

**MINUTES OF THE CHURCHILL COUNTY
ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE**

**155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406
August 14, 2024**

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife was called to order at 7:00 PM on August 14, 2024.

PRESENT:

Member Peggy A. Hughes
Member Jim Curran
Member Jason Sibley
Deputy Clerk of the Board Pamela D. Moore
Deputy Clerk Crystal Muschetto

ABSENT:

Member Andrew Howells
Member Aubry Burgess

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the board and public.

Public Comment:

Chair Hughes asked if there was any public comment. Deputy Clerk Moore introduced Deputy Clerk Crystal Muschetto, who is training into the position.

Verification of the Posting of the Agenda:

It was verified by Pamela D. Moore, Deputy Clerk of the Board, that the Agenda for this meeting was posted on the 8th day of August, 2024, between the hours of 9:00 and 11:00 AM at all of the locations listed on the Agenda, in accordance with NRS 241.

Consideration and possible action re: Approval of Agenda as submitted or revised:

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve the Agenda as submitted. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Consideration and possible action re: Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on:

A- June 26, 2024.

The Minutes of the meeting held on June 26, 2024 are presented for the board's consideration and approval.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Jim Curran made a motion to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on June 26, 2024 as presented. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Appointments:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Approval of a letter to County Advisory Boards regarding support for a salvage regulation for Churchill County, Nevada.

Members have expressed an interest in reaching out to other County Advisory Boards (CABs) seeking support for a salvage regulation to benefit our communities and the management of wildlife in Nevada. A draft letter is provided for consideration.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Curran said, with the issue going on now with Chronic Wasting Disease, I can see this throwing a monkey wrench in the middle of this. We have states surrounding ours with the disease. Chair Hughes said it will be interesting to see how that would work. Member Sibley said you would just have to close those counties to where they couldn't salvage an animal, just like they are doing with anybody who has a big animal tag in that unit has a note that they have to have it checked.

Member Curran said who will send the letter out. Deputy Clerk Moore said I will send the letter to all of the CABs.

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve the letter to the CABs as submitted. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

B- Consideration and possible action re: Biennial Big Game Release Plan for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025, Amendment #2.

The Commission will review and may take action to approve an amendment to the department's Biennial Big Game Release Plan for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025 to add two release sites for California Bighorn Sheep.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Curran said I have read through this and it includes an augmentation of up to 25 big horn sheep in the Stillwater Mountains to increase genetics and what have you after that die-off event. There are two releases in the Calicos in Washoe County. It includes antelope in Ruby Valley and Monitor Valley in Smokey Valley. It looks like a good plan. I see they have made a request for mountain goats from Utah after giving them Desert sheep, so that is a good trade off. Member Sibley said it looks like they are putting sheep in 141 too. Member Curran said I think

that is an augmentation. Member Sibley said it says it is a reintroduction. They are talking about putting them on some private land.

Member Jim Curran made a motion to approve the Biennial Big Game Release Plan for FY24 & 25, Amendment #2, as presented. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C- Consideration and possible action re: Commission General Regulation 523, Heritage Revisions.

The Commission will hold a workshop to consider amending Chapter 501 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation would change Heritage Project Awards from one to two years, with the possibility for extensions.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Curran said this is extending the time that they have to complete a project for everything that had a one-year timeframe but this extends it to two-years or more. I think that is a good move. By the time you get permits and everything, your year is gone and nothing gets done.

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve Commission General Regulation 523 as presented. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

D- Consideration and possible action re: Commission General Regulation 522, eTag Regulations.

The Commission will hold an adoption to amend Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 502 that would update the process related to use of game tags in the field and allow the department to offer game tags in an electronic format.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Chair Hughes said she has a comment via email from Jesse Lattin: "I think this is a good idea - an app on your phone with your hunting license and any tags you have for the year. You will also be able to do your hunt return information in the app when you validate your tag. I'm not sure if you don't kill. However, I'm not sure about this validation code on durable material as applicable. It starts in section 4, number 3. I don't know of any other state that uses eTags and makes you affix something to the animal. Therefore, I am asking for the validation code on durable material as applicable to be scrutinized. I think there is a lot of room for error."

