

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

**155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406
March 17, 2021**

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife was called to order at 7:01 PM on March 17, 2021.

PRESENT:

Member Jim Curran
Member Timothy Gubler
Member Peggy A. Hughes
Member Jason Sibley
Member Gary Cordes
Deputy Clerk to the Board Pamela D. Moore

ABSENT:

N/A

Pledge of Allegiance:

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

Public Comment:

Chairwoman 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 to the Board, that the Agenda for this meeting was posted on the 10th day of March, 2021, between the hours of 8:00 and 10:00 AM at all of the locations listed on the Agenda, in accordance with NRS 241 and the Governor's Emergency Directive for posting during the Pandemic.

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

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

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

A- January 27, 2021.

The Minutes of the meeting held on January 27, 2021 are submitted for the board's consideration and approval.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED:

Member Gary Cordes made a motion to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on January 27, 2021 as presented. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Appointments:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Regulation 21-13 related to 2021-2022 seasons, bag limits, and special regulations for Migratory Game Birds.

The Commission will consider recommendations for seasons, bag limits, and special regulations for migratory game birds for the 2021-2022 season and adopt regulations consistent with proposed regulations framework for the 2021-2022 hunting seasons on certain migratory game birds established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Commission Regulation will also consider rules regulating public hunting on Wildlife Management Areas and designated state lands.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Curran said this would be the final recommendations for the season, but the state has not received the framework that is provided each year by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which will state that you can have a duck season, say 120 days between this date and that date. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, because of the election and everything else, is way behind. What the state did was duplicate last years with adjustments to Saturday and Sunday. It is not a recommended change but, in that summary, where it talks about the public hunting on wildlife management areas, they did include Carson Lake and Pasture. They are anticipating, within the next week or two, that the transfer of Carson Lake and Pasture to the Nevada Wildlife Agency will take place after over 20 years of going through this whole process, which will probably lead us into Agenda items in the future to deal with management. This would be the first management area that we have within our county and I know the Greenhead Board that has managed that for close to 100 years may be completely eliminated in management out there and that has quite a few individuals upset, who may be coming to our future meetings trying to get us to take a position on that.

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

Member Jim Curran made a motion to approve Commission Regulation 21-13 as presented. Member Gary Cordes seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

B- Consideration and possible action re: Commission General Regulation 496, regarding language updates and simplification of Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 503 relating to wildlife.

The Commission will review the Regulation Simplification Committee's recommendations regarding language updates and simplification of Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 503 relating to wildlife.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED:

Member Curran said this is the third time this has come before us and we have made several recommendations. Last time, it had to do with some of the trapping language and I know they have representatives from trappers defending it. It has not done any good; it is still the same.

There is a regulation to do with unmanned aerial vehicles, which basically outlaws them for hunting and trapping of any of the big game animals, game birds, or furbearers. I don't think that is going to be too controversial. It specifies you can't use an unmanned aircraft and consider that a trap visitation. There was a fellow in Las Vegas that was doing that and it was saving him a lot of walking. They have also added a bait regulation but it is not going to have much of an impact.

There is a new definition of what a suitcase trap is versus a cage trap. That geared up one person in Reno that is doing it under contract with the power company. I think it is a done deal and would make a motion to accept the recommended changes.

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

Member Jim Curran made a motion to approve Commission General Regulation 496 as presented. Member Gary Cordes seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C- Consideration and possible action re: Commission General Regulation 498 related to a Petition to change language in Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 503.147 to withdraw dogs from bear hunts.

The Commission has received a Petition to change language in Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 503.147 to withdraw dogs from bear hunts, which was accepted by the Commission at its meeting held on November 6, 2020.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Cordes said I am a dog lover and my dad has hunted bear before. The bears don't just stand there so you can sneak up on them and determine which one is a boar and which one is a sow. With dogs, you have the ability to tree them, which allows you to evaluate if it is a mature or immature animal. I don't think the dogs, trust me on this, do any damage to the bears. They only help the bear hunters. I would certainly hate to see people using drones to hunt bears. There are other alternatives, to say the least. Chairwoman Hughes said I have never heard of anyone having any problems with hunting with dogs. Member Curran said he has not either. This is just a petition filed by an animal rights group. The group wants to eliminate bear hunting in Nevada. There is an ever-increasing population of bears here and they are distributing wider and wider

from the Sierras. This is the most effective method to hunt bears. Bait is already prohibited and with the restriction on female bears, treeing a bear is the most effective way to identify if you have a male or female. This is just anti-hunting; they want the bear season to close. This is just one approach to take away the most effective tool for trying to manage bears.

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

Member Jim Curran made a motion to strongly oppose Commission General Regulation 498 as presented. Member Gary Cordes seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

D- Consideration and possible action re: Second Draft Fiscal Year 2021 Predation Management Plan.

