

CARSON CITY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE

Minutes of the February 3, 2003 Meeting

Page 1

A meeting of the Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 3, 2003 in the City Hall Capitol Conference Room, 201 North Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Norman Pedersen
Vice Chairperson Steve Walker
Gil Yanuck
Stan Zuber

STAFF: Kathleen King, Recording Secretary

NOTE: A tape recording of these proceedings is on file in the Clerk-Recorder's Office and is available for review and inspection during regular business hours.

1. CALL TO ORDER, DETERMINATION OF QUORUM (1-0001) - Chairperson Pedersen called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. A quorum was present. Chairperson Pedersen advised of the resignation of Bill Allyn. In response to a question, Ms. King advised that the City's Human Resources Department had been requested to advertise the vacancy.

2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (1-0020) - None.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0034) - Chairperson Pedersen advised he would draft a thank you letter to former member Bill Allyn expressing appreciation for his service to the Board.

4. DISCLOSURES (1-0052) - Chairperson Pedersen advised of a meeting with Mayor Masayko earlier in the day, wherein general wildlife issues were discussed.

5. PRESENTATION BY NEVADA DIVISION OF WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST REGARDING BIENNIAL 2003-2004 BIG GAME SEASON RECOMMENDATIONS; and 6. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING BIENNIAL 2003-2004 BIG GAME SEASON RECOMMENDATIONS (1-0066) - Nevada Division of Wildlife ("NDOW") Biologist Craig Mortimore provided background information on the purpose of establishing biennial seasons for big game. He advised that NDOW biologists will gather deer herd data in the spring and examine the finalized harvest data, which will be available shortly, in order to develop quota recommendations which will be presented in April and May. The Wildlife Commission will establish quotas at its May 10th meeting in Reno for the seasons established at the February 7th and 8th meetings in Las Vegas. Mr. Mortimore reviewed revisions to the big game season setting process, and suggested reviewing the recommendations species-by-species. Chairperson Pedersen read a portion of a memo from NDOW Administrator Terry Crawforth into the record, and expressed a concern regarding deer in areas 192, 194, 195, and 196 being considered as interstate herds by NDOW and the California Department of Fish and Game.

Mr. Mortimore referred to draft regulation CR03-16 and reviewed the season recommendations for resident antelope. He discussed the split hunt recommendation for unit 033 early and late and, following discussion, noted the date discrepancy between hunts 2151 and 2251 for unit 033 late. He discussed the peculiarities associated with this year's season setting process. Mr. Mortimore reviewed the archery antelope season

CARSON CITY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE

Minutes of the February 3, 2003 Meeting

Page 2

recommendations. He responded to questions regarding anecdotal comments received regarding the effects of archery season on the beginning of rifle season, and similar comments with regard to the effect of muzzle loaders. NDOW Biologist Walter Mandeville discussed the stratified hunt process used in other states. Mr. Mortimore reviewed doe antelope hunt recommendations.

Mr. Mortimore referred to earlier comments regarding attempts to standardize seasons by species, and advised that standardizing elk seasons has been very difficult. Vice Chairperson Walker pointed out an additional date discrepancy for units 061 and 072. Mr. Mortimore reviewed exceptions to the standardized season, including a rut hunt for each weapon classification. He discussed the large numbers of bull elk ratios in the Shell Creek Range, and responded to questions regarding elk population estimates in the Monitor Range, hunter behavior, and the shortened archery season. He reviewed the recommendations for non-resident elk, and additional date discrepancies were noted. He reviewed the antlerless season recommendations and exceptions to the standard.

Mr. Mortimore reviewed the recommendations and exceptions to the standard for Desert Bighorn Sheep, and discussion took place regarding success predictions for unit 280. Mr. Mortimore advised of the units open this year to non-resident hunters. In response to a question, he advised that 10% of the tags allocated are available to non-resident hunters. He responded to additional questions regarding the reasons for substituting the Pancake Range for the Arrow Canyon units this year, and the hunting boundaries for Desert Bighorn and California Bighorn Sheep. He reviewed the recommendations for California Bighorn Sheep, advised of split seasons for the Pine Forest Range and the Santa Rosa Range, and reviewed the recommendations for Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep. He advised of a non-resident goat season being opened this year.

