

CARSON CITY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE

Minutes of the May 11, 2009 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 11, 2009 in the City Hall Capitol Conference Room, 201 North Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairman Gil Yanuck
Member Wes Clyde
Member Doug Martin
Member John Valley

STAFF: Jano Barnhurst, 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. These materials are on file in the Clerk-Recorder's Office, and are available for review during regular business hours.

1. CALL TO ORDER, DETERMINATION OF QUORUM (1-0023) - Chairman Yanuck called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. A quorum was present. Vice Chairman Zuber was absent.

2. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 23, 2009 (1-0028) - Member Clyde moved to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2009 meeting as presented. Member Valley seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

3. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (1-0037) - None.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0042) - C.K. Baily advised that Parks and Recreation has begun pulling in their markers and are asking for the approximate \$600,000-\$700,000 that's in the kitty for the Carson City urban fishing pond which will soon be going to bid and he is still going out for money. He mentioned that the NDOW legislative breakfast was fantastic and met a lot of kingpins in organizations such as the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Lahontan Audubon Society. The urban fishing pond will open in the Spring of 2010 in order to allow time to biologically turn over. It will be going into perpetuity because of federal funding. Trout in the Classroom was highly successful even though it used too much electricity to operate the pump and refrigeration unit. He went tankless so now has the expertise to do a tankless and fishless Trout in the Classroom study. Bass fishermen and the Carson Flyfishing Club recently installed habitat improvements on the east side of Topaz Lake.

Jim Davis commented that he went to the Commission meeting to express his concerns about the season settings dates, particularly for archery and rifle hunts. The seasons as they are now cross over each other which is dangerous and he is concerned that if someone is shot, the Department will be sued. He wants to get on the agenda for updates and more information, however the season dates have already been set for the next two years. Chairman Yanuck advised him to come to the season setting meeting and the Commission meeting in two years to present the issues. Mr. Davis advised that he will attend every meeting to keep everyone updated and his goal is to recommend seasons and solicit support. Chairman Yanuck suggested that he start speaking with as many other advisory boards as possible and at the appropriate time the matter can be agendized for a meeting prior to the season setting meeting.

5. DISCLOSURES (1-0270) - None.

6. REPORT AND DISCUSSION OF POINTS OF INTEREST FROM THE MARCH 27 and 28 2009 WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING (1-0275) - Chairman Yanuck advised that there was a lot of discussion on whether the Commission should state their position on various bills affecting wildlife. The audience was vehement when the Commission didn't take a position and the chairman had to schedule a

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special meeting to review the various assembly and senate bills.

7. ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE CONSENT AGENDA. All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are agendized for the May 15 and 16, 2009 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 (1-0320) - Chairman Yanuck entertained requests to hear items separate from the consent agenda. Member Martin pulled 7-J. Pursuant to Mr. Baily's request, Chairman Yanuck pulled 7-D. He then entertained a motion to accept the remaining items on the consent agenda. Member Clyde moved to accept the remaining Items on the consent agenda, with the exception of Items 7-D and 7-J. Member Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

7-A. ACTION REGARDING WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES CONFERENCE (WAFWA) - CHAIRMAN GERALD A. LENT. The Commission will designate one Commission representative to attend the annual WAFWA conference being held in Newport Beach, California, July 10-15, 2009.

7-B. ACTION REGARDING WILDLIFE HERITAGE PROJECTS - COMMISSIONER CAVIN. The Commission's Heritage Committee will provide recommendations to the Commission for approval of projects submitted for funding in fiscal year 2009.

7-C. ACTION REGARDING COUNTY ADVISORY BOARDS TO MANAGE WILDLIFE BUDGET REQUESTS - DAVE PRATHER. In accordance with NRS 501.320 the Commission will be asked to approve budget requests for the 17 County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife.

