

Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board (CAB)

Minutes

The Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board (CAB) met in the Eureka County Administrative Facility (Annex) on May 4, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

Members Present: Jim Evans, Raymond Hodson, and Lester Porter (arrived at 5:00 p.m.)

Others Present: Tom Donham- Eastern Region Supervising Game Biologist NV Department of Wildlife (NDOW), Clint Garret- Biologist NDOW, and Jessica Santoyo- CAB Secretary

Call to order

Chairman Evans called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m. a quorum was determined to be present.

Public Comment

Ray Hodson stated that he and the Houndsmen Association spoke against the Legislative Bill that would try to limit the NV Department of Wildlife (NDOW) from using dogs on the bear hunt. Luckily, the bill got kicked out and hopefully having 32 houndsmen testify helped that effort.

Board Business

Review and approval of minutes-

Mr. Evans moved to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2017 meeting. Mr. Hodson seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence and Member Reports-

Mr. Evans stated that he met with Kinross Mine representatives and they informed him that they are interested in doing some rehabilitation on the Cold Creek Dam. They have an interesting scenario out there because the majority of the dam is actually on public land and Kinross owns the water permit. They are interested in doing some rehabilitation work on the south end of the dam where there is a substantial leakage issue and they are looking at alternatives. Mr. Evans stated that he informed Kinross, that the Eureka CAB would be interested in working with them in devising alternatives to improve the dam and maintain the fisheries. This is something that is in the works at the moment and they will have to wait and see what alternatives Kinross comes up with.

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.

Clint Garrett stated that NV Department of Wildlife (NDOW) is still clear on the two units that he mentioned in previous meetings, the removal of the JJC guzzler and the repair of the Table guzzler. He has also been in contact with the water crew out of Winnemucca, they are currently doing volunteer projects right now and it doesn't look like they will be available anytime soon to get out here and do any projects.

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Meeting Agenda

Action Item #6

Legislative Committee Report – Commissioner and Committee Chairman Drew – A report will be presented on the committee's recent meeting. The Commission may review bills of interest and any associated amendments, consider legislative committee recommendations and may take official positions on those bills. The Commission may also choose to develop platforms on

Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board (CAB)

Minutes

bills by supporting or opposing general concepts contained within bills rather than specific language. (Support materials are as of the Legislative Committee meeting held on May 3, 2017. Bill and BDR language may be viewed online at: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/79th2017>)

No Recommendation.

Action Item #7

Presentation of Fiscal Year 2018 Draft Predation Management Plan (Final Draft) – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson and Game Division Administrator Brian F. Wakeling – The Commission will review with the Department the third and final draft of the Fiscal Year 2018 Draft Predation Management Plan. The Commission may take action to modify or endorse the plan.

Mr. Evans stated that he didn't see any new changes in the Eureka County Project 40, the way the project is written it is still funded.

Mr. Garrett stated that he spoke with Pat Jackson and asked him if there is a possibility of adding more management work in unit 14. Mr. Jackson stated that there could be a possibility of getting more work added to unit 14

After brief discussion, Mr. Hodson moved to support Fiscal Year 2018 Draft Predation Management Plan (Final Draft). Lester Porter seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment Item #8

Commission General Regulation 466, Partnership in Wildlife (PIW) Drawing, Changes to Nonresident Restricted Deer Tag, and Changes to Big Game Return Card Questionnaire Deadline, LCB File No. R140-16 – Management Analyst III Maureen Hullinger – The Commission will hold a second workshop to consider a regulation relating to amending Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation defines the term "main drawing;" revises the order in which the Silver State Tag drawing, PIW tag drawing and main tag drawings are conducted; authorizes an applicant for a nonresident restricted deer tag to apply for a nonresident deer tag in the PIW tag drawing and the Silver State tag drawing in the same year; and revises the big game return card questionnaire deadline from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. A workshop was held in Las Vegas on March 25, 2017. The Commission requested a second workshop due to questions the Commission had: 1) What are the effects on the applicant and the party if the applicant is drawn for the PIW tag; 2) Why are the predator and/or other fees not collected when applying for PIW; and 3) What is the nonresident process for applying for PIW.