Mr. Mortimore referred to the memo from NDOW Administrator Terry Crawforth included in the Commission agenda materials, and advised of direction received to take a more conservative approach to deer season recommendations this year. Mr. Mortimore advised that the deer population has decreased due to diminishing deer habitat over the past several years. He discussed hunter complaints of the diminishing quality of the mule deer hunt, overcrowding of hunting units, the reluctance of hunters to shoot anything other than a trophy animal, and the early season start. He reviewed the recommendations which included three-week seasons, no antlerless hunting seasons, and the possibility of reduced tag quotas. Discussion took place regarding last year's quota setting process, the origin of the demand/success process, population counts and estimates, the availability of flight time to the biologists, and the inefficiency of the buck ratio. Mr. Mortimore advised of the dates for the standardized deer seasons, and discussion took place regarding area 19, access and development issues, and the possibility of recommending that area 19 be opened. **Member Yanuck moved that the Board request that all units within area 19 be opened to antlerless hunting. Member Zuber seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.** Mr. Mortimore encouraged the Board to articulate its recommendations, in writing, and fax them to Wildlife Commission Secretary Terry Crawforth. Chairperson Pedersen advised he would fax the recommendation to Mr. Crawforth and provide a copy to Vice Chairperson Walker.

Mr. Mortimore reviewed the depredation hunt recommendations, and discussion took place regarding issues created by private property owners. Mr. Mortimore advised that the Partnership in Wildlife tag quotas are the same as recommended last year. Discussion took place regarding the bighorn sheep indoctrination classes. Mr. Mortimore discussed amendments to the season recommendations for mountain lions, and discussion took place regarding ways to encourage mountain lion hunting. In response to a question, Mr.

CARSON CITY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE

Minutes of the February 3, 2003 Meeting

Page 3

Mortimore advised that application information should be mailed in the next two weeks. Mr. Mortimore and Mr. Mandeville responded to questions regarding the overlapping time line included in the Commission agenda materials. Chairperson Pedersen thanked Mr. Mortimore and Mr. Mandeville for their presentation. He recessed the meeting at 8:29 p.m. and reconvened at 8:34 p.m.

(2-0008) Vice Chairperson Walker moved to approve the recommendations with the caveat that area 19 has been recommended to be opened for a doe hunt. Member Yanuck seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

7. ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE CONSENT AGENDA. All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are agendized for the February 7 and 8, 2003 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 **(2-0025) Member Yanuck moved to pull item 7-C from the consent agenda. Vice Chairperson Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.** **(2-0127) Member Yanuck moved to approve the remainder of the consent agenda. Vice Chairperson Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

- 7-A. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 310 - LCB FILE NO. (TEMPORARY) - PATTY WAGNER.** Revises the regulations to establish a nonresident tag fee for mountain goat and allows nonresidents to apply for the mountain goat hunt. *Agendized as an informational item for the February 7th meeting, and an action item for the February 8th meeting.* NOTE: See agenda item #1A of the Wildlife Commission agenda packets for support material on this item.
- 7-B. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 311 - LCB FILE NO. (TEMPORARY) - GREGG TANNER.** Reduces the time requirement for return of tag questionnaires in order to facilitate more timely receipt of harvest data and delivery of same to Nevada Division of Wildlife biologists and county advisory boards to manage wildlife. *Agendized as an informational item for the February 7th meeting, and an action item for the February 8th meeting.* NOTE: See agenda item #1B of the Wildlife Commission agenda packets for support material on this item.
- 7-C. ACTION REGARDING ELK DAMAGE PAYMENT - LARRY GILBERTSON.** The Gamble Ranch in Elko County has requested payment in excess of the \$10,000 limit for Division approval as provided in NAC 504.375. **(2-0053) Member Yanuck** pointed out that the Commission's agenda materials did not support a payment of more than \$10,000. Discussion took place with regard to the same, and **Member Yanuck moved that the Board's representative determine whether or not all the information to support the \$10,000 payment request was provided.** Member Zuber seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

