

Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board

Minutes

July 25, 2013

The Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board (CAB) met in the Eureka County Administrative Facility on July 25, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Jim Evans, Raymond Hodson, and Lester Porter

Members Absent: Dale Hornickel and Chris Torres

Others Present: J.J. Goicoechea-County Commission Chairman, Mike Podborny-Nevada Department Of Wildlife (NDOW) Wildlife Biologist, and Jessica Contreras-Eureka County Natural Resources Assistant/Secretary

Call to order

Chairman Jim Evans called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. A quorum was determined to be present.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Board Business

The minutes of the June 13, 2013 meeting were approved on a motion made by Ray Hodson and seconded by Lester Porter. Motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence and Member Reports-

None

Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Projects-

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

Jessica Contreras updated the board on the Pinyon-Juniper (PJ) thinning Project on behalf of Jake Tibbitts. In June, \$91,000 was spent on the PJ thinning project. They are currently working on the reimbursement side of the project with Bruce McDaniel from the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW). Ms. Contreras stated the two contractors cut down about half of the 3,000 acres in June. The work crews will be back to finish up the first 3,000 acres sometime in September or October when the weather is cooler. They finished cutting on Baumann's, Cottonwood, Vinini, and Frazier.

Mr. Hodson stated they also finished Henderson. Mr. Hodson has had a few inquiries regarding how many acres were really cut down for springs and how many acres were really cut down for enhancement proposes.

Mr. Porter stated the project was for winter habitat enhancement.

Ms. Contreras stated they received another \$35,000 for the PJ project last week. Ms. Contreras asked the board if there are any other lands that they would like to look at for the PJ thinning project, please let Mr. Tibbitts know.

Mr. Evans stated they will probably have to have a special meeting and prioritize the list of all of the lands that were already named. They can go over that list and move forward from there.

Huntington Creek Fishery-

Discuss development alternatives for a recreational fishery at Huntington Creek.

Mr. Evans asked the board for their comments/input on the Huntington Creek fishery email that was sent out.

Mr. Porter asked is the email representing Mr. Evans or is it representing the county. Mr. Evans answered the email is representing the initiative between Eureka County and White Pine County to re-establish the fishery at Huntington Creek. They started working on this initiative a couple of years ago but nothing was accomplished. Mr. Evans would like to move forward with the initiative, contact Gary Sundseth at Barrick, and get an idea of what direction they would like to take. His biggest concern is public access and if they are willing to allow for public access on Huntington.

Mr. Porter stated he doesn't understand why the Eureka County Wildlife board is pursuing it when it is sitting in White pine County.

Mr. Hodson asked why doesn't White Pine County take the lead on it, what are they doing.

Mr. Evans stated White Pine County is waiting on this part of the initiative to move forward and then White Pine County will back it 100%. The initiative started with Cold Creek and Huntington but NDOW prioritized Cold Creek. Cold Creek has been stabilized and they reintroduced trout they also introduced bass to control the tui chub population. Mr. Evans stated his personal opinion is that they get the fishery revitalized because it is closer to Eureka than it is to Ely. They can try to gather outside sources for support and grants.

Mike Podborny suggested the board bring back this agenda item at the next meeting. He will contact the fishery guys and ask them to attend the meeting and provide a history. They can tell them why they are and aren't restocking Huntington. If it is private land that is not allowing for public access then NDOW will not restock it.

JJ Goicoechea stated Barrick is minority owner on that creek and Harold Rother Farms Inc. owns more than Barrick. Barrick owns the headwaters and the Horse Ranch is fenced off but most of the property on the Horse Ranch is Harold Rother Farms. Harold is dead and his son runs the farm and there isn't much love to have public access, Mr. Evans should be very cautious with this initiative. Mr. Goicoechea stated it is all checkerboard land all the way down through there with alternating 40's and 80's. Placer

tried to consolidate it when they first bought it and for some reason there is a red flag there. Harold was willing to do the land swaps 40's for 40's to block it up but Placer withdrew and Barrick hasn't had any appetite to pursue it. Mr. Goicoechea encourages Mr. Evans to talk to John Elliot to avoid a red flag there because it runs through 11 allotments.

Mr. Porter motioned that at this time the Eureka Wildlife Board does not pursue Huntington Creek Fishery and does not take a lead on it until they have a better description and history of what is going on and seconded by Mr. Hodson. Motion passed unanimously.

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee (TAAHC)-

Discuss and provide feedback on the TAAHC's Top Five Items for Possible Implementation.

Item# A.1.7-Party Hunt Bonus Point Retention

Mr. Porter stated his concern is if they vote to pass the Party Hunt Bonus Point Retention that someone who has a legitimate reason to return a tag may not be able to return their tag because of this item.

Mr. Hodson motioned to vote against Item# A.1.7-Party Hunt Bonus Point Retention and Mr. Porter seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Item# A.1.10-First-Time Youth Applicant Who Has Completed Hunter Safety Course, Starts With One Bonus Point

Mr. Hodson motioned to accept Item# A.1.10 First time youth applicant who has completed hunter safety course, starts with one bonus point and seconded by Mr. Porter. Motion passed unanimously.

Item# A.1.14-No Loss of Bonus Points for Active Duty Military Who Leave the State of Nevada

Mr. Porter stated if they are in the military and they are doing their job, then they should be able to get their tag.

