

# Minutes of the Mineral County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife Meeting-Draft Minutes

Date & Time: Tuesday April 28, 2020 at 6:00 PM

Location : Conference Room, Lutheran Church, 204 C St, Hawthorne NV

Present: Glenn Bunch, Chairman,  
Members Present: Billie Williams Jr., Wayne Larson, Johnny Peterson  
Telephonic Connection-Darren Hamrey  
Marlene Bunch – Adm Assist.

Absent: None

Public Present: None

Chairman Glenn made a statement that with the Governor's Emergency Declaration dated March 22, 2020, we obtained an opinion from Sean Rowe Mineral County District Attorney that our local Wildlife could meet in the church meeting room and that it did fall into the Governor's criteria.

Chairman Glenn also updated the Board that the information relative to the meeting in Reno this weekend and that will be by Zoom Conferencing for the May 1, 2020 Meeting. He is forwarding the link to join the meeting if anyone would like to watch it on line.

## 1\* **Commission Regulation 20-11, Big Game Quotas for the 2020-2021**

The Board will make recommendation to the Commission as they will establish regulations for the numbers of tags to be issued for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep and mountain goats for the 2020 - 2021 seasons.

### **Resident Antelope – Horns longer than ears, Any Legal Weapon Hunt**

Unit 202, 204, 2019 Oct 15 – Oct 30 – Dept Rec. 10

***The Board Concurs with Dept Recommendation of 10***

Unit 205-208, 2019 Aug 22 – Sept 7 Dept Rec 15

Chairman Bunch pointed out that last year we had 25 and the Dept recommended to cut to 15. He personally preferred the 25.

Billie Williams asked what was their justification? If he can't come to the meeting and explain to me, then we should leave it at 25. And if they don't kill them, then they don't kill them. There is no justification for the reduction

***The consensus of the Board Disagrees and request 25 same as last year***

### **Resident Antelope – Horns longer than ears – Muzzleloader Hunt**

***No Recommendation***

Johnny Peterson asked what happened to our request for a Muzzleloader Hunt?

Chairman Bunch explained that when it went to the Vegas Meeting, it all got lumped into one vote and it didn't get picked up.

After Discussion, the Board would like to see the Antelope Muzzleloader Hunt in Mineral County.

**Resident Antelope – Horns longer than ears Archery Hunt**

Unit 205-208, Aug 1 – Aug 21 Dept Rec 5,

Chairman Bunch reported that last year we had 10 and this year they are recommending 5. Chairman Bunch read the explanation as submitted for Dept justification. They had worked a deal with NBU and removing the juniper for sage grouse habitat improvement. Chairman Bunch stated that in his life he has not ever seen sage grouse in that area.

Johnny Peterson stated that the telemetry collars that they have put on the birds up there, they don't even go into that area. There were 25 birds and none of them go in there.

Chairman Bunch stated that in a recent trip into the area, there is a large amount of trees removed. And their plans are to improve the guzzler in Baldwin canyon to attract more Antelope and Deer into there. But there still is no Sage Grouse.

Wayne Larson stated that while he was out there hunting that there was less in there last year when he was out there hunting then he saw this year.

After further discussion:

***The Board disagrees with Dept Recommendation of 5 and wants it back to 10 same as last year.***

**Resident Antelope – Horns shorter than ears Any Legal Weapon Hunt**  
**No Recommendation**

**Nonresident Antelope – Horns longer than ears – Any Legal Weapon**

Unit 202, 204 – Oct 15 – Oct 30, Dept Rec 1  
***The Board agrees with 1***

Unit 205-208 – Aug 22 – Sept 7, Dept Rec 2  
***The Board agrees with 2***

**Nonresident Antelope – Horns longer than ears – Archery Hunt**

Unit 202, 204 – Oct 15 – Oct 30, Dept Rec 1  
***The Board agrees with 1***

Unit 205-208 – Aug 1 – Aug 21, Dept Rec 1  
***The Board agrees with 2***

Chairman Bunch explained to the board that the non-resident numbers will be adjusted with whatever the Commission approves so as to keep the Resident to Non-Resident Ratio per the Tallman Agreement.

**Resident Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep – Any Ram – Any Legal Weapon Hunt**

Unit 202, Nov 20 – Jan 1 Quota Rec – 5

Chairman Bunch state that it was 6 last year and the Dept cut it to 5 this year. He further stated that he didn't know why it was recommended to cut 1 this year. That group out working the cliffs and Corey Canyon are doing good.

