pledge.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **April 30, 2019**

No public comment.

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

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

Member Rittenhouse said the group did not meet and he expressed his frustration with getting the members together. He asked if the other members could suggest issues that might be of interest to all.

Chairman Burnside still believes the group has value but is unsure whether the other two counties feel the same way. He suggested the group take a less broad approach and focus on a common issue that might generate more interest from the other counties. He also thought it could be worthwhile to attend a Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting and speak about the Tri-County Wildlife Working Group during public comment.

This was a discussion only.

2. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE OUTDOOR ADVENTURE EDUCATION PROGRAM. Member Rittenhouse will provide information on the program and the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife may take action to support or recommend support, not support, or take no position on the program.

Member Rittenhouse continues to work on this and will contact the local 4H group and a few shooting clubs about this type of program and the youth programs they offer.

He talked about the youth interest generated during a 4H fly tying demonstration. Some of these youth raise rare chickens and they thought this could be a use for the feathers from those birds.

No public comment.

This was a discussion only and no action was taken.

3. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE WILL DISCUSS AND MAY TAKE ACTION TO RECOMMEND SIMPLIFICATION OF THE ONE DAY FISHING LICENSE FOR YOUTH INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO RECOMMENDING MAKING THE LICENSE AVAILABLE ONLINE.

Vice Chairman Cook requested advice on how to move this forward to the Wildlife Commission.

Chairman Burnside stated one way would be to raise this during the Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence portion of the Commission meeting. He added he would contact Jon Sjöberg, Fisheries Division Administrator, to find out what the proper procedure would be.

Member Rittenhouse related an issue with a gentleman trying to buy a one day fishing license for two youngsters but found the only option was the youth combination license. The gentleman contacted the Angler's Edge and they put him in touch with Nevada Department of Wildlife, who assisted the man in obtaining one day fishing licenses.

No public comment.

No action was taken.

4. DISCUSSION ON THE RESULTS OF THE MAY 3 & 4, 2019 NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS. There will be no action taken.

Chairman Burnside reported on:

- His discussion with Tyler Turnipseed on the lack of junior fishing licenses. They also discussed the ability of a junior to hunt, with the combination license, without taking hunter safety.
- Big game quota recommendations
- Passage of the Predation Management Plan

This was a discussion only.

5. The following items, 5a through 5i, are items that will be heard before the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners at the next meetings, June 21 & 22, 2019, at the El Capitan Lodge and Casino, "On Site Trophy Room", 540 F. Street, Hawthorne, 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.

5a–5i. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING WHETHER THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD SHOULD TAKE A POSITION ON:

5a. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE DUCK STAMP REQUEST. The Commission will review and may take action to approve up to \$117,500 for projects submitted for FY 2020 funding from the Duck Stamp account. The specific Duck Stamp projects that may be approved are listed below:

- Assessing Avian Nest Success at Carson Lake (\$45,000)
- Geo-Tube Dams for Regulating Water at Carson Lake (\$22,500)
- Ducks Unlimited Wetlands Conservation Support (\$10,000)
- Overton WMA Ponds Fence Project (\$15,000)
- Mason Valley WMA Waterfowl Habitat Enhancement (\$15,000)
- Eastern WMA Complex Weed Control (\$10,000)

(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 7)

When making this type of a decision, Member Rittenhouse prefers to defer to what the biologists have determined the science shows.

Vice Chairman Cook pointed out that three or four of the projects are in the Douglas County area. He believes all the projects are good.

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Rittenhouse to recommend support of the Duck Stamp request; carried with Turnipseed and Foster absent.

5b. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE WILDLIFE HERITAGE COMMITTEE'S HERITAGE TAG VENDOR PROPOSALS. The Commission will review

the Wildlife Heritage Committee's recommendations regarding Heritage Tag Vendor proposals for Fiscal Year 2020 and may take action on the proposals. (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 8B)

Chairman Burnside pointed out that there are nine requests for antelope tags with only two being available.

The members reviewed the proposals, the recommendations of the Heritage Committee, and the vendor fundraising history.

Member Rittenhouse discussed the fundraising success the Carson Valley Chukar Club has had in the past and feels that should be taken into consideration when awarding the tags.

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Rittenhouse to recommend the Heritage Committee and the Wildlife Commission consider the proposal for the Carson Valley Chukar Club as written, especially given their fundraising history; carried with Turnipseed and Foster absent.

5c. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE WILDLIFE HERITAGE COMMITTEE'S HERITAGE PROJECT EXTENSION REQUESTS. The Commission will review Committee recommendations and may approve extension requests from projects approved in previous fiscal years. *Note: Support material for this agenda item will be provided one to two weeks in advance of the Commission meeting. (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 8C)

Chairman Burnside reviewed the extension requests and feels all are appropriate.

