

# **CARSON CITY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE**

## **Minutes of the November 10, 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, November 10, 2008 in the City Hall Capitol Conference Room, 201 North Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada.

**PRESENT:** Chair Gil Yanuck

Wes Clyde

John Valley

Doug Martin

**STAFF:** Vern Krahm, Park Planner

Juan Guzman, Open Space Manager

Darlene Rubin, Recording Secretary

(1-004)

**NOTE:** A recording of these proceedings, the board's agenda material, 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 (1-010):** Chair Yanuck called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Vice Chair Stan Zuber was absent.

**2. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES (1-017):** John Valley moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 3, 2008 as amended (the removal of Tom Cavin's name, as he was not a member of the board). Wes Clyde seconded the motion and it carried 4-0.

**3. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (1-031):** None.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-040):** None.

**5. DISCLOSURES (1-049):** None.

**6. DISCUSSION WITH PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT STAFF REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF CREATING AN ADDITIONAL PUBLIC ACCESS POINT NEAR THE HARRISON BRIDGE AT THE CARSON RIVER - OPEN SPACE. (1-061)** Board

Member Doug Martin provided a handout (parcel maps and Google Earth Maps) attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference, and background on this item. He directed attention to the Google Earth map and particularly to that point labeled Cradlebaugh Bridge down through the Snyder area. The location was popular with many people recreating down that stretch of the river with rafts, kayaks, canoes, and coming out past the prison. Previously, when he tried to come out at that area, there were very few access pull-out points. Member Martin asked if there was a way to improve access in and out of that area. Referring to

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the first page of the handout materials (parcel map 10-28) which related to the last page of the handout packet (Google Earth Map) and was a blow up of that particular area. Specifically the road formerly named Snyder Lane and now called Golden Eagle Lane. There was a point where the road came right to the river and on the left side there was a bend. When last there he saw "No Trespassing" signs throughout that area. He pointed out the largest landowner (on the 10-28 parcel map), being parcel 46, was the State of Nevada/Prison, and they owned land on both sides of the river. There was also a piece in the lower right hand corner of parcel 46 owned by the Bentley Agra-Dynamic Family Trust. Section 49 was a "quagmire of private ownership." On parcel map 10-49 was the property on which the "No Trespassing" signs were located. Specifically, he directed attention to the areas notated 28 and 491, which were posted, with parcel 3 being in private ownership. The next map 10-50, indicated some Carson City land.

Member Martin stated that the point of these maps was to determine where Carson City stood with access. Having access through that area was a recreation as well as wildlife issue. He went on to point out that there was a small piece of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land where it touched on the east side of the river, section 9—3,649.5 acres—and there was a small piece of BLM land—section 36—that touched the river as well. Primarily, there was state land touching the river and now, because of the Open Space Initiative, a piece of Carson City land, section 010-502-01, as handwritten on map 10-28, consisting of 19 acres, also ran along the river. An enlargement of that area appeared on map 10-50, on the left side and numbered 502. With those areas in mind, Member Martin wanted to know what plans Carson City had and what could be done about improving access. He also asked if there had been discussions with the prison or with Bentley Agra-Dynamics.

Chair Yanuck thanked Mr. Martin for his excellent research in order to find some opportunities available for the desired access points.

Juan Guzman, Open Space Manager, presented a wall map that basically was an enlargement of the smaller maps Mr. Martin had shown, however, on that larger map the parcels were highlighted in various colors which identified the land ownership more easily. The yellow-colored parcels were open space opportunities, pink identified lands that were private and were going to be purchased with funds from the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act, brown-colored parcels were BLM, and pale blue identified Carson City. On another wall map, Mr. Guzman pointed out the Bentley Agra-Dynamic Family Trust land, as well as several other recognizable points of interest. Mr. Guzman said they had made an offer to Mr. Bentley but he felt it was too low and passed on it. More recently, Mr. Guzman had spoken to Mr. Bentley about another larger piece of land in that general area but further north. The lands had been appraised and Mr. Bentley had said that he would entertain an offer for the northern piece of land as well as the smaller piece mentioned previously. That had transpired about one year ago, but now another property owner, Mr. Serpa, had come into the picture and conversations with him had "taken off" and Mr. Serpa was "ahead of the queue." Mr. Guzman reported that the State of Nevada awarded \$1.75 million toward those potential purchases. Mr. Serpa believed that was not enough money so they had agreed that he would do his own appraisal after which they would compare them and try to split the difference.

