

Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board

Minutes

September 12, 2013

The Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board (CAB) met in the Eureka County Administrative Facility on September 12, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Jim Evans, Raymond Hodson, Lester Porter, Chris Torres, and Dale Hornickel (*arrived at 7:44 pm*)

Others Present: Jake Tibbitts- Eureka County Natural Resources Manager, 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 6:02 p.m. A quorum was determined to be present.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Board Business

The minutes of the July 25, 2013 meeting were approved on a motion made by Raymond Hodson and seconded by Lester Porter. Motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence and Member Reports-

Mr. Evans stated he received a letter from Gary Sundseth, who works for Barrick stating that they are looking at their options for a fishery on Huntington Creek at this time. Mr. Evans stated he would cover this topic more in depth under The Huntington Creek Fishery agenda item.

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.

Jake Tibbitts updated the board on the Pinyon-Juniper (PJ) work under the Southern Eureka County Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Project. The Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) money, is Federal money and it requires tribal consultation. The money that was spent in the first phase of the project wasn't LIP money. Mr. Tibbitts stated in order to meet the LIP requirement, letters were sent out to the tribes as part of the tribal consultation. All of the letters were sent certified and had a deadline to respond back by if they had areas of concern. The Duckwater tribe was the only one that responded with concerns. Mr. Tibbitts stated he will be taking Maurice Churchill out to the project areas and proposed project areas. About 1,600 acres have been cut under the first phase and they have 1,400 acres left. Another \$35,000 for the project was received for this fiscal year from the Heritage Trust Account.

After brief discussion and looking over a map of the area. Mr. Tibbitts stated he will prioritize work on private property at the Shaffer Ranch, Rutabega Creek, Faulkner Creek, Willow Creek, Cottonwood Ranch, and will evaluate other potential locations. He will also work on getting permissions for the private lands.

Mr. Porter asked Mike Podborny if he had any updates on the guzzler installations. Mr. Podborny answered nothing is being done at the moment and no sites have been cleared.

Mr. Porter asked what if the Eureka County CAB or the Natural Resources Department pursue this initiative and help the process move forward.

Mr. Podborny stated they would be okay with the board helping the initiative but the issue isn't with NDOW it is with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The BLM has not come out to clear the locations that they have picked.

Mr. Evans stated another option is that they approve a third party vendor to do the analysis and clear the site. The only thing is that the board would have to cover the costs.

Chris Torres recommended that on the next agenda they look over a map and determine the locations for the guzzlers.

Huntington Creek Fishery-

Discuss development alternatives for a recreational fishery at Huntington Creek.

Mr. Evans stated he sent out the map to the board members of the ownership on Huntington Creek. He spoke with Barrick and they will let him know if they are interested in the project. Mr. Evans stated he hasn't contacted Rother Farms yet to determine if they are interested. One of the main reasons that agencies haven't pursued the re-introduction of the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (LCT) in this area is because the land from the Huntington headwaters to South Fork Reservoir is primarily private. There could potentially be an opportunity to work with these landowners through a cooperative agreement if they are interested in pursuing the establishment of a fishery.

Mr. Podborny stated the NDOW fisheries staff informed him that they would need two things done before moving forward. First, have an agreement with the private party and secondly NDOW would have to conduct a stream survey.

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Meeting Agenda and Support Material Action Item 7A/24:

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, and may incorporate changes as recommended by the Wildlife Damage Management Committee from their Sept. 20, 2013, meeting.

Mr. Tibbitts read the entire draft policy and provided comments on behalf of Eureka County to Wildlife Commissioner, Chad Bliss. Mr. Tibbitts stated it appears that many of

the County's comments and concerns were incorporated or addressed in the current version.

After brief discussion about the changes and what the draft policy includes, Mr. Porter moved in support of policy #23 as written and Mr. Hodson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item 7B-

Draft Fiscal Year 2014 Predator Management Plan – Commissioner McBeath and Staff Specialist Pete Bradley -The Commission will review the draft Fiscal Year 14 Predator Management Plan and the Commission may take action to approve the plan and if needed, reallocate funds to projects previously approved at the August 2013 Commission meeting in Fallon.

