

DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE  
Minutes of the March 16, 2021 Meeting

**Pursuant to Governor Sisolak's May 21, 2020 Declaration of Emergency Directive 020, 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). Accordingly, anyone planning to participate in the meeting must participate via the Zoom link provided below.**

**This meeting will be held using Zoom. The login information to join the meeting is as follows:**

<https://zoom.us/j/91685121258?pwd=NGxKV1VQMXNDM1A5ZU9hK0MzVC9jdz09>

Meeting ID: 916 8512 1258  
Passcode: 735241  
Dial by your location  
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

- 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](mailto: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:** Bob Cook, Vice Chairman  
Michael Porter  
JT Chevallier

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Craig Burnside, Chairman  
Mike Turnipseed

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Barbara Smallwood  
Robert Rittenhouse

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chairman Cook called the meeting to order at 5:39 pm and determined a quorum was present. Noted was the absence of Chairman Craig Burnside and Member Mike Turnipseed.

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

**ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS** – Vice Chairman Cook introduced the members of the Advisory Board in attendance and also recognized the members of the public present.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comment was submitted in advance by Robert Rittenhouse regarding item 3d. That public comment was provided to the members of the Advisory Board and posted on Douglas County's website.

## **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.**

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

## **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- **January 25, 2021**

MOTION by Chevallier/Porter to approve the minutes as presented: carried with Burnside and Turnipseed absent.

### **1. FOR PRESENTATION ONLY. DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION TO ROBERT RITTENHOUSE RECOGNIZING HIS SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE.**

Vice Chairman Cook is working on a commemorative plaque and resolution honoring past member Robert Rittenhouse. He presented the draft version of Resolution 2021-001. This item will be reagendaized once it is completed.

Bob Rittenhouse thanked the members of the Advisory Board for all their past help in navigating through the Advisory Board process.

Member Chevallier echoed the language in the resolution and thanked Mr. Rittenhouse for all his knowledge and urged him to remain connected to the group.

Mr. Rittenhouse indicated his desire to continue to help benefit the wildlife in the valley and stated he will continue to attend the meetings.

This was a discussion only.

**2. DISCUSSION ON THE RESULTS OF THE JANUARY 29 & 30 2021 NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS. There will be no action taken.**

Member Porter attended the meetings and reported on the discussion relating to:

- The contentious discussion on the bear hunt.
- Depreciation Elk Hunt in 114/115 and the times the hunt is held. An expensive Elk fence is being proposed for the Baker ranch. Member Chevallier talked about the importance of weighing the depredation elk permits in terms of cost to the taxpayers versus the revenue generating depredation elk permits. He supports depredation permits as opposed to utilizing Department funds to put up a fence.

This was a discussion only.

**3. The following items, 3a through 3g, are items that will be heard before the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners at the next meeting, March 19 & 20, 2021, 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.**

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

**3a. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF COMMISSION REGULATION 21-13, 2021-2022 SEASONS, BAG LIMITS AND SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS. The Commission will consider recommendations for seasons, bag limits and special regulations for migratory game birds for the 2021-2021 season and adopt regulations consistent with proposed regulations framework for the 2021-2022 hunting seasons on certain migratory game birds established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Commission Regulation will also consider rules regulating public hunting on Wildlife Management Areas and designated state lands. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 6A*)**

Vice Chairman Cook received public comment from Doug Martin in support of this item as written.

Member Chevallier stated he has reviewed the regulations and can support this as written.

No public comment.

MOTION by Chevallier/Porter to recommend adoption of Commission Regulation 21-13, 2021-2022 Seasons, Bag Limits and Special Regulations for Migratory Game Birds; carried with Burnside and Turnipseed absent.

**3b. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT. A report will be provided on the recent Legislative Committee Meeting and Legislative items. The Commission may vote on positions for certain bills. (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 7)**

No public comment.

Due to the lack of supporting material on this item, the consensus of the Board was to take no action.

**3c. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 496, NEVADA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE 503 SIMPLIFICATION. The Commission will review the Regulation Simplification Committee's recommendations regarding language updates and simplification of Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 503 relating to wildlife. (This item is agendized as a workshop on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' agenda) (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 10A)**

Vice Chairman Cook was happy to see the inclusion of moose and gray wolf. He noted that Wisconsin has opened up a wolf hunt.

