

CARSON CITY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE

Minutes of the May 5, 2008 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 5, 2008 in the City Hall Capitol Conference Room, 201 North Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada.

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

STAFF: Lee Plemel, Planning Division Director
Scott Fahrenbruch, Parks and Recreation Director of Operations
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary

NOTE: A recording of these proceedings, the advisory 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 (1-0008) - Chairperson Yanuck called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

2. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 17, 2008 (1-0014) - Member Clyde moved to approve the minutes, as written. Member Valley seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

3. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (1-0023) - None.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0026) - Kevin Baily provided a status report on funding for the Fuji Park urban fishing pond. He circulated among the advisory board members, staff, and citizens present a fund raising proposal. Member Martin circulated among the advisory board members, staff, and citizens present samples of native vegetation.

5. DISCLOSURES (1-0133) - None.

6. DISCUSSION WITH VARIOUS CITY REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING NDOW'S PROPOSED BILL DRAFT REQUEST FOR NUISANCE BEAR PROGRAM FUNDING (1-0141) - Chairperson Yanuck introduced and provided background information on this item. Mr. Plemel introduced himself for the record, and provided background information on the Planning Division's purview and responsibilities. He advised that the approval process for new subdivisions may provide the opportunity to require new homeowners to comply with a City ordinance requiring bear proof trash containers and prohibiting the feeding of wildlife. He expressed the opinion that bear proof trash containers are not typically a front-line issue with any Planning Division. "It's usually more in the code enforcement / animal control side of things." He reiterated the opportunity, if there is an ordinance in place, for the Planning Division to require "something specific, whatever that may be," as part of the new subdivision approval

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process. He clarified that the Planning Division would not typically be involved in going back and requiring homeowners in existing subdivisions to purchase bear-proof trash containers. In response to a question, he advised that the requirement would most likely be implemented through an animal control ordinance rather than a zoning ordinance.

In response to a question, NDOW Biologist Carl Lackey advised of the understanding that state statute provides for animal control agencies to address domestic species only. Mr. Plemel expressed an interest in hearing the advisory board members' input regarding the proposed ordinance. He advised of having spoken with a Douglas County planner, in preparation for the meeting, and provided a brief overview of the provisions of the Douglas County nuisance wildlife ordinance. Mr. Lackey provided additional information regarding the provisions of the Douglas County ordinance. Chairperson Yanuck discussed NDOW and citizen efforts to educate residents regarding problems associated with nuisance wildlife, and enforcement issues associated with an ordinance. In response to a question, Mr. Lackey expressed the opinion that ordinances are the answer to nuisance wildlife issues. He recommended the provisions included in the Douglas County ordinance "that only affects those people creating the problem." "Everywhere that people have bear-proofed, the problems almost totally subside."

In response to a question, Mr. Fahrenbruch explained Parks and Recreation Department purview to protect park property and the users who visit park property. He discussed the problems experienced last year at Fuji Park, and Mr. Lackey acknowledged having trapped three to four bears at the park. Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that, at Mr. Lackey's recommendation, bear-proof trash containers were purchased and placed at Fuji Park and, since that time, there have been no problems. He expressed the opinion that an ordinance would be valuable for the community. He acknowledged the bear-proof containers alleviated the problem. Mr. Lackey expressed concern that, although the Parks Department took appropriate steps to alleviate the problem, if the dumpsters at Bodine's Casino aren't secured, "the bears are going to be [Mr. Fahrenbruch's] problem again because they're going to be walking through the park on their way to Bodine's." He noted the 300 homes and golf course proposed for the nearby Clear Creek area, and discussed the importance of requiring bear-proof trash containers. He responded to questions regarding nuisance bears at the retail establishments on Topsy Lane, and advised that since the businesses are in Douglas County, "they'll get warnings and then a citation if they don't deal with it right away."

Mr. Lackey noted, for the record, that he had never had a government entity "respond as quickly and appropriately as Carson City Parks did." Chairperson Yanuck expressed support for bear-proof trash containers as a solution to the problem, and for an ordinance with provisions similar to those enacted in Douglas County. Member Martin expressed support for education promoting the importance of bear-proof containers, and the opinion that ordinances should be a last resort. Following discussion, Mr. Lackey agreed that education and bear-proof containers work. "Until people get bit by an ordinance or a bear actually crashes down their front door, they don't do anything. They wait until the problem is knocking on their front door before they go out and get a container and that's where an ordinance helps because most people won't do it until they absolutely have to. By then, it's too late." Ms. King noted the information contained in the pertinent agenda materials regarding NDOW's proposed bill draft request, and advised that the City would not be eligible for the associated grant funding without an ordinance in place.