(1-275) Mr. Guzman then turned to the lands on the other side, west of the bridge, in the vicinity of Deer

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Run Road, that were also for sale with the greater value concentrated in one area. He was hopeful of being able to obtain that. Meanwhile, he hoped to be able to talk to Mr. Bentley about his land. All of the pieces on the river corridor were tied to the Federal Lands Bill. Congress—Senator Reid—said they were going to meet on November 17 for a “lame duck” session that should push the bill. If the bill passed, there would be money available to complete those transactions as well as to do improvements. Those bridges could be part of the future. The money would be part of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act also. There was the usual application process and if the project was found to be consistent with the Act the money would be made available. Different from other counties, those lands would not be owned by the federal government, they would go to Carson City. “We will be able to buy them with federal money for Carson City to hold title, so that was really good,” Mr. Guzman added.

Referring then to another map area, Mr. Guzman pointed out areas that BLM had closed on over a year ago and they were now owned by the federal government. That was meaningful, he added, because as long as there was an opportunity to be public-to-public those were good places for bridges and access points. Mr. Guzman pointed out additional areas purchased by BLM, or others, or by Carson City and the contributions toward the purchase of those lands. Going south, a parcel of 64 acres, where Golden Eagle Lane terminated and where Mexican Dam was located (at the site of the largest cottonwood tree he had ever seen, a trunk of approximately 16 feet in diameter), Mr. Guzman had contacted the Mexican Dam people and had purchased that property with City money because it was an “opportunity sale.” He explained that some engineers from Gardnerville (Anderson Engineering) owned it (they had a parcel map for 10 lots, so it would have been developed) and they needed to reinvest their money. Thus, because it was substantially less the City purchased it instead of waiting for money from grants. Mr. Guzman next pointed to another piece for which they paid \$1 million and three years later sold it to the BLM and more than doubled their money. Mr. Guzman identified additional lands along the river and noted their ownership—either BLM, Carson City, or private, as well as the Anderson Ranch which the City had purchased and for which they received “quite a lot of money from the State of Nevada toward that purchase.”

Mr. Guzman pointed out an area that was the subject of development; six acres were going to be developed and the City would receive the remainder of the piece. That was a piece that had been owned by Mr. Graham, at the end of Hell’s Bells, the same group that was developing the six lots were going to put in a trail for the City and connect on Eagle Valley Creek. There were some slues in between Carson River Park and that land, so that trail would continue and come to land already owned, so “we showed this corridor already in ownership.” Additionally, through the Lands Bill, Prison Hill and the remainder of the pieces on the other side of BLM were also coming to the City with the title; some with a conservation easement. When they purchased those properties, the City engineer determined that Golden Eagle Lane was public up to about where the flow gauge was located, despite what the signs stated. The neighbors simply wanted to keep motorcycles away.

Chair Yanuck noted that “private property” was not always a true description. Mr. Guzman agreed, it was often public right-of-way, which the City owned. Also, there were additional parcels that came with a deed that guaranteed access. Through the parcel map process public access was also secured along other segments. In summation, Mr. Guzman said there was legal access along much of the area, although the

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neighbors were still concerned about keeping motorcycles away, but so long as individuals were on the roadway they were fine.

(1-409) Mr. Martin asked if one floated a canoe from Cradlebaugh down river, where was the pull-out. Mr. Guzman responded that “if you managed to jump the dam” the first area of public land to pull out would be Mexican Dam. He pointed out another pull-out area but it had the hindrance of a steep embankment, and a third pull out was where the giant cottonwood tree was located just before leaving Mexican Dam where there was quite a lot of flat land. There was a trail along or very close to the river. There was general conversation about other pull-out areas. In response to a question about driving all the way to the river, Mr. Guzman said one could drive on a very good road up to where it met a trail; it was very sandy and trouble unless one had a four-wheel drive. It had not yet been posted “No Trespassing.” Formerly gated, it was now open.

Discussion continued with Mr. Guzman noting that the Old Bridge Abutment was also a pull-out area. It was BLM land leased by the State. He remarked that the relationship with the State was not ideal. The State believed that security concerns (in the prison area) were so high on that entire corridor they did not want anyone traversing it for fear that contraband—drugs, weapons, cigarettes—could be thrown over the fence and someone working the fields could pick it up. He explained that they had tried with the first warden (who retired several years ago) to change that, to no avail. The new warden may be more friendly but they had not had a complete proposal with which to approach him. Member Martin referred to the Google Map that was on the last page of the handout (it was a blow up of the upper right corner of Google Map 3), to a “little dirt road that goes south down to a field. That road leaves Snyder/Golden Eagle and goes to where the field is, and is open with no postings. When you get to the field it says “Not Posted” into the field, but when you head toward the river in the lower left hand corner, there is a big cottonwood, and that whole stretch in there is a fun place to walk your dog, also...a good place to hunt geese...” He went on to say there were very few places to hunt water fowl in Carson City, and that was one of the very few legal places to hunt. He said he would take Mr. Guzman to see the location. Mr. Guzman agreed and said he had been near there with the Nature Conservancy, who had done a great deal of work on that side all the way to Cradlebaugh Bridge, which was part of their conservation easement. Additional discussion concerned the Bentley property near there and it was also close to the intersection of Clear Creek.

