

Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board

Minutes

The Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board (CAB) met in the Eureka County Administrative Facility on August 7, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Lester Porter, Raymond Hodson, Jim Evans, and Brad Heyen and Dale Hornickel (*arrived 7:20 p.m.*)

Others Present: Mike Podborny-Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), Jessica Santoyo-Eureka County Natural Resources Asst./CAB Secretary, Trevor Walch-Predator Control Corporation (*arrived 7:30 p.m.*)

Call to order

Chairman Porter called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m. A quorum was determined to be present.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Board Business

Review and approval of minutes-

Jim Evans moved to approve the minutes from the May 1, 2014 meeting. Ray Hodson seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence and Member Reports-

No Member Reports.

Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Projects-

Update on pinyon-juniper thinning project, wildlife guzzler installation, and other potential projects, and consider further efforts to move forward for successful implementation of projects. Jessica Santoyo stated Jake Tibbitts could not attend the meeting tonight due to attend another meeting in Reno. Mr. Tibbitts left a PJ update for the board. PJ work started on June 13 and ended July 25, 2014. Mr. Tibbitts went out and conducted the final inspection on July 25, 2014. The total project time was a six weeks and a total of 969 acres were cut. 449 acres were cut in June and 520 acres were cut in July. A total of \$138,706.20 was spent on the six week cutting project. The total monies remaining is \$130,000.00 for future projects such as more PJ cutting, reducing fuel loads, moving tress, or building brush fences by meadows and riparian areas. Mr. Tibbitts spoke with Leroy Sestanovich and he has private property in Pine valley with PJ that he would like cut down. Glen Guttry also showed an interest to have some PJ cutting down on the Buffry Ranch. Cottonwood Ranch still has a couple 1,000 acres still in the air that can potentially be cut. There is enough acreage to spend more money and continue the project. Quicksilver contractors/tree cutters went home to re-group and come back in the fall to continue work. Before any more work can continue in the fall the Duckwater Tribe cultural disturbance consultation has to get started and finished.

Mr. Evans motioned to move forward with the PJ thinning projects as discussed per Mr. Tibbitts with Leroy Sestanovich and Glen Guttry. Brad Heyen seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Porter asked Mike Podborny about the guzzler installations.

Mr. Podborny stated he spoke with the new archeologist at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) but what needs to be done is that they need to get him down here to check everything out.

Chairman Porter stated they got the guzzler at Judd canyon fixed.

Mr. Hodson stated they need to go out to Lamarol and get that guzzler fixed.

Discussion was had with Mr. Podborny to go out and fix the guzzler at Lamarol.

Discuss recently completed predator work by Predator Control Corporation

Trevor Walch presented on the Eureka County Denning Season 2014 project. Mr. Walch stated he killed 107 coyotes and took out 21 dens. The project began in April and ended late June 2014. Mr. Walch' focus was removal of denning coyotes on top of GSG and mule deer, critical birthing areas, emphasis and foremost locating mule deer fawning habitats that are in active use by mule deer and sage grouse. Mr. Walch also provided GPS locations and stomach content data to the board.

**A copy of the Presentation is available upon request.*

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Meeting Agenda and Support Material

Action Item 7:

Petition – Mr. John D. Potash-

John D. Potash of Get Rattled LLC has submitted a petition to change regulations "To expand their business into areas that have different species of venomous snakes, this change would allow for them to be permitted by the Department to possess those other species of non-indigenous venomous snakes that are currently prohibited under NAC 503 and to which their company does not meet any of the currently listed exemptions. They would also like to expand their services by providing skunk aversion training as well. Skunks are also prohibited under NAC 503." The Commission may accept the petition and initiate regulatory action or deny the petition.

The board discussed that if more non-indigenous snakes are brought into the area and one is accidentally released into the wild it will cause a problem for everyone. NV does not need any more new snakes.

After brief discussion, Dale Hornickel motioned that the State of Nevada make the decision on Mr. John D. Potash' Petition. Mr. Hodson seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item 11A:

Commission Regulation 14 - 11 Amendment #1 – Application Procedures/Dates - Turkey Hunts - Management Analyst 3 Maureen Hullinger-

The Commission will be presented with an amendment to the regulation that will establish the 2015 – 2016 application procedures for the resident and nonresident turkey hunts.

Mr. Porter motioned to support Commission Regulation 14 - 11 Amendment #1 – Application Procedures/Dates - Turkey Hunts recommendations. Mr. Hornickel seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item 11B/18B:

Commission General Regulation 450, Trap Visitation, LCB File No. R087 - 14 – Acting Game Warden Chief Paul Dankowski-

The Commission will hear a regulation relating to trapping; increasing the required frequency of visitation to certain traps, snares or similar devices used in the taking of wild mammals. The regulation will require a person who places a trap, snare or similar device in close proximity to one of the populated or heavily used areas which are set forth in regulation to visit a trap, snare or similar device at least once every second calendar day; and providing other matters properly relating thereto. Note: Please see agenda item #11 B for support material.