Mr. Tibbitts stated the management plan cannot be approved until policy #23 is adopted. Once the policy is approved they can move forward with the plan.

Mr. Podborny stated there are two predator projects for Eureka County and the Eureka CAB should voice their support or non-support.

After brief discussion, Mr. Hodson moved in support of the management plan but requests consideration on project 34 for raven control in addition to the PJ habitat work in Eureka County and Mr. Torres seconded. It was understood that this would be in accordance with the policy that states the intent to do habitat projects in association with predator controls (or vice versa) to provide synergy. Motion passed unanimously. *The board understood that the policy has to be adopted first.*

Informational Item 9-

Cow Elk Management Strategies - Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox and Program Officer III Maureen Hullinger -The Department will provide information regarding several cow elk hunt management strategies to meet the Department's elk management goals, to include information on any regulation changes to meet those management goals.

After brief discussion, Dale Hornickel moved in support of the Cow Elk Management Strategies and Mr. Porter seconded. Motion passed unanimously

Action Item 11-

Memorandum of Understanding for Reciprocal Fishing and Watercraft Registration on the Waters of the Colorado River in Common to the States of Nevada and Arizona – Deputy Director Rich Haskins -Arizona is in the process of restructuring their licenses and will require a fishing license for 10 year old children. Nevada does not require a license until age 12. This amended agreement which the Commission may take action to approve addresses that issue for Nevada youth fishing on those waters and the Aquatic Invasive Species decal issue.

amendment is needed due to the over breeding of pet desert tortoises in captivity primarily in southern Nevada.

No Recommendation.

Action Item 16/28-

Commission General Regulation 424, Transportation Permit, LCB File No. R003-13 - Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici- The Commission will hear a regulation relating to wildlife; setting forth the manner in which a portion of the game tag may be used as a transportation permit; requiring certain signatures and information to be included on a tag or permit; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Mr. Hornickel moved in support of the Transportation Permit regulation and Mr. Hodson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item 17/29-

Commissioner General Regulation 427, Trapping Visitation Limit, LCB File No. R018-13 - Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici-The Commission will hear a regulation relating to trapping; interpreting the phrase “visit or cause to be visited” for certain purposes relating to trapping; specifying the minimum period during which a person must visit or cause to be visited certain traps, snares or similar device; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

After brief discussion, Mr. Hodson moved in support of Trapping Visitation regulation and Mr. Hornickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item 18/30-

Commission General Regulation 429, Trapping Registration Number, LCB File No. R017-13- Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici-The Commission will hear a regulation relating to trapping; revising provisions governing the registration of a trap, snare or similar device; setting forth the requirements for affixing a registration number to the trap, snare or similar device; and the issuance of trap registration numbers and establish the manner of marking traps, snares, or other lawful devices.

Mr. Hornickel moved in support of Trapping Registration Number regulation and Mr. Hodson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item 25

Commission Regulation 14 – 01 Amendment #1, Migratory Waterfowl, Special Youth Waterfowl Hunt Seasons and Special Regulations - Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme-The Commission will consider changes to seasons and special regulations for the Special Youth Waterfowl hunt for the 2013 - 2014 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.

Mr. Hodson moved in support of Migratory Waterfowl, Special Youth Waterfowl Hunt Seasons and Special Regulations and Mr. Hornickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item 26

Commission Regulation 13 - 14 Fishing Seasons and Bag Limits for 2014 - 2016 -Chief of Fisheries Jon Sjoberg-The Commission will establish fishing seasons, bag and possession limits for the period of March 1, 2014, through Feb. 29, 2016.

Mr. Hornickel moved in support of Fishing Seasons and Bag Limits regulation as written and Mr. Hornickel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date was scheduled for December 2, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Mr. Tibbitts asked Mr. Podborny if they have plans for the bull elk that have been moving into Pine Valley.

Mr. Podborny answered they can be hunted in that hunt unit but if the elk cross the highway outside of the hunt unit, it needs to be reported to NDOW.

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 23rd day of January 2014.

Respectfully submitted: Jessica Contreras, Secretary
Jessica Contreras

Approved: James A. Evans, Chairman
Jim Evans