

CARSON CITY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE

Minutes of the July 31, 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, July 31, 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

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 Zuber was absent.

2. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 19, 2006 (1-0010) - Vice Chairperson Yanuck moved to approve the minutes, as submitted. Member Derley seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

3. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (1-0012) - None.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0021) - None.

5. DISCLOSURES (1-0022) - None.

6. DISCUSSION OF POINTS OF INTEREST FROM THE JUNE 23 AND 24, 2006 WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING (1-0042) - Chairperson Walker advised that he and Vice Chairperson Yanuck had attended both the Wildlife Commission's Legislative Committee meeting and the Wildlife Commission meetings. With regard to Mr. Dotson's petition, the details of which were discussed extensively at the last board meeting, the Department has decided to issue another tag. Vice Chairperson Yanuck provided an overview of comments presented at the legislative committee meeting with regard to Mr. Dotson's situation. He provided background information on discussion which took place with regard to developing a procedure for returning tags prior to season openings. He provided an overview of discussion regarding the petition for a separate muzzle loader hunt, and advised that the commission eventually voted 6-3 to deny the petition. He noted that the chukar limit had been increased from 12 to 18 birds. The legislative committee will be presenting a bill draft request to tie future fee increases to the consumer price index.

7. ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE CONSENT AGENDA. All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are agendized for the August 4 and 5, 2006 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 (1-0300) - Chairperson Walker pulled items 7-C, 7-D, 7-G, and 7-K. **Vice Chairperson Yanuck moved to accept the remainder of the consent agenda. Member Derley seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.**

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7-A. ACTION REGARDING DIRECTOR/SECRETARY - COMMISSIONER McNINCH.

The Commission will hear a report and recommendations from the search committee and 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-B. ACTION REGARDING UPLAND GAME STAMP PROJECT - DAVE PULLIAM.

The Commission will be asked to approve the expenditure of \$213,140 from stamp revenues for the Southern Nevada Water Development Program in fiscal year 2007.

7-C. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 345 - CRAIG MORTIMORE.

The Commission will act upon proposed amendments to NAC 502.380, 502.4187 and 502.4188. The amendments allow for the change of a swan "tag" to a swan "permit." If adopted, the revised regulations would reduce the price of the document, eliminate the requirement of a predator fee with the application, and the awarding of bonus points to unsuccessful applicants for a permit and would allow a nonresident to obtain a swan permit with a short-term hunting permit. *This item is agendized as part of a regulation workshop on Friday, August 4th and for action on Saturday, August 5th (1-0349)* - NDOW Wildlife Staff Specialist Craig Mortimore distributed, to the board members and staff, the Final Proposal to Increase the Opportunity to Hunt Swans in Nevada. He provided an overview of the proposal and responded to questions regarding the same. In response to a further question, he advised that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been under intense scrutiny by swan protection organizations. USFWS representatives expressed concern that the proposal may be perceived as a liberalization of the conditions set forth within their environmental assessment. Mr. Mortimore referred to the March 20, 2006 letter from The Trumpeter Swan Society President Dale Becker, which was attached to the proposal, and provided background information with regard to the same. In response to a question, he explained that the amendments will provide for a hunter to be in possession of two permits, and one swan per day. This was a concession agreed to by NDOW, the USFWS, and the Trumpeter Swan Society.

In response to a comment, Mr. Mortimore noted the proposal represented a request to change permanent regulation which cannot be done on an annual basis. The commission must take action on the proposal prior to making any decision on season and bag regulations, which are changed on an annual basis. The board members expressed support, and Chairperson Walker called for public comment. (1-0685) Kevin Baily expressed support for the proposal. Mr. Mortimore pointed out that hunting tundra swans is fairly unique. Nevada has a few other unique hunting opportunities, including Himalayan snow cock, and hunting multiple quail in a single year. Mr. Mortimore discussed the opportunity to market these unique opportunities to stimulate additional hunting in Nevada. (1-0704) In response to a question, Mr. Mortimore reiterated the provision for one swan per day, two in possession. He advised that a check station will be available at Stillwater during opening weekend, Thanksgiving weekend, and Saturdays thereafter. (1-2896) Chairperson Walker entertained a motion. **Vice Chairperson Yanuck moved to approve the amendment. Member Derley seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.**

7-D. ACTION REGARDING PREDATOR MANAGEMENT PLAN, FISCAL YEAR 2007 - COMMISSIONER BENTLEY.