No public comment.

MOTION by Burnside/Rittenhouse to recommend the Heritage Committee and the Wildlife Commission approve the Heritage Project extension requests; carried with Turnipseed and Foster absent.

5d. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE WILDLIFE 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. *Note: Support material for this agenda item will be provided one to two weeks in advance of the Commission meeting. (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 8D)

The members felt they did not have enough support material to make a decision.

No public comment.

The consensus of the members was to take no action.

5e. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE WILDLIFE HERITAGE COMMITTEE'S FISCAL YEAR 2020 HERITAGE PROJECT PROPOSALS. The Commission will hear recommendations from the Committee and may take action to approve up to \$979,702.65 for projects submitted for FY 2020 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 8:00 a.m., June 21, 2019 Heritage Committee meeting.

- Bighorn Sheep Capture, Transplant and Monitoring – Project # 20-01 (\$100,000)

- Wildfire-Related Restoration and Seed Purchase – Project # 20-02 (\$100,000)
- South Mountains Habitat Restoration – Project # 20-03 (\$75,000)
- Toole Springs Lek Juniper Removal – Project # 20-04 (\$65,000)
- Egan Johnson Basin Restoration – Project # 20-05 (\$70,000)
- North Cave Valley Habitat Restoration – Project # 20-06 (\$60,157.65)
- Prioritizing and Protecting Natural Water Sources – Project # 20-07 (\$50,000)
- Monitoring Moose Expansion in Nevada – Project # 20-08 (\$28,000)
- Big Game Survey Tool – Project # 20-09 (\$70,000)
- Maximizing the Effectiveness of Common Raven Removal– Project # 2010 (\$70,000)
- Survey and Maintenance of Existing Big Game Water Developments – Project # 20-11 (\$36,000)
- Staheli Chaining Maintenance Project – Project # 20-12 (\$75,000)
- Blacktop Apron Guzzler Upgrade – Project # 20-13 (\$21,400)
- Mormon #3 Prospect Guzzler Upgrade – Project # 20-14 (\$21,615)
- Douglas Canyon PJ Removal Project – Project # 20-15 (\$50,000)
- Bighorn Disease Susceptibility Analysis – Project # 20-16 (\$62,530)
- Steptoe Valley Shooting Complex – Project # 20-17 (not recommended for funding)
- Lincoln County Mule Deer Collaring Project – Project # 20-18 (\$25,000)

(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 8E)

Chairman Burnside stated the requests exceed available funding but he is confident the Heritage Committee will maximize the amount of funding available to the most deserving projects.

No public comment.

MOTION by Burnside/Cook to recommend the Commission approve the recommendations of the Heritage Committee for funding of Heritage Projects proposals for fiscal year 2020; carried with Turnipseed and Foster absent.

5f. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF THE UPLAND GAME BIRD STAMP REQUEST. The Commission will review and may take action to approve up to \$295,100 for projects submitted for FY 2020 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 (\$48,710)
- Upland Game Bird Translocation and Monitoring (\$13,640)
- Dusky Grouse Ecology and Management in Nevada (\$20,000)
- Monitoring the Effects of Landscape-Level Treatments on Greater Sage-grouse within the Desatoya Mountains (\$18,000)
- Measuring Corticosterone Metabolites in Greater Sage-grouse (\$25,000)
- Estimating Sage-grouse Vital Rates within Nevada's Most Novel Habitats (\$22,500)
- Effects of Conventional Raven Control and Wildfire on Greater Sage-grouse within the Virginia Mountains (\$22,500)
- Monitoring Greater Sage-grouse and Habitat Post-Martin Fire (\$25,000)
- Bi-State Sage Grouse Coordinator (\$5,000)
- Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Restoration Project – Population Modeling and Publications (\$22,250)
- Response of Greater Sage-grouse to Vegetation Treatments in South Cave, Hamlin and Steptoe Valleys (\$7,500)
- Wildfire and Geomorphology Effects on Riparian Habitats and Related Restoration Implications (\$10,000)
- A Framework for Restoring and Conserving Great Basin Wet Meadows and Riparian Ecosystems (\$10,000)
- Eastern WMA Complex Weed Control (\$10,000)
- Post-Fire Upland Habitat Restoration - Tule Springs (\$12,500)
- Post-Fire Upland Habitat Restoration - Kane Springs (\$12,500)

• Quinn River Valley Habitat Enhancement - Vanderhoek Property (\$10,000)
(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 15)

The members reviewed the total of the project requests.

Member Rittenhouse asked if the federal guidelines for sage grouse will come into play since it is now a national issue.