(1-541) It was agreed that they would talk to the prison, and Mr. Martin said there were no fields and no prison activities that transected where a likely access could be located. Vern Krahn, Park Planner, stated that in previous conversations with the prison, it was believed that since the property did cross the river they would sometimes take cattle across it. The prison operated the cattle ranch. There was continued discussion concerning the prison property and boundaries. In any event, it was not something that would be happening very soon.

(1-592) Mr. Krahn noted that there was no money in the City to do anything at the moment due to all the budget constraints. Member Doug Martin said that what he would like to do, as far as this Board was concerned, was to make sure the City knew that they were looking out for access for people who hunt and fish and used the wildlife resources. Chair Yanuck pointed out that Mr. Martin had put forth the effort to

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show that there were numerous areas that might be accessible, one with a relatively easy access which would need approval from the warden, and others downstream that might not be as accessible or as easy for people to come in and out with the boats. However, regardless of what the sign stated, there was public access along that part of the river. The purpose of having a meeting [with the warden] would be to find out if it was viable. But there were priorities and limitations due to funding to make that a “first class access point,” for instance like signage and grading. He echoed Mr. Martin that the Board’s job was to provide opportunities to residents of Carson City to take advantage of the natural resources available.

(1-680) Vern Krahn said he was not as optimistic as Mr. Guzman. The money they had currently was from grants and was focused on Carson River Park and Morgan Mill Road. The current cost estimates on Morgan Mill Road were between \$800,000 and \$900,000 to make the needed improvements, and they had about half of that. Both projects had been approved by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and the Planning Commission (PC). There was an outstanding grant of \$150,000 from Q-1 monies and they were still trying to get that project off the ground. There was about \$225,000 to start other improvements. Additional discussion concerned various projects and amounts. Mr. Krahn noted that what had helped fuel those two projects was that Lyon County and Carson City joined forces and worked with the Carson River Regional Recreational Steering Committee and between both counties planning processes developed an Aquatic Trail System and had identified priorities along the river. Lyon County had grants they were using at the Santa Maria Ranch. He said to consider thinking about extending the Carson River Aquatic Trail to Douglas County. Coming in at Cradlebaugh Bridge was a possibility, and there were other newly acquired lands. Mexican Dam had originally been part of the Aquatic Trail; they had wanted to see improvements done to the structure so that people would not have to portage around it. It would be redesigned to provide additional structural integrity to the dam and also to provide a recreational kayak play area as well as to be able to safely navigate the river through a series of steps, openings in the dam. However, there had been opposition from neighbors so it was eliminated.

Mr. Krahn continued to discuss possibilities that might lead to creating access points, for one, Douglas County could be enlisted, as could the Nature Conservancy, and other groups. Hunting had never been a component in the past. If the end goal was for recreational access a different type of gradient was needed, a different river component, Class I from the dam to Morgan Mill, then into Class III. The terrain in that area was somewhat different so overall it would be a challenge, but “we could get in line,” it was something that could be done. He suggested looking at the situation more “holistically and collectively” versus the “I want a spot here” approach.

(1-788) Chair Yanuck said that in the big picture, to bring in Douglas County, combined with what had been done with Lyon County, to provide four or five miles of river activity would result in a recreational area where people could spend a couple of days along the river trail. That made the entire prospect more attractive to the operators who would want to come in and buy licenses. That would bring some “pay back” on the investment and a way to develop funds to maintain it. There was an opportunity to make the initial idea much larger in scope than originally intended. He felt the initial work was well done at River View Park and Morgan Mill access points, and to be able to add to it in the way Doug Martin had discussed could be equally beneficial to the users and the City.

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Mr. Krahn remarked that the Aquatic Trail was seen as a tourist attraction. Reno had completed their white water project, Sparks was in the process of something similar, add to those Lake Tahoe and what it offered with its water activities. The Nevada Commission on Tourism (NCT) partnered with the City (\$12,000 each) to do the studies necessary for the Aquatic Trail. That might be another approach, he suggested, to see if NCT and the City would do that again for the Douglas County segment. It was a different river experience and that was what made it so attractive. Lake Tahoe was a lake experience, Reno had the white water park and Sparks would also have that soon. The Aquatic Trail was a more primitive stretch (except for a few residential areas), especially in the canyon. Even Lahontan offered a different type of motorized/water skiing recreational water experience Singly or in combination it was a draw for people who liked to be on the water. Chair Yanuck said it provided an opportunity to sell it that way. It was not in direct competition with what had been done in Reno or Sparks. "You had to look for an angle or gimmick to sell it on, and there were a number that you (Vern Krahn) brought up and Doug Martin's strong point is that here was something not only for the boater but for the outdoor enthusiast, the conservationist, as well."

