

CARSON CITY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE

Minutes of the May 7, 2007 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife was scheduled for 6:00 p.m., on Monday, May 7, 2007, in the City Hall Capitol Conference Room, 201 North Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Vice Chairperson Gil Yanuck
Wes Clyde
John Valley
Stan Zuber

STAFF: Kathleen King, Recording Secretary

NOTE: A recording of these proceedings, the board's agenda materials, and any written comments or documentation provided to the recording secretary during the meeting are public record, on file in the Clerk-Recorder's Office. These materials are available for review during regular business hours.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER, DETERMINATION OF QUORUM (1-0007)** - Vice Chairperson Yanuck called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was present. Chairperson Walker was absent.
- 2. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 26, 2007 (1-0010)** - Member Zuber moved to approve the minutes. Member Valley seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
- 3. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (1-0106)** - Vice Chairperson Yanuck modified the agenda to first address those items pertinent to the NDOW representatives' attendance at the meeting.
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0018)** - None.
- 5. DISCLOSURES (1-0023)** - Vice Chairperson Yanuck advised of having received a telephone call from a representative of the Eureka County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife, which prompted agenda item 7.
- 6. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO CORRECT BOARD MEMBER TERMS TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF NRS 501.275 (1-0043)** - Vice Chairperson Yanuck introduced this item. Ms. King provided background information and an overview of the agenda materials. Discussion followed, and Vice Chairperson Yanuck entertained a motion. **Member Clyde moved to come into compliance with the provisions of NRS 501.275 by extending the two-year terms. Member Valley seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**
- 7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A EUREKA COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A HERITAGE BULL ELK DRAW (1-3232)** - Vice Chairperson Yanuck provided background information on the subject proposal, and discussion followed.

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8. REPORT AND DISCUSSION OF POINTS OF INTEREST FROM THE MARCH 30 AND 31, 2007 WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING (1-3574) - Vice Chairperson Yanuck provided an overview of discussion which took place at the last commission meeting, and referred the board members to the draft commission minutes. Discussion took place regarding the amount of time taken by Hunters Alert representatives, and a recommendation that the commission impose a time limit on public comment.

9. ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE CONSENT AGENDA. All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are agendaized for the May 11 and 12, 2007 Wildlife Commission meeting and may be acted upon by the Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife with one action and without extensive hearing. Any member of the Board or any citizen may request that an item be taken from the consent agenda and acted upon separately during this meeting (1-0140) - Vice Chairperson Yanuck pulled items 9-A and 9-I. Member Valley pulled items 9-B and 9-F. Vice Chairperson Yanuck entertained a motion. **Member Zuber moved to accept the remainder of the consent agenda. Member Valley seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

9-A. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 348, LCB FILE NO. T022-07. Amends NAC 488.458 mooring or anchoring of vessels; placement and removal of mooring buoys by deleting section 1(c) regarding Lake Tahoe mooring and anchoring areas and moving it to a new section 2, designating areas for mooring (only) and prohibiting anchoring in these mooring areas. *This item is agendaized as part of an informational workshop during the May 11th commission meeting and for action during the May 12th commission meeting* (1-0174) - NDOW Law Enforcement Bureau Chief Rob Buonamici provided background information on this item, and discussed the effect of the proposed amendment. He advised that Douglas County Sheriff's Office representatives as well as Glenbrook residents are supportive of the proposed amendment. He acknowledged that the Douglas County Sheriff's Office will enforce the regulation. He further acknowledged the amendment will be included in the Lake Tahoe boating regulations, and posted on the NDOW website. In response to a question, he advised that the regulation would be exclusive to the subject area. He acknowledged the possibility that other residents and property owners adjacent to the Lake will want to follow suit, and discussion followed. Vice Chairperson Yanuck expressed support for the enforcement responsibility being shared by Douglas County Sheriff's deputies. Mr. Buonamici advised of having received legislative approval for two seasonal boating enforcement positions at Lake Tahoe. He responded to questions regarding the various agencies responsible for law enforcement at Lake Tahoe. Vice Chairperson Yanuck entertained a motion. **Member Clyde moved to support the amendment to NAC 488.458. Member Zuber seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.** Member Clyde inquired as to the possibility of further amendments to NAC 488.458 if similar problems are identified in areas over which Douglas and Washoe Counties have jurisdiction. Mr. Buonamici advised that NDOW will likely take the position of waiting to see how the subject amendment works, anticipating that it will address the problem with its unique circumstances as discussed earlier. He distributed to the Board members and staff copies of the Law Enforcement Bureau's Annual Report. Vice Chairperson Yanuck thanked Mr. Buonamici for his presentation.

