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Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board

Minutes

The Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board (CAB) met in the Eureka County Administrative Facility on January 23, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Jake Tibbitts-Eureka County Natural Resources Manager, Mike Podborny-Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) Wildlife Biologist, Jessica Contreras-Eureka County Natural Resources Assistant/Secretary, Clinton Garrett-Northern Region Water Development Supervisor NDOW, Heath Korell-NDOW, Chad Bliss-Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioner, and Bill Hicks-Public

Call to order

Chairman Jim Evans called the meeting to order at 6:56 p.m. A quorum was determined to be present.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Board Business

Elect Chairman for 2014-

Ray Hodson motioned that Lester Porter be the chairman for 2014 and seconded by Dale Hornickel. Motion passed unanimously.

Review and approval of minutes-

The minutes of the September 12, 2013 meeting were approved on a motion made by Mr. Porter and seconded by Mr. Hodson. Motion passed unanimously.

Awards Presentation-

Mr. Evans stated the award is being presented to Chris Torres to provide recognition for his long term service to the Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board. Mr. Evans stated he will be accepting the award on behalf of Chris Torres.

Correspondence and Member Reports-

Mr. Evans stated he received information from Barrick stating that they are interested in pursuing the Huntington Creek Fishery initiative. Mr. Evans stated he still hasn't contacted Rother Farms about the initiative.

Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Projects-

Update on pinyon-juniper (PJ) thinning project and other potential projects and consider further efforts to move forward for successful implementation of projects.

Jake Tibbitts stated the PJ project will be on the same schedule as last year, the crews will be on the ground mid-June. Mr. Tibbitts stated he has been working with Maurice

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Frank Churchill regarding the Duckwater Tribe concerns. The Duckwater Tribe would like tribal surveyors to walk around on the project sites for cultural concerns. They will have to go into contract with the Duckwater Tribe to have three of their guys come out and walk the grounds. The cost is \$200 per person, per day for ten days. Mr. Churchill will also go with them free of charge. Mr. Tibbitts has been working with Connie Lee, who helped them get the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) money and they are working on an amendment to the funding in order to pay the Duckwater Tribal guys.

Presentation from Clinton Garrett the Northern Region Water Development Supervisor, Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW)

Clint Garrett introduced himself as the habitat biologist for the water dump program he is based out of Winnemucca and supervises a two man crew. Their duties are to construct and maintain guzzlers in Eastern and Western Regions. He received a technical request from Eureka County regarding water developments. The program is currently a full two man crew, they generally can do up to 13 new big game constructed units a year and they fill the gaps with maintenance projects throughout the year. Currently, they are compiling their priorities' list for fiscal year 2014-2015.

Mr. Evans asked is there a permitting process involved with the installations and where would that fall with their schedule.

Mr. Garrett answered the work crew goes to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) district that that group is working with. BLM is currently overloaded and then they show up asking for water clearances and the BLM does not want to hear about it. What they do is work through that and try to get the clearances. Mr. Garrett stated it can take from 7 months to 7 years to receive a completed clearance. The process itself is determined by the game biologist and the wildlife biologist from whatever Land management Agency (LMA) they are working with. Next he goes out with the biologist and they determine the land status. If the site is determined for a viable site, he submits a letter of intent and which informs the BLM of the size of the unit, where it is going to be, and what species they are targeting. They wait for the feedback from BLM and if it is all positive it falls into cultural and historical archeology. In the past this is where they have encountered problems because it is hard to get the archeologists out on the field. Mr. Garrett stated he takes District Archeological Technician (DAT) classes within districts but not every district offers those classes. If the district manager accepts the DAT classes it can help the process move faster, if not they have to wait for archeologists. Also, once the Environmental Assessment (EA) process is complete the BLM District manager can set a time frame for the project to be completed in.

Mr. Evans asked in scenarios where there is a livestock water development on public lands and spring feed and has shared ownership. Is there is an opportunity for your crew to do work in those types of areas.

Mr. Garrett answered they have to go in and determine the ownership characteristics of the land and the property. If the water is adjudicated right there from that landowner,

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then they would have to enter into an agreement with the landowner. They get a Memorandum of understanding (MOU) in place stating they will be improving the water source to benefit livestock and wildlife. Mr. Garrett stated they work with perennial water sources that are not flowing. When they apply there isn't a huge concern and there isn't a lot of attention because it is perennial. They rarely work with applications and water rights, that's why they work with artificial water it's easier.

