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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 30, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Lester Porter, Raymond Hodson, Jim Evans, and Dale Hornickel
Others Present: Mike Podborny-Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), Ken Gray-NDOW Elko, Jake Tibbitts-Eureka County Natural Resources Manager, Chad Bliss-NV Wildlife Board of Commissioners, and Jessica Santoyo-Natural Resources Asst./CAB Secretary

Call to order

Chairman Porter called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was determined to be present.

Public Comment

None

Board Business

Elect Chairman and Vice-Chairman for 2015.

Lester Porter moved that Raymond Hodson continue as the Vice-Chair for 2015. Jim Evans seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hodson moved that Mr. Porter continue as the Chairman for 2015. Mr. Evans seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Review and approval of minutes-

Mr. Hodson moved to approve the minutes from the November 5, 2014 meeting. Dale Hornickel seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence and Member Reports-

Mr. Porter stated Brad Heyen submitted his resignation letter on January 22, 2015 regarding his resignation on the board due to moving out of town.

Jake Tibbitts stated Mr. Heyen's resignation will be on the Commissioners agenda next week. The Commissioners will accept the resignation and then they will open up the vacancy. Mr. Heyen represented the public interest seat. The board should consider finding an individual who would represent the general public as passed at the last legislation. The vacancy will get posted around town.

No member reports were presented.

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.
Mr. Porter stated they had a meeting with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Doug Furtado, Commissioner JJ Goicoechea, Mr. Tibbitts, the NV Department of Wildlife (NDOW), and myself. The meeting went really well and the BLM released the CAB to do their guzzler project and add guzzlers to the existing guzzler sites.

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Mike Podborny stated the BLM didn't give them a fee, the BLM basically said if a fence has to be moved a little bit we can move it a little bit.

Mr. Porter asked Mr. Tibbitts where are they with pinion-pine removal around the springs.

Mr. Tibbitts answered during the meeting Mr. Furtado provided direction to develop a programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA) that is criteria based and if certain criteria is met they can go out and cut. They do the analysis and as long as the site is a riparian area or spring and it meets certain criteria then it can be thinned out. All of this would have to be outlined in the proposed action of the EA but it will need an EA. There was discussion that the EA will be an in house EA and since then Mr. Tibbitts has been working with Mr. Podborny trying to move forward. Mr. Tibbitts stated he was on a conference call this morning with Mike Stahm who writes all of the boot strap program EA's, Steve Foree, and Mr. Podborny. The direction of the EA may be changing on the EA. There are some questions that were raised such as doing a Eureka County EA and trying to work with the Elko BLM district. One EA would cover all the criteria if they want to cut tree north of the Battle Mountain district line, it will take coordination, and making sure that the Elko office buys off on it. Currently, there are authorizations at Sulphur Springs and hand thinning is allowed there. The question is if there is still acreage available for thinning. Mr. Podborny and Mr. Stahm worked on a conceptual idea of Antelope Valley, Fish Creek, up the Diamond Range area as the map to identify the general area of where they would want to get some work done. Mr. Stahm committed today that he would write the EA but he had to get the constraints narrowed down in order to analyze it.

Mr. Podborny stated that Mr. Stahm, Mr. Tibbitts and himself would meet the first part of March to get into agreement of where they want to get work done. Once they determine where to get some work done, they can find out if Elko wants to work with Battle Mountain.

Mr. Tibbitts stated another topic that was raised was that the BLM wanted to be careful not to do anything in the 3-Bars foot print. There could be a possibility for some spring cutting using the Boot Straps EA for the Roberts Mountain wildlife enhancement project. By doing a determination of NEPA adequacy, they can tie on to that project. They will be looking at all of those opportunities to get some work done after the sage grouse nesting season. They want to try to work while the EA is getting completed. Mr. Tibbitts stated they will be meeting on March 4, 2015 to discuss all of the work they want to get done and the EA.

Mr. Tibbitts stated they still have \$200,000 dollars from the Land Incentive Program (LIP) money that can only be spent on private property. In June, he will be pushing hard to spend it and get some more work done on private acreage. Mr. Tibbitts stated he spoke with homeowners in Pine Valley and there may be a possibility of doing some cutting out there. Some funds were spent on getting a native consultation done.

