

DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE
Minutes of the August 3, 2021 Meeting

The Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting was scheduled for 5:00 pm on Tuesday, August 3, 2021, in the Douglas County Community Center, Ceramics Room, 1329 Waterloo Lane, Gardnerville, Nevada.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Craig Burnside, Chairman
Bob Cook, Vice Chairman
Mike Porter
Mike Turnipseed

MEMBER ABSENT:

JT Chevallier

OTHERS PRESENT:

Robert Rittenhouse, member of the public
Carl Lackey, Nevada Department of Wildlife Biologist

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm and determined a quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Robert Rittenhouse led the Pledge.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Burnside recognized the attendance of Robert Rittenhouse, a member of the public and Carl Lackey, Nevada Department of Wildlife Biologist. Noted was the absence of Member Chevallier.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice Chairman Cook prefers Zoom meetings to in person meetings. He feels there is increased participation with Zoom meetings.

The recording secretary will research the cost of a Zoom membership.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Turnipseed to approve the agenda as presented; carried with Chevallier absent.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **June 22, 2021**

No public comment.

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

1. DISCUSSION ON THE RESULTS OF THE JUNE 25 & 26, 2021 NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS. There will be no action taken.

Chairman Burnside recapped the discussions and actions taken at the Winnemucca meeting. Topics included:

- The Restoring America's Wildlife Act has been reintroduced in the House of Representatives and has bipartisan support. That Act would provide a financial benefit to Nevada.
- The game division has proactively prepared a draft wolf response plan.
- 1,051 geese have been transplanted from the Reno/Sparks area to various areas in Nevada.
- 86,000 different hunters submitted 395,000 applications for game tags in Nevada.
- Wildlife contests are still under discussion and there was heated debated on both sides of the issue.
- Attendees took a field trip to a new urban fishing pond located outside Winnemucca. With all the grants, in-kind donations, donations, etc., the final cost for the construction was \$9300, which was covered by various non-governmental organizations.
- The Duck Stamp and Upland Game Bird Stamp requests were approved as requested.
- The sage grouse seasons were approved as presented.
- There is a 40-50 turkey release planned for the Pine Nuts. Chairman Burnside indicated his desire to be involved in it. Carl Lackey, Nevada Department of Wildlife Biologist, identified the location of the release, Arasta Springs, and stated it will not take place until winter 2022. He said he will reach out to the Carson Valley Chukkar Club to possibly fund the collaring some of the birds.

2. The following items, 2a through 2e, are items that will be heard before the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners at the next meeting, August 6, 2021.

The meeting will be broadcast live at the NDOW Commission 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.

2a–2e. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING WHETHER THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD SHOULD TAKE A POSITION ON:

2a. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS. In accordance with Commission Policy #1, the Commission will elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 2*)

No public comment.

The Board members did not provide input or take any action on this item.

2b. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 489, NEVADA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE (NAC) 503.172, SHED ANTLER SEASON, NAC. 501.200. The Board of Wildlife Commissioners will hold a workshop to consider amending Nevada Administrative Code 501.200 and 503.172 to change the demerits for violation of the shed antler closure, increase the demerits for a violation of that regulation and require an online class in order to collect or possess shed antlers in the field. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 8A*)

The Board members reviewed the changes in demerits, date changes for the shed antler closed season, and the new requirement to take an online shed antler course prior to being allowed to collect sheds.

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Turnipseed to recommend adoption of the dates as listed in the regulation, require an online course for shed collection and possession during the open collection season, and increase demerits for violation of this regulation during closed season to 9, and during open season for no permit to 6 and adopt the remaining language as is; carried with Chevallier absent.

2c. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF COMMISSION REGULATION 21-04, AMENDMENT #2, BLACK BEAR SEASONS. The Commission will consider adopting the 2021 dates and times for indoctrination courses for black bear. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 9A*)

Chairman Burnside asked for a clarification on “first come first serve” bear tags.