The Second Draft Fiscal Year 2021 Predation Management Plan has been presented to the Commission. Following this review, the draft plan was updated and shared with the State Predatory Animal and Rodent Committee (PARC). All comments from the PARTC, County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife, and any other interested entity will be compiled and shared with the Wildlife Damage Management Committee (WDMC) for their consideration at this March meeting. The Commission will receive an update from the WDMC and may provide additional direction at that time.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Curran said I could not see any changes from a month ago, although the Minutes were not available from their Commission meeting. I was looking at it to see if they had recommended any changes. Most of these are continuations of recent studies. Moneywise, they figure it would be within the budget of the percentage that has to be used for legal control, not just studies, so I have no problem with any of it. The work they are doing with the Sage Grouse to remove the raven to protect them is fine. They are also doing work for the Big Horn Sheep herd in northern Washoe County. I don't have any recommended changes to what is proposed.

Chairwoman Hughes said what is the predator removal? Member Curran said skunks, racoons, fox, versus a lion, bobcat, or big predator. They can do a lot of damage.

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

Member Gary Cordes made a motion to approve the Second Draft Fiscal Year 2021 Predation Management Plan as presented. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

E- Consideration and possible action re: Petition by Mr. Perry "Rob" Pierce for a special hunt season be made available to disabled persons.

Mr. Pierce has submitted a Petition requesting a special hunt season be made available for

disabled persons. The Commission may take action to deny or accept the Petition and initiate rulemaking.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Cordes said I think we have walked down this road before trying to discuss what disabled means. There is an increase in interest in everybody trying to get a certain section of our population a special hunting season and I think there are plenty of hunting seasons available for disabled persons who have plenty of groups to assist them. I am opposed to this. Member Curran said the Petition I copied off of support data was just strictly that form. It is an incomplete Petition, in my opinion. It doesn't really provide the wording for the change. He wrote special hunting season for the disabled or whatever you guys decide. I am not sure what kind of hunt he is talking about. There is just no information here. It is even hard to oppose it because I don't know what I am opposing.

Member Cordes said I am withdrawing my motion. I agree with you 100%. He might be more victorious than we thought. I read the Petition, as well. Member Curran said that one sentence in it was all I could get out of it.

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

Member Gary Cordes made a motion to oppose the Petition for a special hunt season for disabled persons for incompleteness of the Petition. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Informational Items:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Items listed on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Agenda for March 19 and 20, 2021, which is attached as Exhibit "A".

The board may consider Items listed on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Agenda for March 19 and 20, 2021, which is attached as Exhibit "A", and direct action if any is warranted.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Other

Member Curran I guess they are going to discuss a coyote contest and it says possible action, but I did not find any support data for it. I know it came up from a couple of the Commissioners of Las Vegas and the City/County Commissioners took a stand in support of outlawing contests. I know they did receive some opposition to the way they were proposing it about fishing tournaments, deer antler contests, not just coyote. This is something that was enacted in New Mexico and a couple other states back east, so there is a momentum of animal rights groups

again. There has been a lot of chatter on the internet in opposition to it. They are trying to get one more nail in the coffin. In Vegas, they have so much trouble with coyotes eating dogs and cats and I can't believe their County Commissioners want to protect them. Chairwoman Hughes said they probably didn't have anyone whose dog or cat had been eaten there. Member Curran said these contests take so few animals. There are that many killed on the highway every night. They had a big hunt over in Battle Mountain not too long ago and they took 45 or 50. We have more than that running around down here at Carson Lake. That is no impact on the population. If you listened to their argument, there are thousands of people just wiping out everything that moves.

Member Cordes said, in regard to the wild horses, I know that is a federal management issue. Anytime we went out chukar hunting or deer hunting you run into horses. It is just concerning. Member Curran said there is a resolution in the Legislature right now that I'm sure will pass that is asking the Secretary of the Interior and Congress to manage horses down to management levels and provide more money. I hunted the Monitors last year and the horses out there were just unimaginable. They are doing so much damage to the streams. Some of the places are just trashed from the hoof prints in streams.

There was no further discussion.

Consider Future Agenda Items:

There were no future Agenda items suggested.

Public Comment:

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

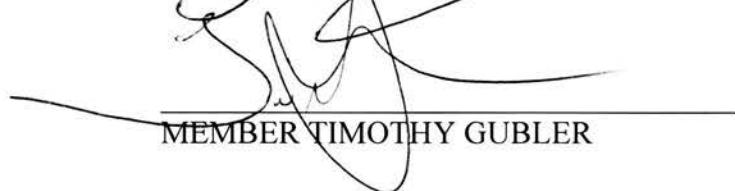
Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.


CHAIRWOMAN PEGGY HUGHES


MEMBER JIM CURRAN


MEMBER JASON SIBLEY


MEMBER TIMOTHY GUBLER


MEMBER GARY CORDES

ATTEST:
Linda Rothery, Clerk/Treasurer


Renae Paholke, Deputy Clerk