

Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board (CAB)

Minutes

The Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board (CAB) met in the Eureka County Administrative Facility (Annex) on February 2, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Raymond Hodson, Jim Evans, and Lester porter

Others Present: Tom Donham- Eastern Region Supervising Game Biologist NV Department of Wildlife (NDOW), Clint Garret- Biologist NDOW, Eric Candee- Game Warden NDOW, Jake Tibbitts- Eureka County Natural Resources Manager, Jessica Santoyo- CAB Secretary, and Jared Lees- Public

Call to order

Chairman Hodson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. a quorum was determined to be present.

Public Comment

None.

Election of Officers

Elect officer – Chair and Vice-Chair – for 2017.

Raymond Hodson nominated Jim Evans to be the Chair of the Advisory Board for 2017. Lester Porter seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Porter nominated Raymond Hodson to be the Vice-Chair of the Wildlife Advisory Board for 2017. Mr. Evans seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Board Business

Review and approval of minutes-

Mr. Porter moved to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2016 meeting. Ms. Evans seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence and Member Reports-

None.

Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Projects-

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

Mr. Hodson stated that he went out to Tonkin and the water is overflowing out there.

Clint Garrett stated that he met with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Battle Mountain District staff in January and discussed the removal of the JJC guzzler and the rebuild of the Table guzzler. Mr. Garrett stated that he submitted a letter of intent for both of those project and the BLM will be approving that soon. This will allow the NV Department of Wildlife (NDOW) to go in, remove the JJC guzzler and rebuild the Table guzzler. Mr. Garrett stated that he spoke with Doug Furtado about the Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA) which will cover the entire Battle Mountain District and all they have to do is submit the potential guzzler project locations for Eureka County in order for them to be in the EA.

Mr. Porter stated that sometime ago a recommendation was made to use the fencing material that is located at the old mine dump, up Diamond Canyon for guzzler projects. The fencing was

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originally put up by NDOW because they thought the area was contaminated but it turns out it wasn't, so if there is a possibility of using that material from that area it would be great.

Mr. Garrett stated that he will look into the location and if they can use the material for potential guzzler projects.

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Meeting Agenda

Action Item # 3C

Nevada Lands Act – Commissioner Drew – The Commission may take action to develop a policy platform and/or designate Commission representative(s) to keep the Commission updated as to the development of new federal legislation related to SJR 1. The Commission may choose to develop correspondence identifying its concerns or desired clarifications to further develop or refine its position on proposed federal legislation.

No Recommendation.

Action Item #9

Nevada Department of Wildlife Report about Hunting Near Dwellings and Residential Areas – Chief Game Warden Tyler Turnipseed – The Department will provide an update on recent complaints and incidents involving people hunting in or near residential areas.

No Recommendation.

Action Item #10

Nevada Department of Wildlife Update of Guidelines for Harvest Management in Nevada – Game Division Administrator Brian F. Wakeling – The Department will provide an update on the status and process of refining the draft harvest guidelines for consideration by the Commission. The Department will provide a briefing on revisions since the first reading of the current draft presented at the November 2016 Commission Meeting. This draft for possible adoption includes only the segment addressing big game management; the segment addressing upland game will be addressed at a subsequent Commission meeting. The Commission may vote to amend or adopt this draft of the harvest guidelines.

Mr. Porter asked what is the difference between the standard season and the non-standard season.

Clint Garrett stated it's an option, the guidelines listed are giving the CAB's options for season dates within the guidelines and basically it's what NDOW is going to do for setting seasons. This will also standardize the season setting process everywhere.

Mr. Porter stated the guidelines also talk about a 30 buck to doe ration but in some other areas the buck ration is 35, why is that.

Mr. Garrett stated the three deer populations (buck to doe ratio) are determined to help manage deer populations within each unit.

Tom Donham stated these are just guidelines provided by NDOW but the county, the commission, anybody can make a recommendation within or outside of the guidelines. NDOW

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may even make a recommendation outside of guidelines and justify why they are making that recommendation.

No Recommendation.

Action Item #11

Draft Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Predation Management Plan – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson –

The draft Fiscal Year 2018 Predation Management Plan will be presented to the Commission for initial review. Following this review, the draft plan will be updated and shared with the State Predatory Animal and Rodent Committee (PARC). All comments from the PARC, County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife, and any other interested entity will be compiled and shared with the Wildlife Damage Management Committee (WDMC) for their consideration at their March 2017 meeting. The Commission will receive an update at the March 2017 meeting from the Wildlife Damage Management Committee and may provide additional direction at that time.

Mr. Evans asked how intensive is the raven control effort going to be in terms of overall numbers relative to a measurable reduction in populations. When will that launch and are they actually going to start work this year.