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9-B. ACTION REGARDING TABLE MOUNTAIN WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT - DAVE PULLIAM. The commission will review and take action on a draft letter to the Bureau of Land Management concerning the Table Mountain Wind Energy Development (1-2756) - In response to a question, Member Zuber provided an overview of discussion which took place at the last commission meeting. He advised that NDOW biologists had recommended opposition to the building permit. Vice Chairperson Yanuck referred to the May 2, 2007 sage grouse conservation team report, included in the agenda materials as item #11, and provided an overview of the same. He advised that habitat destruction is the most negative impact associated with wind energy development.

9-C. ACTION REGARDING WILDLIFE HERITAGE PROJECTS - COMMISSIONER BENTLEY. The commission's heritage committee will provide recommendations to the commission for approval of projects submitted for funding in fiscal year 2008 (1-2057) - Mr. Buonamici provided background information on the origin of the wildlife heritage program, and discussion took place regarding heritage funding allocations. Mr. Buonamici expressed the belief that the program should be "truly run and influenced by the public and not the agency." The Department submits projects according to the existing program policies. Mr. Buonamici offered to provide additional explanation of any of the heritage projects. In response to a comment, he advised that agency projects are submitted as a "team effort."

9-D. ACTION REGARDING COUNTY ADVISORY BOARDS TO MANAGE WILDLIFE BUDGET REQUESTS - DARALYN DOBSON. In accordance with NRS 501.320, the commission will be asked to approve budget requests for the 17 county advisory boards to manage wildlife.

9-E. ACTION REGARDING PETITION OF SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL NORTHERN NEVADA CHAPTER PRESIDENT JEREMY DREW. The commission will consider a petition from Safari Club International to establish a one- or two-day youth upland hunting season, and may accept the petition and initiate regulatory action or deny the petition.

9-F. ACTION REGARDING PETITION OF CAROL TRESNER AND PATRICIA SWAIN, TRAIL SAFE. The commission will consider a petition from Trail Safe to establish a trapping set back from posted hiking trails (1-2975) - Member Valley expressed concern with regard to the criteria for determining a "posted" hiking trail. Vice Chairperson Yanuck provided an overview of discussion which took place at the last commission meeting pertinent to this item. Member Valley expressed general support for the proposal, but noted that trappers have to "go where the animals are." Discussion followed.

9-G. ACTION REGARDING APPEAL OF JASON GILES. Mr. Jason Giles is appealing to the commission the status of his 2006 big game harvest questionnaire which was submitted after the deadline.

9-H. ACTION REGARDING LEGISLATION - CHAIRMAN MacKENZIE. The commission will hear a report from the commission's legislative committee and may vote to support or oppose proposals to the 2007 session of the Nevada State Legislature.

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9-I. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION REGULATION 07-06 - BIG GAME BIOLOGIST MIKE COX. The commission will establish regulations for the numbers of tags to be issued for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats for the 2007 / 2008 hunting seasons. **Note: Support material mailed under separate cover (1-0365) - NDOW Northwestern Region Big Game Supervising Biologist Mike Dobel reviewed statistical information on statewide pronghorn populations, as outlined in agenda materials pertinent to this item. He responded to questions regarding the Smith Valley pronghorn herd and reviewed the quota recommendations. He responded to additional questions regarding the hunter success rate for antelope. He provided background information on the survey and population estimate processes, and commented on the conservative quota recommendations. He responded to questions regarding the 6 percent increase in rifle hunt tags, and the tag allocation process. He explained the reduction in tag quotas for management area six, commensurate with emergency hunts and the removal of 200 animals due to wild fires in the area. Discussion followed, and Vice Chairperson Yanuck entertained a motion. Member Valley moved to accept the antelope recommendations, as submitted by NDOW. Member Clyde seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

Mr. Dobel provided background information on the statewide elk species management plan, which includes subplans for individual elk herds. He explained the caps included in the subplans, and the correlating quota recommendations. He reviewed statistical information on harvested bulls based on age samples, and the quota recommendations outlined in the agenda materials. Discussion took place regarding elk damage management and compensation as a factor in hunting opportunity. In response to a question, Mr. Dobel discussed differences between elk habitat and deer habitat. He reviewed changes to the muzzleloader and archery hunts, and provided background information on the quota allocation process. Vice Chairperson Yanuck entertained a motion. **Member Clyde moved to accept the elk hunts, as proposed by the Department. Member Zuber seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

Mr. Dobel reviewed statewide statistics for Desert Bighorn Sheep hunt 3151. In response to a question, he estimated that Nevada has the highest Desert Bighorn Sheep population of any state. He attributes much to the aggressive trapping and transplanting program in which the Department has been involved for the last 20 years. He acknowledged that the big game water development program has also been a factor in the high population. He advised that new transplants will require "some work in front of it," including significant water development or working with a permittee to change a livestock class. He reviewed the quota recommendations as outlined in the agenda materials. He and Mr. Buonamici responded to questions regarding sheep hunts. Mr. Dobel reviewed statistical information and quota recommendations for California Bighorn Sheep, Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, and Mountain Goats. Discussion followed, and Vice Chairperson Yanuck entertained a motion. **Member Valley moved to accept the Department's recommendations for sheep and goats. Member Zuber seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

Mr. Dobel provided background information on the quota recommendations for mule deer, and reviewed the same. Discussion followed, and Vice Chairperson Yanuck entertained a motion. **Member Clyde moved to accept the mule deer recommendations, as presented by the Department. Member Valley seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.** The Board members completed the written recommendation and provided it to Mr. Dobel. Vice Chairperson Yanuck thanked Mr. Dobel for his presentation.