7-D. ACTION REGARDING WILDLIFE RELATED LEGISLATION - SENATE BILL 411 - CHAIRMAN GERALD A. LENT. The Commission will hear a report from the Commission's Legislative Committee on Senate Bill 411, revising provisions governing the issuance of hunting, fishing and trapping licenses, and may vote to support or oppose. (1-0370) - Chairman Yanuck advised that the supporting information in the Commission packet makes a case for the amount of funds that the State is losing, but the big issue is the number of people making false statements on their hunting licenses and tag applications. There is a legal distinction between domicile and residency so this should make it clearer for people applying for licenses and tags. Nevada is not the only state where hunters try to find loopholes to avoid paying the higher non-resident tag fee. He then entertained a motion. Member Valley moved to accept 7-D. Member Clyde seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

7-E. COMMISSION POLICIES, FIRST READINGS - COMMISSIONER SCOTT RAINIE. In accordance with Commission Policy #1, the Commission will hear first readings of the following policies, to review the Administrative Procedures, Regulations and Policy Committee changes:

- (a) Commission Policy #2, "Sale of Publications"
- (b) Commission Policy #21, "Game and Furbearer Management"
- (c) Commission Policy #22, "Introduction, Transplanting and Exportation"

7-F. ACTION REGARDING U.S. FOREST SERVICE NORTHEASTERN NEVADA TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLANS AND STAFF REPORTS - CHIEF OF HABITAT DAVE PULLIAM. The Commission will review Nevada Department of Wildlife staff reports on U.S. Forest Service Northeastern Nevada Travel Management Plans and may take action to direct staff to draft a letter to the U.S. Forest Service concerning travel management plans on behalf of the Wildlife Commission.

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7-G. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 363 (PERMANENT) - CHIEF GAME WARDEN ROB BUONAMICI. The Commission may adopt regulation relating to watercraft; defining motorboat which is used for hire. This revision places "toy share" companies under the same provisions as boat rental companies. *Note: This item is agendized as part of an informational workshop on Friday, May 15th, and for action on Saturday, May 16th.*

7-H. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 368 (TEMPORARY) - PROGRAM OFFICER III MAUREEN HULLINGER. The proposed regulation change would establish language providing the general public with access to big game draw results 48 hours after the computerized system draw is complete. *Note: This item is agendized as part of an informational workshop on Friday, May 15th, and for action on Saturday, May 16th.*

7-I. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 369 (TEMPORARY) - CHIEF GAME WARDEN ROB BUONAMICI. The Commission may establish provisions pertaining to defining edible portion in the case of big game mammal, other game mammals, game birds and game fish. *Note: This item is agendized as part of an informational workshop on Friday, May 15th, and for action on Saturday, May 16th.*

7-J. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION REGULATION 09-07 - 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 2009-2010. (1-0465) Mr. Cox referred to the pertinent Commission agenda materials and discussion took place regarding a format by which to address the item. In response to a question, Mr. Cox replied that elk issues, bighorn tags, mountain goat tags and junior deer tags may be of interest to the group. In response to another question, Mr. Cox replied that biologists are doing what they think is the right thing in collecting information and being objective in presenting it. Chairman Yanuck commented that as a Board, they generally fall in line with the biologists' recommendations because they're the ones in the field doing the surveys and seeing things firsthand.

(1-0622) Mr. Cox advised that pronghorn antelope are holding their own and have reached an all time high of 24,500 statewide. They're very adaptive, the most drought resistant and have been tolerating the last couple of summers well. They've taken a hit in terms of fawn production but are still creating more fawns to overcome the mortality with the does and bucks. A couple of herds need to be slowed down due to the lack of sagebrush communities. They try to use a combination of captures and opportunities for reintroduction in other parts of the state. Doe hunts will be an opportunity to slow the herds down. The first hunt for pronghorn buck muzzleloader will be late September. In response to a question, Mr. Cox replied that there are two unit groups in areas 22 and 24. Mr. Davis explained the bull elk hunt to Mr. Cox and discussion went back to his earlier comments. Chairman Yanuck cautioned that their discussion is not agendized and that Mr. Davis will attend the next season setting meeting. Discussion ensued between Mr. Davis and Mr. Cox. In response to a question, Mr. Cox replied that approximately 10 percent of tags are non-resident which led to a discussion of percentages for resident vs. non-resident in different species.