Chair Hughes said I also have some concerns about this because I think it is going to be a problem when you get the eTag and then you have to go and get the validation code off of

NDOW's site. I don't know that you will be able to do that in a lot of hunt areas when you don't have any cell service to get the validation code in order to affix it to your animal. You still have to put something on the animal after it is killed. Member Curran said do you? I tried reading this. Chair Hughes said that is what I got from this. Member Curran said I know so little about technology. Member Sibley said it says to securely attach the paper permit or legible validation code on durable material. Member Curran said what durable material? Member Sibley said it could be a piece of masking tape or whatever you have. Chair Hughes said yes, you will have to have something with you, which is a concern. If you don't have something with you that you can write on while you are out there, that is problematic. Not everybody has paper and pen or anything like that with them. Member Sibley said, no, but I think the regulation states that it can be done when you return to your mode of transportation, correct? Chair Hughes said I think it does. Member Curran said, with the paper tag, you have to immediately validate it and write killed. Member Sibley said you would do the same with the electronic tag but, as far as affixing the validation code, I don't think that would count until you got back to your truck. Chair Hughes said I think that is correct.

Member Sibley said, with regard to the service to be able to do that, I do not know because I have not spoken to them but I would imagine it is within the app itself, so you wouldn't necessarily have to have data service to do that. Whoever is developing this, as well as the department, knows that there are so many places here where you do not have any kind of data, so I think it would be encoded within the app to where it doesn't necessarily have to connect right then, it will just give you your validation code and, then, once you get service again, it will submit it. That is a question we should ask of the department. I think there are quite a few states that are going to the electronic tags. Oregon, I believe, uses an electronic tag, as well as Montana.

Member Curran said I am relatively sure this will not pass at this upcoming board meeting. Something this drastic will probably have three or four different readings. Member Sibley said it looks like they added swan permits to it. Chair Hughes said they talk a lot about the swans. Member Curran said this means you will have to have your phone with you up at the kill site, right? Member Sibley said yes. Member Curran said I do not carry a phone. Member Sibley said I try not to take my cell phone out when I am duck hunting. Member Curran said I guess the thing of the future is electronics.

Chair Hughes said that is a good point that there might be something embedded within the software so that they do not have to have service to access the website to get the validation code. Member Sibley said that is the only way I can see this working

Member Curran said I would suggest that we not take any action on this item but to have Chair Hughes ask the following questions and get a reply before we consider taking action again:

1. Ask about the validation code;
2. Ask if this will be embedded within the app and you would not need to have cell service.

Member Sibley said I am a little curious about what fur bearing mammal requires a tag? Member Curran said nothing right now. Bobcat is a seal, not a tag. Member Sibley said they list the fur bearing mammal specifically in this. It says mountain lion and fur bearing mammal. Member Curran said it would be big game mammal by statute. Bobcat is a seal, not a tag. Could it be otter? Member Curran said no. Member Curran said they may have just put this in there for the future. A mountain lion is a tag but it is not a fur bearer. Member Sibley said it says, "If the animal killed is a mountain lion or fur bearing mammal, for which a tag or permit is required..." and then it goes into securely attach...but we don't have any fur bearing mammals that require a tag, so I am confused why that would be included, unless it is forward thinking to the possibility of having that. Chair Hughes said I will ask them about that, as well.

Informational Items:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Items listed on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Agenda for August 16 and 17, 2024.

Should the board want to discuss Items listed on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Agenda for August 16 and 17, 2024, which is provided for the board's consideration.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Other

There was no further action on items on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Agenda.

Consider Future Agenda Items:

Deputy Clerk Moore said she will include the item related to the letter to the other CABs and any responses we receive on the next Agenda related to a salvage regulation.

Public Comment:

Chair Hughes asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM.

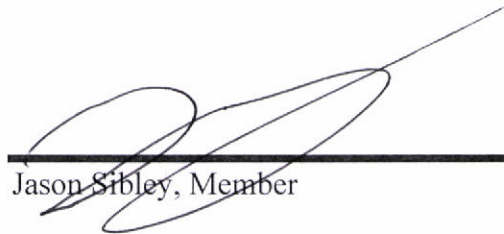
Approved:


Peggy Hughes, Chair

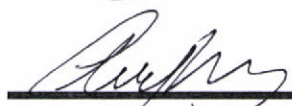
Approved:


Jim Curran, Vice-Chair

Approved:


Jason Sibley, Member

Approved:

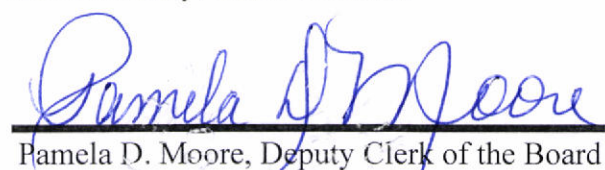

Aubry Burgess, Member

Approved:


Andrew Howells, Member

ATTEST:

Linda Rothery, Clerk/Treasurer


Pamela D. Moore, Deputy Clerk of the Board