Johnny Peterson stated that the people that harvested the Sheep out of there got small heads. There are some there.

Chairman Bunch stated that they took the first ones they saw.  
The Board agreed with Glenn's statement.

Billie Williams stated that at least they get to fill their tag.

***The Board Disagrees with the Dept and – Request 6 same as last year.***

Unit 205, Nov 20– Jan 1 Dept Rec – 8  
Last Year it was 13 and this year it is cut to 8

Johnny Peterson said that herd works more across the highway.  
Billie Williams said yes it does.

***The Board Disagrees with Dept Recommendation and request 13***

Unit 206, 208, Nov 20 – Jan 1, Quota Rec – 4  
***The Board Concurs with Dept Recommendation***

Unit 207, Oct 15-Nov 15, Quota Rec – 3  
Chairman Bunch stated that last year it was 5 and this year the Dept recommends 3.  
Again the sheep are there, it's not understandable why it was recommended to cut to 3.  
After discussion:

***The Board disagrees with Dept Recommendation and Recommend 5***

Nonresident Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep – Any Ram – Any Legal Weapon Hunt

Unit 205 – Nov 20 – Jan 1, Quota Rec 1,  
Unit 207 – Oct 15 – Nov 15, Quota Rec 1,  
***The Board Concurs with Dept Recommendation***

Resident Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep – Any Ewe – Any Legal Weapon Hunt  
No Recommendation

Billie Williams stated that he was in a meeting when they were going to discontinue the ewe hunt. He further stated that he is very disappointed that an Ewe hunt is even listed. They went from 60 and now they want to kill 72. He is totally against any Ewe hunts.

Nonresident Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep –Any Ewe – Any Legal Weapon Hunt  
We still disagree with the Ewe hunt.

No Recommendation

Resident California Bighorn Sheep – Any Ram – Any Legal Weapon Hunt  
No Recommendation

Nonresident California Bighorn Sheep – Any Ram – Any Legal Weapon Hunt  
No Recommendation

Resident California Bighorn Sheep – Any Ewe – Any Legal Weapon Hunt  
No Recommendation

Resident Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep – Any Ram – Any Legal Weapon Hunt  
No Recommendation

Resident Mountain Goat – Any Goat – Any Legal Weapon Hunt  
No Recommendation

Resident Elk – Antlered – Any Legal Weapon Depredation Hunt  
No Recommendation

Resident Elk – Antlerless – Any Legal Weapon Depredation Hunt  
No Recommendation

Resident Elk – Antlered – Any Legal Weapon Hunt  
No Recommendation

Resident Elk – Antlered – Muzzleloader Hunt  
No Recommendation

Resident Elk – Antlered – Archery Hunt  
No Recommendation

Resident Elk – Spike – Any Legal Weapon Hunt  
No Recommendation

Resident Elk – Antlerless – Any Legal Weapon Hunt  
No Recommendation

Resident Elk – Antlerless – Any Legal Weapon Hunt – Wilderness Only.  
No Recommendation

Resident Elk – Antlerless Elk – Management Any Legal Weapon Hunt  
Option for Mule Deer Any Legal Weapon Hunt  
No Recommendation

Resident Elk – Antlerless – Muzzleloader Hunt  
No Recommendation

Resident Elk – Antlerless Elk Management Muzzleloader Hunt  
Option for Mule Deer Muzzleloader Hunt  
No Recommendation

Resident Elk – Antlerless – Archery Hunt  
No Recommendation

Resident Elk – Antlerless Elk Management Archery  
Option for Mule Deer Archery Hunt  
No Recommendation

Resident Junior Elk – Antlerless Elk Management Hunt  
Option for Resident Junior Mule Deer Hunt  
No Recommendation

Nonresident Elk – Antlered – Any Legal Weapon Hunt  
No Recommendation

Nonresident Elk – Antlered – Muzzleloader Hunt  
No Recommendation

Nonresident elk – Antlered – Archery Hunt 4261  
No Recommendation

Nonresident Elk – Antlerless – Any legal Weapon Hunt  
No Recommendation

Nonresident Elk – Antlerless Elk Management Any legal Weapon Hunt  
Option for Mule Deer Hunt  
No Recommendation

Nonresident Elk – Antlerless – Muzzleloader Hunt  
No Recommendation

Nonresident Elk – Antlerless – Archery Hunt  
No Recommendation

Resident Junior Mule Deer Antlered or Antlerless  
Archery, Muzzleloader, or Any legal Weapon Hunt 1107

Unit 202, 205-208, Dept Rec 10

Chairman Bunch noted that the Dept Recommendations are going from 25 last year down to 10 this year

Chairman Bunch said their success on the youth 40 Ap, 25 tags, 13 of the 25 was successful which is about a 57%. Then you go into the days hunt is 3. That particular season runs 3 months.

