

DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE
Minutes of the September 22, 2020 Meeting

Pursuant to Governor Sisolak’s March 22, 2020 Declaration of Emergency Directive 006, the requirement contained in NRS 241.023(1)(b) that there be a physical location designated for meetings of public bodies where members of the public are permitted to attend and participate is suspended in order to mitigate the possible exposure or transmission of COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

- Public comment will be accepted prior to the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting. To offer public comment before the Board meeting, members of the public may submit public comments by email to: lkabat@douglasnv.us. Please be sure to state your name, item number, and your position on the item.
- Written public comments may also be mailed to the attention of the Recording Secretary, Lorraine Kabat, P O Box 218, Minden, Nevada 89423, but all public comments must be received prior to the date of the meeting if the comments are to be included in the supplemental materials.
- All written public comments that are received prior to 4:00 PM the day before the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting will be compiled and will be added as supplemental material for the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife members and the public to review prior to the meeting.
- Any written public comment received the day of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting will be compiled and added as supplemental materials to the County’s website and distributed to the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife members within 24 hours after the meeting.
- Members of the public needing assistance with making public comment can call Lorraine Kabat at 775-782-0029.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Craig Burnside, Chairman
Bob Cook, Vice Chairman
Robert Rittenhouse
JT Chevallier
Mike Turnipseed

OTHERS PRESENT: JD Frisby, Minden Town Manager
Travis Hawks, Nevada Department of Wildlife Fisheries Biologist
Kris Urquhart, Nevada Department of Wildlife Fisheries Biologist

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm and determined a quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Chairman Burnside led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Burnside called for the roll and all members were present. He introduced Travis Hawks, Nevada Department of Wildlife Fisheries Biologist, and JD Frisby, Minden Town Manager. Kris Urquhart, Nevada Department of Wildlife Fisheries Biologist, joined the meeting shortly after introductions were made.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment submitted prior to the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting have been compiled and made a part of the supporting materials that have been provided to the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife Board members and public for review.

No public comment was submitted prior to or after the meeting.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

No one from the Bureau of Land Management was able to attend the meeting so the members tabled Item 3 to the next meeting.

MOTION by Chevallier/Cook to approve the agenda with Item 3 tabled to the next meeting; carried unanimously.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **August 11, 2020**

MOTION by Cook/Chevallier to approve the minutes presented; carried with Turnipseed abstaining.

1. DISCUSSION ON THE RESULTS OF THE AUGUST 14, 2020 NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING. There will be no action taken.

Member Rittenhouse reviewed the results of the election of the Chair and the installation of two new members to the Wildlife Commission. He highlighted the discussion on the guidelines for the use of enhanced scopes and the discussion on the distribution of replacement tags. Oftentimes tags are not turned in resulting in a loss of revenue for the Department.

The was a discussion only.

2. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE TOWN OF MINDEN'S ACQUISITION OF THE SEMAN POND PROPERTY. The Board will hear an update on the Town's plans for the property and will discuss possible funding options to achieve the planned improvements.

JD Frisby, Minden Town Manager, provided the location of the pond and an aerial view of it. The pond was shallow and has been dredged to a depth of 15-18', which will help sustain a healthy trout habitat. The pond is supplied by groundwater but the Town has a water right that can be used if overflow water and groundwater prove to be inadequate. A pipeline will be extended to the pond to help with water circulation and provide supplemental water if needed.

He talked about the Town's acquisition of the pond and the current fiscal year allocation of \$350,000 to make the pond accessible, stocked, and fishable, which is the Town's main goal. The remaining improvements, increased parking, picnic area, pavilion, restroom, floating dock, and dog park, will be phased. The total costs of the improvements will exceed \$800,000. The conceptual plan showing the

completion of the Martin Slough Trail was presented noting the trail is the county's responsibility, but it will add ADA access to the pond.

The Town hopes to keep this an urban fishing pond by preserving the existing willows and vegetation. The perimeter of the pond will be stabilized using decks, leveling, and vegetation.

Going forward the Town hopes to secure grants, enlist partners, and incorporate learning opportunities the pond could provide.

Travis Hawks, Nevada Department of Wildlife Fisheries Biologist, stated the Department will plant trout in the fall with the possibility of warm water fish added later in the spring if the water quality proves to be good.

Mr. Frisby stated the pond has turtles and frogs in it, which shows the varied habitat this pond has. All the largemouth bass have been relocated downstream, but they could be brought back if the water quality proves favorable.

The members expressed support for the project.

3. FOR PRESENTATION ONLY. DISCUSSION BY A BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVE ON THE PLAN TO MANAGE PROPOSED CONSERVATION EASEMENTS INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE VAN SICKLE STATION RANCH AND THE DANGBERG HOME RANCH.

This item was tabled to the November meeting.

