

CARSON CITY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE

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A regular meeting of the Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife was scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 23, 2001 in the City Hall Capitol Conference Room, 201 North Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Christopher MacKenzie
Vice Chairperson Norman Pedersen
Larry Blank
Greg Davis
Steve Walker

STAFF: Steve Kastens, Parks and Recreation Director
(ABMW 04/23/01)

NOTE: Unless indicated otherwise, each item was introduced by Chairperson MacKenzie. 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 - Chairperson MacKenzie called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

2. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MARCH 19, 2001 (1-1383) - Member Davis noted a correction to item 6-i. Member Blank moved to approve the minutes. Member Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

3. MODIFICATION TO THE AGENDA - None.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT - None.

5. DISCLOSURES - None.

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE TROUT ALLOCATION TO THE ROSS GOLD POND URBAN FISHERY (1-0003) - C.K. Baily, of the Carson Fly Fishing Club, noted that Parks and Recreation Director Steve Kastens would arrive later. Mr. Baily indicated he would be reading from a prepared statement. He advised of a meeting with Mr. Kastens and Parks Superintendent Scott Fahrenbruch on Tuesday, February 13, 2001 to review the issues discussed during the January 29, 2001 Board meeting. He provided an overview of the request presented at said Board meeting to change the trout allocation to include the Ross Gold Urban Fishing Pond. Mr. Baily further requested that NDOW's recommendations for calendar year 2002/2003 reflect the requested allocation change. He reviewed the action taken at the January 29th Board meeting to recommend that NDOW stock 500 trout at the Ross Gold Urban Fishery in the spring, and that monitoring take place thereafter. Mr. Baily advised that NDOW stocked 500 fish on March 29, 2001 and displayed photographs of the same.

Mr. Baily referred to his notes taken at the January 29th Board meeting and the minutes of the meeting. He advised that the intent has always been for NDOW to manage the pond as an urban fishery under general fishing regulations. Mr. Baily reviewed NDOW's definition of an urban fishery and his notes from the

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February 13th meeting with Mr. Kastens, Mr. Fahrenbruch, and NDOW Biologist Patrick Sollberger. With regard to determining the number of fish actually harvested, Mr. Kastens indicated he would have Park Ranger Bub Richardson begin to take notes on the age of the anglers, the number of anglers, the number of fish caught, the amount of time the anglers fished, and the number of dead fish found along the shore. He displayed a form developed for gathering the data and advised that he had provided it to Mr. Kastens who, in turn, provided it to Mr. Richardson. Mr. Baily acknowledged that Mr. Richardson has jurisdiction over every City park. He distributed copies of the notes taken since the spring planting.

With regard to draining and cleaning the pond, Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that it had been done 2-3 years ago to repair the concrete and the rock shore line. Grout work, vegetation/garbage removal, clean up, and inspection of the bentonite lining was also performed at that time. Mr. Baily advised that the City maintains the pond. Mr. Baily deferred the question regarding possible funding to purchase hatchery fish until Mr. Kastens' arrival. With regard to an alternative location, Mr. Baily advised that he and Mr. Kastens have continued to search for possible locations. At this time, there is no pond available which meets the criteria of the public, the City, and NDOW staff. NDOW Biologist Walter Mandeville indicated the possibility of utilizing the borrow pit which will be developed at the south end of Carson City as part of the bypass. He suggested discussing this with NDOT staff, and discussion took place with regard to the same.