Mr. Tibbitts asked why they would have to pursue a water right on spring when the NRS gives wildlife the right.

Mr. Garrett stated it can always be contested. If somebody's livelihood is dependent on the water. It can be ruled in favor of a permittee in front of a judge.

Mr. Porter asked if the wildlife board gets past all of the paperwork and they have all of materials and equipment, could they move forward or do they have to wait.

Mr. Garrett answered it's all based on the priority list but they can get someone out to their location to help oversee the project. Mr. Garrett stated they work off of grant monies, so they would want someone out there with them recording their time and volunteer hours. The need to report the volunteer hours for funding purposes.

Discuss and consider possible wildlife guzzler installation locations/areas.

Mr. Garrett stated on the map the red outline is the hunt units, the black outline is the county line, and the checker board shading area is potential areas that he and Mike Podborny had discussed for potential water developments.

The board and the public attending the meeting joined around the map and had discussion of potential sites.

Mr. Porter motioned to put together a special meeting on February 20, 2014 at 7:00 pm with everyone present today to voice their locations on the map and discuss the potential sites, once sites are established then they can move forward to meet with Clint Garrett and seconded by Dale Hornickel. Motion passed unanimously.

Huntington Creek Fishery-

Discuss development alternatives for a recreational fishery at Huntington Creek.

Mr. Evans stated Barrick is interested in the initiative but he still hasn't contacted Rother Farms. He will contact Rother Farms and see where everyone stands on the matter.

Heath Korell stated he received a lot of the information from the last meeting regarding Huntington Creek Fishery. The last population survey was done 1996, it only captured the top two and half miles of the stream. He plans to put this initiative on his work plan for this upcoming year. Mr. Korell will contact the stakeholders and talk to them and see if they would allow them to go on their land and conduct a survey. They would like to do a full JAW survey where they look at habitat. It was recommended to stock in 1997 but there was never a stocking receipt. It was consistently stocked from 1951 to 1971 with

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rainbow trout. The last know stocking was in 1975. Nevada Division of Wildlife (NDOW) is interested in trying to preserve this fishery.

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Meeting Agenda and Support Material

Informational Item 6B:

Draft Fiscal Year (FY) 15 Predation Management Plan – Staff Specialist Pete Bradley The draft FY 15 Predation Management Plan will be presented to the Commission for initial review and input.

Mr. Podborny stated he submitted a comment on the Diamond Roberts Sage Grouse form. He recommended not to kill mountain lions and leave it to a coyote/raven study and let them evaluate it instead.

Mr. Tibbitts stated he liked that the plan will use a contractor. The Eureka County Natural Resources Advisory Commission (NRAC) board motioned at their last meeting to use \$10,000 towards the raven control by a third party.

No Recommendation.

Informational Item 6C:

Muzzleloader Smokeless Powder Definition – Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici
The Commission will hear and consider conceptual alternatives to the current muzzleloader regulation (NAC 503.142). This agenda item is a result of a petition to amend NAC 503.142 to allow for Blackhorn 209 as a legal powder for muzzleloaders. This petition was withdrawn by the petitioner. The Commission will provide direction to the Department as to the potential development of a regulation, specifically amendments to NAC 503.142.

No Recommendation.

Item 7A:

Commission General Regulation 416, Shed Antlers, LCB File No. R155 - 12 – Chief Game Warden – Rob Buonamici – WORKSHOP ONLY

The Commission will consider the adoption of a regulation and also take public comment pertaining to the impact of this regulation on small businesses relating to shed antlers; requiring a permit for the commercial taking of shed antlers from the field; authorizing a person to take shed antlers from the field for a noncommercial purpose during a certain period or at any time of the year upon completion of an educational course for the noncommercial taking of shed antlers; prohibiting the sale, trade or barter of shed antlers taken for a noncommercial purpose; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

The need for the shed antler regulation is to reduce disturbance of big game animals, by shed antler hunters, during the critical time of year when these animals' energy reserves are at a low. The need for such a regulation was initially expressed by the White Pine County Advisory Board with support from the Lincoln County Advisory Board.