No public comment.

Since this item will come back to the Board once the cleanup to the regulation has been done, there was a consensus of the Board to take no action at this time and wait for the draft regulation.

**3d. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 498, NEVADA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE 503.147 – MS. CATHY SMITH - PETITION BEAR HOUNDS. Ms. Smith has submitted a petition to change language in NAC 503.147 to withdraw dogs from bear hunts. The Commission accepted the petition during the November 6, 2020 Commission meeting. (This item is agendized as a workshop on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' agenda) (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 10B)**

Bob Rittenhouse submitted public comment on this item and it was provided to the members and placed on the Douglas County website for the public.

Vice Chairman Cook received public comment from Rex Flowers who supports the regulation as it reads. Mr. Flowers believes the use of hounds is extremely beneficial especially from the standpoint of identifying the sex of the bear.

Vice Chairman Cook added he personally supports the use of hounds for mountain lions and bears. It is important to have hounds for determining sex and whether there are cubs present or not.

Member Porter supports the use of hounds as it is the traditional method, the most successful method for filling a tag, and is beneficial in clearly identifying the animal in order to make a decision on taking the animal or not. Black Bear is a big game animal and it is not a species that is endangered or unique. It is prolific and exists in many, many states and should be hunted.

Member Chevallier cannot support something that limits the rights and opportunities of hunters if there is no scientific basis for that opinion. He believes in the North American model of conservation. The biologists are not saying the use of hounds has an adverse impact on the population and the health of the population of Black Bear. He agrees that being able to identify the sex of the bear is something that is difficult to do unless the bear is treed. Based on the scientific and identification reasonings, his desire not to limit the opportunities of hunters, the safe and

healthy management of this big game species, and the important fundraising mechanism of the sale of tags, he cannot support limiting the use of hounds for hunting Black Bears.

Vice Chairman Cook talked about the increased revenue generation from the addition of five tags, which helps support the bear habitat and bear research. He added the take is still 20 but 14 is the most ever taken since the bear hunt was started.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Rittenhouse stated he read the whole petition and the Western Fish and Game Association document referred to in the petition. He disputed several items within the petition. Those included: a misrepresentation that there would be a negative outline on the attitude toward hunting; fair chase (he feels fair chase is an ethical decision and the state is not involved in that at all); the economic impact (there would be an economic impact when things like breeding, purchasing, care and feeding of quality hunt dogs and investments in equipment are considered); statistics regarding the increase in sales (statistics can be directed any way and sales can be affected); and this program allows for a "boutique hunt" (he has attended the draws and they are very fair). He feels the petition does not reflect the conclusion that she reaches. He urged the Board to support the continued use of hounds in the bear hunt.

Public comment closed.

MOTION by Chevallier/Porter to not support the petition by Ms. Cathy Smith regarding bear hounds in accordance with Regulation 498, Nevada Administrative Code 503.147; carried with Burnside and Turnipseed absent.

**3e. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE SECOND DRAFT FISCAL YEAR 2021 PREDATION MANAGEMENT PLAN.** The draft Fiscal Year 2021 Predation Management Plan has been presented to the Commission. Following this review, the draft plan was updated and shared with the State Predatory Animal and Rodent Committee (PARC). All comments from the PARC, County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife, and any other interested entity will be compiled and shared with the Wildlife Damage Management Committee (WDMC) for their consideration at this March meeting. The Commission will receive an update from the Wildlife Damage Management Committee and may provide additional direction at that time. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 15)*

No public comment.

Since no supporting material was provided and this item will come back before this Board, the Board was in agreement to take no action at this time.

**3f. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE PETITION SUBMITTED BY MR. PERRY 'ROB' PIERCE – SPECIAL HUNT SEASON FOR DISABLED PERSONS.** Mr. Pierce has submitted a petition requesting a special hunt season be made available to disabled persons. The Commission may take action to deny or accept the petition and initiate rulemaking. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 16D)*

The members again noted there was no supporting material provided on this item.

Member Chevallier thought the Commission had not made a decision on denying or accepting the petition yet so he personally would like to get some sort of direction from the Commission prior to making comment or expressing support or opposition for this.

