

Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board (CAB)

Minutes

The Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board (CAB) met in the Eureka County Administrative Facility (Annex) on June 18, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Jim Evans (telephonically) and Vice-Chair Trent Gordon.

Members Absent: Arnold Peña

Others Present: Jake Tibbitts, Eureka County Natural Resources Manager; Eric Candee, NV Department of Wildlife (NDOW) Game Warden; Clint Garrett NDOW Biologist (telephonically); Russell Woolstenhulme, NDOW Wildlife Staff Specialist (telephonically); Tom Donham, NDOW Easter Region Supervisor; and Magee Braswell, CAB Secretary.

Call to order

Vice-Chair Trent Gordon called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. a quorum was determined to be present. Chair Evans asked Vice-Chair Gordon to run the meeting since he was phoning in and did not have easy access to the meeting materials.

Public Comment

None.

Board Business

Approval of the agenda notice with addition of any emergency item and/or deletion of any item.

Mr. Gordon motioned to approve the agenda as written. Mr. Evans seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Review and approve the minutes from the April 24, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Gordon motioned to approve the April 24, 2020 minutes. Mr. Evans seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence and member reports.

None.

Discuss and consider purchase of a member service award/plaque for Lester Porter.

Mr. Gordon motioned to approving purchasing a member service award/plaque for Lester Porter for his years of service on the CAB. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Projects

Update on pinyon-juniper thinning project, wildlife guzzlers installation, and other potential projects including fisheries and consider further efforts to move forward for successful implementation of projects.

Jake Tibbitts noted that the Eureka Conservation District recently was successful in receiving a Sage Grouse grant for just short of \$30,000 from the State Conservation Commission. The grant is designated to be used for Pinyon-Juniper maintenance.

Ms. Braswell sent out a Battle Mountain BLM update earlier in the week to all board members. The update was provided by Jess Harvey, Battle Mountain BLM Public Affairs Officer. The board had a short discussion of some of the projects the BLM outlined.

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Clint Garrett noted that they will be working with the Elko NDOW office to identify other projects to be completed this coming year.

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Meeting Agenda and Support Material

7A: Commission General Regulation 490, Party Bonus Points and First Come First Serve, LCB File No. 1013-19

Mr. Gordon motioned to support Commission General Regulation 490. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

7B: Commission General Regulation 491, Notification of Draw Results

The board was in consensus of having **no recommendation** on regulation 491.

7C: Commission General Regulation 492, Thermal Imaging Optics

The board discussed that there were inconsistencies, as well as contradictions, in the wording within the proposed regulation. Subsection 1 lists various devices to be prohibited, but subsection 2 contradicts that by stating the provisions do not apply if the device is mounted to a firearm or bow and "is powered by a battery contained in the sight." Many of the devices prohibited in subsection 2 would be "powered by a battery" and are made in ways to attach to a firearm or bow which could make an unintended loophole. Clearer wording would benefit the sportsmen as well as the law enforcement officers in which devices are truly prohibited whether-or-not mounted on a firearm or bow.

The board was in consensus of having **no recommendation** on regulation 492, however, note inconsistent language may provide a potential loop hole that should be clarified. .

8: Mandatory Indoctrination/Seminar for Bighorn Ram Tag Holders

The board discussed that this was a requirement years ago and sportsmen/women could benefit from having it brought back.

Mr. Gordon motioned to support mandatory indoctrination seminars for Bighorn Ram tag holders. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

9B: Commission Regulation 20-04 Amendment #1, Heritage Tag Vendor Proposals

Mr. Gordon motioned to support the Heritage Tag Vendor Proposals. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

9C: Heritage Project Extension Requests

The board was in consensus of having **no recommendation** on the Heritage Project Extension Requests.

9D: Heritage Funding Reallocation

The board was in consensus of having **no recommendation** on Heritage Funding Reallocation.

9E: Fiscal Year 2021 Heritage Project Proposals

Mr. Gordon motioned to support the Fiscal Year 2021 Heritage Project Proposals as written. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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10: Duck Stamp Request

Mr. Evans motioned to support the Duck Stamp Request. Mr. Gordon seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

16: Commission Regulation 20-12, 2020- 2021 Upland Game and Furbearer Seasons and Bag Limits

The board discussed with Mr. Garrett and Mr. Woolstenhulme the all-around low three year average for all upland game and furbearer. Due to the below average numbers, this resulted in a reduction in season lengths and in some cases bag/quota numbers.

Sage grouse season was reduced from a 9 day season to a 2 day season and the bobcat season was reduced from a 120 day season to a 100 day season.

Mr. Evans motioned to approve the commission regulation 20-12, 2020 Upland Game and Furbearer Seasons and Bag Limits. Mr. Gordon seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

17: Upland Game Bird Stamp Request

Mr. Gordon motioned to approve the Upland Game Bird Stamp Request. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

18: Biennial Upland Game Release Plan for Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021, Amendment 1

Mr. Garrett and Mr. Donham provided a brief overview of the Biennial Upland Game Release Plan. There will be a release of huns captured near Battle Mountain on the Desatoya Ranges well as a ruffed grouse released on the Elk Mountain Range in Elko County.

Mr. Gordon motioned to support the proposed Biennial Upland Game Release Plan for FY 2020-2021, Amendment 1. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

20: Commission General Regulation 485, Tag Transfer, Deference, and Return Program, LCB File No. R022-12

The board has previously supported this regulation in previous meetings.

Mr. Evans motioned to continue to support the initiative. Mr. Gordon seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

21: Review and Consideration of Possible Changes to Waterfowl Hunt Zones for 2021-2025

Mr. Evans motioned to support the possible changes to Waterfowl Hunt Zones for 2021-2025. Mr. Gordon seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

23D: Wildlife Damage Management Committee report and Fiscal Year 2021 Draft Predation Management Plan (Final Draft)

Mr. Garrett provided some background on the draft predation management plan to the board. Trapping and aerial control are still happening for primarily coyotes (and some mountain lion) under Project 40 in Eureka County. In recent years mule deer population has steadily decreased due to heavy winters and predators. NDOW is hoping to see a population increase between the recent mild winters, predator control, and habitat projects. The current doe to fawn ratio is 30:1 with an overall population of 4,200.

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Mr. Gordon motioned to support action item 23D. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

24: Petition- Mr. John V. Zenz- Big Game Tag Drawing Changes

The board discussed the outlined process in the petition for big game tag drawing. The members do not want to see Nevada turn into a 'chase points only' state. They discussed that the process outlined has not been thoroughly vetted and has yet to be proven as a successful means on allocating tags. The board was in consensus that they do not want to see the initiative under Mr. Zenz petition move forward the way it is currently structured.

Mr. Gordon made a motion to not support the petition as structured. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

The Board members should get any other desired agenda items to the secretary for the next meeting. **The next meeting date is scheduled for August 6, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.**

Public Comment

Mr. Evans noted that the water level in Cold Creek Reservoir has been drawn down so that work can be done on the primary structures. There will not be any significant accumulation, elevation wise, moving forward.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Vice-chair Gordon and seconded by Mr. Evans. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____ 2020.

Respectfully submitted: _____, Secretary
Magee Braswell

Approved: _____, Chairman
Jim Evans