Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board (CAB)
Minutes

The Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board (CAB) held a public meeting telephonically on March 11, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. in accordance with the Governor's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006 Promulgated March 22, 2020.

Members Present: Jim Evans (Chair), Trent Gordon (Vice-Chair), and Joe Luby
Others Present: Clint Garrett, Biologist NV Department of Wildlife (NDOW) (via phone), Russell Woolstenhulme, NDOW Waterfowl Staff Specialist (via phone), Jake Tibbitts, Eureka County Natural Resource Manager, and Raymond Hodson, Eureka County sportsman.

Call to order
Chairman Evans called the meeting to order telephonically at 4:32 p.m. a quorum was determined to be present.

Chair Evans noted that the appointment of officers on the agenda could be removed as it was taken care of at the previous meeting.

Public Comment
Raymond Hodson requested the Board work with the County Commission to pass a resolution similar to what is being proposed in Elko County to oppose efforts to ban the use of hounds in bear hunts. Mr. Hodson provided copies of a draft resolution for consideration.

Board Business
Approval of the agenda notice with addition of any emergency item and/or deletion of any item.
There were no changes to the agenda (other than removal of the appointment of officers) and the Board has consensus to move forward with the agenda as posted.

Review and approval of minutes-
Joe Luby motioned to approve the minutes from January 21, 2021. Trent Gordon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence and Member Reports- Review and discuss any or all items.
Chair Evans reported that he had been working with Nevada Gold Mines and a local contractor to try to get the Tonkin Reservoir dam original boat landing reconstructed.

Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Projects
Update on pinyon-juniper thinning project, wildlife guzzler installation, and other potential projects including fisheries, and consider further efforts to move forward for successful implementation of projects.
Clint Garrett and Jake Tibbitts both spoke to the Board about efforts to get projects implemented under BLM's 3-Bars Project boundary. Mr. Garrett mentioned the importance of bringing in Jeremy Lutz, NDOW Habitat Biologist, and also working together on projects of mutual interest and support. Maps were provided to the Board of a current projects in that footprint for various pinyon-juniper (PJ) treatments.

There was also a map provided showing potential projects Battle Mountain BLM has identified, some within the 3-Bars Project footprint and some under BLM's roadside fuels break EA. Mr. Tibbitts requested feedback of the board members of these projects and any areas or specific projects that are a priority.

These projects will be discussed in more detail at future meetings.

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Meeting Agenda and Support Material

Action Item #6A - Commission Regulation 21-13, 2021-2022 Seasons, Bag Limits and Special Regulations for Migratory Game Birds

There was robust discussion between the Board and NDOW Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme. Mr. Woostenhulme provided the Board with an overview of the changes from last year. It was noted that the only major changes was the effort to move Eureka County into the Northeast Zone. Chair Evans thanked Mr. Woostenhulme for his assistance in the effort as the Eureka CAB had worked for many years to get this zone changes completed.

Chair Evans stepped the Board through a potential requested change to shift the dates of some of the hunts to match up with migratory patterns happening later in the season in the area. The idea was to shift the duck hunts and to make the adjustments on all the other seasons accordingly. Chair Evans wished to provide better opportunities for the Canadian Goose hunters in the prime January window.

However, after more discussion with Mr. Woolstenhulme and weighing the pros and cons of shifting NDOW's proposed dates, the Board decided to support the dates and bag limits as proposed. This support was through a motion of Chair Evans and seconded by Joe Luby. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item #10A - Commission General Regulation 496, NAC 503 Simplification

The Board had no recommendation but noted previous consensus by the Board to support moving forward.

Action Item #10B - Commission General Regulation 498, NAC 503.147

The Board noted their previous support of use of dogs/hounds in bear hunts. Mr. Ray Hodson spoke to the Board and stated that "Hopefully the commission knows that they cannot manage black bears without the use of hounds." The Board members agreed with Mr. Hodson's point.