(1-0911) Member Martin inquired whether muzzleloader antelope would be a spring type hunt or open range hunt. Mr. Cox replied that they're not tied to water after mid-September and it can vary regarding the dryness. **Member Clyde moved to accept the pronghorn antelope recommendations as presented. Member Valley seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

(1-1010) Mr. Cox advised that tremendous fires have altered elk use and herds of several hundred are going on walkabouts and huge numbers are in western Elko county. He said that the population objective is habitat based and they are monitoring and working with livestock and land management agencies but haven't seen any areas detrimentally over-grazed. In response to a question, he replied that incentive tags

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have been issued on a couple of ranches. He stated that 68 elk tags for \$600,000 went to the livestock industry in the state last year and there are more than 10,000 elk statewide. "It's a mixed bag in the direction of where elk herds are going." They are trying to figure out where to put cow elk hunters and it will take a couple of years to figure out the timing of seasons and weapon class hunts. They are trying to slow down the Jarbidge herd which includes a lot of adjacent country. The average age of bull elk continues to rise and they are still seeing 14-16 year old bulls in the harvest. Elk herds have a little less in cow/calf production. Chairman Yanuck said that overall the number of tags is up slightly over last year. Mr. Cox advised that there's a three percent increase in resident bull rifle. Muzzleloader increased nine percent and archery increased eighteen. Archery is on the front end and closest to the rut of any weapon class but there's still a big demand for rifle. In response to a question, Mr. Cox replied that to determine what percentage of tags go to various weapons classes, the previous year's demand is reviewed. Last year the resident bull archery success was 46 percent. **Member Martin moved to approve the recommendations for elk as presented. Member Clyde seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

(1-1373) Mr. Cox advised that the population estimate of Desert Bighorn is over 7,000 and there are more desert bighorn sheep in Nevada than any other political jurisdiction in the world. There was a good hunt last year and they are recommending thirteen more resident tags and four more non-resident tags than last year. A new hunt will be in the Tobin Range for the first time. In response to a question, Mr. Cox replied that there are some nice 150 class rams in the Silver Peaks. They have been aggressive in trapping and transplanting but now there are some habitat and water issues. Other states want desert bighorn but there are 86 mountain ranges that have big horn and many of the unit groups are multiple mountain ranges, many of which have populations over 250. Many of those have reached caring capacity and need to be thinned out. Over the next decade, they are going to do introductions by capturing and augmenting other populations that are below caring capacity. There will not be enough places in the next five years to keep the herds in check with their habitat. They are already doing a lot of water hauls but not wanting to do too many more. They want to be proactive but do not want to be semi-responsible for die-off. There are a lot of junk populations because of movement in the mountain ranges when things get lean. In response to a question, Mr. Cox said mixing is a current situation and they are advising hunters that interbreeding has occurred with Rocky Mountain rams although they haven't yet seen a biological impact.

(1-1576) Mr. Cox advised that California Bighorn are doing well. The High Rock and Calico Peak tributaries and canyons are doing awesome. The tags are going up slightly but they are looking at a reduction in Rocky Mountain Bighorn tags as biologists are uncomfortable with the age structure of the rams. There is a tremendous young-middle age crop of rams coming up and there will be some tag increases in the next two to three years.

(1-1608) Mr. Cox advised that mountain goats are doing well. They are tracking age structure in the harvest and looking at a two tag increase. **Member Valley moved to accept the recommendations for Nelson Bighorn, California Bighorn, Rocky Mountain Bighorn and Mountain Goat as presented. Member Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

(1-1630) Mr. Cox advised that mule deer herds are sliding. The last two summers were tough on does and fawn production as they were some of the driest on record. Last year average fawns were 37 per 100 adults which was somewhat better than the previous year. In the spring, it was down to 27 fawns per 100 adults. He advised that area 10 has 20-25 percent of deer in the State at 19 fawns per 100 adults. The population went from 108,000 in 2008 to 106,000 in 2009 and there was a sizeable drop in rifle hunting which went from 47 to 40 percent statewide. In response to a question, Mr. Cox replied that there wasn't a huge change in quotas between '07-'08 between the early and late. There was probably a lower success rate in the later seasons because of the dry late season but the take quotas were so small that it didn't have a huge influence on the overall success.

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In response to a question, Mr. Cox replied that over 90 percent of the 1.5 million rangeland acres that burned was winter habitat, 60-80 percent of which was important deer habitat. Only 12,000 acres have been reseeded but they should be doing 100,000 a year. In response to a question, Mr. Cox said that the lack of success is a very subtle climate change over the last 50 years and it's the specific times of when the moisture hits, when it doesn't, the winds and hot temperatures which impact the ability of seeds to have enough moisture to germinate. Discussion ensued regarding reseeding. In response to a question, Mr. Cox replied that biologists can determine from the air what is happening with the landscape. While they are collecting composition on the deer they are also studying the color of the grasses and bitter brush, the feral horse populations, riparians and differences between the uplands and lowlands. They take note of every aspect of the landscape, from the animals to the plant communities to the change in the species composition and where the deer are.

