

DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE
Minutes of the November 2, 2021 Meeting

The Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting was scheduled for 5:00 pm on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, in the Douglas County Community Center, Carson Valley Medical Center Room, 1329 Waterloo Lane, Gardnerville, Nevada.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Craig Burnside, Chairman
Bob Cook, Vice Chairman (present by telephone)
Mike Porter
JT Chevallier (present by telephone)

MEMBER ABSENT: Mike Turnipseed

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 5:08 pm and determined a quorum was present.

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

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Burnside advised that Members Cook and Chevallier were present by telephone.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No public comment.

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

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **September 21, 2021**

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

1. DISCUSSION ON THE RESULTS OF THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2021 NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING. There will be no action taken.

Member Chevallier attended and provided the following update:

- A main topic was the ongoing drought challenges and the adjustments being made to accommodate the issues resulting from the low water conditions.

- The negative social media outcry over the bear hunts and the hunting contests around the state.
- 838 tags were returned with 424 of those going in the first come, first serve program. 62% of those were purchased by non-resident hunters.
- The new GIS portal, <https://www.hunt.wildlifenv.com>, is a valuable interactive tool.
- The fishing regulations were approved.
- The landowner compensation tags item was approved.
- The shed antler season was approved.

2. The following items, 2a through 2g, are items that will be heard before the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners at the next meeting, November 5, 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–2g. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING WHETHER THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD SHOULD TAKE A POSITION ON:

2a. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE FIRST READING OF COMMISSION POLICY 1, GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE COMMISSION. The Commission will have a first reading of Commission Policy 1, General Guidelines for the Commission, and may take action to repeal or revise the policy. The Commission may advance the policy to a second reading for possible adoption at a future meeting. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 7A)*

Chairman Burnside summarized the additional section to the guidelines allowing for the acceptance of gifts/donations/bequests up to \$250,000 in the event of an unanticipated emergency without previous approval from the Interim Finance Committee.

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Porter to recommend Commission adoption of the proposed changes to Commission Policy 1, General Guidelines for the Commission; carried with Turnipseed absent.

2b. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE FIRST READING OF COMMISSION POLICY 10, HERITAGE TAGS AND VENDORS. The Commission will have a first reading of Commission Policy 10, Heritage Tags and Vendors, and may take action to repeal or revise the policy. The commission may advance the policy to a second reading for possible adoption at a future meeting. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 7B)*

Vice Chairman Cook reviewed the changes to the scheduling and the process to be followed for organizations receiving the tags.

No public comment.

MOTION by Cook/Porter to recommend Commission adoption of the proposed changes to Commission Policy 10, Heritage Tags and Vendors; carried with Turnipseed absent.

2c. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE MODERNIZATION OF THE STATEWIDE ELK SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN. The Nevada Elk Species Management Plan (ESMP) was approved in 1997. Over the last 25 years, the Department has adopted various techniques, technologies, and harvest guidance designed to improve elk management in Nevada and some of these practices are not specifically described within the ESMP. Further, certain portions of the ESMP may be outdated and may require revision. The Department requests the Commission's approval to begin the evaluation and review process of the ESMP. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 8*)

Chairman Burnside explained the plans were written 25 years ago and technologies and techniques have changed. The changes will match the plan to the current terminology, technology, and guidelines being used in the current management of elk.

No public comment.

The consensus of the Board was to support the modernization of the elk management plan.

2d. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE ADJUSTMENTS TO MEETING INTERVALS FOR COORDINATION AND OVERSIGHT TEAMS RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSEEING EXISTING ELK MANAGEMENT SUB-PLAN. Language in several local elk management sub-plans stipulate the Coordination Oversight Team (COT) hold annual meetings to discuss various aspects of elk management within the planning area. Achieving a voting quorum during these meetings has been difficult in recent years. The Department requests the Commission's approval to hold COT meetings with requested by team members of to address emerging management needs rather than on an annual basis. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 9*)

Chairman Burnside thought the current difficulty in obtaining quorums is driving this change. The change is to meet on an as needed basis.

No public comment.

The consensus of the Board was to recommend Commission support for the proposed changes.