Chair Evans also noted the resolution previously provided by Mr. Hodson. Mr. Hodson stated that the County Commission chairman has already agreed to place consideration of a similar resolution on their agenda for March 19th. Mr. Tibbitts advised the Board members that if they support the resolution that they can show up as individuals at the County Commission meeting to voice their support but since the resolution was not specifically on the CAB's agenda for action that the CAB could not take action on the proposed resolution itself.

Joe Luby made a motion to stay consistent with the previous position of the CAB and to continue to support the use of dogs/hounds in bear hunts and to request the Wildlife Commission move no further on the petition to withdraw dogs from bear hunts. Trent Gordon seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Second Draft Fiscal Year 2022 Predation Management Plan

The Board specifically discussed Project 40 in the Draft Predator Plan with Mr. Garrett. Chair Evans let the discussion and asked Mr. Garrett for specifics related to when predator actions were being completed, and how, to benefit mule deer fawn ratios. Chair Evans noted his desire to see more effort completed in fawning habitat in June and early July and to see more ground work such as calling, trapping, and den work in addition to the aerial work. The other Board members individually agreed with this approach. There was further discussion on the desire to narrow the focus of Project 40 to just Hunt Unit 144 rather than the entire Area 14. This desire by the Board was founded on the facts that a recent wild horse gather on the Diamond Range was completed and the ongoing habitat projects, mostly PJ removal, that has been continued on the Diamonds

The Board also discussed sage grouse related predator efforts and their desire to see work focused around leks, immediately before or during breeding season, without affecting or flushing the birds on the leks themselves. This would include coyote work and pushing for more raven removal. The Board wished to see raven removal as a higher priority in Project 40.

Mr. Garrett informed the Board that based on the collared deer in Area 14 that were killed by predators, most of the kills were from mountain lions. Based on this information, the Board wished to see more efforts targeted towards mountain lions. It was noted that special depredation tags for mountain lions could be a solution where a lion hunter could turn in any lion taken; and this effort would be cheaper than paying Wildlife Services for the lion work.

Based on these above discussions, Trent Gordon made a motion related to Project 40 to request NDOW:

1. Focus on Unit 144 and strike other units from the Project this year;
2. Under the direction of Eureka County and NDOW:
    a. Do less of a "shotgun" approach to predator work and more focus on sensitive areas like fawning areas and leks:
        i. Implement more ground efforts along with aerial efforts;
    b. Do more fawning habitat work in June and early July;
    c. Focus coyote and raven work around leks without affecting the actual birds on active leks;
    d. Increase raven removal for sage grouse to leverage habitat work and wild horse removal that has been completed; and
3. Increase efforts on mountain lions to benefit mule deer including consideration of a "depredation" tag.

Joe Luby seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Note: There were two different Commission agendas the Board members had. It was discovered that the Second Draft Predator Plan may have been pulled from the agenda as it was not listed on the most recent agenda on the Commission website at the time of the CAB meeting.

Action Item #15D – Petition – Special Hunt Season for Disabled Persons

The Board discussed the petition but since there was not background material provided, they took no action. It was noted that multiple opportunities for CAB input will take place if the petition is accepted.

Action Item #18 – Wildlife Killing Contests

Mr. Tibbitts reminded the Board that they had previously weighed in on previous efforts to ban wildlife contests. He provided the Board with a draft letter that was updated based on the one previously approved and sent jointly with the Eureka County Board of Commissioners. The Board reviewed the letter and then Chair Evans made a motion to approve and send the new letter opposing the banning of wildlife contests and outlining the rationale for this opposition. Joe Luby seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting

The board should get any other desired agenda items to the secretary for the next meeting. More discussion on habitat projects will be had at the next meeting. **The next meeting date was scheduled for April 29, 2021 at 4:30 p.m**.

Public Comment
None

Adjournment
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Chair Evans and seconded by Mr. Luby. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Approved this _____day of _____2021.

Respectfully submitted: _____, Secretary
Magee Braswell

Approved: _____, Chairman
Jim Evans