

## Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board (CAB)

### Minutes

The Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board (CAB) met in the Eureka County Administrative Facility (Annex) on June 21, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Trent Gordon and Lester Porter

Members Absent: Jim Evans

Others Present: Jake Tibbitts, Eureka County Natural Resources Manager, Clint Garrett, Biologist NV Department of Wildlife (NDOW), and Jessica Santoyo, CAB Secretary

#### **Call to order**

Vice-Chairman Gordon called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. a quorum was determined to be present.

#### **Public Comment**

None.

#### **Board Business**

*Approval of the agenda notice with addition of any emergency item and/or deletion of any item.*

Lester Porter moved to approve the agenda as written. Trent Gordon seconded, motion carried unanimously.

*Review and approval of minutes-*

Mr. Porter moved to approve the minutes from the April 26, 2018 meeting as written. Mr. Gordon seconded, motion carried unanimously.

*Correspondence and Member Reports- Review and discuss any or all items.*

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. Porter stated that Jake Tibbitts and he met with Dave Rowe from the Schaffer Ranch. Mr. Rowe is interested in some Pinyon-Juniper (PJ) tree removal on his property. Mr. Porter stated that they will be putting together a list of potential projects that will mainly focus on PJ work but there is also a potential for re-seeding and spring work out there.

Jake Tibbitts stated that he will put together a list of potential projects for that specific location and a map for review during a future meeting. He will also work with Mr. Rowe, let him know about their potential ideas, and find out what he would like to do on his property.

Mr. Porter asked Mr. Tibbitts is the hang up to do some work on public lands due to not having an Environmental Assessment (EA) written. Mr. Porter stated that he recalls that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was going to write something but nothing has been published.

Mr. Tibbitts stated that there is the 3-Bars EA but a while ago BLM did commit to writing a Programmatic EA for the entire Great Basin for PJ thinning work and habitat restoration work. That EA is finally being written by the Boise BLM office and Eureka County is a cooperating agency on that. A Programmatic EA is criteria based therefore when they have a specific project

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they will have to go through a checklist that tiers to the EA. They will still be required to do an agricultural survey and clearance. This is a work in progress and will take a few years to complete.

Clint Garrett stated that the Table Top Guzzler project work began yesterday and he will be going out tomorrow to help with the project. Mr. Garrett provided a project location map to the board, just in case if they are interested in a going out to the site to help. This project is a 10,000 to 12,000 gallon guzzler system.

### **Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Meeting Agenda and Support Material**

#### **Agenda Item #6 – Duck Stamp Request**

*Mr. Porter moved to support the Duck Stamp Request. Mr. Gordon seconded, motion carried unanimously.*

#### **Agenda Item #7- Upland Game Bird Stamp Request**

*Mr. Porter moved to support the Upland Game Bird Stamp Request. Mr. Gordon seconded, motion carried unanimously.*

#### **Agenda Item #8B- Wildlife Heritage Committee: Heritage Project Extension Requests**

*No Recommendation.*

#### **Agenda Item #8C- Wildlife Heritage Committee: Heritage Funding Reallocation**

*No Recommendation.*

#### **Agenda Item #8D- Wildlife Heritage Committee: Fiscal Year 2019 Heritage Project Proposals**

*No recommendation.*

Mr. Tibbitts stated that in the future they will have to consider applying for another Heritage Grant in order to get some projects done, such as PJ removal projects.

Mr. Garrett stated that he will also work on getting some potential project ideas for this area and bring those to the table at a future meeting.

#### **Agenda Item #9- Commission Regulation 477 Landowner Deer and Antelope Compensation Tag Program**

Mr. Porter stated that they supported this concept before and they supported the commission making a plan in case the new limit is reached.

Jessica Santoyo stated that the last time they discussed this specific item was in March 2018 and the motion made was as follows: Chairman Evans moved to support Landowner Deer and Antelope Compensation Tag Program with the added subsection 3 as written in the memorandum from Brian Wakeling. Mr. Porter seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Garrett stated that they have suggests within the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) about reducing the number down to the nearest whole number, if they exceed the number of tags again. Last year's percent went from 1.5 percent to 2.5 percent and last year's tags went from 304 to 360. They know that they will reach the new cap and when they do, they will reduce

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down to the whole number for each applicant. Once they get below the cap threshold, they will go into some type of staging and use criteria of those who have received compensation tags continuously every year without a break. They will go through the whole list and give each person one tag until the cap is reached. The language is confusing and all they can do is see how it all plays out.

*After brief discussion, Mr. Porter moved to support Commission Regulation 477 Landowner Deer and Antelope Compensation Tag Program. Mr. Gordon seconded, motion carried unanimously.*

#### **Agenda Item #10- Commission Regulation 474, Trap Registration, LCB File No. R038-18**

Mr. Tibbitts stated that this regulation made it seem like an individual had to purchase a tag for all of their traps but now it's clarified and an individual can stamp their traps with their information. The trap needs to be stamped with an individual's name and address.

Mr. Garrett stated that the language is now clear, if an individual puts their name and address on each one of their traps then they don't have to pay the \$5.00 for a tag. If an individual doesn't want stamp their information on their trap, then they have to pay the \$5.00 for the tag. The language has just been cleaned up to make individuals aware that they have two options for their traps.