Doug Martin said he would not want to put this into the same type of planning system as had been done with the others mentioned. He did not want to have something so strongly regulated. He added that the parks that Mr. Krahn and the others had put in were great and recreationally-oriented, but what he had in mind was more of a sportsman's access point and keeping that sportsman focus on the stretch from Cradlebaugh Bridge down to specific take-out points. There were other areas along the river where outfitters and rafters and so on could be brought in. Mr. Krahn asked when the hunting season occurred, and Mr. Martin said it was October through January, and that was not in conflict with the rafting season which was May through July. Mr. Krahn pointed out that the more multi-purpose a facility was and the more partners involved so it was not so one-issue focused, the better. Moreover, the investment of public dollars as well as the facility maintenance would always be issues. He recalled when he had brought the Aquatic Trail Plan to the Wildlife Advisory Board, one of the big issues for the board had been maintenance. Mr. Krahn's department had decreased by twelve positions and those remaining were spread thin. Therefore, they had to look at how each project fit into the capital improvement plan and how to maintain it afterward.

Mr. Guzman related to Mr. Martin's thinking about looking at the idea as a progression where certain segments were more urbanized and others more rural. When they were able to purchase Mr. Bentley's property, there would be the ability come from the Douglas County side and put in there (assuming the prison allowed that), and continue on with pull out at Mexican Dam. Mexican Dam was a bigger undertaking because of the drop of the dam, but eventually it could be done. Mr. Martin liked the idea of having different categories or different land uses, and he wanted to focus on the sportsmen's use where it was not urbanized and there were not a lot of regulations; dogs could go there, fishermen, and hunters. He pointed out that this Board was responsible for wildlife in the community, that was where the focus was.

Mr. Krahn remarked that the Carson River Advisory Committee felt much the same, there was a need at the Morgan Mill site to do something, access was needed there. They developed work days, selected a site, and put in some very crude improvements. They cut a dirt road, spread gravel, and put in some log

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steps down to the river. That was done in January 2000. The committee had put forth that effort to accomplish that small project and it provided the needed access. That similar process could be used for other areas along the river as well. Mr. Martin pointed to a place near the prison with a simple drag out area with a turn around. It was simply a matter of getting the prison to say okay, which he felt would not be easy “you mean people with guns going in and out of there. . . ?” Discussion continued on various places along the river for possible access. Chair Yanuck felt that a work day would be feasible once that property became available (an okay from the prison or the purchase of the Bentley land). They could put enough sportsmen’s groups together in the Carson Valley area to get ten or 20 people to put in the time. Mr. Krahn said he found that if volunteers arrived about 8 a.m. and worked to noon, they were fed lunch and went home, that worked out best. It could be done over a series of Saturdays over the summer.

Mr. Guzman asked how best to convey the Board’s desires to their superiors. It could be as simple as telling everyone they had met with the WAB and here were some of their ideas. “We will wait for the minutes,” he added. Another thing, he added, was that the Board could place it on the agenda for action. Chair Yanuck said now that the meeting had taken place and the members understood what the issues were and what might be standing in the way, they had a better picture of what kind of an uphill battle it could be. They saw it was not totally objectionable so they could formulate what both sides felt what was the best way to proceed. “We will have the minutes of the meeting and the handouts Doug [Martin] provided, and the comments from you two as to the City’s perspective, and it appears. . .there are a lot of positives to this, not only from the way Doug started this but how it lends itself to this creation of the longer Aquatic Trail concept.”

Member Martin added that the message that the WAB could give to them [the City] was that they applauded their purchasing and their access efforts, and also to keep in mind having a sportsmen’s access at the southern end. It did not need to be like Morgan Mill. He noted that in looking at the Assessor’s map just that day, it had not shown the recent purchases as pointed out here. The access was available, and perhaps that 19 acre parcel (steep bank) would be a good pull-out if the prison objected to the other area. Everyone agreed there were many possibilities to move on in case one or the other did not work out. Mr. Martin noted he especially liked parcel 42, 010-281-142, at Bentley, which was a very nice access point but currently posted. If they could get that, it would be great, he added. Also, if they could get the prison to let people park and then walk across that field from where the gate was located, that would be a second option. A third option would be the 19 acre parcel they already had, making it so that a road could be cut and get access to it. They were three very positive ideas that could be accomplished relatively quickly.

(1-1163) Mr. Krahn said that one of the things Roger Moellendorf had asked him to pass on to the group was that he was not able to do the footwork because of all the other responsibilities he had with limited staff. The WAB would have to be the ones to talk to the prison, put together the work days, and so on. He said “Roger was afraid you would come up with these great ideas and want us (Parks and Recreation) to implement them.” He added that if that was the direction the WAB wanted to go they needed to set up the talks with the prison.