Mr. Podborny asked the board when they would like to work on the guzzlers. He also asked if they would be using a county backhoe and flatbed. Mr. Podborny stated he can get more fencing for the project. Clint Garrett informed Mr. Podborny that he would try to come out and help them.

The board members answered that they would like to begin working on the guzzler when the weather is good sometime in the spring. They also stated that they would be using county equipment.

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Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Meeting Agenda and Support Material

Action Item 7:

Review and Consideration of the Black Bear Subcommittee Report Entitled "A Three-Year Comprehensive Review of Black Bear Harvest through Regulated Hunting in Nevada" – Commissioner David McNinch

The Commission will consider, amend as appropriate, and may vote to approve a report submitted by the Black Bear Subcommittee entitled "A Three-Year Comprehensive Review of Black Bear Harvest through Regulated Hunting in Nevada." On approval, the Commission may forward this report on to the Nevada Legislature to fulfill the request included within 2013 Senate Bill 82.

Mr. Hodson stated the recommendations from the Black Bear committee to the Commission under 4A talks about hunting with a dog and it says to consider an appropriate method of pursuit. That seems very vague. Mr. Hodson recommended that they keep it at its current method of pursuit. The other thing is adopting a spot and stock season only, they want to establish that season to shorten the pursuit of dogs. If they want a post and stock season they should have it from August 15 to September 15 and they also don't want a spring bear hunt.

After brief discussion, Mr. Hodson moved that administrative code 503.147 Method of pursuit of dogs (Hunting with a dog) be left with the present method of pursuit that is currently being used right now. Mr. Hornickel seconded, motion carried unanimously.

After brief discussion, Mr. Hornickel moved that they look into making a spot and stock season in the spring. Mr. Hodson seconded, motion carried unanimously.

After brief discussion, Mr. Hodson moved that the Commission accept the Black Bear committee recommendations moving forward. Mr. Hornickel seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item 8A/16D:

Commission General Regulation 455 Temporary LCB File T-14 – Trapping Questionnaire Deadline and Trapping License Valid Dates – Management Analyst 3 Maureen Hullinger

The Commission will hear a temporary regulation relating to trapping questionnaires and trapping license valid periods. The regulation will add language to specify the valid period of a trapping license as July 1 - June 30. The regulation amendment will also update the trapping questionnaire deadline language, changing the deadline from April 30 to May 31, making it consistent with other Department questionnaire language. The amendment includes having the Department be responsible for prohibiting the purchase of a subsequent trapping license, instead of the Commission, when a trapper fails to return a questionnaire.

This amendment will allow the Department to administer the trapping questionnaire processes effectively in regard to the trapping seasons as established by the Commission. Note: See support material under agenda item #8 A. The regulation is intended to give trappers ample time to return their questionnaires but also provide an efficient license denial procedure if they fail to return their questionnaire.

Mr. Evans stated he didn't see any changes.

Mr. Podborny stated it's a changing the dates of when the trappers turn in their questionnaires.

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Mr. Tibbitts stated the dates were overlapping before, so if they failed to turn in the questionnaire they could still go out and buy a license without any penalty. With this they can't get their license until they turn in the questionnaire.

After brief discussion, Mr. Hodson moved to accept Commission General Regulation 455 Temporary LCB File T-14 – Trapping Questionnaire Deadline and Trapping License Valid Dates as written. Mr. Hornickel seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item 9A:

Commission Regulation 15 – 04, 2015 Big Game Application Deadline Information – Management Analyst 3 Maureen Hullinger

The Commission will consider adopting language regarding the 2015 big game application deadline information.

Mr. Hornickel moved to accept Commission Regulation 15 – 04, 2015 Big Game Application Deadline Information as written. Mr. Evans seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item 9B:

Commission Regulation 15 – 05, 2015 Big Game Tag Application Eligibility – Management Analyst 3 Maureen Hullinger

The Commission will consider adopting language regarding the 2015 big game tag application eligibility.