CARSON CITY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE

Minutes of the February 3, 2003 Meeting

Page 4

- 7-D. ACTION REGARDING SELECTION OF SPONSORING ORGANIZATION FOR THE 2003-2005 NEVADA STATE TROUT STAMP ART CONTEST - KELLY CLARK.** The Commission will review formal proposals submitted by the Southern Nevada Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Great Basin Chapter of Trout Unlimited, as the sponsoring conservation organization for the 2003-2005 Nevada Trout Stamp Art Contest.
- 7-E. ACTION REGARDING STATEWIDE WILDERNESS RESOLUTION - DOUG HUNT.** The Commission will review and possibly adopt a resolution on language related to wildlife management activities associated with future wilderness designations in Nevada.
- 7-F. ACTION REGARDING WAYNE E. KIRCH ANNUAL AWARD COMMISSION POLICY #51 - KELLY CLARK.** First reading of a new policy and procedure will adjust current procedures for the Wayne E. Kirch Conservation Award.
- 7-G. ACTION REGARDING LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS - COMMISSIONER BRADLEY.** The Commission will discuss the status of proposed legislation regarding wildlife and boating and may take a position on any of those proposals.
- 7-H. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION REGULATION 01-13 AMENDMENT #2, AND COMMISSION REGULATION 02-15, AMENDMENT #1 - GREGG TANNER.** Amends the mountain lion season and harvest objectives for 2002-2003 to close the current season on February 28, 2003, and eliminates the corresponding harvest quotas. Commission General Regulation 303, adopted December 2002, established annual hunting seasons for mountain lions from March 1 through the last day of February of each year. New harvest objectives will be considered under Commission Regulation 03-16.
- 7-I. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION REGULATION 03-16 - GREGG TANNER.** The Commission will establish hunting season dates and hunt application regulations for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat for 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 hunting seasons. Additionally, the Commission will establish special regulations which include sex, age, physical characteristics, legal weapons, limits, and hours requirements for all big game species; eligibility of applicants; indoctrination times, dates, and locations for bighorn sheep tag holders; tag quotas for the nonresident restricted deer, Partnership in Wildlife, and emergency depredation hunts; total statewide resident youth deer quota; and harvest objectives for mountain lions. Also, confirms that the 2002-2003 mountain lion tags issued prior to March 1, 2003 will be valid through July 31, 2003, and establishes that any mountain lions harvested on or after March 1, 2003, under the authority of such tags, will be applied against the harvest objectives adopted in this regulation.
- 7-J. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION POLICY #20 - MIKE COX.** The Commission will hear a first reading of a proposed revision to Policy #20, "Big Game Quota Allocation" that would establish a minimum quota of two tags for antlerless mule deer hunts, and establish a nonresident mountain goat quota, proposed not to exceed five percent of the total statewide quota. *Agendized as informational on the February 8th Commission agenda.*

CARSON CITY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE

Minutes of the February 3, 2003 Meeting

Page 5

7-K. ACTION REGARDING TAG QUOTAS FOR 2003 BIG GAME HUNTS - GREGG TANNER. The Commission will briefly review related policies and discuss the ramifications of today's season setting and the status of the various species on the upcoming tag quota setting processes for 2003. *Agendized as informational on the February 8th Commission agenda.*

8. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS TO BE PRESENTED AT THE FEBRUARY 7 AND 8, 2003 WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS. A report and additional detail on each of the following informational items will be provided by a Nevada Division of Wildlife representative or a Wildlife Commissioner. (2-0150) Chairperson Pedersen requested Vice Chairperson Walker to obtain as much information as possible on items 8-G, 8-L, 8-M, and 8-N.

- 8-A. LITIGATION - SUSAN GRAY**
- 8-B. MID-WINTER WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES - COMMISSIONER MCNINCH**
- 8-C. REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE - COMMISSIONER FORD**
- 8-D. ANTELOPE PLAN COMMITTEE - COMMISSIONER FORD**
- 8-E. GOVERNOR'S SAGE GROUSE TEAM - COMMISSIONER MCNINCH**
- 8-F. STATUS OF QUESTION #1 BOND INITIATIVE - LAURA RICHARDS**
- 8-G. CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE - GREGG TANNER**
- 8-H. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL COLLECTION OF REPTILES - SANDY CANNING**
- 8-I. ENDANGERED SPECIES LISTINGS IN NEVADA - SANDY CANNING**
- 8-J. NEVADA WILDLIFE DATA SYSTEM UPDATE - PATTY WAGNER**
- 8-K. 2002 APPLICATION HUNT FINANCIAL STATEMENT - PATTY WAGNER**
- 8-L. INTERFERENCE WITH ELK HUNTS IN WHITE PINE COUNTY - TOM ATKINSON**
- 8-M. LEGISLATION/REGULATION FOR OFF-ROAD VEHICLES - TOM ATKINSON**
- 8-N. LAKE MEAD NATIONAL RECREATION AREA ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT - DOUG HUNT**
- 8-O. STATUS OF THE HOOVER DAM BYPASS AND BOULDER CITY CORRIDOR PROJECTS - DOUG HUNT**
- 8-P. ELKO COUNTY ELK SUBPLAN - COMMISSIONER RIORDAN**
- 8-Q. CENTRAL NEVADA ELK SUBPLAN - COMMISSIONER OLSEN**
- 8-R. LITIGATION REGARDING NONRESIDENT QUOTAS (MONToya VS. MANNING) - SUSAN GRAY**

9. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO PRESENT TO THE WILDLIFE COMMISSION THE BOARD'S PETITION TO PERMIT RESIDENTS AND NON-RESIDENTS IN THE SAME HUNT APPLICATION (2-0171) - Member Yanuck advised that he provided 15 copies of the Board's petition to Vice Chairperson Walker, and requested him to request NDOW staff to agendize the petition for the May 9 and 10, 2003 Commission meeting. Member Yanuck further requested Vice Chairperson Walker to discuss the petition with several Commissioners and NDOW staff members and get their input. Ms. King cautioned Vice Chairperson Walker against speaking to any more than four Commissioners in order to avoid a possible Nevada Open Meeting Law conflict. In response to a question, she clarified that Vice Chairperson Walker could talk to as many NDOW staff members as he liked. **Member Yanuck moved**

CARSON CITY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE

Minutes of the February 3, 2003 Meeting

Page 6

to empower the Board's representative to the Commission meeting to get as much feedback on the draft petition as possible and supply it to him; if there are any areas needing revision, he will make the revisions and submit it formally to NDOW. Vice Chairperson Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

10. REPORT ON GOVERNOR'S SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION PLAN - GIL YANUCK (2-0393) - Member Yanuck advised of upcoming planning, bi-state, and Governor's team meetings. He discussed the meeting of the Pine Nut group last week, wherein work begin on the comments received from the Governor's team. The Pine Nut group will finish addressing the comments on Wednesday, February 5th. In response to a question, Member Yanuck advised that Tribal participation has continued to be zero.

11. REPORT AND DISCUSSION REGARDING STATUS OF CCABMW BUDGET (2-0425) - Member Yanuck advised that the budget balance is over \$2,800. Vice Chairperson Walker will have expenses to be reimbursed from his attendance at the February 7th and 8th Commission meeting in Las Vegas. An expense reimbursement request from Member Zuber's attendance at the December Commission meeting has not yet been reflected in the budget. Member Yanuck commented that the Board is in "very, very good shape" to finish the fiscal year with funds remaining. He advised that the next budget request will be due shortly. He reviewed the upcoming Commission meeting schedule.

12. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SCHEDULE NEXT CCABMW MEETING. The next Wildlife Commission meeting is scheduled for March 14 and 15, 2003 in Reno (2-0544) - Member Yanuck moved to schedule the next regular meeting for 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 10, 2003. Vice Chairperson Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

13. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO MOVE REGULAR MEETING DATE TO THURSDAYS (2-0466) - Following discussion, consensus of the Board was to continue holding regular meetings on the Monday prior to the Commission meeting. Member Yanuck moved to maintain Mondays as the regular meeting night. Vice Chairperson Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

14. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO ELECT NEW OFFICERS (2-0575) - Chairperson Pedersen provided background information on this item. Vice Chairperson Walker moved to leave everything as is. Member Zuber seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

15. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (2-0608) - Member Yanuck requested staff to agendize a presentation by a Bureau of Land Management representative on the Pine Nut Mountains Plan Amendment. Discussion took place regarding the joint meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee, the Carson River Advisory Committee, and the Parks and Recreation Commission, copies of the minutes of which were included in the Board's agenda materials. Chairperson Pedersen requested that the Board be included in any future joint meetings of the advisory committees. Ms. King advised that there was still time to provide comment on the Pine Nut Mountains Plan Amendment. In response to a question, Ms. King advised that the Human Resources Department was requested to advertise the vacancy created by Bill Allyn's resignation for an entire month. Member Zuber requested that the Winters Ranch property be included in the presentation by the BLM representative.

CARSON CITY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE

Minutes of the February 3, 2003 Meeting

Page 7

(1-0730) Kevin Baily displayed the draft conceptual plan for improvements at Fuji Park/Fairgrounds, and discussed the priorities presented by members of the Fairgrounds Users Coalition during an earlier meeting. He requested staff to agendize discussion regarding an urban fishery at Fuji Park for the next meeting.

16. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (2-1010) - Member Yanuck moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 p.m. Member Zuber seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

The Minutes of the February 3, 2003 meeting of the Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 5th day of May, 2003.

NORMAN W. PEDERSEN, Chair