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Mr. Martin noted that the WAB was not a “committee” but an advisory board that reported Carson City. Chair Yanuck said WAB was not at all reluctant to set up a meeting with the warden, and with the information provided as to what was already available as public access and how it could fit together for the improvement of tourism, recreation, sportsman opportunity, and so on, they would try to sell him on the merits of the idea. In other words, was anything standing in the way of his granting public access to park vehicles or put boats in or out, or walk dogs, and get better use out of land they thought there was no access to. WAB needed to find out what the sensitive areas were, what sort of limitations might be imposed. Mr. Krahn suggested the board members take a look at the various properties and prioritize them, and he and Juan would go along, if needed. Before anyone went any further up the chain of command, more background work was needed. If they wanted the prison access, that was prison land; the chance that the City would spend any money or do any improvements was nil.

Mr. Martin clarified that they did not want anyone to spend either time or money, WAB simply wanted to know what their department’s feelings were about access in that area. Putting in a park down there was the furthest thing from anyone’s mind. A park was not needed for sportsmen’s access. All that was needed were put-in/put-out places, and make it so that people were not breaking any laws going through that corridor. There were three spots which very simply could have access. The Bentley location already had a very good parking area and plenty of access for the type of person that came in and out of the river. The prison property had plenty of opportunity to come in and out, there was nothing to be built and nothing to be planned. Down the river, the next place would be the 19 acres, which would probably need a little work because of the steepness. Further down, there appeared to be access for pulling out at any time. Mr. Martin asked when the Bentley property might be available, and Mr. Guzman said it would probably be about two years, or so, assuming that the Lands Bill passed as that would be the next source of money. So far as the prison property, that was simply a matter of asking someone to come to this meeting. On the third option, they already had access. Mr. Krahn said that so far as City-owned land, it was a little more complicated. Once areas were identified, they had to go through the process for even very simple things. For instance, like getting a special use permit for the Morgan Hill improvements, and it had to go to all the commissions for approval. Another consideration, he said, was that there were sanitation and trash pick-up issues on City-owned property when people went there legally. Therefore, when one moved from a position of going down there because it was there, to say the City was going to allow people to use that area for specific activities, that complicated matters. Also, the area had to be patrolled. Whenever City-owned property was involved certain issues had to be discussed, even if the facility was rustic.

(1-1347) Mr. Guzman discussed two other points; on Bigelow, where the V&T used to go through, there was a right-of-way “unclaimed” but the neighbors believed it was theirs. It would make a great trail and a few people were beginning to talk to Open Space about looking into that, particularly for horses, and extending that trail down into Douglas County. That could be another access. Also, by bringing him and Vern Krahn to meet with them they had raised the awareness, at least at the City level, that there was a group of people who would like to take advantage of that rural and natural section and use it for hunting and canoeing. It was great input, he said, because no one had provided that in the past. What they needed to do was to find a way of passing that knowledge onto the Carson River Advisory Committee, the Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors, and so on, in the hopes that months from now it would begin to

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materialize.

Mr. Martin clarified that WAB was not asking anyone to go and do things for them, and reiterated that WAB was a citizens advisory board to Carson City and he was a resident of Carson City, so they were all on the same team. They were saying that sportsmen's access along the river would be a very good thing. Mr. Krahn said he was not disagreeing with him; this was all good information and it was how things got started. He simply wanted WAB to understand that there were hurdles. Mr. Martin felt that the bottom line was that the collective vision of the WAB was not to have another Morgan Mill, it was simply to have sportsmen's access. Morgan Mill was a great thing, he added, but it was more urbanized and when that happened dogs had to be on leashes or could not be in the wetlands. Mr. Yanuck explained there were restrictions that went along with that kind of development and they were trying to keep it as natural as it was now. They wanted it to benefit the sportsman, they did not want it improved to a point where it became limited. If it was over-improved it would lose its attractiveness to this group to wanted to use it.

Mr. Krahn said another thought would be that when they came up with ideas they could agendize those with Parks and Recreation and simply have a discussion. He would rather bring to them that kind of a discussion and have WAB there, than for staff to try to communicate what they wanted. He sensed their passion and they knew what they wanted. This would be a great discussion, he added, and advised that they get some additional facts and take it forward.

Gil Yanuck said that had been the purpose behind tonight's meeting, to plant the seed and to see what some of the hurdles were, and find the most efficient way to move forward. He believed that getting some input from the prison hierarchy was important because, as Mr. Martin pointed out, there were three or four opportunities, some easier than others.

Doug Martin thought more was being made of this than needed to be. Just having the knowledge that there were public lands along the river and that the City was looking at enhancing that and increasing public access may not just be the start, but the finish. To create committees, study the river, and so on, was not necessary. "I've studied that river, I know how it flows, I know where the turns are. It really comes down to—can we get access to pull a canoe out of the river?" There were opportunities now, and he thanked the Parks Department for making that possible. To build some recreational center that would become an urbanized park setting was good, and as a former member of the PRC he believed in that, but in some cases, sportsmen's access was all that was needed—just access. Before one says what is our opportunity and then tried to devise six or eight plans, see what we already have. "We have four opportunities—two of them are real—right now—one of them planned with family, and a possibility with the prison, and you are saying, if you want to pursue that do it." He said he would call the prison people but felt they would say "no." Mr. Krahn said that was good information to have; if their answer was "yes" they might be a great partner. If not, then it was back to using City property.

