

CARSON CITY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE

Minutes of the May 8, 2006 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 8, 2006 in the City Hall Capitol Conference Room, 201 North Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Steve Walker
Vice Chairperson Gil Yanuck
Jennifer Derley
Stan Zuber

STAFF: Kathleen King, Recording Secretary

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

1. CALL TO ORDER, DETERMINATION OF QUORUM (1-0007) - Chairperson Walker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was present. Member Clyde was absent.

2. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 27, 2006 (1-0010) - Vice Chairperson Yanuck moved to approve the minutes, as submitted. Member Derley seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

3. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (1-0013) - None.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0015) - C.K. Baily advised of having met with Park Planner Vern Krahn and Sierra Pacific Power Company representatives to discuss undergrounding power lines as part of the urban fishing pond project at Fuji Park. Funding sources for this portion of the project are being considered.

5. DISCLOSURES (1-0038) - Member Zuber advised of having discussed Policy 50 with Kelly Clark.

6. DISCUSSION OF POINTS OF INTEREST FROM THE MARCH 31 AND APRIL 1, 2006 WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING (1-0047) - Vice Chairperson Yanuck reviewed the May 3, 2006 e-mail submitted by Member Clyde, copies of which were included in the agenda materials. He discussed Policy 50. Chairperson Walker referred to Member Clyde's comments regarding discussion of standardized season openings. In response to a question, Nevada Department of Wildlife ("NDOW") Western Region Supervising Game Biologist Mike Dobel advised of the commission's decision to remand the issue back to the Game Bureau, which will develop a proposal for review by the county advisory boards in January 2007. Discussion followed.

7. ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE CONSENT AGENDA. All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are agendized for the May 12 and 13, 2006 Wildlife Commission meeting and may be acted upon by the Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife with one action and without extensive

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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 (1-0179) - **Vice Chairperson Yanuck requested to address items 7-D, 7-G, 7-I, and 7-J separate from the consent agenda.** (1-2090) **Vice Chairperson Yanuck moved to accept the remainder of the consent agenda. Member Zuber seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

7-A. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 333 - LCB FILE NO. R107-05 - STEVE ALBERT. Amends current regulation regarding convictions for violations, demerit points, and denial of licenses; taking of bobcats and processing pelts; hunting a mountain lion after release from a trap; reporting mountain lions killed accidentally or in defense of life or property; definitions of "visit" and "cause to be visited" related to trapping; nonresident trapping; disposal of the carcasses of trapped wildlife; trapping within a certain distance of exposed bait; completion and return of reporting forms or questionnaires. *This item is agendized as part of an informational workshop on Friday, May 12th and for action on Saturday, May 13th.*

7-B. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 342 - LCB FILE NO. R029-06 - MIKE COX. Allows for an elk incentive tag to be used for each weapons class hunt in the units for which the tag is valid. *This item is agendized as part of an informational workshop on Friday, May 12th and for action on Saturday, May 13th.*

7-C. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 343 - LCB FILE NO. R030-06 - MIKE COX. Makes various changes to the deer and antelope damage compensation tag program. *This item is agendized as part of an informational workshop on Friday, May 12th and for action on Saturday, May 13th.*

7-D. ACTION REGARDING WILDLIFE HERITAGE PROJECTS - COMMISSIONER BENTLEY. **The Commission's Heritage Committee will provide recommendations and ask the commission for approval of projects submitted for funding in fiscal year 2007.** (1-0210) - Vice Chairperson Yanuck advised that \$581,000 was available, and reviewed the project list which was included in the commission agenda materials. In response to a question, Mr. Dobel provided historic information on the wildlife heritage fund. He and NDOW Game Biologist Carl Lackey provided background information on, and discussed funding sources for, the Bell Jet Ranger engine maintenance request. Vice Chairperson Yanuck discussed the importance of ensuring sufficient funding allocation to monitor projects into the future. Mr. Dobel reviewed projects which will be completed by the Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn in southern Nevada. He reviewed the thirteen priorities recommended by the Nevada Wildlife Coalition to the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife. Chairperson Walker noted the lack of informational materials available to the board members, and discussion ensued. In response to a question, Mr. Lackey prioritized the list based on past funding allocations. Chairperson Walker entertained a motion. **Vice Chairperson Yanuck moved to recommend funding the following projects: 07-30, 07-32, 07-39, 07-40, 07-01 through 07-04, and 07-18 through 07-23; and, if there's any money left, to allow the department to decide how it can best be spent. Member Zuber seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

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7-E. ACTION REGARDING ELK DAMAGE CLAIM APPROVAL - RUSS MASON. The Commission will be asked to approve payment of a claim for damages caused by elk depredation in the amount of \$10,071, filed by Lee Pearson of Lincoln County. The claim exceeds the \$10,000 maximum claim that can be granted without commission review pursuant to NAC 504.421.

7-F. ACTION REGARDING AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE - COMMISSIONER JEFFRESS. The Commission will be asked to approve a letter supporting the Exotic and Invasive Weed Research Unit remaining at the University of Nevada Reno campus.