In response to a question, Mr. Fahrenbruch speculated that the City's Health and Human Services Department would promote the proposed ordinance to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Plemel suggested that the ordinance would be pertinent to the property owner's response to nuisance wildlife issues.

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7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE CARSON CITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING BEAR-PROOF TRASH CONTAINERS AND TO PROHIBIT THE FEEDING OF WILDLIFE (1-0600) - Chairperson Yanuck requested input of the advisory board members with regard to possible action. In response to a request for appropriate direction, Mr. Fahrenbruch suggested taking action to request the City to pursue an ordinance. It would then be up to City representatives to determine the appropriate department to draft the ordinance and submit it to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Plemel noted the importance of providing the same information to the Board of Supervisors as had been discussed at this meeting. Discussion took place regarding the appropriate action.

Mr. Lackey responded to questions regarding the extent of the nuisance bear problem in Carson City. He acknowledged support for proposing a nuisance bear ordinance to the Carson City Board of Supervisors, similar to that enacted in Douglas County. Additional discussion took place regarding the appropriate action, and Chairperson Yanuck entertained a motion. **Member Valley moved to schedule a meeting with the City Manager to discuss recommending to the Board of Supervisors the creation of a nuisance bear ordinance. Member Clyde seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

8. REPORT AND DISCUSSION OF POINTS OF INTEREST FROM THE MARCH 21 AND 22, 2008 WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING (1-1014) - Chairperson Yanuck provided an overview of discussion regarding the elk damage management compensation fund, helicopter repair allocations, and the county advisory board workshop held Saturday, March 22nd. He referred the advisory board members to the commission meeting minutes.

9. ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE CONSENT AGENDA. All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are agendaized for the May 9 and 10, 2008 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 (1-1247) - Chairperson Yanuck suggested pulling item 9-K in deference to Mr. Lackey and NDOW Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox. **Member Clyde so moved. The motion was seconded and carried 5-0.** (1-3181) Chairperson Yanuck entertained a motion to approve the balance of the consent agenda. **Vice Chairperson Zuber moved to accept the remainder of the consent agenda items. Member Clyde seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

9-A. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 348 - R053-07 - MOORING / ANCHORING VESSELS - STAFF GAME WARDEN FRED MESSMANN. The commission may revise NAC 488 designating a certain area of Lake Tahoe for mooring vessels; prohibiting a vessel from anchoring or placing a temporary mooring buoy within that area; and other matters properly related thereto. *This item is agendaized as part of an informational workshop on Friday, May 9th and for commission action on Saturday, May 10th.*

9-B. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 355 - LCB FILE NO. R027-08 - UNIT BOUNDARIES - CHIEF GAME WARDEN ROB BUONAMICI. The commission may revise the boundaries of certain management areas for antelope, deer, mountain lion, elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and furbearing mammals; and other matters properly related thereto. *This item is agendaized as part of an informational workshop on Friday, May 9th and for commission action on Saturday, May 10th.*

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9-C. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 356 - R020-08 - CHAPTER 488 REVISIONS - STAFF GAME WARDEN FRED MESSMANN. The commission may revise NAC 488, expanding the list of acts that constitute reckless or negligent operation of a vessel; revising the standards for safe loading capacity of a vessel; increasing certain reimbursement amounts paid to the Department of Wildlife; revising the list of waters on which vessels with electric motors are permitted; and other matters properly related thereto. *This item is agendized as part of an informational workshop on Friday, May 9th and for commission action on Saturday, May 10th.*

9-D. ACTION REGARDING ELK DAMAGE PAYMENT TO DOUBLE U LIVESTOCK - CHIEF OF GAME RUSS MASON. The Department initiated payment of \$15,864 to the Double U Ranch. The amount is the sum of a \$4,050 payment for fence construction material, and two payments of \$6,689 and \$5,125, totaling \$15,864 for damage to standing crops. *This item is agendized as informational for the Friday, May 9th commission meeting.*

9-E. ACTION REGARDING APPROVAL OF THE WHITE PINE COUNTY ELK MANAGEMENT PLAN - CHIEF OF GAME RUSS MASON. The commission is requested to approve the revised White Pine County Elk Plan that was presented as an informational item at the February 2008 meeting.