*After brief discussion, Mr. Porter moved to support Commission Regulation 474, Trap Registration, LCB File No. R038-18. Mr. Gordon seconded, motion carried unanimously.*

#### **Agenda Item #18- Commission Policy 50, Duck Stamp Procedure, Second Reading**

Mr. Porter stated that the reading makes it clear that it isn't feasible to keep the program for just art and collectors. During their last meeting they discussed possibly making less stamps just for collectors and keeping the youth education portion of the duck stamp available but it sounds like the commission is doing away with it all.

Mr. Tibbitts stated that they are planning to get rid of the whole policy and it will no longer exist.

Ms. Santoyo stated that the last time they discussed this specific item was in March 2018 and the motion made was as follows: Mr. Porter motioned that the commission keep Commission Policy 50, Duck Stamp Procedure, program going and that they print less stamps but that enough are printed for collectors and the handful of people that are still interested. Mr. Gordon seconded, motion carried unanimously.

*After brief discussion, Mr. Porter motioned that the commission keep Commission Policy 50, Duck Stamp Procedure, Second Reading program going by continuing to print less stamps for collectors and that they continue with the youth education and involvement portion of the duck stamp. Mr. Gordon seconded, motion carried unanimously.*

#### **Agenda Item #19- Commission Regulation 18-01, Amendment #1 - Fishing Seasons and Regulations for the Two Year Period March 1, 2018 through February 29, 2020**

*No Recommendation.*

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#### **Agenda Item #20- Commission Regulation 18-12, 2018 – 2019 Upland Game and Furbearer Seasons and Bag Limits**

Mr. Porter asked Mr. Garrett if the sage grouse seasons are being cut back only in Eureka County?

Mr. Garrett answered that is correct and that NDOW is trying to establish some NV Greater Sage Grouse (GSG) hunting season strategies because they do not have any within the state. The change in season is due to the decline in male attendance within the leks in the Population Management Units (PMU's). Once they see the male attendance drop within the PMU, they correlate the season dates based on that data. If there are 100-150 males, then it's a 16 day season. If they have 150-300 males, then it's a nine day season and in the areas with a higher attendance than the PMU, they keep the 16 day season. Currently, the Diamond (Unit 144) PMU season is 16 days but since it is under the mark at 130 males, the season will change to a nine day season. The Cortez (Unit 141) PMU will also change due to all of the development that is happening out there and last year's fires, this PMU is currently at 170. This unit may drop significantly by next year due to those outside factors. The 3-Bars PMU is at 300 males and will stay the same with a 16 day season.

Mr. Porter asked Mr. Garrett, what will happen if they pull back the season dates and then the bird numbers go back up within a few years? Can they get the 16 day season back every two years? Mr. Porter stated that this makes him nervous because they drop the numbers and then they never get the season back again.

Mr. Garrett stated that if they approve this now and later down the road, they want to increase the season dates then they would have to track the data and make a decision based on that. If the bird numbers start to go up again, then they would be able to up the season as well.

Mr. Tibbitts stated that he would like to sit down with Mr. Garrett to discuss the Simpson Creek lek because he believes there is another lek in that canyon. They did a project in that area and there were 37 males or so out there. Mr. Tibbitts stated that this was two springs ago but he has video evidence of those males in that area, that he can show to Mr. Garrett. Mr. Tibbitts stated that he brought this up to the past biologist but he doesn't know if the lek was counted.

Mr. Garrett stated that if this lek has been there for a couple of years, then it could be an established lek. This they found three new leks this year within Eureka County and if they can get more new leks counted that would be great.

Mr. Porter stated that he is okay with the program if it allows them to fluctuate within season dates based on the most current numbers. He doesn't want to see the season dates go down and then never come back up to the point where individuals are told they can no longer hunt birds. Mr. Porter stated that he is willing to support these new season dates as long as the program allows for fluctuation of season dates in the future based on the most current data.

*After brief discussion, Mr. Porter moved to support Commission Regulation 18-12, 2018-2019 Upland Game and Furbearer Season and Bag Limits. \*The Eureka County CAB expressed their concerns regarding the Sage Grouse season dates in Eureka County only and wanting to make sure that all season date changes are based on the numbers and that they get back to the*

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Eureka County specific season once the numbers have improved. Mr. Gordon seconded, motion carried unanimously.

**Agenda Item #21- Commission Regulation 18-04 Amendment #1, 2018 Heritage Tag Organization/Vendor Selection and Special Regulations**

No Recommendation.

**Agenda Item #22B- Fiscal Year 2019 County Advisory Board Budget Requests**

Mr. Porter moved to support Fiscal Year 2019 County Advisory Board Budget Requests. Mr. Gordon seconded, motion carried unanimously.

**Agenda Item #23- Amendment to Biennial Upland Game Release Plan for Fiscal Year 2019**

No Recommendation.

**Next Meeting**

The board should get any other desired agenda items to the secretary for the next meeting. **The next meeting date is scheduled for August 2, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.**

**Public Comment**

None.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Porter and seconded by Mr. Gordon. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2018.

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_, Secretary  
Jessica Santoyo

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_, Chairman  
Jim Evans