Mr. Hornickel motioned to support Commission General Regulation 450, Trap Visitation, LCB File No. R087-14 as written especially in those heavily populated areas. Mr. Evans seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item 11C/18C:

Commission General Regulation 451, Demerit Points for Trespass and Trap Visitation Violations, LCB File No. R088 - 14 - Acting Game Warden Chief Paul Dankowski-

The Commission will hear a regulation relating to increasing the number of demerit points that the Department of Wildlife must assess for certain wildlife violations; expanding the wildlife violations for which the Department must assess demerit points. This regulation increases from three to 12 the demerit points that the Department of Wildlife must assess for a conviction for fishing in non-navigable waters on private property without permission; and from six to 12 demerit points for a conviction for hunting or trapping on private property without permission. The regulation also adds the imposition of six demerit points against a person for a failure to visit a trap, snare or similar device 48 or more hours after the prescribed period for visiting the trap, snare or similar device. Finally, this regulation requires the Department to double the demerit points assessed against a person if the person is convicted of committing the same violation within 60 months; providing other matters properly relating thereto. Note: Please see agenda item #11 C for support material.

Chairman Porter stated what they are trying to do is increase the points for a conviction. Lester Mr. Podborny stated if someone gets 12 demerits during 5 years they lose their license.

Mr. Walch read a letter from Joel Blakeslee the Nevada Trappers Association President. The letter covers the past of demerit points, ticket stacking, and how they system came to be. The letter ask the Gameboard to please vote against the commission regulation and leave it as is. The letter specifies that it has nothing to do with SB213.

Mr. Porter stated this is all coming about because of certain trappers not because of everyone. If a violation accidentally happens it would not be fair to punish that guy with 12 demerits and he would lose his license.

After brief discussion, Mr. Hodson motioned to move against the proposed Commission General Regulation 451, Demerit Points for Trespass and Trap Visitation Violations, LCB File No. R088-14 and leave it as it is because it is too aggressive of a punishment to lose their license over one violation of 12 points especially when the violation accidentally happened. Mr. Hornickel seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item 17:

Trapper Education – Conservation Education Division Administrator Teresa Moiola-

The Commission will hear a presentation regarding options for implementation of a trapper education program. Program items for consideration may include among others; statutory/regulatory authority, course content development and objectives, course delivery,

and associated costs and budget. The Commission may take action to provide guidance on the development of related regulations.

Mr. Hornickel motioned to support Trapper Education. Mr. Heyen seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item 18A:

Commission Regulation 15 - 01 Migratory Waterfowl and Webless Bird Seasons, Bag Limits, and Special Regulations for Waterfowl and Webless Birds, Public hunting limited on Wildlife Management Areas and Designated State Lands – 2014-15 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 and webless game birds for the 2014 - 2015 season and adopt regulations that comply with the proposed regulations framework for the 2014-2015 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 regulations for the Controlled Goose Hunting Zone within the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area.

Mr. Podborny stated there are still no major changes to the dates, it is pretty much the same as last year.

Mr. Evans stated that he would like the board to favor alternative two the reduction of the Mason valley Wildlife Management Area (WMA) controlled goose hunt versus the elimination of the hunt.

The board agreed to favor alternative two as discussed by Mr. Evans.

Mr. Evans motioned to support Commission Regulation 15 - 01 Migratory Waterfowl and Webless Bird Seasons, Bag Limits, and Special Regulations for Waterfowl and Webless Birds, Public hunting limited on Wildlife Management Areas and Designated State Lands – 2014-15 Season as written and that the Eureka County Wildlife Advisory board favors alternative two the reduction of the Mason valley Wildlife Management Area (WMA) controlled goose hunt versus the elimination of the hunt. Mr. Hornickel seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item 19:

Update on Bighorn Herd Status and Disease in Mineral and Esmeralda Counties and Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2014 – 2015 Big Game Release Plan – Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox-

A request to amend the Fiscal Year 2014 – 2015 (through June 2015) Big Game Release Plan to add a desert bighorn augmentation for the Garfield Hills and Gillis Range in Mineral County.

No Recommendation.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date was scheduled for September 4, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Mr. Hornickel requested that the ECABMW meeting start times be an agenda item at the next meeting for discussion and action.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Hodson and seconded by Mr. Hornickel. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____ 2014.

Respectfully submitted: _____, Secretary
Jessica Santoyo

Approved: _____, Chairman
Lester Porter