

LYON COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE

Hillyard Hall
2945 Ft. Churchill Street
Silver Springs, NV 89429

Monday, October 30, 2017
MINUTES

1. Call to order
 - Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.
 - Members Present: Jessie Weller, Rob Jacobson, Eric Bobrick, Walt Mandeville
 - Staff Present: Jessica Smith
 - Guests: Wes Clyde Isaac Metcalf, MVWMA Chris Bragg, NDOW
2. Pledge of Allegiance
 - No action taken.
3. For Possible Action: Approval of minutes
 - Jessie moved to approve the minutes of September 18, 2017; Eric offered a second. The vote was called for and 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.
 - No public participation at this time.
5. Advisory Board Items for discussion (No action will be taken)
 - Eric advised he spoke to Eric S (in charge of fisheries with the State) regarding the fish derby at the Game Ranch. A possible solution is to change the fishing regulations to start at the time of fishing derby. Chris stated that change may work since there will be more children around the derby pond and adults will fish other ponds. Eric stated Elmer was happy with the proposed change.
 - Rob questioned whether MVWMA trips are something the Board should do more often. Isaac stated this Board and in-person trips would be great ways to relay information on what is happening within the Game Ranch and other managed areas. Jessie questioned whether MVWMA does the goose pit draws; Isaac stated there are no current draws, but the pits are still there and can be hunted. Isaac stated he would like to be able to get information to the public easier to keep hunters informed.
 - Eric questioned Isaac on what agricultural commodities can be planted on the property. Isaac stated the current lease allows up to 100 acres of onions planted; once the onions are done, the fields are planted with wheat. Onions provided nutrients to soil to allow for other crops to be planted in the future. Eric questioned whether any corn was planted; Isaac stated the current lessee (David Little) does not plant corn and if he decided to, he would contract it out which would be a violation of the contract. Isaac stated many of the fields along the river corridor must be rebuilt

due to being underwater for 6 months. New culverts need to be installed and road base needs to be trucked in. The main repair project is the SAB Ditch at this point as it had multiple areas of damage.

- Eric questioned Isaac on the term of the loan; Isaac stated the lease is a 5-year lease. The lessee must leave 1/3 standing. Eric stated he hunted the Game Ranch many years ago and never saw onions; corn, winter wheat, peas, etc. were planted. Isaac stated onions were introduced when the current lease was entered; onions amend and add nutrients to the soil. Walt questioned why the lessee is using the well to pump water to the fields; Isaac advised most of the pumped water was decree water that was pumped from the river to the pump for irrigation. Isaac stated the Nevada State Engineer holds water users to 4-acre feet per acre of water- if the pump is turned on. If the pump is not turned on, the Game Ranch can take as much decree as needed but as soon as the pump is turned on, they are held to the 4.0-acre duty. Eric questioned whether there are supplemental or primary wells on the property. Isaac stated there is a primary well.

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

- #6 Shed Antlers: Jessie stated that currently, anyone in Nevada can pick up sheds anytime they want. Rob stated he has been in the Eisenhood area when the deer shed late January/February and there are already ATV riders driving in the area. BLM should be able to enforce a regulation and fine any rider who is driving ATVs off road. Chris advised NDOW does work with BLM, but there are so few officers available that it is difficult to 1.) see the offense occurring and 2.) proving the ATVs are harassing the wildlife. Chris advised some shed hunters will see a shed and walk/drive up to the area and push the herd out of the winter range. Some shed hunters will GPS sheds and return to collect the sheds after the herds have moved from their winter range. Jessie questioned how 'commercial' shed hunters are defined. Many people sell their sheds on social media, so are they considered commercial? Eric questioned what the definition of wintertime was- date wise as it could be different in each area if weather is a factor. Jessie stated the proposed regulation prohibits shed collection from January 1 to April 15. Jessie questioned whether a hunter could pick up a shed while hunting within a designated hunting season. Rob stated the chukar season does not end until early February questioned whether a chukar hunter could be potentially fined for pickup up a shed while hunting within the chukar season. Chris stated technically the chukar hunter would be illegal if he/she were in possession of a shed after January 1. Eric suggested the time be extended to the end of February. Jessie stated last year Utah did a statewide closure on shed hunting and many shed hunters came into Nevada for collection. The Commission is holding a workshop at the next meeting, but action could be taken. Rob questioned Chris on what NDOW wants to see with this regulation. Chris stated many NDOW employees are outdoorsman and enjoy shed hunting, but do see the need for some regulation. Eric inquired on whether a fisherman who picks up a shed while fishing would be in violation. Jessie stated there needs to be restrictions, but the regulation needs to be addressed according to location/county. Chris stated the