Chairman Burnside explained that the sage grouse has not yet been federally listed so each state manages their birds while working closely with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Member Rittenhouse wondered how some of the projects can be completed with the small amount of funding being requested.

Chairman Burnside explained that oftentimes money is requested from different sources and then pooled to complete a project.

No public comment.

For the future, Chairman Burnside feels it would be helpful for the Commission agenda to reflect the funding available for the project requests as well as the total project requests.

MOTION by Cook/Rittenhouse to support the Commission's adoption of the Upland Game Bird Stamp projects up to the amount of funding available; carried with Turnipseed and Foster absent.

5g. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF COMMISSION REGULATION 18-12, AMENDMENT 2, 2018-2019 UPLAND GAME AND FURBEARER SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS. The Commission will consider and may vote to amend regulations for upland game birds and mammals as well as furbearers for the 2019 season. This regulation will also include fall wild turkey seasons for 2019 and spring wild turkey seasons for 2020. ***(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 16)***

The agenda title of this item was changed by the state to reflect 2019-2020 after the posting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife agenda.

The members reviewed the recommended regulation amendments to sage grouse and turkey.

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Rittenhouse to recommend support of Commission Regulation 18-12, Amendment 2, 2019 Upland Game and Furbearer Seasons and Bag Limits as presented; carried with Turnipseed and Foster absent.

5h. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF THE BIENNIAL UPLAND GAME RELEASE PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2020 AND 2021. The Commission will review and may take action to approve the Department's proposed biennial upland game release plan for fiscal years 2020 and 2021. ***(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 17)***

The members reviewed the release plan recommendations with an emphasis on the recommendation for the American Beaver to ensure that no introductions of the beaver are planned.

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Rittenhouse to recommend approval of the Biennial Upland Game Release Plan for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 as presented; carried with Turnipseed and Foster absent.

5i. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD BUDGET REQUESTS. The Commission may approve an estimated amount of \$36,526 to be added to the reported cash balance on hand for County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife Budgets for fiscal year 2020: Each County estimate: Carson City \$4,250; Clark \$1,776; Douglas \$4,382; Humboldt \$2,290; Lander \$1,124; Lincoln \$4,589; Lyon \$1,457; Mineral \$4,946; Nye \$2,000; Pershing \$3,013; Washoe \$2,049; White Pine \$4,650. *The Finance Committee would like to recommend that a workshop be held during the lunch recess at the August 2019 meeting in Ely, Nevada to review the preparation of the County Advisory Board Budget. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 19B*)

Chairman Burnside noted the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife's request was being recommended for approval in the amount requested.

No public comment.

The consensus of the Board was to take no action.

6. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. CORRESPONDENCE OR COMMUNICATIONS BOARD MEMBERS HAVE RECEIVED.

Chairman Burnside had a conversation with Travis Hawks about a future agenda item. He also received emails on the attempts to set up a Tri-County Wildlife Working Group meeting.

Member Rittenhouse referred to his conversation with Angler's Edge on the lack of a junior fishing license.

Vice Chairman Cook had correspondence from Bob Pohlman on the Bi-State Sage Grouse Local Area Working Group.

7. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. 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 Turnipseed has previously indicated his intent to attend the Hawthorne meeting; Chairman Burnside will attend the August meeting in Ely; and Vice Chairman Cook will attend the Las Vegas meeting in September.

8. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. DISCUSSION TO SCHEDULE THE NEXT DOUGLAS COUNTY WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for August 9 and 10, 2019, in Ely. 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 6, 2019.

9. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

- Tri-County Wildlife Working Group
- Outdoor Adventures Education Program
- Simplification of the one day fishing license for youth, making it available online
- Changes to the California fishing seasons and regulations at Lake Tahoe

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT.

Chairman Burnside talked about Bi-State sage grouse and mule deer projects undertaken by the Carson Valley Conservation District. He provided an update on the survival of the Sharp Tailed Grouse in the Bull Run Range, which suffered in the Sugarloaf Fire. He also talked about a USGS project in Long Valley where there are known raven nest sites and there are known brooding/leks/nesting sites for sage grouse. They have found that killing a resident pair of ravens results in a greater number of ravens occupying the same area that only a resident pair occupied previously. A study is underway to reduce the amount of recruitment by spraying raven eggs with oil to kill the eggs. The ravens continue to sit on the eggs even longer than the normal incubation time leaving no time for a second clutch. They have found that oiling the eggs is more effective than destroying the eggs.

Public comment closed.

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to come before the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife, the meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

The minutes of the June 19, 2019 meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 6th day of August 2019.

Respectfully submitted:

Craig Burnside, Chairman