

Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board (CAB)

Minutes

The Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board (CAB) met in the Eureka County Administrative Facility (Annex) on October 21, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.

Members Present: Jim Evans (Chair) and Trent Gordon

Members Absent: Lester Porter

Others Present: Jake Tibbitts, Eureka County Natural Resources Manager; Eric Candee, NV Department of Wildlife (NDOW) Game Warden; Clint Garrett, NDOW Biologist; Magee Braswell, CAB Secretary

Call to order

Chairman Evans called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m., a quorum was determined to be present.

Public Comment

None.

Board Business

Approval of the agenda notice with addition of any emergency item and/or deletion of any item.
The board was in consensus with the agenda as written.

Review and approval of minutes-

Chair Evans motioned to approve to approve the minutes from August 1, 2019 meeting as written. Mr. Gordon seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence and Member Reports- Review and discuss any or all items.

Chair Evans mentioned that he had been in discussion with NDOW in regards to the proposed Nevada waterfowl zones and season splits. Mr. Evans is planning on meeting with a CAB in Elko to discuss possible date changes between our two counties. However, as of now, NDOW isn't looking to change the dates that are already designated.

Clint Garrett, NDOW Biologist, stated that something to keep in mind will be the possible two day closure in October for the Veteran and Active Military waterfowl season.

Jake Tibbitts noted to the board that they have already made recommendations and weighed in on waterfowl dates and zones in the past. Since they have taken action previously, they can continue to advocate for their previous recommendations moving forward.

Chair Evans said he would like to see Waterfowl Zones and Season Splits on the CAB's next agenda. In the meantime he will meet up with the Elko CAB and see what they are willing to work with, as far as date ranges.

Chair Evans also said that he would like to check on a RS 2477 designation for the road that goes from the top of Newark Summit to Poison Spring. It is on Jim Baumann's allotment. Mr. Baumann is in agreeance with getting the road fixed. The road is a high trafficked sportsman's access, but is currently washed out. If the road is deemed a RS 2477, then the county may be able to provide assistance with fixing the road and making it usable again.

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Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Projects

Update on pinyon-juniper thinning project, wildlife guzzler installation, and other potential projects including fisheries, and consider further efforts to move forward for successful implementation of projects.

Chair Evans stated that a well is being drilled at the Cold Creek Ranch (owned by Kinross Mining) in Newark Valley that will be used for a half pivot at ranch headquarters. This suggests that they are going to minimize any potential future use from the reservoir. They are moving forward with replacing the primary structure and rehab a secondary bypass on the south end of the reservoir. With this being done they will not have to install an emergency spillway. As far as sealing the dam, they are still interested in working with NDOW in doing treatments like sealing the pond. Chair Evans believes that fixing the dam will help alleviate pressure that is on the highway embank and groundwater seepage that is under the highway. Base on the information Mr. Evans gathered last year, the funds for this project are still a few years out.

Mr. Tibbitts mentioned that the Quicksilver Contracting Co. will be starting next week on thinning pinyon and junipers (PJ). They will be cutting 80 new acres at 4-Eyed Nicks and maintenance of southern parcels until funding runs out, which should be close to a thousand acres. The areas have not been maintained in 6 years.

Mr. Tibbitts said the funding is combined from a Sage Grouse Grant through the conservation district for \$25,000, and then the Eureka Conservation District is matching the grant. Only conservation districts can apply for the grant and it is on a year to year basis.

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Meeting Agenda and Support Material

Action Item #9A: Commission General Regulation 485, Tag Transfer, Deference, and Return

The board had a discussion that protocols, for Regulation 485, that have been defined up to this point are straightforward. They have no issues with the designation of “potential qualifiers” for tag transfers, dereferences, and returns.

Mr. Garrett stated that the only issue he could see that could pose as a potential problem is when people defers tags on hunts that have a low quota number with a limited population. He was also wondering how smoothly the process will go for proving extenuating circumstances for hunters who defer their tag for a year. Mr. Tibbitts stated that the hunter who is wanting to defer their tag will have to go in front of the Wildlife Commission and explain their circumstances prior to being allowed to defer a tag.

After discussion, the board agreed on having no recommendation.

Action Item #9B: Commission General Regulation 486, Veteran and Active Military Waterfowl Season

The board discussed that they favored the opportunity for the military individuals to have a separate two day season in Nevada.

Chair Evans motioned to support moving forward with Commission General Regulation 486. Mr. Gordon seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item #9C: Commission General Regulation 487, Use of Live Bait Fish and Tackle Restrictions

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The board had no comment but would support how the initiative is currently defined at this time. No recommendation.

Action Item #18A: Commission General Regulation 487, Use of Live Bait Fish and Tackle Restrictions

No recommendation.

Action Item #18B: Commission General Regulation 488, Landowner Compensation Tags

Mr. Evans said that he looked over the alternative in great detail.

Mr. Garrett said that what is in question is how NDOW will incrementally reduce and increase the tags based on hitting the statutory limit. The landowner receiving the most tags may lose a few but the smaller landowners may be able to receive at least one tag.

The board discussed the issue with the Tag Allocation Committee's recommendation of a process by which the first compensation tags would be awarded to all cooperators of 50 deer or antelope causing damage. If the statutory limit would be exceeded, the committee would increase the number of qualifying counts on deer and antelope (e.g., 51, 52, 53, and so on). The board said that by the Committee doing this, they are taking tags away from landowners that are near the qualification mark.

Mr. Gordon asked that if one year a landowner does not receive a tag, are they allowed to apply for a tag the following year.

Mr. Garrett said a landowner can ask for a population count at any time, but to keep in mind there are only two officials in the state of Nevada currently that are qualified to come and do population counts.

The board had no recommendation, but there was discussion about how landowners near the qualifying mark and should be considered for a tag in lieu of those getting additional tags that were above the qualifying mark.

Action Item #18C: Commission General Regulation 489, Shed Antler Regulation

The board asked Mr. Garrett for clarification on what is happening to the shed antler regulations. Mr. Garrett said that the regulation date range is staying at January 1- April 30. There will be a new requirement to have to take an online shed antler course offered by NDOW before being allowed to collect shed antlers on public land in certain counties between May 1- June 30. If a person is caught in possession of an antler between May 1- June 30 without the shed antler class certificate they will receive up to 6 demerits rather than the original 3 demerits.

The board was in consensus to support Commission General Regulation 489 as written. The CAB would like to note that they have previously put in comment on dates, but recognize as of now the dates have not changed.

2020 Predator Report

Mr. Garrett reported that on Project 40, this last year, there were 360 coyotes, one mountain lion, and one badger killed by project services.

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Next Meeting

The board should get any other desired agenda items to the secretary for the next meeting. **The next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2020 at 3 P.M.**

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Chairman Evans and seconded by Mr. Gordon. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____ 2019.

Respectfully submitted: _____

Magee Braswell, Secretary

Approved: _____

Jim Evans, Chairman