Mr. Baily listed the comments received from government staff and the public regarding criteria for an urban fishery, including easy access; multi-use facilities; aerated pond water; low mosquito populations; a quality fresh water supply and outlet; proper water temperature for fish; ability to support multi-species; at least 15-feet in depth; no disruption to the surrounding neighborhood; no increased traffic; ample parking; reasonably safe for use by the public; consistently stocked with trout, catfish, croppie, bluegill, bass; etc., etc. Mr. Baily reiterated that he and Mr. Kastens have continued to search for the ideal site and, at this time and in the foreseeable future, Ross Gold Pond is the best location. In response to a question, Mr. Baily discussed the comments received regarding a "kids only fishery." Mr. Sollberger advised that NDOW is prohibited from supporting a kids only fishery. Mr. Mandeville advised that the urban fishery in Yerington has established special kids only fishing days, and that NDOW is supportive of this. Member Davis commented that a similar event is hosted at Lampe Park. Mr. Sollberger advised that kids only fishing is technically illegal at an NDOW urban fishery. Discussion took place with regard to a kids only fishery, and the anglers Mr. Baily has seen fishing at Ross Gold Pond.

Mr. Baily described the lining of the Ross Gold Pond and discussed common uses for the non-toxic, clay material bentonite. Mr. Baily displayed flyers developed by Dave and Deborah Conklin and discussed various venues used to promote the pond including an article to be published in the Reno *Gazette-Journal*, a video, the *Discover Us* magazine published by the Carson City Parks and Recreation Department, and the National Parks and Recreation Society publication. Mr. Baily responded to questions regarding the video and the Outdoor Recreation Show on channel 10. With regard to alternative sources for fish, Mr. Baily discussed fund raising and "enhancement" possibilities. He advised that Mr. Sollberger is developing a memorandum of agreement with regard to the pond. With regard to the water quality, Mr. Baily advised that NDOW staff has determined Ross Gold Pond to be suitable for a seasonal put and take urban fishery in which a small amount of fish resources can be invested. He discussed the water quality of the East Carson River and pointed out that 11,500 fish are annually stocked there. He advised that Ross Gold Pond receives its water supply from a treated Carson City well, and that Mr. Kastens has committed to having the City's wastewater laboratory perform periodic tests of the pond water. He displayed a laboratory report

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prepared by Mark Warren of NDOW, and Mr. Sollberger provided information on Mr. Warren's background and experience. In response to a question, Mr. Sollberger advised that the pond is four feet deep. In response to a question, Mr. Kastens advised that if no one else can find fish or funding to purchase fish, the Parks Department would be willing to look for available funding. Mr. Baily indicated that health-related concerns regarding the water quality at Ross Gold Pond would be referred to the Carson City Environmental Health Department or NDOW. He acknowledged that wading and swimming in the pond is prohibited and that the prohibition is posted. Discussion took place regarding liability issues.

In response to a question, Mr. Baily requested that the Board take action to recommend allocation of 1,000 trout, 500 in the spring at ice out and 500 in the fall, to be stocked at Ross Gold Pond. In response to a question, Mr. Sollberger reviewed the process for incorporating the Ross Gold Pond allocation into NDOW fishing regulations. He acknowledged that Mr. Baily's proposal is an interim solution, and that the proposed regulation change will be submitted to the Wildlife Commission in August/September 2001. He responded to questions regarding reallocating the fish if funding becomes available to purchase fish, and fish survivability through the summer months. Discussion took place regarding the public testimony received during the January Board meeting, and Mr. Sollberger responded to additional questions regarding comparable fisheries in communities throughout Nevada.

(1-0846) Jackie Baily inquired as to whether the citizens present at the last meeting were aware that the trout planted in the Carson River would most likely not survive the summer, and if handicapped access is available at the Carson River. Mr. Kastens advised that a handicapped fishing pier has recently been constructed at Carson River Park.

Mr. Sollberger acknowledged that the allocation of 1,000 trout to Ross Gold Pond will be a part of his recommendation to the Wildlife Commission in August. In response to a further question, he advised that the pond will not support warm water fish and discussed reasons for the same. Mr. Sollberger discussed the purpose of urban fisheries, creel censuses along the Carson River, and times when plantings cannot take place at the Carson River due to water quality.

(1-0965) Bob Hilderbrand discussed the family recreation aspect of Ross Gold Pond, and expressed the opinion that the benefit should outweigh any opposition to reallocating a portion of the Carson River allotment. Mr. Kastens described a recent picture which appeared in the Nevada *Appeal* and discussed the opportunities available for children to learn to fish at Ross Gold Pond.