4. The following items, 4a through 4d, are items that will be heard before the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners at the next meeting, September 25, 2020, using the Nevada Department of Wildlife's YouTube page:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrFHgHLM0MZa2Hx7og8pFcQ>

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.

4a–4d. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING WHETHER THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD SHOULD TAKE A POSITION ON:

4a. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF COMMISSION REGULATION 20-01, AMENDMENT #1, FISHING SEASONS AND REGULATIONS FOR JANUARY 1, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021. The Commission will consider amending Commission Regulation 20 - 01 to remove the fishing season closure and modify the harvest limits for mountain whitefish and warmwater game fish other than black bass for Topaz Lake in Douglas County; to modify the game fish harvest limit for Lake Tahoe and tributaries in Douglas, Carson City and Washoe Counties to remove the reference to mackinaw or lake trout; and to adopt a limit of three game fish for Seeman Pond in Douglas County. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 6A*)

Kris Urquhart, Nevada Department of Wildlife Fisheries Biologist, provided the changes to Topaz Lake. The primary ones are the change to make it a year-round season, which is consistent with California regulations, and the modification to the harvest limits. Neither of these changes is expected to have a negative impact on the fishery.

He stated the surveys have shown an increase in the population and size of small mouthed bass as well as an increase in the catch rates. The sport fish harvest has had no negative impact on the expanding population of small mouthed bass.

He reviewed the stocking plan for Topaz Lake noting the plan is fluid until the use timeline is determined.

Travis Hawks, Nevada Department of Wildlife Fisheries Biologist, outlined the change to Lake Tahoe, which is a bi-state water; this change will ensure regulatory consistency with California. The modification to the harvest limit will allow a 5 game fish limit and should have no biological impact on the overall population.

Vice Chairman Cook pointed out everyone he spoke to about this change was supportive of it.

MOTION by Turnipseed/Cook to recommend approval of Commission Regulation 20-01, Amendment #1, Fishing Seasons and Regulations for January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021; carried unanimously.

4b. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 494, NEVADA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE (NAC) 501 SIMPLIFICATION. The Commission will review the Regulation Simplification Committee's recommendations regarding language updates and simplification of Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 501 relating to the Commission. *(This item is agendaized as a workshop on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' agenda) (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 8A)*

The members had no additional input to provide.

MOTION by Chevallier/Cook to recommend the Commission support Commission General Regulation 494, Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 501 Simplification; carried unanimously.

4c. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 495, NEVADA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE (NAC) 502 SIMPLIFICATION. The Commission will review the Regulation Simplification Committee's recommendations regarding language updates and simplification of Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 502 relating to licensing. *(This item is agendaized as a workshop on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' agenda) (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 8B)*

Vice Chairman Cook feels the regulation contains irregularities in that there are different time requirements after the kill for different species. For example, mountain lions are 5 business days while all sheep are 5 days after the kill. This is not consistent or simple; it is confusing.

MOTION by Cook/Chevallier to recommend approval of Commission General Regulation 495, Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 502 Simplification as written; carried unanimously.

4d. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE PROJECT UPDATES. The Commission has requested that the Department provide regular project updates for ongoing projects and programs as appropriate based on

geography and timing of meetings. These updates are intended to provide detail in addition to summaries provided as part of the regular Department report and are intended to inform the Commission and public as to the Department's ongoing duties and responsibilities. (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 9)

No supporting material was provided so the consensus was to take no action on this item.

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

Vice Chairman Cook had conversations about the changes to the fishing seasons at Lake Tahoe. He reported he talked with Carl Lackey about bears at the Lake.

Member Chevallier received updates and information on the interactions between predators and the community in Genoa and on the need to be "bear aware" to reduce human/bear interactions.

Member Turnipseed asked if anyone had information on the outcome of the deer/mountain lion/bear study done.

Member Chevallier offered to reach out to the Department staff to find out what the results were.

6. 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.

Chairman Burnside and Vice Chairman Cook plan to view the meeting on Friday.

7. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. DISCUSSION TO SCHEDULE THE NEXT DOUGLAS COUNTY WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for November 6 and 7, 2020, in Reno. The Commission will review and discuss potential agenda items for that meeting. The Commission may change the time and meeting location at this time. The chairman may designate and adjust committee assignments as necessary at this meeting.

The next Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Monday, November 2, 2020.**

8. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

- a. Bureau of Land Management on the plan to manage proposed conservation easements including Van Sickle Station Ranch and the Dangberg Home Ranch.

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT.

Public comment submitted prior to the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting have been compiled and made a part of the supporting materials that have been provided to the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife Board members and public for review.

No public comment was submitted.

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to come before the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife, the meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

The minutes of the September 22, 2020 meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 2nd day of November 2020.

Respectfully submitted:

Craig Burnside, Chairman