No public comment.

All the members agreed.

Member Porter pointed out that many of the items we are not able to take action on tonight will be presented to the Commission at their next meeting. Everyone has the ability to watch that meeting and learn more about the issues.

There was a consensus to take no action.

**3g. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON WILDLIFE KILLING CONTESTS.** An update will be provided on the Wildlife Killing Contests in the State and recent action taken by the Clark County Commission specific to Wildlife Killing Contests. The Commission may provide direction to the Department to draft regulatory language prohibiting Wildlife Killing Contests for consideration by the Commission at a future meeting. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 18*)

Vice Chairman Cook stated Joel Blakeslee, a Minden resident and a trapper, is concerned that some groups are turning the coyote hunts into a contest. He thinks that makes hunters look bad.

Vice Chairman Cook feels looking at it from the standpoint that some areas have a massive influx of coyotes and they are doing a lot of damage or comparing it to a fishing tournament at Topaz Lake, then it does not sound so bad to him. He understands where Mr. Blakeslee is coming from but a depredation hunt or the need to reduce the damage they are doing makes sense.

Member Chevallier has an issue with the way the agenda item is written. "Discussion on Wildlife Killing Contests" is written in bad taste and it does not clearly identify what is actually taking place with these coyote contests. The science, regulations, and management practices should tie into one another. If there is no backing from biologists specializing in predation management that this is an appropriate management practice, he feels it unfairly limits the rights of hunters to practice the act of predation management. The optics of the way the agenda item is written does not properly provide a comprehensive view of what predation management is, and if this is a fishing contest or fishing derby in any one of our waters, it would have different optics. He does not appreciate how this item is written and it is not in line with the science and management practices of the Department of Wildlife. If it was communicated in a way that was a coyote hunting derby, it would be a completely different conversation. He does not support canceling coyote hunts in this way or trying to take action against this practice. This is a very skewed and tactical way of writing an item and it is not appropriate way of communicating this.

Member Porter does not see the word "predation"; it only says "wildlife killing" and he cannot tell what it is by those terms.

Vice Chairman Cook has never heard of any hunters having killing contests. Science and depredation have a lot to do with this but they are not mentioned in this item.

Member Chevallier feels this is an emotionally charged and emotionally written agenda item. He does not support the language or the spirit behind it.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Rittenhouse believes that respect is not being shown for the animals. Even though coyotes are a pest, they should not be treated this way. Those types of contests give hunters a black eye. He talked about the use of birds to train dogs to retrieve and how important the perception of how those birds were treated was. He also mentioned a large number of coyotes from a contest just dumped in a ditch. That type of thing does not do the hunters any favors.

Public comment closed.

MOTION by Chevallier/Cook for the Commission to revise the action and discussion on wildlife killing contests agenda item to create language that is an equitable representation of the issue; carried with Burnside and Turnipseed absent.

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

Member Chevallier had correspondence about a potential agenda item.

Vice Chairman Cook received communication from Rex Flowers on Bear Hounds; the Tahoe Fund regarding wolf OR 93 spotted in North Lake Tahoe; Joel Blakeslee on Wildlife Killing Contests; Doug Martin on Migratory Game Birds; and Thomas Smith on SJR3 and SB78.

**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 Cook may attend one or both days.

**6. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. DISCUSSION TO SCHEDULE THE NEXT DOUGLAS COUNTY WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING** The next Commission meeting is scheduled for May 7 and 8, 2021, in Reno and the Commission will review and discuss potential agenda items for that meeting. The location of the meeting is subject to change due to direction of the Governor during the COVID-19 pandemic. Review and approve the schedule for the 2022-2023 Commission meetings. The Commission may change the time and meeting location at this time. The chairwoman 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, May 4, 2021.

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

- Presentation to Robert Rittenhouse for his service on the Advisory Board (Resolution 2021-001)
- Bently project.

**CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT.**

There was no additional public comment submitted.

**ADJOURNMENT.**

There being no further business to come before the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife, the meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

The minutes of the March 16, 2021 meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 4th day of May 2021.

Respectfully submitted:

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Bob Cook, Vice Chairman