

DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE
Minutes of the May 4, 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. 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
Michael Porter
JT Chevallier

MEMBER ABSENT: Mike Turnipseed

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Davies
Robert Rittenhouse
Greg Hendricks, American Wild Horse Campaign
Carlo Luri, Bently Heritage
Carl Lackey, Nevada Department of Wildlife Biologist (*joined the meeting at 7:14 pm*)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm, called roll, and determined a quorum was present. Noted was the absence of Member Mike Turnipseed.

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

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS – No introductions were made.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment submitted by email or in person.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

No public comment.

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

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **March 16, 2021**

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Chevallier to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2021 meeting as presented; carried with Burnside abstaining and Turnipseed absent.

1. FOR PRESENTATION ONLY. PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION 2021-001 TO ROBERT RITTENHOUSE RECOGNIZING HIS SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE.

Vice Chairman Cook read the Resolution into the record.

Bob Rittenhouse expressed his thanks for the opportunity to participate in this important board. He feels forward progress has been made and he hopes it continues.

The members thanked Mr. Rittenhouse for his service and his progressive ideas to get kids involved in outdoor activities.

2. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON A PRESENTATION BY GREG HENDRICKS, DIRECTOR OF FIELD OPERATIONS FOR AMERICAN WILD HORSE

CAMPAIGN (AWHC), ON THE PROJECT GOALS AND PLANS OF THE FISH SPRINGS WILDLIFE HABITAT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. This project will bring year-round wildlife water to areas in Douglas County that have seasonal limitations and significant wildlife use. The Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife may take action to support the project, not support the project, or not take a position on the project.

Greg Hendricks, American Wild Horse Campaign, presented the water for wildlife in the Fish Springs area project, being done in partnership with the Bently Family. The current issues of past and potential fire, limited funds for habitat development and fire rehabilitation, limited native seed supply, the effects of drought, and seasonal water availability were identified. He provided the location of a planned purchase of 640 acres from the Bently Family, which will house the proposed ponds designed to help improve wildlife habitat.

Sheepherding and cattle grazing uses along with many other species of wildlife have traditionally taken place on the identified area so this year-round water access will help with habitat restoration and to keep wildlife further away from the residential areas. Another benefit of the project is the spreading of the wildlife over a larger area, which hopefully will help improve the habitat for all.

Member Porter asked if the water ponds will be fenced and Mr. Hendricks responded no. A brief discussion took place on the possibility of using the existing ponds and water troughs.

Member Chevallier asked if Nevada Department of Wildlife was aware of the project. Mr. Hendricks indicated they are aware of it but have had no comment up to this point.

Vice Chairman Cook supports the project because it takes the pressure off some of the other areas and he feels the project will be beneficial. He asked several questions (**Mr. Hendricks' responses are in red**) including whether the Bureau of Land Management has been contacted (**yes and they will visit the site soon**); how they plan to manage the numbers correctly (**hunting, wild horse advocate management, animals will be removed if need be**); more horses will migrate to the area because of the water supply (**The horse population is stable and horses are already there and use the current water supply**); will the ponds effect the wells, alluvial fans, etc. (**it is a small amount of water so there will not be an impact on the water table**); size of the water supply to prevent the largest animal from "winning" and guarding the water source (**two big ponds and there will be adequate water for all year round**); horses destroy habitat and that is a concern (**horses will be moved further from the concentrated areas where there is better feed and forage. The local advocate group has done a great job of managing the horse population. The key is to distribute, manage, and balance the populations and to mitigate the damage they do**); is there a reseeding revenue source (**this project will be funded privately through donations, grants are available, and all available revenue sources will be pursued**); have local conservations districts been contacted (**no**); and procedure for donations (**that is still being determined**).

Member Porter asked if the existing water tanks will be replaced and Mr. Hendricks stated yes since they are closer to residential areas. They are trying to get the horses to focus on multiple water sources to distribute range use.

Vice Chairman Cook asked how large the ponds will be and Mr. Hendricks answered 20x18 feet with a constant flow. Vice Chairman Cook thought that was very small. Mr. Hendricks believes the

size was sufficient.

Chairman Burnside asked, if the Board were to support the project, how that support would be used. Mr. Hendricks explained this would be a unified change of direction on how range land is managed. It would set an example for other areas too. This project involves multiple stakeholders and input will be sought from all of them. He stated Bently will lease the water rights until the sale goes through and then will sell the water rights to them. They feel those water rights are sufficient for this project. Chairman Burnside asked why the current water source dries up and Mr. Hendricks stated there are a couple of factors, but the primary reason is the loss of the melt. Chairman Burnside asked if plans are in place for the winter when these new water sources freeze. Mr. Hendricks said the animals usually move higher in the colder weather. However, this water source will be constant. If it does freeze, the larger animals can break through the frozen water.

Member Porter would like hear input from the Bureau of Land Management and the Nevada Department of Wildlife before the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife (DCABMW) makes a determination.

The members discussed delaying a decision on this until more input from stakeholders is received.

Mr. Hendricks indicated he wanted to present this to the DCABMW to get a feel for whether the project makes sense on a local level. He thanked the Board members for their feedback. They will continue to work through the proper channels with all the stakeholders.

Chairman Burnside was skeptical at the beginning, but after learning more about the project, he sees the value for wildlife.

Mr. Hendricks believes this project is good for the entire area.