The Commission will hear a report from its Wildlife Damage Management Committee and take action on the committee's draft plan recommendations that identify predator management projects for the coming year (1-0725) - Mr. Mortimore provided background information on the Predation Management Plan for FY 2007. He advised of having

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submitted, prior to June 30, 2006, to all county advisory boards and all biologists in the State a call for predator management projects. No new projects were submitted for consideration, and the five previous projects have been carried forward in the plan for the new fiscal year. Mr. Mortimore advised that the commission's Wildlife Damage Management Committee will meet on Friday, August 4th to review the Predation Management Plan, and make a determination whether to continue the multi-year projects or to recommend additional projects. Mr. Mortimore referred to the Program Overview of the Nevada Predation Management Plan, which was included in the agenda materials. He provided background information and an overview of the same. In response to a question, he explained the significance of predation management versus predator control. Decisive and well-timed predation management results in successful benefit to species targeted for protection. Mr. Mortimore responded to questions regarding wolves in Nevada. He responded to additional questions regarding the effect of predation management on non-target and other predator species. (1-2905) Chairperson Walker entertained a motion. **Vice Chairperson Yanuck moved to support the predation management plan for FY 2007. Member Derley seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.**

7-E. ACTION REGARDING DEPARTMENT BUDGET - ACTING DIRECTOR DOUG HUNT. The Commission will hear a budget status report for the fiscal year 2006-07 and 2008-09 biennials and may take action to comment or make recommendations regarding upcoming biennial budget proposals.

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

7-G. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION REGULATION 06-16 - CRAIG MORTIMORE. The Commission will establish hunting season dates and bag limits for **waterfowl, snipe, falconry seasons for migratory game birds, and special youth waterfowl hunt days for the 2006-07 hunting season** (1-1005) - Mr. Mortimore referred to the draft regulation included in the commission agenda materials, and provided background information on the method by which seasons are established. He reviewed the draft regulation, and extensive discussion took place regarding season dates. (1-1725) John Valley expressed a preference for opening the season as late as possible. (1-2918) Chairperson Walker entertained a motion. **Vice Chairperson Yanuck moved to support the current hunting season dates and bag limits for waterfowl as suggested by the Department. Member Derley seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-1.**

7-H. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION POLICY #24 "HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES AMONG WEAPONS AND USER GROUPS" - RUSS MASON. The Commission will consider procedures to more evenly distribute tags for the Youth Deer Hunt, and discuss the designation of quality and opportunity hunt areas / units.

7-I. ACTION REGARDING ELK COMPENSATION AND ELK INCENTIVE TAG ARBITRATION PANEL MEMBERSHIP - RUSS MASON. The Commission will review the status of arbitration panel membership for Elko, White Pine, and Lincoln Counties and receive an update on efforts to establish an arbitration panel for Nye County. Current elk compensation and elk incentive tag arbitration panels have been seated since 2003. NAC 504.430 requires that panel memberships be renewed every two years.

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7-J. ACTION REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF AN APPLICATION FORM FOR GAME TRAP AND TRANSPORT REQUESTS - RUSS MASON. The Commission will review a draft form to collect data from applicants when they petition the Department of Wildlife for permission to trap and transport big game and upland birds from Nevada.

7-K. ACTION REGARDING MULTIPLE BIG GAME TAGS - COMMISSIONER ROBB. The Commission will discuss information regarding applicants drawing more than one tag in a hunt year and may provide direction for regulatory change (1-1885) - Vice Chairperson Yanuck expressed concern over not being able to return a tag prior to the start of the hunting season. He discussed the possibility of developing provisions whereby tags could be returned and a secondary draw implemented. Discussion followed. In response to a question, Mr. Mortimore expressed the opinion that issuing more tags would solve the problem of "getting tags in people's hands." He expressed the further opinion that no one would have problem with establishing regulations allowing an individual to return a tag for any reason. He suggested a ten-day grace period. He expressed opposition to limiting a person to one big game tag in a year or one big game tag plus one deer tag. Extensive discussion took place with regard to the proposal of developing provisions to return tags and implement a second draw. (1-2932) Chairperson Walker entertained a motion. **Vice Chairperson Yanuck moved that the board's representative suggest to the commission to further investigate the possibilities of having successful draw applicants be able to return their tags.** Member Derley seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

8. DISCUSSION REGARDING INFORMATIONAL REPORTS TO BE PRESENTED AT THE AUGUST 4 AND 5, 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.

8-A. CORRESPONDENCE - ACTING SECRETARY HUNT. The Commission will review and may discuss written items sent or received by the Commission since the last regular meeting.

8-B. DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES - ACTING DIRECTOR HUNT.

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

8-D. WHITE PINE COUNTY ELK SUB-PLAN - COMMISSIONER RIORDAN

8-E. MULE DEER SPECIES POLICY PLAN COMMITTEE - CHAIRMAN MacKENZIE

8-F. CLARK COUNTY SHOOTING PARK - COMMISSIONER LURIE

8-G. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES AND REGULATION COMMITTEE - COMMISSIONER LURIE

8-H. WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES - COMMISSIONER McNINCH

8-I. MARKETING - KELLY CLARK

8-J. NEVADA WILDLIFE DATA SYSTEM - BOB HAUGHIAN

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8-K. PREDATION MANAGEMENT - RUSS MASON AND MIKE BODENCHUK

8-L. CARSON LAKE - DAVE PULLIAM

8-M. LAKE MEAD HATCHERY - RICH HASKINS (1-2960) - Kevin Baily requested the board's representative to provide feedback based on the report given by Mr. Haskins. Chairperson Walker offered to provide Mr. Baily a copy of the commission's minutes.