Mr. Garrett stated that he isn't too familiar with that specific project but Mike Podborny did submit some areas for raven control a while ago. As for the Eureka County efforts, he doesn't think that there is anything major going on, there was some stuff going on in the landfill but it's hard to get something going when there is snow on the ground.

Jake Tibbitts suggested that pairing raven control efforts with habitat work areas would be a good idea for future raven control locations.

Mr. Donham stated that there is some raven control being done but it looks like Eureka County is way down on the list of potential control locations.

Mr. Tibbitts stated that the Eureka County Coyote Removal Project #40, is still the same as last year nothing changed.

Mr. Porter moved to support Draft FY 2018 Predation Management Plan. Mr. Evans seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item #12

Legislative Committee Report – Commissioner and Committee Chairman Jeremy Drew –

A report will be presented on the committee's recent meetings. The Commission may review bills of interest, consider legislative committee recommendations and may take official positions on those bills. The Commission may also choose to develop platforms on bills by supporting or opposing general concepts contained within bills rather than specific language. The Commission will consider and may approve a spokesperson(s) who will relay Commission positions and platforms to the Legislature. (Support materials are as of the Legislative Committee meeting held on January 23, 2017. These materials may be updated at the Commission meeting based on the outcome of the February 8, 2017 Committee meeting. Bill and BDR language may be viewed online at: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/79th2017>)

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Mr. Tibbitts stated that the committee made a recommendation on is Senate Bill (SB) 74 which is a State Engineer bill. The bill was created because of testimony that was provided recently stated that the collecting of water in a guzzler and on an individual's rooftop is illegal according to water law. This is a retroactive bill to ensure that guzzlers are legal for everyone not just for NDOW. There are currently a lot of bills that are in the Bill Draft Request (BDR) form and do not have any language written yet.

Mr. Garrett stated the State Engineer has to justify that guzzlers are legal and that they are not affecting any water rights holders.

No Recommendation.

Action Item #13

First Reading, Commission Policy 26A, Transparency – Division Administrator Brian Wakeling – The Commission will conduct a first reading of Commission Policy 26A, Transparency, and may take action to amend or repeal. The policy is outdated and unnecessary

No Recommendation.

Action Item #19A

Commission General Regulation 464, Appeals, LCB File No. R074-16 – Administrative Procedures Regulations and Policy (APRPC) Committee Chairman and Commissioner David McNinch – The Commission will consider adopting amendments to Chapter 501 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation revises provisions relating to practice before the Commission. It provides more efficiency in scheduling appeals, will define that "calendar" days are used for calculation of deadlines, and more clearly notify the appellant in advance of a hearing that the Commission has limited jurisdiction. It will also provide for two, separate Attorneys General (one for the Commission and one for the Department) to avoid conflicts with one attorney advising two sides of the appeal. It also requires the appellant to give the agency advance notice of legal representation to improve scheduling for a separate lengthier time needed on agendas. These changes were approved at the May 12, 2016, meeting of the Board of Wildlife Commission's APRPC Committee which included relevant suggestions from the public and legal counsel. The Commission held a workshop in Reno on August 12, 2016, where the Commission asked to include information regarding the notice to the appellant and also to insert language that if a party fails to file certain information within 14 days they may waive their right to a hearing on the appeal. A revision of the regulation was requested from the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB); which, contained additional edits. No Changes were suggested by the Commission at the November 19, 2016 meeting.

Mr. Porter moved to continue to support Commission General Regulation 464, Appeals. Mr. Evans seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item #19B

Commission General Regulation 467, Special Assistance Permit, LCB File No. R105-16 – Chief Game Warden Tyler Turnipseed – The Commission will consider adopting amendments to Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). Through Assembly Bill 136 of the 2015 Legislative Session, the Nevada State Legislature mandated the Board of Wildlife Commissioners to adopt regulations prescribing the circumstances under which a person may assist a licensed hunter with certain disabilities in the killing and retrieval of a big game mammal.

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The Commission held a workshop on this regulation on August 12, 2016, where several changes were considered. The Commission held another workshop on September 23, 2016 to consider public comment and changes that were implemented at the last meeting.

Mr. Evans moved to continue to support Commission General Regulation 467, Special Assistance Permit. Mr. Porter seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item #20

Commission Regulation 17 - 03, 2017 Black Bear Seasons – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson

– The Commission will consider adopting 2017 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.

Mr. Hodson stated NDOW is splitting up the season into three different groups and each group will have different harvest limits but the overall number will remain the same.

Mr. Donham stated NDOW is worried that certain areas are receiving the most harvest so by splitting out the season into separate groups they can monitor the area and allow hunters to continue to hunt in other areas.