The members and Mr. Hendricks discussed the pros and cons of the concept of fencing the ponds.

Member Chevallier thanked Mr. Hendricks for the great presentation. He talked about issues that could render a pond like this a potential danger to animals and those should be considered. Mr. Hendricks feels the engineering of the ponds would mitigate those issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Carlo Luri, Bently Family representative, stated full support for the project.

Bob Rittenhouse believes the herd sizes are increasing and he questioned the sustainability of this project. He supports delaying a decision until more information is known.

Public comment closed.

Chairman Burnside talked about the appropriate management level for the Pine Nut herd of horses, 113-179, and the current estimate of the Pine Nut herd is 189. That is better than most of the other herds across the state.

Bob Rittenhouse thought the number of horses on the Veteran's Parkway and USA Parkway indicate the population is well over the numbers being represented.

Mr. Hendricks provided the fertility control efforts taking place for the Pine Nut range to curb the population of that herd. The goal is to keep the horses in check and bring the numbers down when needed.

By consensus, the Board decided to delay a decision on this project until all stakeholder feedback is received.

3. DISCUSSION ON THE RESULTS OF THE MARCH 19 & 20, 2021 NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS. There will be no action taken.

Vice Chairman Cook attended and highlighted the discussion on:

- He had trouble connecting to the meeting.
- Legislative bills
- Suitcase Trap
- Petition for use of hounds for bear hunt
- Gray Wolf sightings
- Sage Grouse update
- Special hunt for disabled persons
- Nevada Department of Wildlife project updates
- Informational reports
- Wildlife killing contest

4. The following items, 4a through 4c, are items that will be heard before the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners at the next meeting, May 7 & 8, 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.

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

4a. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE SECOND DRAFT FISCAL YEAR 2022 PREDATION MANAGEMENT PLAN. The Commission will review the final draft of the Fiscal Year 2022 Draft Predation Management Plan with the Department. The Commission may take action to modify or endorse the plan. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 9)*

Since there was no support material, the Board members assumed there were no changes to the draft.

No public comment.

MOTION by Burnside/Chevallier to urge the Commission to approve the second Draft Fiscal Year 2022 Predation Management Plan as presented; carried with Turnipseed absent.

4b. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF COMMISSION REGULATION 21-14, BIG GAME QUOTAS FOR THE 2021-2022 SEASON. The Commission will establish regulations for the numbers of tags to be issued for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, black bear, and mountain goats for the 2021 - 2022 seasons. (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 15A)

Vice Chairman Cook said the affects of the drought is the reason for the reduction in the numbers.

Member Porter agreed and supported the numbers.

Chairman Burnside knows the drought has affected the herd numbers however he pointed out that proposal for mule deer across all the weapons classes is being reduced by 0.7% yet the number of youth tags are being reduced by 7%. He understands demand/success drives the formula. But decreasing the number of youth tags because they have been successful in filling their tags does not make sense. He feels the youth are successfully filling their tags, getting excited about hunting, and are on their way to becoming lifelong hunters so reducing their tags and opportunity is not his choice; the youth should be treated differently.

All the members agreed there should be an equitable reduction of tags while not specifically targeting the youth hunts.

Chairman Burnside identified a couple of hunts and stated a concern with the increase or adjustments in the number of non-resident tags while the number of resident tags stayed the same or went down. While he understands it is based on demand/success, he cannot support that. He supports the reductions in tags, but the reductions need to be equitable.

No public comment.

Carl Lackey, Nevada Department of Wildlife Biologist, joined the meeting and reviewed the concerns expressed by the members. He provided a brief explanation as to why there is a drop in the number of tags.

MOTION by Cook/Porter to recommend adoption of Commission Regulation 21-14, Big Game Quotas for the 2021-2022 Season as presented with the verbal comments that will be made at the Commission meeting considered with this recommendation; carried with Turnipseed absent.

4c. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF COMMISSION REGULATION 21-04, AMENDMENT #1, 2021 BLACK BEAR SEASONS. The Commission will consider adopting the 2021 hunting season dates, open management units, hunting hours, special regulations, animal sex, legal requirements, hunt boundary restrictions, and dates and times for indoctrination courses for black bear. (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 15B)

No changes are being recommended from last year.

No public comment.

MOTION by Chevallier/Cook to recommend adoption of Commission Regulation 21-04, Amendment #1, Black Bear Seasons; carried with Turnipseed absent.

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

Craig Burnside received an email from Kim Evans, a senatorial aide, on the history of mule deer in the State of Nevada. He received emails urging support for SJR 3.

Vice Chairman Cook received emails from Bob Rittenhouse on wild horses and Bob Pohlman on Sage Grouse. He also received emails on SJR3.

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 will be the designated spokesperson for the upcoming meeting.

7. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. DISCUSSION TO SCHEDULE THE NEXT DOUGLAS COUNTY WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for June 25 and 26, 2021, in Winnemucca 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. 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, June 22, 2021.

8. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

There were no items stated.

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT.

Vice Chairman Cook is happy to hear that Douglas County has 75-80% of Nevada's Black Bear population.

Public comment closed.

ADJOURNMENT.

MOTION by Chevallier/Cook to adjourn the meeting; carried with Turnipseed absent.

There being no further business to come before the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife, the meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

The minutes of the May 4, 2021 meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 22nd day of June 2021.

Respectfully submitted:

Craig Burnside, Chairman