Mr. Evans stated this is where NDOW would change the draw procedure. Mr. Evans recommends that they leave it as is and the reason for that being is that they already have the draw order set in place. NDOW is taking their unsuccessful applicants out of the main draw and batching them into the Partnership in Wildlife (PIW) drawing and it gives them another chance for a tag. Looking at the drawing odds, the chances of the PIW are to be greater versus allowing the opportunity to go to the Silver State drawing prior to the main draw. If the draw is changed to happen prior to the main draw, they are weeding out the unsuccessful in the main draw and throwing them into the PIW. Basically, his recommendation is to keep it as is because they have a greater opportunity to draw if they leave it as and there isn't much competition for tags.

Mr. Porter asked what is NDOW's thoughts on the whole deal and changing the draw.

Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board (CAB)

Minutes

Tom Donham stated NDOW is pretty neutral about the whole deal, this came from other sportsmen and they don't have a problem with it.

After brief discussion, Mr. Hodson moved that Commission General Regulation 466, Partnership in Wildlife (PIW) Drawing, Changes to Nonresident Restricted Deer Tag, and Changes to Big Game Return Card Questionnaire Deadline is left as is. Mr. Evans seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item #16

Deer and Antelope Compensation Tag Program – Game Division Administrator Brian F.

Wakeling – The Department will provide a briefing to the Commission on the existing Landowner Deer and Antelope Compensation Tag Program, recent history, and management options. The Commission will discuss and may direct the Department to develop a draft Commission Regulation regarding options regarding the Landowner Deer and Antelope Compensation Tag Program.

Mr. Evans stated that the way this is all designed with the 1.5% of the quota that is allocated for landowner compensation that could create a problem because it would be over allocated per the NRS.

Mr. Donham stated there is currently some Legislation in the works to try to up the cap from 1.5% to 2.5% because there are 360 qualified tags but based on deer and antelope quotas they can only give out 304 based on the 1.5%. There is a rider attached to the license application bill that would raise the cap to 2.5% which will most likely pass and provide a temporary fix. Basically, they are doing some maneuvering so NDOW will not have to take any tags away from landowners. This is pretty much a Band-Aid approach to try to fix the situation. Mr. Donham stated that the Director's Office needs to approach the Commission and have them really look at program instead of using temporary fixes. Some of these landowners aren't taking any damage but are still claiming the compensation and there are some guys that are just buying the properties for the deer tags and selling those off to the highest bidders.

After brief discussion, Mr. Evans moved to support Deer and Antelope Compensation Tag Program but they would like the Commission to move forward with evaluating the program and determine appropriate steps and measures to balance the equation. Mr. Porter seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item #17

Commission Regulation 17- 13, 2017 Big Game Quotas for the 2017 - 2018 Season – Wildlife

Staff Specialists Mike Cox, Cody Schroeder, Cody McKee, and Pat Jackson – The Commission will establish regulations for the numbers of tags to be issued for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, black bear, and mountain goats for the 2017 - 2018 seasons.

Mr. Hodson moved to support Commission Regulation 17- 13, 2017 Big Game Quotas for the 2017 - 2018 Season along with the Eureka CAB recommendation which is as follows: "The Eureka County CAB agrees with all mule deer hunts except they recommend maintaining the 2016 levels in Hunt Units 131 - 134 and Hunt Units 141 – 145." Mr. Porter seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board (CAB)

Minutes

Action Item #18

Commission Regulation 17-14, 2017 Landowner Deer and Antelope Compensation Quotas – Game Division Administrator Brian F. Wakeling – Landowner deer and antelope compensation quotas are set annually, according to NRS 502.145, at 1.5 percent of the total deer and antelope quotas. The 1.5 percent is generated from the total deer and antelope quotas, which are established in CR 17-13. As a result of this cap being established the deer and antelope damage compensation tag allocations for the 2017 season may exceed the 1.5 percent statutory cap. The Commission may vote to adopt a regulatory model that changes the allocation of the tags to meet the statutory cap.

Mr. Donham stated this regulation is just how NDOW approaches the commission, informs them the number of tags that are qualified, the commission waves there wand and approves the tags. This year they have the issue of having 360 qualified tags and the cap doesn't allow for that so they will probably do some kind of amendment once the legislation passes so they don't have to take tags away from landowners.

After brief discussion, Mr. Evans moved that the NBWC make the necessary adjustments accordingly to balance the quota that they need for the Landowner Deer and Antelope Compensation Quotas initiative. The Eureka County CAB recommended that they make the adjustment that is required to balance the compensation quota. 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 June 19, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.**

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Evans and seconded by Mr. Hodson. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____ 2017.

Respectfully submitted: _____, Secretary
Jessica Santoyo

Approved: _____, Chairman
Jim Evans