

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

**155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406
September 25, 2024**

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife was called to order at 7:00 PM on September 25, 2024.

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

N/A

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 but there was none.

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 19th day of September, 2024, between the hours of 8:00 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 Andrew Howells seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

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

A- August 14, 2024.

The Minutes of the meeting held on August 14, 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 Jason Sibley made a motion to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on August 14, 2024 as presented. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Appointments:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Petition filed by Michael Scow to add a hunt for long-term Nevada residents (30 years or more), aged 70 or older, to be allowed a deer tag in the area of the Department of Wildlife's choice during the regular season(s).

The board will be asked to review a Petition filed by Michael Scow to add a hunt for long-term Nevada residents (30 years or more), aged 70 or older, to be allowed a deer tag in the area of the Department of Wildlife's choice during the regular season(s) and make a decision of whether to support it or not.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Jason Sibley said is he asking that they are given a deer tag? Member Andrew Howells said yes. Member Jim Curran said you cannot tell from that. Member Sibley said, at a hunt, for long term Nevada residents? Member Curran said the reason for proposed regulation is, if and when the Department of Wildlife feels that individual deer herds need to be thinned, this would go into effect. Member Sibley said similar to a depredation hunt? Member Howells said it would be limited entry. They would have to have 30 years residency and be at least 70 years old. Member Curran said, I personally feel, a deer harvest is currently divided up enough to different user groups. There are different hunter methods. Unless this is strictly a depredation on a ranch, I do not see the Commission moving too far forward on this. Member Aubry Burgess said I do not see any reason to oppose it. Member Sibley said you need to remember, there are only a certain number of tags allocated. If we continue to divide them up, that takes away from the general, youth, and all the other seasons. We have a quota that is divided amongst all of those hunts. If we continue to divide those hunts into specialized groups, like a military tag or a Veteran's tag and then, this tag, pretty soon the general tag population is very small. That would be the only thing – like he said, with the exception of a depredation style, and the herd needs to be thinned. I do not see that we need to divide it more.

Realistically, those people who have 30 years residency and 70 years plus of age, odds are they have more bonus points than most of us, with better odds. Member Curran said I do not know if they would have more bonus points. Member Sibley said I do not want to continue to reduce the number of tags to the public and that is my biggest concern. Member Burgess said I think, if it is a specified depredation hunt, it would likely be more acceptable. Member Sibley agreed. Member Burgess said it is specified that a hunter may apply for a special deer tag for the purpose of thinning the deer population for a healthier herd. Such tags will only be awarded to a 70 year old senior, and must agree to hunt, in the area choice as determined by the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Member Sibley said do these citizens just put in, and say, I want a tag if one becomes available? Then you have tags issued to people who may not be able to travel to

Area 10 or Area 6 and have been given a tag, where they did not have a choice. I feel that needs to be cleaned up and there are a lot of questions on how that is written.

Member Curran said, when a petition like this is filed, there will be a hearing to proceed further, which does not mean that it would pass. It would be turned back over to the department, to evaluate and possibly write a draft on how this should operate. Member Sibley said I am not against it, if it is not taking away from the quota that is already set. Member Curran said it would. I guess I would need to carry my birth certificate. Member Peggy Hughes said I wondered how they would tell that you were a 30-year resident? Member Sibley said you would probably check a box, like you do with the residence. Member Hughes agreed. Member Sibley said how do you verify that? Member Curran said I am opposed to that petition. I feel there are so many special groups that subdivide what little deer we have left.

Member Sibley said I would like to make a motion to oppose this petition, the way it is written. If there is a way to look at this without it affecting quota numbers, that might change a little bit. I think, if we approve this, then in 6 months we will be asked to approve a Veteran hunt. Then it will be, why can't we do a Veteran hunt, because we are allowing this hunt. I think we need to be mindful of that.

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to oppose the Petition as presented. Member Aubry Burgess seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

B- Consideration and possible action re: Seasons and Quotas Software Application Update.

A presentation will be provided to the Commission on the development of a seasons and quotas software application that can be used by the Commission and department staff to track department recommendations, County Advisory Board input, and Commission adoption of big game hunting seasons and tag quotas.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Curran said, from what I read, there does not seem to be anything to discuss. It sounds like they want to come up with software for tracking all the county recommendations and Commission's recommendation to do with quotas and seasons, unless I am missing something. Member Sibley said does it need a vote? Member Burgess said it says take no action or make other recommendations. Member Sibley said I propose we take no action.

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to take no action. Member Andrew Howells seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

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

The Commission will hold a workshop on 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

Member Sibley said I still do not feel they have clarified most of this. When it went to the Commission, the E-Tags were shot down. Member Hughes said was it? Member Sibley said it was. Member Burgess said I think the biggest question is what about internet service or if your phone dies and how do you physically tag the animal? Member Hughes said there are a lot of questions that were not answered. Member Curran said I do not understand, why would it be back on, if it was shot down? Member Sibley said they said they did not have enough information for support but it is the same information. Member Sibley said I do not see where they clarified what they consider durable material to write the verification code on or cell phone service restrictions. Member Hughes said having access. Member Sibley said I like the idea but it does not seem that anything has changed. Member Hughes said do we have a motion not to approve? Member Curran said we support the concept but the draft regulation does not appear to be workable. Member Sibley said I will make a motion for exactly what Member Curran said. Member Burgess said right here it says: the department recommends that the Commission review, amend if needed, and move toward an adoption or additional workshop. I say we move toward an additional workshop. Member Howells said then we can talk about emailing the tag instead of mailing it. Maybe you would still have to have a hard copy of the tag when you are in the field. Member Burgess said why not print 3 of them? Mr. Sibley said it is supposed to have a validation code and you are supposed to get that when you punch your tag. The question is, if I am hunting in an area with no cell service, how do I get a validation code?