Mr. Sollberger acknowledged that he would be presenting his recommendation to the Board at its August meeting. Chairperson MacKenzie indicated it was not necessary to take action at this meeting. He advised of receiving telephone calls from the citizens present at the January meeting, who expressed approval for planting fish at Ross Gold Pond if something can be done to improve the water quality. In response to a question, Mr. Kastens advised that the chemist at the water treatment plant conducted a water quality test and provided the result to Mr. Sollberger. He indicated the test can be run periodically to determine the need for water quality improvement. Mr. Baily has been talking to Mr. Fahrenbruch about an improved aeration system. Chairperson MacKenzie encouraged Mr. Baily to continue searching for alternative sites. Mr. Sollberger discussed the weight given to the Board's recommendation by the Wildlife Commission.

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In response to a question, Mr. Kastens advised that the urban fishery at Ross Gold Pond will not change the City's liability insurance requirement. Mr. Baily advised that Safety/Loss Control Technician Tony Baker can answer questions and provide information regarding the City's liability. Mr. Kastens indicated that Mr. Baker is aware of the pond and has not expressed any concern over increased liability to the City. In response to a question, Mr. Sollberger advised that an additional presentation will be made at the August Board meeting. In response to a further question, he acknowledged that a certain number of excess fish which cannot be planted in the Carson River could be reallocated to the Ross Gold Pond. He advised that fish will not be planted in the Carson River between now and the summer because poor runoff is anticipated. All of the fish up to May have been stocked and, depending upon water temperature, another 2-3,000 fish will be stocked in September/October. Vice Chairperson Pedersen reviewed the action taken by the Board to date. He noted that the Board and the Parks and Recreation Department have been supportive of Mr. Baily's proposal.

Mr. Baily discussed a proposal to dig through the west side of the pond, at the time the aerators are installed, to increase the depth by an additional eight feet thus lengthening the harvest season. He requested a commitment from the Board to recommend consistent stocking of the pond. Mr. Sollberger acknowledged that there will not be another planting until August. He pointed out that the August meeting will provide another opportunity for public input. Member Davis referred to the Board's request that Mr. Baily seek the assistance of Mr. Kastens and Mr. Fahrenbruch, and commented that between now and August things could improve substantially. Discussion took place regarding the Board's recommendation to the Wildlife Commission. Member Blank noted, for the record, his support of no less than 500 rainbow trout to be planted in the fall and 500 in the spring as long as there is no indication in the mean time from Parks and Recreation Department staff that an environmental or water problem will be created by the stocking. He indicated he would look forward to receiving Mr. Sollberger's recommendations regarding specific dates. Chairperson MacKenzie thanked Mr. Baily for his presentation. Mr. Baily thanked the Board members.

(1-1420) Discussion took place regarding the cormorants and the pelicans present at Ross Gold Park, and the impacts they may have on the pond. (2-0027) Chairperson MacKenzie advised of a project done by a high school senior to solicit donations to purchase fish in order to sponsor a Special Olympics fishing derby in May. A special permit was obtained from NDOW.

7. NEVADA DIVISION OF WILDLIFE REPRESENTATIVE PRESENTATION OF 2000-2001 BIG GAME STATUS AND QUOTA RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YEAR 2001-2002 (1-1515) - Mr. Mandeville reviewed the status of the herds in areas over which he has management responsibility. He discussed difficulties in determining population estimates and the existing drought conditions. He commented on the terrible condition of the range and advised that there is very little feed available in the northern portion of the Pine Nut Mountains. He acknowledged that the conditions are cyclic, and indicated that a 2-3 year drought cycle is fairly standard. Discussion ensued with regard to the same.

Mr. Mandeville acknowledged that the antelope quota recommendations are slightly lower than last year. He explained this is representative of the production decrease, and acknowledged that the same applies to the mule deer herd statewide. He reviewed details of the antelope populations in his management areas, and discussed impacts to the unit 192 mule deer herd as a result of development. He discussed a presentation made to the Douglas County Planning Commission, the benefits of high density cluster

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development versus development that is more spread out, and revegetation in the areas of Indian Creek and Sunrise following the fires.