9-F. ACTION REGARDING DUCK STAMP CONTEST SPONSOR - CHIEF OF CONSERVATION EDUCATION KELLY CLARK. The commission will be requested to select a sponsor for the 2009 - 2010 duck stamp contest in accordance with commission policy 50.

9-G. ACTION REGARDING WILDLIFE HERITAGE PROJECTS - CHAIRMAN BENTLEY. The commission's heritage committee will provide recommendations to the commission for approval of projects submitted for funding in fiscal year 2009.

9-H. ACTION REGARDING 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. *This item is agendized as informational for the Friday, May 9th commission meeting.*

9-I. ACTION REGARDING EXPANSION OF MOUNTAIN GOAT HUNTER CHOICES - COMMISSIONER JEFFRESS. The commission will hear a report from the last Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee ("TAAHC") meeting and be requested to take action on a recommendation from the TAAHC to change the number of hunter choice numbers for mountain goat from one to five.

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

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9-K. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION REGULATION 08-01 - 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 2008 - 2009 hunting seasons (1-1268) - Mr. Cox referred to the pertinent commission agenda materials, and discussion took place with regard to a format by which to address this item. Mr. Cox advised of a general reduction in the pronghorn antelope population due to “a lot more fawn loss than what we had normally dealt with.” He responded to questions of clarification and reviewed the quota recommendations. In response to a further question, he and Mr. Lackey described the location of the nearest pronghorn herd in the Pine Nut Mountains. In response to a further question, Mr. Cox advised that the necessary habitat isn’t available to accommodate the herd moving to the west side of the Pine Nuts. He described the herd in the southern portion of the Pine Nuts as “static.” He advised of a seven percent reduction from last year, but anticipates a “bright future” for pronghorn antelope in Nevada compared to other species. He discussed a reduction in the doe quota, but anticipates growing population long-term. He responded to questions regarding the reduction in doe population. He advised of having received direction to not provide non-residents a ten percent statewide proportion of tags, “but only unit group by unit group.” He noted that there are not non-resident tags in every unit group with resident pronghorn tags. He described the mechanism by which this was accomplished, and reviewed the effect on the recommended quotas. He responded to questions of clarification. Chairperson Yanuck entertained a motion. **Member Valley moved to accept the quota recommendations, as presented, for antelope. Member Clyde seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Cox advised of a reduced elk calf survival over the winter. This will have an impact on the mature bull segment in the next few years. Mr. Cox further advised of a “very successful” cow elk harvest last year, and reviewed bull elk harvest statistics. “With population objectives being met and maintaining bull ratios ... we’re backing off on tags.” Mr. Cox reviewed the antlered elk quota recommendations, and anticipated discussion at the commission meeting from the White Pine County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife regarding the recommended quotas. He reviewed declines in the quota recommendations based on demand / success statistics. He advised of a 17 percent reduction in cow elk tags. In reference to earlier comments, he advised there were 66 elk damage compensation tags made available through ranchers. Approximately \$650,000 was generated from the sale of the 66 tags. In 2005, NDOW made \$636,000 from the sale of 2,600 tags. Discussion followed, and Mr. Cox responded to questions regarding the method by which landowners are compensated for damage / loss. Chairperson Yanuck entertained a motion. **Member Clyde moved to approve the recommendations, as presented. Member Valley seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Cox advised of a decrease in the southern Nevada desert bighorn sheep population due to drought and a “hole in the lamb recruitment” five to seven years ago “that would now be mature rams.” He noted a corresponding decrease in the quota recommendation. He discussed a die off in the Fairview Peak area, unit 181, and the corresponding decrease in the quota recommendation. He discussed the need for more proactive management. Because of a “buffer of so many herds statewide,” he advised of a slight tag increase. This is largely due to transplant successes in central and west central Nevada. Mr. Cox advised that Nevada has the largest bighorn sheep population in North America.

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With regard to California bighorn sheep, Mr. Cox discussed a die off in the Hayes Canyon Range due to disease. He responded to questions of clarification, and advised of a 1 percent decline in tag allocations. He further advised that the herd is doing very well in the Virginia Mountains. The owners of the Big Canyon Ranch are allowing sheep hunters access.