(1-2147) Mr. Cox reviewed the quota recommendations as outlined in the agenda materials and the method by which junior hunt tags were calculated. He advised that proposed junior tags statewide is 2,465, down 130 tags from what was sold last year. In response to a question, Mr. Cox replied that last year 2,800 tags were given to the juniors which was almost 25 percent of the expected deer harvest. This year it will be 22 percent because there are fewer deer. He suggested that counties decide what is needed to provide for the junior hunters which will dictate what is done with the adults. Member Martin commented that youth tags are a great way to increase the family experience and recruitment. Mr. Cox responded on the need to be proactive and actively pursue kids who wouldn't otherwise be drawn into the sport. There was discussion regarding retention of young hunters and junior hunter education. Mr. Cox commented that there were 31 bucks per 100 doe as the statewide average last year. In response to another question, Mr. Cox replied that Nevada's strong reputation of great mule deer hunting is because of high buck ratios, lots of mature bucks and limited tag quotas in the field. In response to another question, Mr. Cox replied that statewide he could not detect plus or minus 3 or 4 percent per buck ratio change. There aren't a lot of yearling bucks or two year old bucks coming into the population but next year, there will be a lot of mature bucks. The bulk of the harvest is 2-3 year old bucks and they are much less available. There was discussion among the members regarding increasing vs. decreasing youth tags and its affect on adult tags. In response to a question, Mr. Cox replied that the split season was successful but not as much as it could have been because it needs a shorter season to function properly. With a 16 day season, there is still a fair number harvested and the weather is normally a factor in the late season. In response to another question, Mr. Cox replied that on average there was a seventeen percent differential in point class which led to an extended discussion regarding percentages and success rates. In response to a question, Mr. Cox replied that there was no average age of the deer herd, they go by point class and only 35 percent killed were 4 points or better. Member Martin commented that the 300 extra tags in the youth hunt won't have a statistically measurable reduction in the buck to doe ratio which is important to maintain. Chairman Yanuck entertained a motion. **Member Valley moved to propose the junior numbers back to last year's quotas allowing input from Wildlife Administrative Services (WASL) for use in adjusting as needed, but no higher than 28, and if the numbers are low to adjust them and roll them into something else. Member Clyde seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

Mr. Cox advised that in 194-196, they are struggling with the percent of the herd that are residents and those that move into Nevada from California because of snow. Historically there has been a bigger influx of California deer. In response to a question, Mr. Cox replied that California marked a few deer to study migration routes and use. There is a stronger resident deer herd and more pressure needs to be shifted on the early season. He said that Nevada is sharing deer with California and a slight reduction in the overall herd was seen in April. They were requesting a slight reduction in tags and the hunter success between early-late was about the same. There was an extended discussion regarding reducing tags in certain weapons classes and increasing in others. Mr. Cox advised that deer can be found in Garson and Peavine. With a 194-196 tag, hunters can go south of Incline and kill resident mature bucks or to the Garson and Peavine and hunt non-resident interstate migratory deer. He felt there was more hunting south of Incline

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and south of Slide Mountain, putting a lot more pressure on resident deer. He reviewed the quota recommendations and discussion followed. (2-0387) **Member Valley moved to accept all mule deer quotas as recommended with the exception of Archery Hunt 1341, 192 early recommend 7 tags; 1341 late recommend 4; 194 early recommend 7. Hunt 1331, 194 late recommend 26.** **Member Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.** In response to a comment, Member Martin advised that the recommendations for mule deer were already accepted and resident or non-resident was not specified.

7-K. ACTION REGARDING APPEAL - MR. GUY W. ROZAR. The Commission will hear a request from Mr. Rozar to receive a bull elk tag/and or his bonus points reinstated.

8. DISCUSSION REGARDING INFORMATIONAL REPORTS TO BE PRESENTED AT THE MAY 15 and 16, 2009 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. (2-0440) None.

8-A. CORRESPONDENCE - CHAIRMAN GERALD A. LENT. The commission will review and may discuss written items sent or received by the Commission since the last regular meeting and provide copies for the exhibit file.