(1-1514) John Valley thanked Vern Krahn and Juan Guzman for explaining the situation to the board. He added that whenever he saw a "no trespassing" sign he stopped, and he believed most sportsmen were that way as well. He believed that there were at least two places where he could legally pull out, and whether

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there was a sign there or not he knew who it belonged to. He did not want to upset any landowners and wanted to continue to put sportsmen in a good light.

Juan Guzman said they had the GIS maps that might be helpful to them in negotiating the property along the river and he would make them available on request. Chair Yanuck felt that might be helpful in dealing with the prison, to be able to show them what the surrounding lands status was.

#### **7. STATUS REPORT AND DISCUSSION REGARDING THE FUJI PARK URBAN FISHING POND.** (1-1576)

Mr. Krahn distributed a packet of information entitled *Carson City Parks and Recreation Department Carson Fairgrounds and Fuji Park Urban Fishing Pond Project Description*, attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference, which was the promotional packet given to C.K. Bailey for his use in soliciting donations. Included in the packet were project description, maps: Exhibit A was an overall view of the park (master plan). Exhibit B was a close-up of the pond. Exhibit C was a construction document which showed the progress of the park design. Next, the budget and encumbrances figures: Money on hand was about \$335,743.75, and he explained the grants received and other sources of funds to date. Mr. Krahn explained also that because of City budget issues the funds anticipated from the Carson City Capital Improvements would not be coming through; all as outlined on the attached handout. C. K. Bailey had brought in approximately \$7,000 which was very good. It was hoped that the grant applications would be moved forward, however, if things go well they are looking to build the pond by next summer.

Chair Yanuck asked if construction costs were going down, which Mr. Krahn said was correct, so that time had benefited the project. If funds could be obtained quickly and they can put the project out to bid they would be able to take advantage of the bid climate. A proposal summary was also provided to define the costs of the project, because there were questions that “putting a hole in the ground” turned out to be so expensive. The base bid initially was \$675,000, and when the add alternates were included the project would cost between \$700,000 and \$800,000. On the positive side, the City had been able to go forward with some things to simplify the project. For example, they had done some site demolition, the creek diversion had been put in, the power pole had been moved, and underground conduits were installed. Thus, some grant funds had been spent. They were now at a point where they have to complete the project in its entirety and they were awaiting the grant funds to do that. Mr. Krahn thanked the WAB for their support.

#### **8. REPORT AND DISCUSSION OF POINTS OF INTEREST FROM THE SEPTEMBER 5 AND 6, 2008 WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING.** (1-1846)

Chair Gil Yanuck said the minutes from that meeting had been delayed due to other activities that Suzanne had been busy with but the comments were far greater than he could pick up at some of the meetings in September. That meeting had been at Eureka and elections had been held at that time. That was still in the Attorney General’s office whether or not they assumed issues of whether people had followed the *Open Meeting Law*. He hoped that would be resolved by the next commission meeting coming up in Las Vegas.

Some of the major issues were the sheep transplant that some of the ranchers objected to but that was resolved by better communication between the biologists in the department and the local ranchers, to

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understand why they were doing it and who would be affected. As a result nothing was actually done. Director Mayer called a halt to it and said they needed to go back and have better communication and better meetings with landowners/ranchers so that everyone was on the same page. He had stopped in at the right time to quell the fury that was in the meeting, and it should turn into a positive result.

**9. ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE CONSENT AGENDA. (1-907)** Member Wes Clyde requested pulling items 9-A and 9-D from the consent agenda. **Mr. Clyde motioned to accept the consent agenda except for Items 9-A and 9-D. Seconded by John Valley, and carried unanimously.**

**9-A COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 366 (TEMPORARY) - PROGRAM OFFICER**

**III MAUREEN HULLINGER.** Gil Yanuck commented that this item regarded when a person was not drawn for the non-resident guided hunt to have the ability to get into the draw for a deer.