2e. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 499, BONUS POINT ONLY APPLICATION PERIOD. The Commission will review language amending NAC 502 chapters that would decouple the hunt application periods from bonus point purchase periods, remove the requirement for a 7-day bonus point only purchase period, and allows for the creation of a separate period for bonus point purchases to facilitate a more timely draw process and potentially provide increased opportunity for customers to obtain a bonus points in the future. The change also outlines the definitions for "awarded" or "successful" relative to obtaining a big game tag (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 10A*)

Some members found this a bit confusing because the application periods would not be tied to bonus point application period but there was no definitive time given for when the bonus point application period would happen. It is assumed that it would be after the draw results. The members felt the background material was not clear on the ability to apply for bonus points per species rather than one across all species.

No public comment.

MOTION by Burnside/Chevallier to recommend Commission approval of Commission General Regulation 499, Bonus Point Application Period with the condition that people not applying for tags can buy bonus points per species; carried with Turnipseed absent.

2f. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 503, LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU FILE NO. RXXXX-XX, PREDATOR AND FURBEARING CONTESTS. The Commission will hold a workshop to discuss potential language on predator and fur-bearing contests proposed by Commissioner McNinch. *(This item is agendized as a workshop on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Meeting) (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 11A)*

Chairman Burnside read the proposed draft regulation into the record.

The members felt the real question was whether this regulation is something the Commission should be involved in or not. Recognizing that if the Commission does not act then the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) would. Many felt it would be better if the Commission moved forward with a regulation to ensure they are not forced to handle this in a way directed by others.

Chairman Burnside pointed out the draft regulation is very restrictive already.

Member Chevallier would rather see the Commission handle this. He is against limiting the rights of law-abiding sportsmen, but predators need to be managed.

Vice Chairman Cook agreed. He wondered if there is any truth in these alleged acts; it seems to be hearsay at this point because nothing has been confirmed.

Chairman Burnside talked about the negative social media posts showing pictures of piles of coyotes killed during these contests. That has enraged the anti-hunters.

Member Porter thinks this is not within the prevue of the Commission or Advisory Boards because the coyote is not a game animal and there are no restrictions on hunting. Those boards are charged with looking at wildlife preservation, management, and habitat. This has nothing to do with predator control.

Member Chevallier would like to see this flush out further before making a recommendation. But he agrees with Members Cook and Porter.

The members all agreed that while they have no interest in taking part in these contests, they do not want to limit others if they desire to do it.

No public comment.

MOTION by Burnside/Chevallier that the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife understands the Commission moving forward on this from a political standpoint but philosophically disagrees with curtailing sportsmen in this manner; carried with Turnipseed absent.

2g. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE INTERIM HERITAGE PROJECT REVIEW. The Commission will hear an interim heritage project proposal from the Department. The Department has an opportunity to purchase the 1,550 acre Licking Ranch north of Battle Mountain in Lander County to provide match for Pittman Robertson funds. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 12)*

The members noted that no support material was provided so there was no information on the features or benefits of the Licking Ranch. This could become another Wildlife Management Area.

No public comment.

The consensus of the Board was to recommend to the Commission that they take advantage of any opportunities to secure land in Nevada for the betterment of wildlife.

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

Vice Chairman Cook received an email from Thomas Smith, Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife, regarding coyote contests.

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.

Chairman Burnside will attend and serve as the spokesperson.

5. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. DISCUSSION TO SCHEDULE THE NEXT DOUGLAS COUNTY WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for January 28 and 29, 2022. The Commission will review and discuss potential agenda items for that meeting. The Commission may change Commission meeting dates, times, and locations at this time. The chairman may designate and adjust committee assignments and add or dissolve committees, as necessary. 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 **Monday, January 24, 2022.**

6. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

- Mule Deer Enhancement Program Subcommittee update.
- Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT.

Chairman Burnside updated the Board on the activities of the Mule Deer Enhancement Program Subcommittee. He highlighted project proposals and their support to give the highest priority to any fire rehabilitation projects in mule deer habitat. He touched on the field trip to view fire ravaged areas.

Public comment closed.

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to come before the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife, the meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

The minutes of the November 2, 2021 meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 24th day of January 2022

Respectfully submitted:

Craig Burnside, Chairman