- Commission is not trying to take anything away from outdoorsman, but trying to have an avenue to take action. The hardest part of giving a fine is seeing the person harassing the wildlife to get the shed and this regulation gives the authority to fine anyone who is in possession of the shed during the certain timeframe; it's the first attempt at stopping harassment. Jessie stated the eastern part of the state would be impacted more by the shed hunting and would like to hear input from the affected counties. Rob stated that even though the eastern state is more affected than other areas, if the regulation is approved, it affects everyone in the state. Wes suggested pushing the beginning date to the end of February after chukar season. Rob requested harsher punishment for ATV riders driving off road. Anytime an ATV is off a road, it should be considered as harassing wildlife. Eric agreed with making stiffer penalties for shed hunters collecting during the prohibited times and ATVs off designated roads. Wes added that nearly 10% of the shed hunters aren't actually 'hunters' and are there solely for the sheds so they don't necessarily care about demerit points and will pay the fines. Jessie made a motion that shed hunting restrictions are to be determined by Department of Wildlife recommendations based on county needs and/or non-resident pressure; Eric offered a second. Rob questioned who has the authority to set the regulations; Jessie stated Department of Wildlife biologists. The vote was called for; all were in favor 4-0.
- #7 Trail Cameras and Other Devices: Jessie requested clarification on the regulation. Jessie questioned Chris on the transmitting devices. Chris advised they are the cameras that transmit via email or real-time footage. Rob stated Brian Eller was at the outdoor activity at Fernley Intermediate School and stated some people are using the transmitting cameras and selling information on where game is being seen. Every water hole has a camera going off and is disturbing wildlife; especially in the areas of limited water. Rob talked to a guide in Lovelock who stated he had over 200 game cameras out. A bow hunter in Ely stated it's not just the camera going off that is disturbing hunts, it is people driving in to check the camera and standing at the location checking the pictures. Eric confirmed with Chris that hunting seasons begin August 1st and some deer hunts in January (021 Late Rifle, 081 Late Rifle). Eric recommended doing a blanket regulation that covers all big game hunting seasons. Walt questioned how the regulation would apply to large bodies of water, such as Walker Lake. Jessie stated the regulation would not allow cameras within 200 feet of the Lake during hunting season. Chris stated the Commission is trying to appease upset people. Hunters can still utilize cameras- just with restrictions, and hunts are being preserved by not allowing cameras within certain areas. Eric made a motion to support the regulation as written with dates coinciding with big game seasons; Walt offered a second. Rob stated late season is not where the problem is; time before the season starts should be considered. Rob suggested having the restrictions begin 2 weeks before the season. Isaac stated without a restriction before the season starts, there would be a mad rush the weekend before of those needing to move the cameras. Eric requested to amend his motion. Motion reads: The Board supports the motion as written with the dates being July 15th through the end of big game hunting season; Walt offered a second. The vote was called for; all were in favor 4-0.
 - Commission Policy #27: Rob stated he supports the Department's stance on opposing the population of wolves in Nevada. Rob questioned whether wolves are

protected; Jessie stated they are federally protected. Rob made a motion to support Commission Policy #27 as written; Eric offered a second. The vote was called for; all were in favor 4-0.

7. 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.
- Isaac requested to be put on future agendas to present updates with the management areas. As stated earlier in the meeting, David Little has planted onions, but must plant a certain amount of wheat according to the lease. Isaac stated the next lease agreement will include a revision on what can/cannot be planted. Isaac advised he has had public input on wanting to hunt pheasant; the WMA will be working towards bringing pheasants into the area. The roads were opened as soon as they were safe. The WMA is fixing the SAB Ditch. Ducks Unlimited is doing a leveling project on two ponds. Rob questioned whether Ducks Unlimited is asked to do the projects or if they do it on their own. Isaac stated Ducks Unlimited puts together projects and approached NDOW; the funds come from the water fowl stamps and other sources. Ducks Unlimited has approximately 10 ponds identified for projects. Isaac reported they have been working with Tulon and Pershing County and helped with ditch repairs this year. The water table this year was so low that the water soaked into the ground quickly. Fernley Wildlife Management Area will have water soon. Alkali Management Area is fed by the Colony Ditch, but is at the tail end and only receives drain water. Eric stated there isn't much drain water in Smith Valley due to the sprinklers. Jessica questioned whether the drains being covered near the dairy had any effect on the drain water; Isaac stated that didn't have an effect.
 - Eric expressed concern on certain crops not having a benefit to wildlife and not attracting wildlife; Isaac stated some crops do not allow for nesting. Walt would like to see grain crops grown. It is understood that a certain amount of product be left, but placement of cover strips shouldn't be close to powerlines due to airborne predators.
 - Jessie questioned if the reason the goose hunts went away is because they weren't productive. Isaac was uncertain on the reason, but did advise the pits are still there and are open. Eric asked if the mirrors had any effect on the geese; Isaac stated there didn't appear to be an effect.
 - Isaac stated the intent of MVWMA is to have the area south of Miller open all of the time for hunting instead of just 3 days.
 - Rob thanked the Department of Wildlife for bringing the poaching trailer, fishing station, and educational site to the Fernley Intermediate School. Rob stated the information on habitat and adaptability was very beneficial and the Department did a great job. Chris requested to let him know if there are any more ideas to get people involved and interested.

8. Adjourn.

- Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.
- Next meeting scheduled for January 22, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. – Silver Springs Community Center.

Approved: _____
Chair

Date: _____