Wes Clyde said he felt the same as the resident from Lincoln; they should not have the right for a second draw, which essentially was “a third bite at the apple.” He believed that “we have already bent over backwards.” Chair Yanuck said he wished he knew more about it. He understood someone who did not get drawn and who would like an opportunity to get into another draw. But if they had one opportunity they should not get another. He added that he could not recall at any other meeting, except for the people from Lincoln County, when it had been proposed to give the hunter who had already signed up with a guide for a non-resident guided hunt, but if unsuccessful he could go back alone. If he was successful in that hunt then he could hire a guide. It was trying to find a way to circumvent the original intent. Chair Yanuck felt that when it came time to be discussed at the meeting, they could go on record as opposing it and state their position as to why. **A motion was made by Wes Clyde to oppose the proposed amendment to allow restricted non-resident guided hunt applicants that rejected in the restricted non-resident guided hunt deer tag draw to be eligible for the main deer tag draw. Seconded by Doug Martin and carried unanimously.**

**9-D. PETITION OF MARK CARLSON (1-2021):** Chair Yanuck asked for an explanation of the significance of carving out that requested change from for a slot size of over 13 inches and under 16 inches. Doug Martin said it was because all of the fish were not getting beyond the slot. There were more available of that size that would continue through to breeding. However, he felt that did not make sense—was it just Lake Mead, or was it Mojave, or was it statewide? There were limited large mouth bass statewide.

Chair Yanuck said the petitioner’s original document was attached in the packet and it did not specify statewide. He stated it was to provide for a better quality of large mouth bass. He had not provided substantiation, nor did he state what the current size distribution was, nor why was there a problem with that particular size in the overall distribution. There was general discussion in which the consensus was not to support the petition, for, among other reasons, the petitioner did not have a biology degree to lend credibility to his supposition that the breed would be improved by such action, or why it was scientifically valid. **Doug Martin made a motion to oppose the petition of Mark Carlton because of the lack of supporting data to convince of the validity. It was seconded by Wes Clyde and the motion carried unanimously.**

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#### **10. DISCUSSION REGARDING INFORMATIONAL REPORTS TO BE PRESENTED AT THE NOVEMBER 21 AND 22, 2008 WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING. (1-2171)**

**10-A. CORRESPONDENCE - CHAIRMAN LENT**

**10-B. LITIGATION REPORT - DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL DAVID NEWTON**

**10-C. HEMENWAY PARK / DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP UPDATE - SUPERVISING BIG GAME BIOLOGIST STEVE KIMBLE**

**10-D. COMMISSION FIELD TOUR - CLARK COUNTY SHOOTING PARK**

**10-E. DEPARTMENT BUDGET - ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER III DAVE PRATHER**

**10-F. DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES REPORT - DIRECTOR KEN MAYER**

**10-G. A PROPOSAL TO GATHER INFORMATION FOR A POSSIBLE BILL DRAFT REQUEST THAT WILL GOVERN ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL MANAGEMENT TO AFFECT, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING SPECIES: MOUNTAIN LIONS, WOLVES, COYOTES, AND RAVENS - ASSEMBLYMAN JERRY CLABORN, CHAIRMAN OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE AND MINING COMMITTEE.(1-2181)**

Member John Valley said that was a proposal to gather information regarding the mountain lion. Further that his son's senior project revolved around that issue and he might be able to supply information to NDOW about mountain lions upon completion of his project. Next week they were going to begin collaring 12 cats. Mr. Valley said it related to gathering information on possible bill draft to govern animals and he was unsure what that meant.

Chair Yanuck recalled when they had a joint meeting with California and there was a discussion about mountain lions and hunting, and the fact that would be unlikely to happen in California. That led to the fact that they needed to gather whatever information they could from various sources regarding lions, wolves, coyotes, and the more information they had the easier to base a decision one way or the other. He noted, too, that projects such as Mr. Valley's son was engaged in even when done on a private citizen basis could probably supplement what the department was trying to accomplish, but could not with limited manpower. They needed to make that known to the commission, and that Mr. Valley's son would be willing to share his findings and would look for information and support from them. Mr. Valley said the program was part of the requirement for a Ph.D and he (his son) would be helping that individual with their Ph.D and in the process be gathering information on DNA, iodine sampling, and so forth.

Chair Yanuck suggested Mike Cox was a local biologist, and there were a number of others who might be helpful to Mr. Valley's son.

**10-H. CLARK COUNTY SHOOTING PARK - COMMISSIONER LURIE. (1-2259) Chair**

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Yanuck said they were going to take a tour of the shooting park in the afternoon.

#### **10-I. LAKE MEAD HATCHERY UPDATE - CHIEF OF FISHERIES RICH HAWKINS**

#### **10-J. LAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATE - CHIEF GAME WARDEN ROB BUONAMICI**

Chair Yanuck said Warden Buonamici would give an update. He knew that his staff had been extremely busy this hunting season with poaching, wasting animals, and so on.