Mr. Porter motioned to accept Item# A.1.14-no loss of bonus points for active duty military who leave the State of Nevada and Mr. Hodson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Item# A.2.2-Fee Evaluation

Mr. Hodson motioned to reevaluate Item# A.2.2-fee evaluation and Mr. Porter seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Item# A.10.2-Apply for Bull and Cow Elk in the Same Draw

Mr. Porter motioned to accept Item# A.10.2-Apply for bull and cow elk in the same draw and Mr. Hodson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Meeting Agenda and Support Material

Action Item 7:

Amended Upland Game Bird Stamp Account Funding Request – Wildlife Staff Specialist Mark Farman -The Commission will review and be asked to approve a request to amend an action taken at the June 21, 2013, Ely Commission Meeting. Staff is seeking Commission approval to add a new project to the list of approved projects to be funded in Fiscal Year 2014 Upland Game Bird Stamp Account. The new project is Wildlife Heritage Program Project number 14 - 03, "Pine Nut Vegetation and Sage Grouse Research Project." This project would benefit upland game bird species, including sage-grouse, and staff is proposing that the Commission fund \$12,000 of this project's total cost of \$30,000 with Upland Game Bird Stamp Account funds. The remainder of the project's costs will be funded by the Wildlife Heritage Program Account, as approved by the Commission at their June 20, 2013, Heritage Program meeting.

No Recommendation.

Action Item 8B:

Wildlife Damage Management Committee – Commissioner McBeath and Staff Specialist Pete Bradley; First Reading of a New Commission Policy, entitled, #23 Predation Management Commissioner McBeath-In accordance with Commission Policy #1, the Commission will conduct a first reading of new Commission Policy #23 Predation Management.

No Recommendation.

Action Item 8C:

Wildlife Damage Management Committee – Commissioner McBeath and Staff Specialist Pete Bradley; Draft Fiscal Year 2014 Predator Management Plan- Commissioner McBeath and Staff Specialist Pete Bradley-The Commission will review changes to the draft Fiscal Year 14 Predator Management Plan and the Commission may take action to approve the plan.

No Recommendation.

Action Item 9:

Biennial Big Game Release Plan for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 - Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox –The Commission will review and may take action to approve the Department's proposed biennial big game release plan for fiscal years 2014 and 2015.

Mr. Hodson moved to approve the biennial big game release plan and Mr. Porter seconded. Motion passed unanimously

Action Item 10:

Proposed Trail Camera Regulation – Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici –The Douglas CABMW requested the development of a regulation to limit trail camera usage. The Commission will accept public input pertaining to usage of trail cameras and a proposed regulation.

After brief discussion, Mr. Porter moved in favor of limiting the usage of trail cameras and seconded by Mr. Hodson. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item 17:

Commission Regulation 14 - 01 Migratory Waterfowl (Ducks, Geese and Swans) and Migratory Webless Bird (Coots, Gallinules and Snipe) Seasons, Bag Limits, and Special Regulations, Public Hunting on Overton Wildlife Management Area and Key Pittman Wildlife Management Area Hunter Reservation System - 2013-14 Season - Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme, Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Zahradka -The Commission will consider recommendations for seasons, bag limits, and special regulations for migratory waterfowl (ducks, geese and swans) and migratory webless game birds (coots, gallinules and snipe) for the 2013-14 season and adopt regulations that comply with the proposed regulations framework for the 2013 - 2014 late and early hunting seasons on certain migratory game birds established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Commission may also adopt changes to rules regulating public hunting on Wildlife Management Areas and designated state lands and may take action to change the current method of awarding duck hunt reservations at the Overton Wildlife Management Area and Key-Pittman Wildlife Management Area. Public comment allowed.

Mr. Evans read through the following migratory waterfowl season dates, bag limits, and season regulations for 2013 & 2014. In the Northwest zone: Special Youth Waterfowl Hunt; Ducks, Mergansers and scaup; Coots and Common Moorhens (Common Gallinules; Common Snipe; Canada and White-Fronted Geese; Snow and Ross' Geese; Falconry Seasons for Migratory Game Birds.

After brief discussion, Mr. Hodson moved to accept dates as proposed and seconded by Mr. Porter. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item 18:

Commission Regulation 11 - 12 Amendment #1, Wildhorse Reservoir – Chief of Fisheries Jon Sjoberg -The Commission will consider the emergency regulation adopted June 21, 2013, by the Director and approved by the Governor, effective though October 15, 2013. Due to extremely poor winter precipitation, drought conditions and irrigation demands, Wildhorse Reservoir is expected to decline to around 20,000 acre feet of storage or 30 percent of capacity by late summer. Based on past history of these conditions in the reservoir a similar fish die-off occurred in 2007. This emergency regulation authorizes unlimited take of trout species from Wildhorse Reservoir through October 15, 2013. This will maximize the opportunity for angler harvest of the many

large (14"+) trout in the reservoir prior to conditions likely to cause the fish kill. Public comment allowed.

Mr. Porter moved to accept it as written and seconded by Mr. Hodson. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment Item 19:

Commission General Regulation (CGR) 427, LCB File Number R018-13, Trap Visitation - Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici – Workshop/Informational – Public Comment Allowed- The Commission will discuss and consider CGR 427, LCB File Number R018-13, trap visitation, a regulation relating to trapping which defines visitation of trap, “visit or cause to be visited; “specifying the minimum period during which a person must visit or cause to be visited certain traps, snares or similar devices, and designates that each trap snare or other lawful device be visited at least once each 96 hours. Public comment allowed during the workshop.

For public comment, Mr. Porter stated they are in favor to leave it at 96 hours. Mr. Hodson agreed with Mr. Porter’s public comment.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date was scheduled for September 12, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Porter and seconded by Mr. Hodson. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____ 2013.

Respectfully submitted: _____, Secretary
Jessica Contreras

Approved: _____, Chairman
Jim Evans