

DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE
Minutes of the September 20, 2022 Meeting

The Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting was scheduled for 5:00 pm on Tuesday, September 20, 2022, in the Douglas County Community Center, Carson Valley Medical Center Room, 1329 Waterloo Lane, Gardnerville, Nevada.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Craig Burnside, Chairman
Mike Porter
Kevin Kjer
Paul Howell

MEMBER ABSENT: JT Chevallier, Vice Chairman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm and determined a quorum was present. Noted was the absence of Vice Chairman Chevallier.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Member Porter led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Burnside noted the attendance of all the members apart from Vice Chairman Chevallier. No introductions were needed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No public comment.

MOTION by Kjer/Howell to approve the agenda as presented; carried with Chevallier absent.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **August 16, 2022**

No public comment.

MOTION by Kjer/Howell to approve the minutes as presented; carried with Chevallier absent.

- 1. DISCUSSION ON THE RESULTS OF THE AUGUST 19 & 20, 2022 NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS.** There will be no action taken.

Member Howell provided a detailed update on the following topics:

- A question was raised regarding the reason behind the cancellation of the Douglas County Lampe Park Fishing Derby. When it was learned that it was due to a shortage of volunteers, both Chris Vasey and Ron Pierini offered to recruit people to help so the event could be held in the future.
- Tom Caviglia was elected as Chair of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.
- A tour of energy sites and transmission power line projects was offered. These solar development projects consist of large acreage, which are having a negative impact on wildlife, sensitive habitat, and Nevada's ecosystem. Department staff is tasked with determining and reporting the impacts of these very large projects, which is challenging given their limited staff.
- 31 sheep were transferred to Utah and the transplant has been successful.
- Nevada's elk on private land management is recognized as one of the most successful programs of its type.
- Recovering America's Wildlife Act is moving forward. Nevada will receive \$24 million if it passes.
- Avian Bird Flu has been found in western Nevada and that is concerning.
- 41,898 acres of land have been impacted by wildfire this area.
- The draw process was reviewed with Member Howell providing application and hunt statistics.
- There are more applications for bear bonus points than people putting in for tags.
- Except for Policies 24 and 61, all other policies were advanced or adopted.
- Policy 24 was discussed at length. First come first served tags was a sticking point; some want to offer resident tags to residents only and non-resident tags to non-residents only, but the Department does not favor that because they do not want to lose the revenue if tags remain unused.

2. DISCUSSION AND UPDATE ON THE ACTIVITIES AND ACTIONS OF THE MULE DEER ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE.

Chairman Burnside read from the final draft of the five year plan. The plan addressed Urbanization and Development (conservation easements, travel corridors, urban planning, and fire breaks), Habitat Restoration (fire rehab and seedings, conifer removal and shrub enhancement, and wild horses), and Predator Management.

This was an update only.

3. The following items, 3a through 3e, are items that will be heard before the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners at the next meetings, September 23 & 24, 2022 at the Clark County Government Center, 500 S Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada. The Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife may take the following action, or a variation thereof, on each item: support the item, not support the item or not take a position on the item. Public Comment will be allowed on each item.

3a–3e. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING WHETHER THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD SHOULD TAKE A POSITION ON:

3a. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES, REGULATIONS AND POLICY COMMITTEE'S SECOND READING OF COMMISSION POLICY 24 – HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES AMONG VARIOUS WEAPONS CLASSES AND HUNTER GROUPS. The Commission will have a second reading of

Commission Policy 24, Hunting Opportunities Among Various Weapons Classes and Hunter Groups, and may decide to repeal, revise, or adopt the policy. (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 7A)

Chairman Burnside feels the program needs to be more understood. For example, he and others are not aware of when tags remain unsold in an area and become available. He suggested using a tiered timeline for unused tags and at the end of the timeframe, the tags can go to anyone.

Member Howell understands both sides of the first come first served issue. However, if there are unsold tags after a certain date, then anyone can purchase them; turned in tags go to alternates first if someone wants them. Sometimes tags are leftover because no one wanted them.

Putting the money issue aside and thinking about the resource, Chairman Burnside would like to see residents have every opportunity to get tags, but he also does not want to see a bunch of unused tags either, which would result in fewer animals being taken from the population than was expected.

Member Howell relayed that the first come first served came about because tags for residents remained unused. Any tags leftover after the second draw for the remaining tags signals that no one wants those tags.

Member Kjer feels the issue was clarified with the second draw; he can support having everyone included in the third chance.

Member Howell supports leaving it as is. It should be first come first served.