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to ask to have Commission General Regulation 522 set for another workshop. Member Andrew Howells seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

D- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Regulation 23-15, Amendment #1, fishing seasons and regulations for January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025.

The Commission will consider amending fishing seasons, bag, and possession limits for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Hughes said I thought that we approved that last time. Member Curran said no, this is the second half and what the support data shows. The department is not recommending any changes so there are not any amendments. I make a motion, we approve the departments recommendation, to refrain from making any changes in Commission Regulation 23-15. They

set the seasons for 2 years and they are suppose to come back after 1 year with any purposed changes if they have to and this is what they have done. Member Burgess said I thought this was the change where they doubled or added the possession limit. Member Sibley said, yes, that was last year. Member Howells said you are saying we do not need to change it again? Member Sibley said, no, we changed it last year and they proposed that for 2 years, so we are on year 2 of that. We would accept the way it was last year.

Member Jim Curran made a motion to approve Commission Regulation 23-15 as presented. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

E- Consideration and possible action re: Future Commission meetings and committee assignments.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for November 8 and 9, 2024 in Reno. The Commission will review and discuss potential agenda items for that meeting. The Commission may change the date, time, and meeting location at this time. The Chairman may designate and adjust committee assignments and add or dissolve committees, as necessary, at this time. Any anticipated committee meetings that may occur prior to the next Commission meeting may be discussed.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

There was no action taken on this matter.

F- Update on the letter to County Advisory Boards regarding support for a salvage regulation for Churchill County, Nevada.

Deputy Clerk Moore will provide an update on the letter sent to the other County Advisory Boards (CABs) seeking support for a salvage regulation to benefit our communities and the management of wildlife in Nevada.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

None; Informational Only

Deputy Clerk Moore said we received support from Eureka and Elko Counties. We also received the link to Idaho's webpage for salvage of wildlife, which was displayed for the board. The link will be emailed out to the board so they can look at it. Ms. Moore said I expect we will get additional information from other CABs who are also probably meeting this week. She will agenize the matter for the next meeting. Member Sibley will contact the Idaho Fish and Game about their regulation to seek additional information on their process and to seek language to assist our efforts.

Informational Items:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Items listed on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Agenda for September 27 and 28, 2024.

Should the board want to discuss Items listed on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Agenda for September 27 and 28, 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 discussion of items.

Consider Future Agenda Items:

Deputy Clerk Moore said I will include an item on our next Agenda regarding responses from other CABs to our salvage regulation letter. Furthermore, the board would like to request an update on the Carson Lake Management Plan.

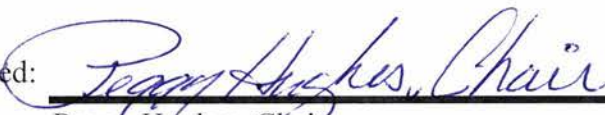
Public Comment:

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

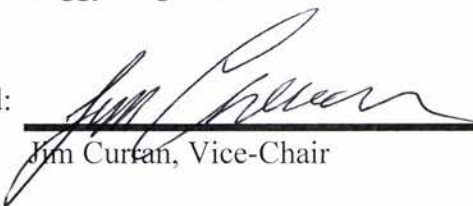
Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Approved:


Peggy Hughes, Chair

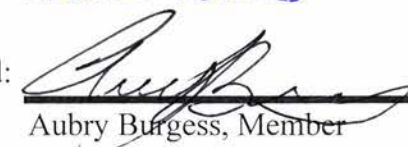
Approved:


Jim Curran, Vice-Chair

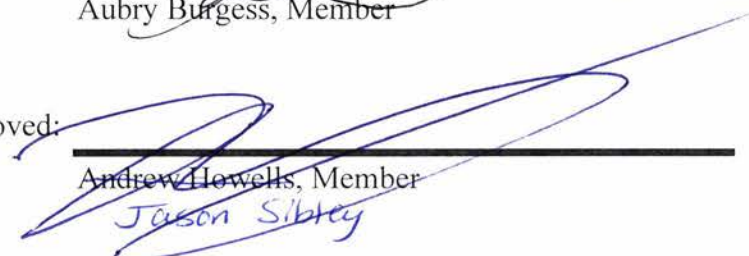
Approved:


Jason Sibley, Member
Andrew Howells

Approved:


Aubry Burgess, Member

Approved:


Andrew Howells, Member
Jason Sibley

ATTEST:

Linda Rothery, Clerk/Treasurer



Pamela D. Moore, Deputy Clerk of the Board