Mr. Mandeville advised that quotas for interstate herds are essentially established through the interstate agreement between Nevada and California. He indicated that the Board can make recommendations and the Wildlife Commission can make changes. He acknowledged that the quotas for unit groups 201 and 204 increased from last year's recommendation. He reviewed the population history, and acknowledged that the archery hunt quotas are determined by a formula. He explained the Mule Deer Quota Array for Unit Groups 192, 194/196, and discussed public access problems in unit 192. He reviewed the Quota Array for Unit 291. Chairperson MacKenzie compared the quota recommendations from last year, and Mr. Mandeville discussed reasons for variations in hunter success rates. Discussion took place with regard to the youth hunt, Mount Grant, and the tags allotted for units 104 and 105. Mr. Mandeville acknowledged that the mountain lion tag has been changed to year-round, and discussion followed regarding the same. Discussion took place regarding the sheep herds and the differences in tag allocations for the youth hunts.

Mr. Mandeville reviewed the FY 02/03 Big Game and Upland Game and Waterfowl Release Plans. Discussion took place with regard to the same, and the Board members thanked Mr. Mandeville for his presentation.

8. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON BIG GAME STATUS AND QUOTA RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YEAR 2001-2002 TO WILDLIFE COMMISSION FOR MAY 4 AND 5, 2001 MEETING (1-3635) - Vice Chairperson Pedersen expressed support for the recommendations provided by NDOW. Member Davis concurred. Chairperson MacKenzie advised of a telephone call from a representative of the Churchill County Advisory Board requesting support for reducing quotas in units 181 through 184. Discussion ensued with regard to the same, and consensus of the Board was to support the request. (2-0015) **Member Blank moved to agree with all NDOW recommendations with the exception of those units in Churchill County to support reduction on the mule deer hunts. Vice Chairperson Pedersen seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

9. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ADDITIONAL WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA MATTERS FOR THE MAY 4 AND 5, 2001 MEETING

a. LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS; and b. NEVADA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION (2-0047) - Chairperson MacKenzie provided background information on these items and referred to the discussion which took place at a previous meeting. Member Davis reiterated his concern that reimbursing land owners for water used by elk will set a precedent. Member Blank pointed out that no action was taken, and expressed a preference for not taking a position on either item. He suggested that it may be more appropriate for the Wildlife Commission and the legislators to address these types of policy issues. Chairperson MacKenzie indicated that these issues may be addressed at the Wildlife Commission Workshop scheduled for September 8, 2001. **Vice Chairperson Pedersen moved to monitor these issues at the Commission level. Member Blank seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

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c. **PENDING 2001 WILDLIFE AND BOATING LEGISLATION (2-0090)** - Chairperson MacKenzie advised that he had attended hearings on SB30, and provided an overview of the same. He provided a report on the status of various other bills.

d. **PETITION - TOM GALLAGHER (2-0135)** - Chairperson MacKenzie provided background information on this item and a brief review of the discussions from previous meetings. Member Davis moved that the Board recommend that the Commission deny the petition on the basis that the application is simple enough to understand and that discretionary changes would be a benefit to some applicants and a detriment to others. Member Blank referred to Mr. Gallagher's request letter and pointed out that he had recognized his own mistake. He commented that the Commission shouldn't allow for the analysis of every application with a discrepancy; it would lead to additional problems. Vice Chairperson Pedersen concurred, and discussion took place with regard to the same. **Member Davis restated his motion, as follows: that the Carson City Advisory Board recommend that the Commission deny the petition by Mr. Gallagher to allow discretionary changes to applications. Vice Chairperson Pedersen seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

e. **COMMISSION POLICIES - MIKE COX (2-0206)** - Chairperson MacKenzie noted that this item has been agendized over the past several meetings. He advised that this matter will be addressed at the September 8th workshop. Board consensus was to provide additional input following the workshop.