Mr. Evans moved to accept the Commission Regulation 15 – 05, 2015 Big Game Tag Application Eligibility as written. Mr. Hornickel seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item 9C:

Commission Regulation, 15 – 06, Silver State Tag and Partnership in Wildlife 2015 Season and Quotas – Management Analyst 3 Maureen Hullinger

The Commission will consider the adoption of the 2015 Silver State Tag and Partnership in Wildlife hunt species, seasons and quotas. Note: Support material sent separately from Game Division.

Mr. Hornickel moved to accept Commission Regulation, 15 – 06, Silver State Tag and Partnership in Wildlife 2015 Season and Quotas as written. Mr. Hodson seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item 9D:

Commission Regulation, 15 – 07, Dream Tag 2015 Seasons – Management Analyst 3 Maureen Hullinger

The Commission will consider the adoption of the 2015 Dream Tag seasons. Note: Support material sent separately from Game Division.

Mr. Hornickel moved to accept Commission Regulation, 15 – 07, Dream Tag 2015 Seasons as written. Mr. Hodson seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item 9E:

Commission Regulation, 15 – 08, 2016 Heritage Tag Seasons and Quotas – Management Analyst 3 Maureen Hullinger and Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox

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The Commission will consider the adoption of the 2016 Heritage Tag hunt species, seasons and quotas. Note: Support material sent separately from Game Division.

Mr. Hornickel moved to support Commission Regulation, 15 – 08, 2016 Heritage Tag Seasons and Quotas as written. Mr. Hodson seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Reports- Informational: Item 10B

Draft Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Predation Management Plan-Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson

The draft FY 2016 Predation Management Plan will be presented to the Commission for initial review and input.

Mr. Tibbitts stated did the board want to cover anything on the predator plan, there is some Eureka county stuff in the plan. Mr. Tibbitts stated there is the Diamond denning study, some coyote work on the monitors, there is a lot of stuff on sage grouse projects that are statewide that will be determined where they are appropriate. The sub-project 2214 coyote den density effects on mule deer fawns and other wildlife species, the Diamonds/Roberts mule deer fawns unit 144. Dens will be found using a private contractor who specializes on denning and Owyhee air using an infrared camera. Mr. Tibbitts stated he doesn't know who the private contractor is or if it's Trevor Walch but he did a bunch of work here. They should make sure that the work that was done here in Eureka County is included and understood. If they conduct their study it won't provide a true baseline because of the work that they previously have done. There were 22 dens worked on last year and how this should work into their results if they will begin a monitoring component.

Ken gray stated first year is just monitoring to get a baseline of what is out there and then they come back and remove the coyotes. They continue this process over and over again.

Mr. Hodson asked Chad Bliss to report it back to the Wildlife Commission.

Mr. Bliss responded that they should send the report from Mr. Walch to Pat Jackson. They may be aware of it but they haven't seen any of it especially because it was a county project. They should also provide a copy to Mr. Podborny and Mr. Gray and they can distribute it in the department.

Mr. Gray stated the board should provide comment on the plan because it is in the initial stage. A comment from the board saying this work has been done here and it will bring attention from the agency and the commission. Then they can go forward and evaluate their study and consider it.

Mr. Bliss stated this is a report and this is the first time any of these projects have been kicked out to anybody. It's basically saying this is the projects they are looking at. In March they will have a predator committee meeting in conjunction with the Commission meeting and they will discuss the projects in detail. The predator committee will make recommendations to the Commission based on the comments received from the CAB's and public.

Mr. Podborny stated what the board needs to do is inform the Commission that Eureka County hired Mr. Walch to kill coyotes in the Spring of 2014 and that there is data available.

Mr. Tibbitts stated there is a big interest to have Mr. Walch come back and do some more work here. When they started this project they hired Mr. Walch to get a jump start on the previous

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proposed predation plan that actually proposed to do work but know it's a study and that throws their plans in a mix. Basically, the project has changed substantially from what it was supposed to do. The Eureka County CAB project was developed to mesh with what NDOW had proposed to do. The Eureka County CAB project was done so they could partner with NDOW and now they are stepping back.

Mr. Gray suggested that the board recommend that Eureka County and NDOW work in conjunction on the continuation of their project.

Mr. Bliss stated its prime example of coordination not being done. Mr. Tibbitts is right they have tried to do a predator project for two years and it kept falling on its face for two years. What Eureka County did was step up and work in conjunction with that project. Now there are new people and they are not aware the County's ongoing efforts of what work has been done. They should consider contacting Pat Jackson and informing him of the ongoing efforts.