Carl Lackey, Nevada Department of Wildlife Biologist, explained that sometimes tags are turned in at the last minute, after the indoctrination class has already taken place. The amendment allows the recordation of the indoctrination class so a person getting a last minute tag can take this required class virtually. This is for any remaining tags; these are not new bear tags.

No public comment.

MOTION by Burnside/Turnipseed to recommend adoption of Commission Regulation 21-04, Amendment #2, Black Bear Seasons; carried with Chevallier absent.

2d. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF COMMISSION REGULATION 20-12, AMENDMENT #2, 2021-2022 UPLAND GAME AND FURBEARER SEASON AND BAG LIMITS. The Commission will review and may take action to modify Commission Regulation 20-12 for upland game seasons and bag limits for certain upland game species. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 9B*)

The members highlighted the change to the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area hunt period for the wild turkey.

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Turnipseed recommend adoption of the recommendations in CR20-12 Amendment #2 for the spring 2022 turkey hunt as presented; carried with Chevallier absent.

2e. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON WILDLIFE CONTESTS. The Commission may discuss Wildlife Contests. The Commission may provide direction to the Department regarding Wildlife Contests for consideration by the Commission at a future meeting. (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 10)

Member Porter feels this is about shooting coyotes. Most of the public response at the Commission meeting was against this issue. He pointed out that the coyote is not even covered under the Department of Wildlife. He stated he stands for leaving it as it is.

Chairman Burnside recalled the discussion relating to cash prizes and how some people equate that to gambling without a gambling license so that makes it illegal. If cash prizes are not offered, he believes there will be some who still take part. He compared this issue to cash prizes given for kid's fishing derbies and wondered if that could be considered gambling also? While he does not participate in it, he does not want to tell someone else that they cannot or should not do it. He cautioned against alienating non-hunters because doing that could jeopardize a sportsman's ability to hunt game animals for consumption.

Member Porter stated the Department directed staff to look at what other states have done, language used relative to this, and topics discussed and provide that to the Commission, the County Advisory Boards, and the public for information and input.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Rittenhouse recalled the way harvested deer were transported in the past (for example, tied to a car) and feels we should have been more respectful of game and contests. He added pigeon shooting was the same thing; the dead pigeons were piled up. Over time they changed how they handled the dead birds after the event to show more respect. The same position should be taken for coyotes, so it reduces the criticism. He thought modifying the processes in these contests, such as what was done with fishing contests, would be helpful.

Public comment closed.

No action was taken.

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

Member Porter was approached by Liz Weirauch, Angler's Edge, about her needing a license to guide people on public land to fish yet a photographer in the area charges people to see the wild horses on public land and she wondered if he should have any type of license to do that.

Chairman Burnside pointed out fishing and hunting guides as well as the wildlife are regulated by the Department of Wildlife but the wild horses are regulated by the Bureau of Land Management, who does not have a permit process for that.

Member Porter received an email from Greg Hendricks, American Wild Horse Campaign, requesting the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife take action on the presentation he made earlier this year.

He got emails from Ken Collum, Bureau of Land Management, and Mike Cox, Department of Wildlife, on their input regarding the well site being proposed by Greg Hendricks.

He read an email from Robert Rittenhouse into the record. It related to his view on the Fish Springs/Bently water development. He thinks it is a good start but suggested a bigger approach is needed for the management of the horses.

This was a discussion only.

4. 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.

Since the meeting will be held virtually, any member that would like can view it.

5. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. DISCUSSION TO SCHEDULE THE NEXT DOUGLAS COUNTY WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for September 24 and 25, 2021, in Las Vegas. 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, September 21, 2021.

6. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

- Fish Springs well project (*this item will be considered in the future and not at the next meeting.*)

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT.

Chairman Burnside asked about the plans for the Mule Deer Enhancement Group.

Carl Lackey, Nevada Department of Wildlife Biologist, thought a field trip to the Tamarack burn might be a good idea but the timing is tough now due to the increased bear activity keeping him busy.

Public comment Closed.

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to come before the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife, the meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

The minutes of the August 3, 2021 meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 21st day of September 2021.

Respectfully submitted:

Craig Burnside, Chairman