Member Porter also supports first come first served. After that process and no one takes them, then so be it. There are some tags people don't want. If there are too many tags of one kind of hunt leftover then perhaps they are offering too many of those tags to begin with.

No public comment.

MOTION by Porter/ to recommend support of the first come first serve program being divided to where resident tags that were leftover would only be available to residents and non-resident tags would only be available to non-residents; died for lack of a second.

Member Howell reviewed the Department's and the Commission Chairman's position on this issue.

Chairman Burnside reiterated Member Kjer's thought that the first come first served is really a third chance.

MOTION by Howell/Burnside that the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife is not supportive in the Commission Policy 24 specifically and narrowly on the first come first served changes proposed. We would like to see the policy remain as it is currently in effect that first come first served remain available for purchase to both residents and non-residents in the first come first served program. All other recommended changes are supported; carried with Chevallier absent.

3b. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES, REGULATIONS AND POLICY COMMITTEE'S THIRD READING OF COMMISSION POLICY 25 – WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT. The Commission will have a second reading of Commission Policy 25, Wildlife Damage Management, and may make necessary changes and may decide to repeal, revise, or adopt the policy. (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 7B)

No public comment.

MOTION by Burnside/Porter to recommend the Commission support the changes to Commission Policy 25 – Wildlife Damage Management; carried with Chevallier absent.

3c. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF COMMISSION REGULATION 21-15 AMENDMENT #1, FISHING SEASONS AND REGULATIONS FOR JANUARY 1, 2022 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023. The Commission will consider amending fishing seasons, bag, and possession limits for the period of January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2023. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 12A)*

Chairman Burnside reviewed the changes.

No public comment.

MOTION by Porter/Howell to recommend the Commission support the adoption of Commission Regulation 21-15 Amendment #1, Fishing Seasons and Regulations for January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023; carried with Chevallier absent.

3d. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 502, JUNIOR HUNT AND TURKEY PROGRAM. The Commission will hold a workshop to consider amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 502 to limit the number of successfully awarded tags in the junior hunt program. The regulation also removes hard close dates for submitting a turkey harvest return card and allow for junior turkey bonus points to convert to the adult point category once a junior is age eligible able to participate in the junior hunt turkey program. *(This item is agendized as a workshop of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Agenda) (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 13A)*

Member Kjer asked for a history on the number of tags juniors are allocated.

Chairman Burnside responded and he believes it is important to keep kids hunting. He supports the transfer of bonus points.

No public comment.

MOTION by Porter/Kjer to recommend the Commission support Commission General Regulation 502, Junior Hunt and Turkey Program; carried with Chevallier absent.

3e. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 508, ANTLER POINTS AND SPIKE ELK DEFINED. The commission will review and revise draft language amending NAC 502 that would clarify definitions pertaining to “antler point” and “spike elk” for certain big game mammals and reduce likelihood of inadvertent infractions. *(This item is agendized as a workshop of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Agenda) (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 13B)*

Chairman Burnside said this clarification will benefit hunters and game wardens.

No public comment.

MOTION by Porter/Howell to recommend the Commission support Commission General Regulation 508, Antler Points and Spike Elk Defined; carried with Chevallier absent.

4. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. CORRESPONDENCE OR COMMUNICATIONS BOARD MEMBERS HAVE RECEIVED.

Chairman Burnside received emails from Nevada Department of Wildlife staff regarding various upcoming meetings and an email from Matt Bernard, a member of the Mule Deer Enhancement Program Subcommittee, on the need to strongly address feral horses in the five-year plan.

The members discussed the habitat damage caused by the exploding population of feral horses.

- 5. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. DISCUSSION REGARDING ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER COMMITMENTS TO ATTEND UPCOMING WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS AND TO REPRESENT THE FINDINGS OF THE DOUGLAS COUNTY WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD. ONE MEMBER WILL BE DESIGNATED AS A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD.**

Vice Chairman Chevallier will attend the Las Vegas meeting.

- 6. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. DISCUSSION TO SCHEDULE THE NEXT DOUGLAS COUNTY WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING.** The next Commission meeting is scheduled for November 4 and 5, 2022. The Commission will review and discuss potential agenda items for that meeting. The Commission may change the date, time, and meeting location at this time. The chairman may designate and adjust committee assignments and add or dissolve committees, as necessary at this time. Any anticipated committee meetings that may occur prior to the next Commission meeting may be discussed.

The next Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 25, 2022.

- 7. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.**

No agenda items were identified.

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT.

There was no closing public comment.

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to come before the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife, the meeting adjourned at 6:12 pm.

The minutes of the September 20, 2022 meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 1st day of November 2022.

Respectfully submitted:

Craig Burnside, Chairman