After brief discussion, Mr. Hornickel moved that NDOW work in conjunction with Eureka County's predator control project and contact them if they are not informed of the project. Mr. Hodson seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item 16A:

Commission Regulation 15 – 09, Big Game Seasons – Wildlife Staff Specialists Mike Cox and Cody Schroeder

The Commission will consider adoption of 2015 – 2016 and 2016 – 2017 hunting seasons and dates for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat, including limits, hunting hours, special hunt eligibility, animal sex, physical characteristics and legal weapon requirements, hunt boundary restrictions, and legal weapon requirements, and emergency depredation hunt structure and statewide quotas. Note: Support material sent separately from Game Division.

Mr. Podborny stated there aren't any changes here.

Mr. Hornickel moved to accept the Commission Regulation 15 – 09, Big Game Seasons as proposed. Mr. Evans seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item 16B:

Commission Regulation 15 – 10, Big Game Mountain Lion Harvest Limits for 2015 – 2016 – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson

The Commission will consider the adoption of 2015 – 2016 mountain lion hunting season open units, harvest limits by unit group, hunting hours, and special regulations. Note: Support material sent separately from Game Division.

Mr. Podborny stated there are no changes.

Mr. Hornickel moved to accept Commission Regulation 15 – 10, Big Game Mountain Lion Harvest Limits for 2015 – 2016 as written. Mr. Hodson seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item 16C:

Commission Regulation 15 – 11, 2015 Black Bear Seasons – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson

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The Commission will consider adoption of 2015 hunting season dates, open management units, hunting hours, special regulations, animal sex, legal weapon requirements, hunt boundary restrictions, and dates and times for indoctrination courses for black bear. Note: Support material sent separately from Game Division.

Mr. Podborny stated there are no changes.

Mr. Hodson moved to accept Commission Regulation 15 – 11, 2015 Black Bear Seasons as written. Mr. Hornickel seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item 16E:

Commission General Regulation 454 Temporary LCB File T-14 – Firearm Carry During Archery Hunt – Chief Game Warden Tyler Turnipseed

The Commission will hear a temporary regulation relating to the carry of a firearm in the field while hunting under archery regulations. The regulation will change NAC 503.144 to allow the carry of personal protection handguns while archery hunting. This regulation will be temporary and will require Legislative Commission approval to become permanent after the 2015 Session of the Nevada Legislature.

The regulation was heard by the Commission during the workshop at the November 2014 Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meeting. The Commission discussed different alternatives to handgun carry restrictions and the needs for archers to carry a handgun during archery only season. The language has been updated to reflect the changes requested by the Commission by allowing a person to carry any handgun that is not scoped and has a barrel length of 8” or less. The language change clarified the type of handgun to be carried in the field during archery only season.

Mr. Hodson moved to accept Commission General Regulation 454 Temporary LCB File T-14 – Firearm Carry During Archery Hunt as written. Mr. Evans seconded, motion carried with one nay by Mr. Hornickel.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date was scheduled for March 12, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Mr. Porter stated he has been getting a lot of emails from other CAB Chairman regarding the 2015 BDR 616 by Senator Hammond on supporting a positive sportsman’s education program. The bill is currently being campaigned right now and if they get enough interest it may go to Legislation. They are claiming they are patterning off of Colorado’s model. Colorado stated since they started this project they have not had a negative sportsman bill since it went into effect. Mr. Porter asked the board if they had heard anything about this bill.

Mr. Tibbitts stated he would look into the bill. Mr. Tibbitts stated there is a petition out of Las Vegas that received enough signatures to move into Legislation. The petition would list the wild horse under state law as protected and the commission would have to add a wild horse interest seat to the board. Under 501 it wouldn’t just list the wild horse in the definition of wildlife but also classify them because wildlife have to be classified. It received enough signatures so if the Legislature doesn’t do anything about it this year, then it will be on the ballot in two years for the voters in NV.

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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 4:13 p.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____ 2015.

Respectfully submitted: _____, Secretary
Jessica Santoyo

Approved: _____, Chairman
Lester Porter