Mr. Cox advised of ten resident tags and one non-resident tag recommended for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. "Things are doing well in all of our four herds ..." Mr. Cox advised of 100 percent hunter success for California bighorn and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and mountain goats. He further advised that mountain goat herds are stable, and that the same number of tags are recommended for both resident and non-resident hunters. Chairperson Yanuck entertained a motion regarding bighorn sheep and mountain goat quota recommendations. **Member Martin moved to approve the recommendations, as presented. The motion was seconded and carried 5-0.**

Mr. Cox discussed weather conditions over the past 10 to 15 years which have affected the mule deer herd. He advised, "We're still carrying very high buck ratios." He reviewed the quota recommendations, as outlined in the commission agenda materials. In response to a question, he advised there are very few "juniors that are killing their bucks with anything other than a rifle." He estimated less than five percent. He reviewed the method by which the junior hunt tags were calculated. Discussion followed. Mr. Lackey and Mr. Cox reviewed the tag quota recommendations for the Carson Range, and discussion followed. Chairperson Yanuck entertained a motion. **Member Valley moved to accept the recommendations, as presented. Member Clyde seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.** Chairperson Yanuck thanked Mr. Cox and Mr. Lackey for their attendance and participation. Mr. Cox expressed appreciation for the advisory board's support.

10. DISCUSSION REGARDING INFORMATIONAL REPORTS TO BE PRESENTED AT THE MAY 9 AND 10, 2008 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 (1-3191) - Chairperson Yanuck entertained requests to discuss the informational reports.

10-A. DEPARTMENT BUDGET AND AUDIT REPORT - DIRECTOR KEN MAYER

10-B. DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES REPORT - DIRECTOR KEN MAYER

10-C. LITIGATION REPORT - DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL NHU NGUYEN

10-D. 2009 LEGISLATION UPDATE - MANAGEMENT ANALYST III KIM JOLLY

10-E. CLARK COUNTY SHOOTING PARK - COMMISSIONER LURIE

10-F. QUAGGA MUSSEL UPDATE - CHIEF OF FISHERIES RICH HASKINS (1-3207) - Member Martin advised that the TRPA will be conducting mandatory mussel inspections of all boat launches this year. He responded to questions regarding the method by which inspections will be conducted, and discussion followed.

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10-G. IZZENHOOD ACQUISITION UPDATE - CHIEF OF HABITAT DAVE PULLIAM

10-H. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA OPERATIONS BUDGET SUMMARY - CHIEF OF HABITAT DAVE PULLIAM

10-I. OVERTON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA 2008 CANADA GEESE MANAGEMENT PLANS - CHIEF OF GAME RUSS MASON

10-J. WILDERNESS DELAMAR/WARNER MOUNTAINS - CHIEF OF HABITAT DAVE PULLIAM

11. REPORT ON NEVADA SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION TEAM - GIL YANUCK (1-3379) - Chairperson Yanuck referred to the pertinent agenda materials, and discussed the importance of habitat improvement.

12. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE CARSON CITY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE BUDGET (1-3611) - Chairperson Yanuck referred to the "slight revision" to the advisory board budgets which was distributed to the members by e-mail. He reviewed the advisory board's budget request.

13. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING BOARD MEMBER COMMITMENTS TO UPCOMING WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS (2-0292) - Chairperson Yanuck advised he would be available to attend the Friday, May 9th meeting and part of the Saturday, May 10th meeting. Member Clyde advised he would be available to attend the Saturday meeting until noon. Member Valley advised of his availability to attend both meetings contingent upon the outcome of his team's baseball games.

14. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO SCHEDULE NEXT CCABMW MEETING. The next meeting of the Wildlife Commission is scheduled for June 27, 2008 in Reno. The next meeting of the CCABMW is tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 23, 2008 (2-0314) - Chairperson Yanuck noted the next meeting date, scheduled for Monday, June 23rd.

15. STATUS REPORTS FROM STAFF (2-0318) - None.

16. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (2-0320) - None.

17. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (2-0418) - Member Martin moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and carried 5-0.

The Minutes of the May 5, 2008 Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting are so approved this 23rd day of June, 2008.

GILBERT A. YANUCK, Chair