8-N. APPLICATION HUNT REPORT - DON SEFTON

9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO RECOMMEND A COMMISSION POLICY REGARDING DEPARTMENT ERRORS DURING HUNTING SEASONS (1-2989) - Vice Chairperson Yanuck noted this item had been previously discussed. With regard to the Dotson petition, he pointed out that NDOW obviously has the ability to rectify departmental errors. [Chairperson Walker recessed the meeting and reconvened.]

10. INTERVIEW APPLICANTS FOR CARSON CITY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE MEMBERSHIP (2-0007) - Ms. King provided background information on the application process, and advised that both applicants had been notified of this meeting by e-mail.

(2-0025) John Valley requested input of the board members with regard to the time commitment involved in board membership. Chairperson Walker discussed the importance of board representation at commission meetings and reviewed the typical annual meeting schedule. Mr. Valley responded to questions regarding his availability. Vice Chairperson Yanuck reviewed the various activities associated with board membership and estimated a 10-12 hour per month time commitment. In response to a question, Mr. Valley discussed his interest in serving as a board member. He responded to questions regarding predation management. He advised that he is available to travel to commission meetings during the summer months, and can make arrangements during the school year, if necessary. He responded to additional questions with regard to accommodating citizen comments and participation in board meetings.

11. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPOINTMENTS TO THE CARSON CITY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE (2-0438) - The board members discussed Mr. Valley's experience and qualifications. **Vice Chairperson Yanuck moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors the appointment of John Valley to the Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife. Member Derley seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.** Chairperson Walker advised Mr. Valley of the board's action.

12. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING A SAGE GROUSE SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION (2-0551) - Vice Chairperson Yanuck provided an overview of the study, excerpts of which were included in the agenda materials. He commented that, without the benefit of the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension facilitators, development of the Sage Grouse Conservation Plan would not have been as efficient or effective. He offered to make full copies of the survey available to the board members or the public.

13. REPORT ON NEVADA SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION TEAM - GIL YANUCK (2-0589) - Vice Chairperson Yanuck reported on a recent meeting of the Bi-State Group in Long Valley. He commented on projects accomplished by some of the groups, including habitat restoration, and expressed the belief that these will "fight off" the issue of listing the sage grouse as a threatened or endangered

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species. He advised that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was recently served with a complaint by the Western Watershed Project Group, of Boise, Idaho, challenging the decision of the USFWS to not list the sage grouse as an endangered species. He commented on the benefit of Nevada having developed a sage grouse conservation plan in that assistance can be provided to representatives of other states who are in the process of developing plans. He advised of a field trip, scheduled for Friday, August 4th, to Mill Canyon to view a project area in which pinion juniper will be cleared. He advised of the need for an archaeological study; that funding is available for clearing the acreage; and that Bently Nevada representatives have agreed to provide labor and equipment. He has talked to NDOW's Laura Richards about the possibility of requesting \$40,000 in Question #1 funding for the archaeological study. In response to a question, Vice Chairperson Yanuck advised of having been assigned to the responsibility of the Sage Grouse Conservation Team in November of 2001.

14. DISCUSSION REGARDING BUDGET REPORT - GIL YANUCK (2-0680) - Vice Chairperson Yanuck advised that the board's budget had been augmented. He requested the board members to complete and submit the appropriate expense forms for travel to commission meetings.

15. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING BOARD MEMBER COMMITMENTS TO UPCOMING WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS (2-0687) - Chairperson Walker advised he would be attending the Winnemucca commission meeting. He will convey the board's actions to the commission. Discussion took place regarding the action taken on item 7-G.

16. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO SCHEDULE NEXT CCABMW MEETING. The next meeting of the Wildlife Commission is scheduled for September 22 and 23, 2006 in Eureka. The next CCABMW meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, September 18, 2006 (2-0740) - Consensus of the board was to schedule the meeting for Monday, September 18th. Chairperson Walker advised he would most likely be absent from the meeting.

17. COMMENTS AND STATUS REPORTS FROM STAFF (2-0805) - Ms. King reviewed items to be presented by Park Planner Vern Krahn at the next meeting.

18. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (2-0825) - Previously covered.

19. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (2-0847) - Vice Chairperson Yanuck moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Derley seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

The Minutes of the July 31, 2006 Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 18th day of September, 2006.

STEVEN R. WALKER, Chair