

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Weller at 6:15pm pm.

1. Roll Call

- Present Members: Jessie Weller, Rob Jacobson, Walt Mandeville, Wes Clyde,
- Absent Members: Joe Crawford, Excused
- Staff Present: Pam Martinez
- Absent: Joe Crawford, Excused
- Guests: Kris Urquhart NDOW, Wayne Bull NDOW, Robbie Irvin, NDOW, Elmer Bull, Stu Chandler Truckee River Fly Fishers, Nick Carlgren

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. For Possible Action: Approval of minutes

- Rob motioned to approve the minutes from the October 29, 2018; Wes seconded and the motion passed 4-0 unanimous

4. Public Participation: It is anticipated that public participation will be held at this time, though it may be returned to at any time during the agenda. Citizens wishing to speak during public participation are asked to state their name for the record and will be limited to 3 minutes. The Board will conduct public comment after discussion of each agenda action item, but before the Board takes any action.

Kris Urquhart, Biologist III Nevada Department of Wildlife gave an update on the new state park on the Pitchfork Ranch. Highlights include:

- Fish have been stocked in the river
- The Elbow is the next area for trail mapping
- Upstream there is put in and a take by Two Trees and another take out by Ravinal
- It is more conducive for tent camping than RV at this time
- Been some decent reports of fishing success

Rob Jacobson mentioned that Hunters Ed is being held at Fernley Intermediate School this Wednesday and Thursday from 3:30-7pm.

Rob Jacobson thanked the Department of Wildlife for just sending one application book per household for the big game draw, thus hopefully saving money

5. Update on Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area Fisheries

Walt Mandeville stated a concern about the amount of barbed wire on the management area. Wayne Bull NDOW responded:

- Where is the barbed wire?
- Volunteers are cutting out and cleaning up old fences because these fences are not wildlife friendly.
- There are bundles out there, it has been too wet to get them picked up, but they will be cleaned up
- There is still miles of fence to clean up as it was a cattle ranch years ago

Update by Kris Urquhart, Biologist III Nevada Department of Wildlife. Presenting information about the fisheries in the MVWMA

- Three major problems were highlighted in the report:
 - Carp infestation in many of the ponds
 - Milfoil weed invasion in many of the ponds
 - Water temperatures are on the rise due to discoloration
- Regarding carp infestation, Kris Urquhart reported and was supported by Elmer Bull that draining ponds was probably the most effective long term solution for eradication of the carp from the ponds with the greatest concern being North Pond.
- Eradication of milfoil is an expensive process as the herbicide is costly however spraying does seem to be the most effective even though it is expensive.
- Water discoloration caused largely by carp has increased water temperatures, made it difficult for trout to see in order to feed and the carryover has dropped in half from previous years. Bass seem to do a little better in the pond with discoloration in regards to feeding and Hinkson Slough seems to be hanging on with some trout fishing however the bass fishing seems to be doing better. Possible solutions include planting trout that more tolerant of warmer temperatures. The best long term solution seems to be draining the ponds and with use of volunteers and NDOW staff as the water drains, transplanting the game fish to other areas and removing the carp.
- Stu Chandler stated that the North Pond had an algae problem. Kris said that they took care of the algae however the reason there is fewer bass as there was limited cover for the young fish to hide in thus the survival rates have dwindled to the point that fishing a North Pond for bass have dropped significantly. Carp are a major issue in North Pond being 220 acres will take time and in order to drain it and to refill. It is estimated that it will 5-6 years to get back viable quality bass fishing back. Stu Chandler agreed on the time frame to recover.
- Bass and Crappie Ponds are also struggling due to milfoil however they were treated with herbicide and Bass Pond is looking good, the clarity is better.
- Kris Urquhart reported that 2017 estimated angler use survey data indicated the Fort Churchill Cooling Ponds had est. 220 anglers, Hinkson Slough est. 101, North Pond est. 277. Keep in mind this data is from 2017 and these numbers can be misleading as trout fisherman seem to do a better job of filling out surveys.
- Elmer Bull addressed the importance of fisheries to the public. When fishing is good public use is five times higher. Fisheries are a remarkable resource for fisherman. Restoring fish back to the ponds is critical. The decline of fishing is due to the carp. Draining of the ponds is probably the most effective method to restore the ponds and is difficult.

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- Jessie Weller asked if shocking was an option. Kris Urquhart responded that due to water discoloration is it dangerous due to stumps and is done at night, carp are not effected by shocking, it is not really effective.
- Kris Urquhart stated that draining and refilling North Pond will take one year.
- Advisory Board members thanked Kris Urquhart and other gentlemen for their report and expertise regarding their knowledge of the wildlife management area.
- Elmer Bull stated that waterfowl is also affected by the condition of ponds. The wildlife management area is used significantly more by fisherman than hunters when the ponds are healthy.
- Kris Urquhart stated that a pond typically has ten years of viable fishing from the first sighting of carp. It takes 5-6 years for bass to comeback and then there is 5 years of good fishing.

6. Advisory Board Items for discussion (No action will be taken)

None

7. For Possible Action: on any/all Nevada Wildlife Commission Agenda items for their meeting in March. (Action may be taken)

Rob Jacobson stated that he has questions and concerns regarding AB74

- Rob Jacobson stated that he found some deer sheds chukar hunting and sold them for \$50. The license now to sale antlers is \$60, which does not sense? In the past it was illegal to sale skulls with horns or antlers attached. The way this is stated it seems that selling deadheads is now legal if you have a permit. He asked how this will prevent poaching.
- Jessie Weller stated that it is not illegal to take an elk shed to Utah and sell the antlers. The only people this will negatively impact are our Nevada residents.
- Jessie Weller also mentioned that the wording in AB74 is incorrect as it says any antler not shed naturally as the wording is not correct if they are talking about sheds. He stated that he thinks it is meant to be a deterrent however he does not think this is the answer and he does not favor it.
- Walt Mandeville made a motion opposing AB74; Rob Jacobson seconded and the motion passed 4-0

Walt Mandeville brought up the new waterfowl season dates and supports it going later to the end of January.

- Jessie Weller asked if it is possible to go later and into February.
- Elmer Bull said that January 31st is Federal Framework and the last day of January is the latest.
- Walt Mandeville made a motion accept season dates and limits as written; Rob Jacobson seconded and the motion passed 4-0

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8. Public participation: Chairman Weller opened the meeting for public comment or board questions.

Rob Jacobson thanked the guests for coming and stated that the Wildlife CAB appreciates your time.

Walt Mandeville stated that he would like to see more people coming and being involved at the meetings. He also thanked everyone for coming.

10. Chair comments:

The next Wildlife CAB meeting is planned to be held on April 29, 2019

11. Adjournment

Chairman Weller adjourned the meeting at 7:30pm

MOTIONS:

- Rob Jacobson motioned to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2018; Wes Clyde seconded and the motion passed 4-0 unanimous
- Walt Mandeville made a motion accept season dates and limits as written; Rob Jacobson seconded and the motion passed 4-0
- Walt Mandeville made a motion opposing AB74; Rob Jacobson seconded and the motion passed 4-0