7-G. ACTION REGARDING APPEAL OF BEN F. DOTSON. **Mr. Dotson is requesting a hearing to discuss his landowner elk tag issued in 2004 (1-0736)** - In response to a question, Mr. Dobel provided background information on this item, on the Landowner Elk Incentive Program, and on the Landowner Damage Compensation Program. No formal action was taken.

7-H. ACTION REGARDING DIRECTOR / SECRETARY - CHAIRMAN MacKENZIE. Terry Crawford has notified the commission of his intent to retire effective July 15, 2006. The commission will develop a process for recruitment of a new department director / commission secretary in accordance with Chapter 241 and 501.333 of the Nevada Revised Statutes.

7-I. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION POLICY #50 - KELLY CLARK. **The Commission will conduct a second reading of proposed policy amendments regarding trout stamp art and may take action for consideration at a subsequent meeting or approve the proposed amendments (1-0796)** - Mr. Baily advised that Kelly Clark recently provided a presentation to the Carson Fly Fishing Club ("CFFC"). He discussed possible changes to the trout stamp art program to "make it more conducive." He expressed support, on behalf of the CFFC, to continue the program. Chairperson Walker noted these types of programs seem to be in the process of being phased out nationally. Member Zuber reviewed discussion which had taken place at the CFFC meeting with regard to the possibility of scaling back the trout stamp art to a project to be done by school children; to remove the revenue generating element and move toward the promotion of hunting and fishing. Mr. Baily noted that a new trout stamp would not be needed every year. Discussion followed, and Vice Chairperson Yanuck agreed with earlier comments that the program most likely needs oversight by a volunteer group. No formal action was taken.

(1-1087) Dan Heinz advised he had been working as a lobbyist for the Montana Wildlife Federation at the time Montana's duck stamp was enacted. He expressed disappointment over the potential loss of the trout stamp program. "Somehow they've lost something and haven't gained that much; ... something intangible ..."

7-J. ACTION REGARDING PETITIONS. **The Commission will consider petitions and may accept the petition and initiate regulatory action or deny the petition (1-1018)** - Member Derley expressed concern over dividing seasons for special interests. Discussion took place with regard to difficulties associated with implementation of the petitions.

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1. SEASONS FOR DISABLED AND OVER 70 YEARS OF AGE TO HUNT WITHOUT HUNTING PRESSURE - DEBRA DOUGLASS

2. RESTRICT ONE UNIT OF THE EXISTING DEER MUZZLELOADER SEASON TO THE USE OF FLINTLOCK RIFLES OR MUSKETS - DONALD KLEBENOW (1-1078) Dan Heinz, representing the Lakes Crossing Muzzleloaders, advised of having collaborated with Don Klebenow to draft the subject petition. (1-1095) He provided background information on his work experience and the petition. He disagreed that the petition represents a special hunt for a special interest group. He expressed the opinion the recommendation “would benefit everybody” and reviewed the elements of the petition. He acknowledged the concept that NDOW would benefit from issuing more licenses than traditionally permitted in a particular area or season because the success with flintlock rifles and muskets is much lower. NDOW would receive more revenue and more hunters would be in the field. Mr. Heinz suggested the concept could be tested by designating one unit of the existing season and limiting it to flintlock, roundball only, for a period of time sufficient to determine a predictable success ratio. In response to a question, he suggested five years would be the shortest period to indicate “a real trend.” In response to a question, Mr. Dobel advised there would be no objection from the Department as long as there would be no new season requested. “It’s just a different way to divide the pie up.”

In response to a question, Mr. Heinz expressed the opinion there are a sufficient number of “flintlock shooters” to make the concept feasible. In response to a comment, he discussed the odds of drawing a tag, and sentiments toward muzzleloaders. He advised that Idaho has been running traditional muzzleloader units for five years, but has no statistical information available. “Seat of the pants is telling them success has dropped significantly and they’re continuing to expand that for the very reasons we’ve got here, to increase hunting opportunities.” Chairperson Walker encouraged Mr. Heinz to have plenty of support at the commission meeting. The board members responded to questions regarding the commission’s process concerning petitions. Discussion followed.

3. ALLOWS NONRESIDENTS TO PURSUE BOBCAT AND GRAY FOX WITH A NONRESIDENT HUNTING LICENSE - VICTOR RAY ELLIS

7-K. ACTION REGARDING LINCOLN COUNTY ELK MANAGEMENT PLAN - COMMISSIONER BENTLEY. The Commission will be asked to approve the revised Lincoln County Elk Management Plan.

7-L. ACTION REGARDING COUNTY ADVISORY BOARDS TO MANAGE WILDLIFE BUDGET REQUESTS - DOUG HUNT. The 17 counties have been polled regarding travel and operating funds needed from the state wildlife account for fiscal year 2007. In accordance with NRS 501.320, the commission will be asked to approve the requests.