10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO DESIGNATE A CCABMW REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2001 WILDLIFE COMMISSION WORKSHOP IN LOVELOCK, NEVADA (2-0225) - Member Blank referred to the April 3, 2001 memo included in the agenda materials, and advised that NDOW staff is encouraging at least one member of each advisory board to attend the workshop. Vice Chairperson Pedersen volunteered to attend the workshop. He commented on the improved information being provided by NDOW over the past few years.

11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO DESIGNATE A CCABMW REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND THE MAY 4 AND 5, 2001 WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING IN RENO (2-0380) - Member Blank advised that he would be attending the Saturday, May 5th session of the Commission meeting to address the budget. Chairperson MacKenzie indicated he would be attending the May 5th session as well. Member Davis and Vice Chairperson Pedersen indicated they would also be attending.

12. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE CURRENT BUDGET, AND CCABMW BUDGET REQUEST FOR JULY 2001-2002 (2-0401) - Member Blank reviewed the budget request and the spreadsheet which accompanied the March 28th letter included in the agenda materials. He referred to the spreadsheet, included as item #9 in the Commission agenda materials, and explained the methodology used by NDOW to develop its recommendation. He stated that NDOW's methodology is highly inappropriate and discussed the reasons the Board's expenditures were lower last year. He distributed a draft letter to the Board members and requested that they review the same and provide input. He provided an overview of the letter and advised that NDOW's projection will cause a significant shortfall if a Board representative attends each of the Commission meetings. He discussed the discrepancies between the various counties as reflected in the spreadsheet provided by NDOW. He indicated that the purpose of his April 23rd letter is to provide notice to the Commission, and advised that he would appear

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at the May 5th meeting to address the matter in person. **Vice Chairperson Pedersen moved to support the letter drafted by Member Blank and send it to the Wildlife Commission. Members Davis and Walker seconded the motion.** Member Davis commended Member Blank on the wording of the letter. Vice Chairperson Pedersen concurred, and advised that the advisory board budgets are allocated from the Wildlife Commission's budget. Discussion took place with regard to the same, and Member Walker pointed out that the decision will affect future Board members. Member Blank expected that either he or Chairperson MacKenzie would receive a letter from NDOW indicating their recommendation. Chairperson MacKenzie advised that NDOW has followed the same procedure every year. He concurred with the earlier comments, and remarked that the methodology should be reconsidered so as not to penalize the advisory boards for attempting to save money. Chairperson MacKenzie called for a vote on the pending motion; **motion carried 5-0.**

13. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO SCHEDULE NEXT CCABMW MEETING (2-0685) - Following discussion, Board consensus was to schedule the next meeting for Monday, June 11, 2001.

14. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (2-0301) - Chairperson MacKenzie advised of receiving a letter from Bill Bradley requesting support for his appointment to a third term on the Wildlife Commission. He commented that Commissioner Bradley has been instrumental in involving county advisory boards to a greater extent in Commission processes. Board consensus was to address this matter individually. (2-0700) Vice Chairperson Pedersen advised of a telephone conversation with the owner of Nevada Gun Exchange who asked that the advisory board revisit the issue of holographic sites for muzzle loaders. Member Davis recalled that the petition regarding holographic sites was denied; however, regular scopes for muzzle loaders were approved. He offered to review the Commission minutes with regard to the same, and agreed to call Vice Chairperson Pedersen with the information. Vice Chairperson Pedersen explained the reason for the request.

Discussion took place regarding interviewing applicants at the next meeting. Member Blank suggested that Vice Chairperson Pedersen and Member Davis submit letters of intent to the City's Human Resources Department.

15. ADJOURNMENT (2-0780) - Vice Chairperson Pedersen moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Blank seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The Minutes of the April 23, 2001 meeting of the Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this _____ day of June, 2001.

CHRISTOPHER MacKENZIE, Chairperson