Johnny Peterson stated that the opportunity is there and it's good to give that opportunity to the youth. That's where the future is.

Billie Williams stated that the youth needs to have the chance to hunt. It's tough to tell a kid he didn't get a tag to go hunt. It's better to have some left over than to run short.

***The Board disagrees with Dept of 10 and is recommending 25***

Resident Mule Deer – Antlerless Any Legal Weapon Hunt

Glenn explained the recommendation from Jason Salisbury stated that the deer herd in Mineral County, we are going to have to do some tests on them, we are going to have to harvest some does and see what the problem. So he's going to try to convince us in a year or so that we need to have a doe hunt.

Billie Williams "No" Need to put some guzzlers out there and some feed. That's the whole problem. So if they go out and kill 50 does, and we prove nothing other than we killed 50 does.

Chairman Bunch stated that you have to have somebody there. You can't just go out and have a doe hunt and kill 50 doe. You aren't going to prove anything. Because it's not going to work that way. So he's putting it out there that it's Jason explanation for the problem.

Chairman Bunch further stated that the time before when we went and harvest does, and we had to be to the animal in less than 10 minutes and he told us how to fill the syringe with blood and bring it back to the vet and he done all the work. Bunch said he still has the paperwork at home. The vet's report was that it was non-conclusive and we needed to do it again. We took 30 animals off Walker River, 50 does out of power canyon and 25 off of Whiskey Flats.

Billie Williams stated "No to Antlerless Hunt". The Board agrees.

Resident Mule Deer Antlered – Any Legal Weapon Hunt

Unit 202, 205-208, Nov 5 – Nov 30, Dept Rec 35

Chairman Bunch stated that Jason is trying to do some guzzler work. He further stated that the back side of Lucky Boy all along the back side of Mt. Grant, the trees were limbed and cut.

Darren stated that the bill that is to build the guzzlers has been cut, but should come back up in the next round.

Chairman Bunch stated that he had been over in the area a few weeks ago where the Sage Grouse clearing area is on the back side of Mt. Grant. The wood has been cut, limbed and stacked up for anyone who is needing firewood. They started on the back side of Lucky Boy and went all the way around.

The board had further discussion of question as to what the reasoning is to cut the quota to 35 for the 2020 season from 55 in the 2019 season.

***The Board Disagrees with the Dept Rec and request the quota be increased to 55.***

Resident Mule Deer Antlered Muzzleloader Hunt

Unit 202, 205-208, Dec 1 – Dec 15, Dept Rec 5

Last year we had 15 and this year they are recommending 5.  
Last Year with the 15 and 15, the success was 4 rate of 27.. Average days hunt was 5.

Chairman Bunch stated that he didn't know why the numbers were down, there were several of the muzzleloader deer was taken off Mt. Hicks in the snow Thanksgiving weekend.

Darren Hamrey asked if Jason had provided any science how and the reason why he was recommending the reduction in the quota?

Chairman Bunch stated that all he read is that deer body condition was the problem.

Darren Hamrey stated well that was problematic.

Chairman Bunch stated that while he and his son was out there hunting, they had seen several deer, but with personal problems, he was not able to continue the pursuit to fill the tag. That was a personal thing, had nothing to do with not seeing anything to shoot.

Darren stated that in the response that he sent over for the meeting in the middle was a discussion between what Jason was wanting and what was set last year, that for whatever reason is that the herd is not as healthy.

Chairman Bunch stated last year Jason told him that he came over in this area with a youth. They spent a weekend over here and didn't see anything to shoot. And Glenn stated that he told him that since he couldn't find them, he didn't know where to hunt. He stated that we had 15 last year and he would like to hold it at 15 again this year. The deer are there. You have to know how to hunt the area.

Darren Hamrey stated that at one time we only had 10 tags. He remembered that.

Glenn went back through the records and in 2017 we had 3 and wanted to go to six and was approved. In 2018 we got 6. In 2019 we asked for 15 and it was approved. If they don't get them it's hunter opportunity.

Darren Hamrey asked about the Non-Resident tags, could they be cut.

Chairman Bunch reminded the board of the Tallman Brothers lawsuit, They wanted a 25% of the tags, however an agreement was made where a 1 % of the tags would be issued to the non-residents to keep it out of court. It's a regulation out there. So whatever we approved for resident tags, if there is 10 tags or more, there has to be a non-resident tag offered.