#### **10-K. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - DIRECTOR KEN MAYER**

#### **10-L. NEVADA WILDLIFE DATA SYSTEM REPORT - CHIEF OF OPERATIONS BOB HAUGHIAN AND DON SEFTON, SYSTEM CONSULTANTS**

#### **10-M. OVERTON INTERPRETIVE CENTER UPDATE - CHIEF OF CONSERVATION EDUCATION KELLY CLARK**

#### **10-N. CLARK, LINCOLN, AND WHITE PINE COUNTIES GROUNDWATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT UPDATE - ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR RICH HAWKINS**

### **11. REPORT ON NEVADA SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION TEAM - GIL YANUCK**

Chair Yanuck reported that there was a Governor's Sage Grouse Conservation Team meeting last week. The primary result was that they entered into a state policy, *Executive Order by the Governor Declaring State Policy to Preserve and Protect Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat*, included in the packet and made a part hereof by reference. He said they very much appreciate the Governor moving forward on that because they had been uncertain where he stood, because of his position on renewable energy sources and the number of permits that had been issued for wind power exploration, solar energy, geothermal energy, and some of those in prime sage grouse habitat. The department had been working very hard but not getting very far with regards to getting some of those things "squelched," not solely because they were doing exploration but what the development of the exploration sites had already caused. With more roads and trails, access to strutting grounds and brood rearing habitat was hindered, and because of last year's fires millions of acres had been lost over the past five or six years. That makes a significant dent in the sage grouse population. He added that in spite of all that, they did a lot of work and they have seen the spring counts. Much depended on water and how bad the winter would be, and there were too many variables to predict in advance what would happen with the sage grouse. The Governor knew well the economic detriment of having a listing, and they should be hearing where the U S Fish and Wildlife Service was in their data gathering. They were scheduled to make a report to the judge in mid-December. Chair Yanuck had no idea what the outcome would be, the political climate was changing and he did not know what the president-elect feels about that particular natural resource.

### **12. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE CARSON CITY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE BUDGET (1-2374)**

Chair Yanuck was not aware of any problems with the budget, it was augmented, and those who had traveled had been receiving their checks.

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#### **13. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE NUISANCE ORDINANCE PROPOSED TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON OCTOBER 16, 2008.**

Chair Yanuck reported that the subject of the bear nuisance ordinance was on the agenda. A number of the supervisors chose to table the motion. They wanted more public input in the process, because the newspaper was totally incorrect in some of the headlines—that the ordinance was going to require that people on the west side buy bear-proof containers. He said he had a “go-round” with the reporter and he had not put in a retraction which, Mr. Yanuck believed, with all the other political “stuff” that was in a *Letter to the Editor* no one was going to spend any time looking at his comment about what he [the reporter] said about the bear ordinance. He commented that he would wait until “things cooled down” and prior to having a scheduled open meeting he would try to set the record straight about what the ordinance really stated—when and by whom would a bear-proof container be needed—and he felt that would calm the residents. It was a direct violation of what they were asking people to do, to minimize the problem of bear or any wildlife nuisance issues. Also, the district attorney wanted to take this on as he thought it would have more authority and be enforced by the code enforcement staff, health department staff, and also the sheriff and his staff.

#### **14. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING BOARD MEMBER COMMITMENTS TO UPCOMING WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS. (1-2451)**

Chair Yanuck said he was set to attend and felt it would be interesting. He would present the two items removed from the consent agenda.

#### **15. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO SCHEDULE NEXT CCABMW MEETING.**

Chair Yanuck advised that the next Wildlife Commission meeting would be moved from Las Vegas to Reno, in February 6 and 7, 2009, so there could be more representation. The next CCABMW meeting was tentatively schedule for Monday, February 2, 2009.

#### **16. STATUS REPORTS FROM STAFF:** None

**17. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** Chair Yanuck commented that Vern Krahn’s and Juan Guzman’s comments regarding “picking up the ball and running with it” if they felt strongly about Doug’s summation about what they were trying to do should not cost a lot of money. They were not looking for major improvements at any of the sites. Mr. Martin stated they were not looking for any improvements, only access. Mr. Guzman had said to Mr. Martin that if the prison was invited to a CCABMW meeting he would participate also. It should be discussed whether to have the prison people come to the February meeting. Chair Yanuck wanted to continue to move forward, and the board could do what Parks Department and Open Space staff did not have the time to do, nor did they seem to feel the relationship was that good with the prison. He suggested saying simply that people had come forward wanting access and how did the prison feel about that. Whatever they respond with, the board could put together three or four access opportunities and the pros and cons of each. In general discussion it was agreed to concentrate on the most favorable access point and not give them any options. There was parking, and put in/out.

Mr. Martin said that the possible agenda item would be to invite prison administration to discuss access, and invite Juan Guzman as well, and he said he might bring his boss along also. The agenda item would be: Follow up on discussion of sportsmen’s access in the prison area south of Harrison Bridge near the

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agricultural field (Section 10).

**18. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Wes Clyde, seconded by John Valley, and carried unanimously.**

Chair Yanuck adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

The minutes of the Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting of November 10, 2008 are so approved February 2, 2009.

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Gil Yanuck, Chair