Mr. Hornickel stated he disagrees with the regulation because those guys are just out there and there not picking anything up.

Mr. Porter stated there is a problem in certain areas, there needs to be some sort of control on the issue.

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Bill Hicks stated there are individuals that chase the elk on motorcycles when they are about to shed their antlers. They chase the elk towards trees, so they elk crash into the tree and drop their antlers.

After brief discussion, Mr. Porter moved to support regulation 416 to restrict the time of year and establishing and administering an educational course. Does not support permit for shed antler hunting or #4, making it illegal to sell, trade, or barter. Regulation should start by restructuring to focus on dates and not include language about commercial or non-commercial. Fix commercial uses in the future if issues still exist after implementing season restrictions and seconded by Mr. Hodson. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 7B:

Commission General Regulation 430, Guide License Changes, LCB File No. R053 - 13 – Chief Game Warden – Rob Buonamici – WORKSHOP ONLY

The Commission will consider the adoption of a regulation and also take public comment pertaining to the impact of this regulation on small businesses relating to guides; revising provisions relating to the issuance and renewal of a license as a master guide or subguide permitting a master guide to use the services of another master guide or a subguide licensed under another master guide in certain circumstances; removing territorial limitations imposed by the State on the operation of master guides; revising the grounds for denying an application for a license or for revoking or suspending a license; extending the period within which a master guide must notify the Department of Wildlife after terminating the employment of a subguide; revising provisions governing the licensure of habitual violators and the submission of records relating to the clients of a master guide; expanding the circumstances under which a client must physically accompany the master guide or subguide during the entire pursuit and taking of an animal; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

The need for the guide regulation is to update the existing guide regulations that were requested by the Nevada Outfitters and Guides Association. The changes are designed to streamline the guide license application process and address other changes requested by the Nevada Outfitters and Guides Board.

No Recommendation.

Action Item 7C/13I:

Commission General Regulation 442, Remove Truckee River Fishing Tackle

Restrictions, LCB File No. R140-13 – Chief Jon Sjöberg-The Commission will consider the adoption of a regulation and also take public comment pertaining to the impact of this regulation on small businesses relating to fishing: removing the Truckee River and diversion ditches and tributaries above the I-80 bridge which is upstream from the Crystal Peak Park to the California state line, from the waters restricted to use only artificial lures with single barbless hooks; and providing other matters properly relating thereto. NDOW proposes to change the special fishing regulations (use of artificial lures and single barbless hooks only) for the Truckee River and diversion ditches and tributaries above the I-80 Bridge which is upstream from the Crystal Peak Park to the California state line. This change will make fishing regulations consistent for the entire river, helping to alleviate tackle confusion among anglers and allowing greater angling opportunity. In conjunction with the recently modified, reduced possession limit of three fish for the Truckee River this regulation change is expected to have a neutral effect on resident sport fish populations in the affected reach.

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After brief discussion, Mr. Hornickel moved to not support the Remove Truckee River Fishing Tackle Restriction regulation and seconded by Mr. Hodson. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item 7D/13J-

Commission General Regulation 443, Wildlife Grants Program, LCB File No. R141-13 – Deputy Director Patrick Cates-

The Commission will consider the adoption of a regulation and also take public comment pertaining to the impact of this regulation on small businesses relating to wildlife; requiring the Department of Wildlife to establish a grant program to provide funding to facilitate wildlife restoration activities and research; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

The need for the grant program regulation is to consolidate, clarify and streamline the Department of Wildlife's process to award funds for special projects. The Department of Wildlife currently uses a variety of granting and contracting processes for special project funds. This regulation will facilitate consolidation of these processes into a unified granting processes to clarify rules for applicants and to streamline administrative processes.

Mr. Evans moved to support the Wildlife Grants Program regulation as written and seconded by Mr. Hornickel. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item 13A-

Commission Regulation 13 - 04, Big Game Seasons, Amendment #1 – Wildlife Staff Specialists Mike Cox and Cody Schroeder-

The Commission will consider amending the 2014 (2014-15) hunting season dates, special hunt eligibility, animal gender, physical characteristics, legal weapon requirements, and hunt boundary restrictions, for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat; emergency depredation hunt structure and statewide quotas; dates and times for indoctrination courses; establishing the 2014 (2014 - 2015) antlerless elk landowner hunt structure and statewide quotas; and establishing the 2014 any legal weapon resident and nonresident pronghorn hunts 2151 and 2251 seasons that were not previously set.