Darren Hamrey stated he didn't know that and is glad to understand it now.

After discussion of the above information:

***The Board Disagrees with the Dept Rec and request the quota be increased to 15***

Resident Mule Deer Antlered Archery Hunt

Unit 201, 202, 204-208 Early, Aug 10 – Sept 9, Dept Rec 10

***The Board Concurs with Dept Recommendation***

Unit 202, 205-208 Late, Dec 16 – Jan 1, Dept Rec 5

Last year the quota was 10 and now they are recommending 5. Bunch stated he would like to see that back to 10.

Bunch reviewed the 2019 success, there was 1 successful hunter, but the other 9 have opportunity.

Darren Hamrey stated that the only ones that he heard of being successful was when they get them off the Hilton Ranch.

Further discussion of the weather issues is a contributing factor to all the deer seasons as we have a migrating herd. If the storms come in, there is better hunt possibilities. It depends on success and demand for the tags. If the storms don't get the deer up moving, they hold up in the Sierra's. Unfortunately, it's hard to predict at this time of year how the storm tracks are going to be from August thru December. If we don't have the tags out there, then the hunter opportunity is not going to be available to the hunters.

***The Board Disagrees with Dept Recommendation and wants 10 same as last year.***

Nonresident Mule Deer Antlered Any legal Weapon Hunt

Unit 202, 205-208, Nov 5 – Nov 30, Dept Rec 2

***The Board Concurs with Dept Recommendation it will depend on how the tags are approved for resident. This will apply to the remaining non-resident hunts.***

Nonresident Mule Deer Antlered Muzzleloader Hunt

Unit 202, 205-208, Dec 1 – Dec 15, Dept Rec 2 from 6

***The Board Concurs with Dept Recommendation***

Nonresident Mule Deer Antlered Archery Hunt

Unit 201, 202, 204-208 Early, Aug 10 – Sept 9, Dept Rec 2

***The Board Concurs with Dept Recommendation***

Unit 202, 205-208 Late – Dec 16 – Jan 1, Dept Rec 2

***The Board Concurs with Dept Recommendation***

2\* **Commission Regulation 20-02 Amendment #1, 2020 Black Bear Quotas –**

The Board will make recommendations to the Commission as they will establish regulations for the numbers of tags to be issued for black bear for the 2020 season.

Resident Black Bear – Any Legal Weapon Hunt

Unit 202, 206, Sept 15 – Dec 1, Dept Quota – 45

***The Board Concurs with Dept Recommendation***

Nonresident Black Bear – Any Legal Weapon Hunt

Unit 202, 206, Sept 15 – Dec 1, Quota 5

***The Board Concurs with Dept Recommendation***

Black Bear Harvest Limit – Combined Resident and Nonresident Hunt

Unit 202, 206, Sept 15 – Dec 1,

2019 Harvest Limit 6,

2019 Female Harvest Limit 2

***The Board Concurs with Dept Recommendation***

There was a lot of people out there trying to get it shut down, but it didn't happen.

Darren Hamrey said he was glad they didn't shut it down before he got his last year.

Chairman Bunch asked if it was the tag or the bear?

Darren Hamrey stated both of them.

**3\* The Board May Review remaining items of the May 1 Commission Agenda.**

Glenn advised the board that he would forward the link to the Commission meeting to the board members. He explained how the zoom meeting works and if any of the board would like to watch, it's available to them.

**4. Public Comment : Glenn explained that during that the last meeting the waterfowl will opening was moved to the second weekend in Oct. The Board was happy to get the news. He explained the actions taken during the meeting.**

***We want elk in Mineral County.*** The board discussed the request for transplanting elk into Mineral County. It is still an active request on the table from the Advisory Board and Mineral County Board of Commissioners. Further discussion of the area that would see the elk and if they did get into the State Parks over by Fletcher, it would be a great drawing card for people to travel to the parks.

**Billie Williams** stated that he had requested at the last Commission Meeting for an update to come before the Commission at their meeting in Hawthorne in June. Still have hopes for an elk transplant.

It was discussed that since nothing has happened from the request at the meeting, maybe should send a written letter this time requesting the Dept requesting to start the procedure to obtain and elk transplant in Mineral County.

It was moved by **Billie Williams**, seconded by **Johnny Peterson**, thirded by **Darren Hamrey** that a letter be written to the Commission requesting the Dept to proceed with obtaining Elk for Mineral County. Motion Carried.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:51 PM