Jared Lees stated with the way bears move around, they could be in unit 291 one week and in unit 204 the next week so basically they still have the same population.

Mr. Hodson moved that NDOW leave the hunt as is and not section it out into three separate groups. Mr. Porter seconded. No vote was taken.

Mr. Lees stated the commission has itemized this hunt and will be going over the unit's seasons and weapons. The board should consider adding Unit 203-Smith Valley and making the shotgun a legal weapon for bear.

Mr. Donham stated well shotgun would be allowed under this unit because it's any legal weapon.

Mr. Lees pointed out that the handbook states that the shotgun is not allowed for bear hunting in these areas.

After brief discussion, Mr. Evans moved to add Unit 203-Smith Valley, do not separate the season into three different seasons (keep same as previous year), and make the shotgun a legal weapon for bear. Mr. Hodson seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item #21

Commission Regulation 17 - 04, 2017 - 2018 Mountain Lion Season and Harvest Limits – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson

– The Commission will consider adopting 2017 - 2018 mountain lion hunting season open units, harvest limits by unit group, hunting hours, and special regulations.

Mr. Evans moved to support Commission Regulation 17 – 04, 2017 – 2018 Mountain Lion Season and Harvest Limits. Mr. Hodson seconded, motion carried unanimously.

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Action Item #22

Commission Regulation 17 - 05, 2017 - 2018 and 2018 - 2019 Big Game Seasons – Wildlife Staff Specialists Mike Cox and Cody Schroeder and Staff Biologist Cody McKee – The Commission will consider adopting 2017 - 2018 and 2018 - 2019 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.

Mr. Hodson moved to support Commission Regulation 17 – 05, 2017 – 2018 and 2018 – 2019 Big Game Seasons along with the alternate recommendations made by the Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board. Mr. Evans seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item #23

Commission Regulation 17 - 06, 2018 Heritage Tag Seasons and Quotas – Management Analyst 3 Maureen Hullinger – The Commission will consider the adoption of the 2018 Heritage Tag hunt species, seasons and quotas.

Mr. Hodson moved to support Commission Regulation 17 – 06, 2018 Heritage Tag Seasons and Quotas. Mr. Evans seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item #24

Commission Regulation 17- 07, 2017 Dream Tag Seasons – Management Analyst 3 Maureen Hullinger – The Commission will consider the adoption of the 2017 Dream Tag seasons.

Mr. Hodson moved to support Commission Regulation 17-07, 2017 Dream Tag Seasons, Mr. Evans seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item #25

Commission Regulation 17- 08, 2017 Partnership in Wildlife Seasons and Quotas – Management Analyst 3 Maureen Hullinger – The Commission will consider the adoption of the 2017 PIW hunt species, seasons and quotas.

Mr. Porter moved to support Commission Regulation 17 – 08, 2017 Partnership in Wildlife Seasons and Quotas. Mr. Hodson seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item #26

Commission Regulation 17 - 09, 2017 Silver State Tag Seasons and Quotas– Management Analyst 3 Maureen Hullinger – The Commission will consider the adoption of the 2017 Silver State Tag hunt species, seasons and quotas.

Mr. Evans moved to support Commission Regulation 17 – 09, 2017 Silver State Tag Seasons and Quotas. Mr. Hodson seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item #27

Commission Regulation 17 - 10, 2017 Big Game Application Deadline Information – Management Analyst 3 Maureen Hullinger – The Commission will consider adopting language regarding the 2017 big game tag application deadline information.

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Mr. Hodson moved to support Commission Regulation 17 – 10, 2017 Big Game Application Deadline Information. Mr. Porter seconded motion carried unanimously.

Action Item #28

Commission Regulation 17 - 11, 2017 Big Game Tag Application Eligibility – Management

Analyst 3 Maureen Hullinger – The Commission will consider adopting language regarding the 2017 big game tag application eligibility, to include ability to apply for bull and spike elk, and ram and ewe of same bighorn subspecies.

Mr. Garrett stated the demand for the ewe tag has gone down because hunters rather try to get the ram hunt. By having this draw, people can have the capability to apply for both the ewe and ram and draw for both.

Mr. Hodson moved to support Commission Regulation 17 – 11, 2017 Big Game Tag Application Eligibility but the board has concerns on how everything will flush out in the draw. Mr. Porter seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting

Items suggested for the agenda include: ongoing agenda items. The board should get any other desired agenda items to the secretary for the next meeting. **The next meeting date is scheduled for March 16, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.**

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Hodson and seconded by Mr. Porter. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____ 2017.

Respectfully submitted: _____, Secretary
Jessica Santoyo

Approved: _____, Chairman
Jim Evans