After brief discussion, Mr. Hodson moved to accept all of the seasons and recommendations as recommended by the Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board and seconded by Mr. Porter. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item 13B-

Commission Regulation 14 - 03, 2014 Big Game Application Deadline and Information - Program Officer 3 Maureen Hullinger-

The Commission will consider the adoption of language regarding 2014 big game tag application deadline and information.

Mr. Hornickel moved to support Big Game Application Deadline and Information regulation and seconded by Mr. Porter. Motion passed unanimously.

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Commission Regulation 14 – 04, 2014 Big Game Tag Application Eligibility Information - Program Officer 3 Maureen Hullinger-The Commission will consider the adoption of language regarding 2014 big game tag application eligibility.

Mr. Hornickel moved to support Big Game Tag Application Eligibility Information regulation and Mr. Hodson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item 13D-

Commission Regulation 14 – 05, 2014 Silver State Tag and Partnership in Wildlife Season and Quotas - Program Officer 3 Maureen Hullinger and Big Game Biologist Mike Cox-The Commission will consider the adoption of the 2014 Silver State Tag and Partnership in Wildlife hunt species, seasons and quotas.

Chad Bliss suggested that the Silver State Tag season dates are parallel to the Heritage tag dates.

Mr. Evans moved that the Silver State Tags season dates are made parallel to the Heritage Tags season dates and seconded by Mr. Hodson. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item 13E-

Commission Regulation 14 – 06, 2014 Dream Tag Seasons - Program Officer 3 Maureen Hullinger and Big Game Biologist Mike Cox- The Commission will consider the adoption of the 2014 Dream Tags seasons.

After brief discussion, Mr. Hodson moved to accept all of the seasons and recommendations as recommended by the Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board and seconded by Mr. Porter. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item 13F-

Commission Regulation 14 – 07, 2015 Heritage Tags Seasons and Quotas- Program Officer 3 Maureen Hullinger and Big Game Biologist Mike Cox-The Commission will consider the adoption of the 2015 Heritage Tag hunt species, seasons and quotas.

After brief discussion, Mr. Hodson moved to accept all of the seasons and recommendations as recommended by the Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board and seconded by Mr. Porter. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item 13G-

Commission Regulation 14 - 08, Black Bear Seasons – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pete Bradley-The Commission will consider adoption of 2014 (2014-15) hunting season dates, open management units, hunting hours, special regulations, animal gender, legal weapon requirements, hunt boundary restrictions, and dates and times for indoctrination courses for black bear. Note: Support material sent separately from Game Division.

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After brief discussion, Mr. Hodson moved to accept all of the seasons and recommendations as recommended by the Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board and seconded by Mr. Porter. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item 13H-

Commission Regulation 14 - 09, 2014 (2014-15) Mountain Lion Season Open Units and Harvest Limits – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pete Bradley-The Commission will consider the adoption of 2014 (2014-15) mountain lion hunting season harvest limits, hunting hours, and special regulations. Note: Support material sent separately from Game Division.

After brief discussion, Mr. Hodson moved to accept all of the seasons and recommendations as recommended by the Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board and seconded by Mr. Porter. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date was scheduled for March 13, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Mr. Bliss asked stated on guzzler maintenance, is there a way that they could get a checklist for the tank and the installation. That way they could put together some kind of guzzler maintenance team that would go out and check the guzzlers.

Mr. Garrett answered there is a maintenance report form online and it is made for going out and checking on guzzler maintenance. There is a lot of hotlines and forms for the volunteer hours and maintenance online. Mr. Garrett stated he will have a very accurate list of the guzzler maintenance soon because of Senate Bill (SB) 134.

Mr. Tibbitts stated the statue for filling a board vacancy is 60 days. Then it will fall on the County Commissioners to appoint somebody. So, if anybody knows anyone who is interested let them know they just have to represent the general public interest.

Mr. Podborny stated the new Game Warden Tony Farnsworth will be starting soon and he will introduce him when he begins working.

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 10:06 p.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____ 2014.

Respectfully submitted: _____, Secretary
Jessica Contreras

Approved: _____, Chairman
Lester Porter