8-B. ONLINE HUNT APPLICATION CHANGES/AMENDMENTS AFTER APPLICATION SUBMISSION - CHAIRMAN GERALD A. LENT.

8-C. NEVADA WILDLIFE DATA SYSTEM ELECTRONIC DUCK STAMP PRIVILEGE - CHIEF OF OPERATIONS BOB HAUGHIAN.

8-D. COMMERCIAL WIND ENERGY PROJECT IN LINCOLN COUNTY - CORY LYITLE, LINCOLN COUNTY RESOURCE COMMITTEE GROUP.

8-E. SPRING VALLEY STIPULATED AGREEMENT - CHIEF OF HABITAT DAVE PULLIAM.

8-F. CLARK COUNTY SHOOTING PARK - VICE CHAIRMAN RON LURIE.

8-G. 2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE - MANAGEMENT ANALYST III KIM JOLLY.

8-H. FINANCE COMMITTEE - COMMISSIONER RON LURIE.

8-I. LITIGATION REPORT - DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL NHU NGUYEN.

8-J. DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES/LEADERSHIP TEAM NOTES - SECRETARY KEN MAYER.

8-K. WOLF HYBRID OWNERSHIP IN NEVADA - CHIEF GAME WARDEN ROB BUONAMICI AND CHIEF OF GAME MARK ATKINSON.

8-L. BIG GAME HERD STATUS, HARVEST ANALYSIS AND QUOTA DEVELOPMENT - BIG GAME BIOLOGIST MIKE COX.

9. ACTION REGARDING FUTURE COMMISSION MEETING - DIRECTOR KEN MAYER. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for June 26 and 27, 2009, in Lovelock; and the

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Commission will review potential agenda items for that meeting. The chairman may designate and adjust committee assignments and create new committees. (2-0460) - Chairman Yanuck advised that the next CCABMW will be June 25th.

10. REPORT ON NEVADA SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION TEAM - GIL YANUCK (2-0468) - Chairman Yanuck commented that the biggest concern recently has been renewable energy. The team has voiced its opinion on Table Mountain, but BLM has issued permits to do preliminary studies. He is unsure whether their studies will come back as economically feasible. Solar panel prices are dropping and permits for wind energy test site projects have been issued for Table Mountain. Mr. Cox advised that Table Mountain is in the Wilson Creek Range against the Utah line and is the core summer range for calving and fawning. He advised that when the Lincoln County Wilderness Bill was being introduced, Harry Reid identified several wilderness areas, excluding Table Mountain, as it had the best access for wind energy power. Table Mountain is one of the most productive areas in Lincoln County for mule deer and elk. He said that a couple of other wilderness areas might have been given up if Table Mountain had been considered. Chairman Yanuck commented that it won't be known til June as to whether or not it will be listed. People representing the Fish and Wildlife Service are being inundated with too much data and everyone who had been working on it were transferred to other areas. Member Martin commented that there was a decision in an Idaho court against the BLM on a multi states management plan which impacts the plans for six states. The BLM made a decision on an old NEPA document for the management plan that it didn't impact sage grouse but the action said it had to be reopened and look at sage grouse on all of the management plans.

11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE CARSON CITY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE BUDGET (2-0591) - Chairman Yanuck advised that the Finance Committee will meet Friday morning from 8-10.

12. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER COMMITMENTS TO UPCOMING WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS. (2-0600) - Chairman Yanuck advised that he is unsure whether he will be able to attend the upcoming meeting due to his wife's surgery. Member Valley indicated he may be able to go on Saturday. Member Clyde may be able to go on Friday.

13. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO SCHEDULE NEXT CCABMW MEETING. The next meeting of the Wildlife Commission is scheduled for June 26 and 27, 2009 in Lovelock. The next meeting of the Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 25, 2009. (2-0631) - Chairman Yanuck confirmed that the next meeting is June 25th.

14. STATUS REPORTS FROM STAFF. (2-0635) - None.

15. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS. (2-0636) - None.

16. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT. (2-0639) - Chairman Yanuck entertained a motion for adjournment. Member Clyde moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Member Valley and carried 4-0.

The Minutes of the May 11, 2009 Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife Meeting are so approved this 25th day of June, 2009.

GIL YANUCK, Chairman