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- 10. DISCUSSION REGARDING INFORMATIONAL REPORTS TO BE PRESENTED AT THE MAY 11 AND 12, 2007 WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING.** A report on each of the following informational items will be provided by a Nevada Department of Wildlife representative or a Wildlife Commissioner at the upcoming Commission meeting.

10-A. DEPARTMENT BUDGET - DIRECTOR KEN E. MAYER

10-B. AUDIT COMPLIANCE UPDATE - DIRECTOR KEN E. MAYER

10-C. DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES REPORT - DIRECTOR KEN E. MAYER

10-D. LITIGATION REPORT - DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL WAYNE HOWLE

10-E. COMMISSION AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR NDOW FISCAL MATTERS - DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL WAYNE HOWLE

10-F. TAG ALLOCATION / APPLICATION HUNT COMMITTEE - COMMISSIONER JEFFRESS

10-G. CLARK COUNTY SHOOTING PARK - COMMISSIONER LURIE

10-H. SHED ANTLER SEASON - CHIEF GAME WARDEN ROB BUONAMICI (1-2335)

Mr. Buonamici provided background information on this item, and responded to questions regarding various interests in shed antlers. In response to an additional question, he provided information with regard to policies and procedures in other states. He expressed a preference for addressing issues associated with shed antlers through education rather than additional regulation. In response to a question, he discussed the potential for negative impacts associated with collecting shed antlers. He advised of having provided a presentation on this matter, and of having recommended giving careful consideration to the issue rather than imposing additional regulations. He discussed the importance of minimizing impacts and promoting hunting and outdoor activities. Discussion followed, and Mr. Buonamici advised he is working with a White Pine County representative on this issue.

10-I. WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - COMMISSIONER BENTLEY

10-J. NEVADA WILDLIFE DATA SYSTEM - CHIEF OF OPERATIONS BOB HAUGHIAN

10-K. 2007 APPLICATION HUNT UPDATE - DON SEFTON, SYSTEMS CONSULTANTS

10-L. RESOURCE USE BY ELK, DEER, AND CATTLE ON THE GOOSE CREEK ELK MANAGEMENT AREA - GAME BUREAU CHIEF RUSS MASON

10-M. MINING CLAIM POSTS AND WILDLIFE - CHIEF OF DIVERSITY LAURA RICHARDS

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10-N. SPOONER LAKE - CHIEF OF FISHERIES RICH HASKINS (1-2709) - Vice Chairperson Yanuck provided background information on this item. Mr. Buonamici advised that Mr. Haskins has been working with Nevada State Parks representatives with regard to this matter.

10-O. BIG GAME HERD STATUS, HARVEST ANALYSIS, AND QUOTA DEVELOPMENT - MIKE COX. The commission will hear a report on big game population status, harvest information, and quota development. (Please note that the Big Game Status book will be available on line at ndow.org.)

11. REPORT ON NEVADA SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION TEAM - GIL YANUCK (2-0057) - Vice Chairperson Yanuck referred to the May 2, 2007 report included in the agenda materials, and the May 7, 2007 letter to Governor Gibbons requesting his support which was distributed to the board members prior to the start of the meeting.

12. DISCUSSION REGARDING BUDGET REPORT - GIL YANUCK (2-0067) - Vice Chairperson Yanuck reviewed the budget materials which were included in the commission's agenda packet.

13. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING BOARD MEMBER COMMITMENTS TO UPCOMING WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS (2-0090) - Vice Chairperson Yanuck volunteered to attend the Friday meeting, and the Saturday meeting if no one else was available. Member Valley offered to attend the Saturday meeting.

14. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO SCHEDULE NEXT CCABMW MEETING. The next meeting of the Wildlife Commission is scheduled for June 22 and 23, 2007 in Elko. The next meeting of the CCABMW is tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 18, 2007 (2-0105) - Consensus of the board was to schedule the next meeting for Monday, June 18th.

15. STATUS REPORTS FROM STAFF (2-0110) - Ms. King reported that interviews would be agendized for the June board meeting, and that Park Planner Vern Krahn would likely provide a status report on the urban fishing pond.

16. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (2-0157) - Vice Chairperson Yanuck requested staff to agendize discussion and action on the Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee materials sent by Commissioner Jim Jeffress.

17. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (2-0226) - Member Clyde moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. Member Zuber seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

The Minutes of the May 7, 2007 Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting are so approved this 18th day of June, 2007.

STEVEN R. WALKER, Chair