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7-M. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION POLICY #24, "HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES AMONG WEAPONS AND USER GROUPS" - RUSS MASON. The Commission will continue review of its policy and may provide direction for amended language to be considered at a subsequent meeting.

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

7-O. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION REGULATION 06-15 - MIKE COX. The Commission will establish regulations for the number of tags to be issued for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat for the 2006-07 hunting season. (1-1477) - Mr. Lackey provided survey information on local species. He advised that deer herd population estimates, derived from the survey information, continue to drop annually. He further advised that resident deer were added to the overall deer herd population, and that minor changes to the quota recommendations were made accordingly. He acknowledged that urban sprawl is a key factor in the population decline. Mr. Dobel advised that the non-resident tag allocation was reduced from 14 percent to ten percent. He noted the reduction was particularly evident in the mule deer quota recommendations, and explained the corresponding revisions.

Mr. Dobel reviewed recommendations for pronghorn antelope, and discussion took place with regard to the same. He reviewed recommendations for elk, and responded to questions regarding the hunt units in which elk have been documented. He read into the record summary information, from the 2005-2006 Big Game Status Report, on Desert bighorn sheep. He acknowledged the assistance of private organizations in the success of the Desert bighorn sheep populations. He reviewed recommendations for, and responded to questions regarding, California and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, and mountain goats. Chairperson Walker discussed the importance of more surveys. Mr. Dobel and Mr. Lackey responded to questions regarding the Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep released at Mount Moriah as an augmentation; law enforcement coverage in eastern Nevada; and the process for selecting the next department director. **Vice Chairperson Yanuck moved to accept the department's recommendations. Member Derley seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

8. DISCUSSION REGARDING INFORMATIONAL REPORTS TO BE PRESENTED AT THE MAY 12 AND 13, 2006 WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING. A report and additional detail 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 (1-2100) - Neither the board members nor the citizens present had any comment on these items. Chairperson Walker recessed the meeting and reconvened.

8-A. DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES - DIRECTOR TERRY CRAWFORTH

8-B. LITIGATION REPORT - DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL WAYNE HOWLE

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8-C. WHITE PINE COUNTY ELK SUBPLAN - COMMISSIONER RIORDAN

8-D. MULE DEER SPECIES POLICY PLAN COMMITTEE - COMMISSIONER MacKENZIE

8-E. BIGHORN SHEEP MANAGEMENT PLAN TEAM MEETING - COMMISSIONER FORD

8-F. NEVADA WILDLIFE DATA SYSTEM - BOB HAUGHIAN

8-G. GAME TAGS AND RAFFLES - DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL WAYNE HOWLE

8-H. GUIDES AND OUTFITTER PROGRAM - CAMERON WAITHMAN

8-I. NONRESIDENT GUIDED DEER HUNT - BOB HAUGHIAN

8-J. HABITAT PROGRAM REVIEW - DAVE PULLIAM

8-K. AVIAN INFLUENZA - RUSS MASON

8-L. BUDGET - DIRECTOR CRAWFORTH

9. REPORT ON NEVADA SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION TEAM - GIL YANUCK (1-2117) - Vice Chairperson Yanuck reported on various projects being done in conjunction with the BLM. He advised of federal funding allocated for projects in eastern Nevada, and discussed efforts to determine the genetic uniqueness of sage grouse in Mono County. He advised of a conservation team meeting scheduled for the end of May. In response to a question, he advised of having been involved in this process since 1999. He responded to questions regarding the effect of having a species listed as endangered or threatened.

10. DISCUSSION REGARDING BUDGET REPORT - GIL YANUCK (1-2270) - Vice Chairperson Yanuck reviewed the commission agenda materials pertinent to this item.

11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING COMMITMENTS TO UPCOMING WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS (1-2317) - Member Derley offered to attend the May 12 and 13 meetings. Chairperson Walker acknowledged he would also be in attendance.

12. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO SCHEDULE NEXT CCABMW MEETING. The next meeting of the Wildlife Commission is scheduled for June 23 and 24, 2006. The next CCABMW meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 19, 2006 (1-2343) - Consensus of the Board was to schedule the next meeting for Monday, June 19th.

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13. COMMENTS AND STATUS REPORTS FROM STAFF (1-2343) - Ms. King advised that the Question #1 work group meeting was scheduled for Monday, June 26th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Vice Chairperson Yanuck and Member Zuber tentatively committed to attend. Ms. King further advised that the three board member positions, which terminate as of July 1st, would be advertised by the City Manager's Office. Interviews and appointment recommendations to the Board of Supervisors will be agendized for the June board meeting.

14. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (1-2403) - None.

15. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (1-2407) - Vice Chairperson Yanuck moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Member Zuber seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0. Chairperson Walker thanked Mr. Dobel and Mr. Lackey for their attendance and presentations.

The Minutes of the May 8, 2006 Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife Meeting are so approved this 19th day of June, 2006.

STEVEN R. WALKER, Chair