

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

**155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406
September 22, 2021**

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife was called to order at 7:00 PM on September 22, 2021.

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

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 15th day of September, 2021, between the hours of 11:00 AM and 12:00 PM 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 23, 2021.

The Minutes of the meeting held on June 23, 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: Accept

Member Gary Cordes made a motion to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on June 23, 2021 as presented. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Appointments:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Regulation 21-15 for Fishing Seasons and Regulations for 1/1/22 through 12/31/2023.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Kris Urquhart said we have one proposed regulation change for the area of Great Basin National Park. They are proposing to reintroduce Bonneville Cutthroat Trout into two lakes over there and, as part of that project, we are asking to reduce the limits on those from 10 trout to 0 fish and have a single barbless regulation for those 2 lakes, which are Johnson and Baker Lakes. It is long term and then we plan to reopen that to fishing and to harvest. It will remain open to fishing; however, harvest will only be allowed in the future once those populations are able to establish themselves. There is a small population of Bonneville Cutthroat Trout nearby that we will be using to repopulate those lakes and we will monitor those for the next few years to see when they are established and then we can revisit the regulations for those. It is an ongoing project. I believe one of the lakes has BCT in it right now and the other one does not. I will answer questions on this. It is kind of out of my area, so I am not real familiar with it.

Member Cordes said how does that work? If you catch a fish, you should be able to carry something with you to identify the species of the fish. Kris Urquhart said the Bonneville will be the only fish in there. I believe there has been a small stocking of fish put into one of the lakes but that will be the only species in those 2 lakes. Member Curran said I see you drained down to the Bonneville on the east side.

Chairwoman Hughes asked if there were any change in the season? Kris Urquhart said no, that is the only change we have for the biennium for fisheries for the state. I could list off the counties but that is the only county with changes and that is the only change.

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

Member Jim Curran made a motion to approve Commission Regulation 21-15 as submitted. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Member Curran said, since we have him here, I would like to ask questions about the aeration system you installed. Kris Urquhart said I was going to do that when you guys get done with your regular business. There are several things going on with the counties that I would like to discuss.

B- Consideration and possible action re: Commission General Regulation 488 - Landowner Compensation Tags.

The Commission will consider adopting changes to Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation would provide direction for allocating landowner deer and antelope compensation tags if owner applicants cumulatively qualify for compensation tags in excess of the statutory limit. This regulation was considered during a workshop in September 2019.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Cordes said, my concern is, if you get more antelope populating a certain area like Lander County or Churchill County, 2.5% is the ceiling and I want to be fair to all our ranchers that are supporting our wildlife having to build huge fences and obstacles to keep them out. Jake Ward said the last time we had the issue with the percentage and that for those landowners, they were going to be issued tags but the percentage was too low, so they had to account for that and then they bumped that up a half percent or whatever to account for the whole number of tags. With the landowner tags increasing, I assume they are going to keep bumping that percentage up to account for all the animals, like deer on alfalfa or elk compensation. Deer and antelope are based on irrigated pastures. Member Cordes said so if you exceeded that limit then you go to depredation? Jake Ward said if there is an agreement that if there are too many animals and the landowner is agreeable to that, they can hunt the property or the outside of the property. We address that. They have been doing that at the Baker Ranch for many years. The other form of payment that they do sometimes for elk is based on a formula and a calculation for how many suspected elk are using the property. That is based on how many tags are issued for that year, so it is kind of a different system. With regard to the elk damage control, that fee that you pay for an elk tag, goes in for fencing to manage that. It will alleviate the problem with deer and antelope to put the fence up too, but there is no special formula for them. It is just for the elk.

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

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve Commission General Regulation 488 as submitted. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C- Consideration and possible action re: Commission General Regulation 489 - NAC 503.172 Shed Antler Season.

The Board of Wildlife Commissioners will consider adopting changes to NAC 501 and NAC 503 to change the demerits for violation of shed antler closure, increase the demerits for a violation of that regulation, and require an online class in order to collect or possess shed antlers in the field. This regulation was brought as a petition by Elko CABMW in August 2019 and was considered during a workshop in September 2019 and August 2021.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Sibley said I am still having trouble with the demerit system that is attached to the shed antler season. It is a 9-demerit violation. That is an awfully high demerit in my opinion. It is similar to hunting or taking a threatened species or shooting a big game animal out of season. I don't understand the idea behind that. It just seems really high. Member Curran said I think they look at it as a commercial activity. A lot of the commercial activity they put at 9. It is just an arbitrary figure that they came up with. If you see a little bit further down it is a 6-demerit violation to do it. Member Sibley said that is for taking during the season but without the class. Member Curran said I feel the same way. That online class is going to be a fairly ridiculous class. There are very few 3-demerit violations and they just keep upping it to where I think they have abused it. Member Sibley said, to put it into perspective on what I am looking at, is I can possess a raptor without a permit and have less demerits than if I hunt sheds out of season. It is insane to me because it is a waste item. I understand the commercial activity part, so you require a commercial license for specific amounts but if I want to go shed hunt and I want to go pick up 6 sheds during a late cow tag, I can't do that because the season is closed. Or, while I am trapping, I cannot pick them up. I can hunt a swan without a permit and have less of a violation than when I pick up a part that fell off of an animal out of season. It really doesn't make sense to me. I am okay with a demerit attached but a 9-demerit violation is excessive. Nine demerits and you are one hiccup away from losing your hunting license for what, 3 years or 5 years, I don't know. Member Curran said you can hunt a protected sensitive species and it is only a 6-demerit violation. Member Sibley said I can go shoot a swan on my wife's permit and have less of a violation. It doesn't make sense to me. Member Cordes said do you think that these commercial shed hunters have hunting licenses at all and even care about demerits? Member Curran said that is the next thing is that it will require a license to pick up sheds. Member Sibley said I was under the impression that they put the shed season in place so that people would not run the elk through the trees on purpose to make them shed. At that time, I was opposed to it because that is harassment of wildlife. Why are we adding another law on top of that? It is a wasted part of an animal. They are going to fall off. As long as they are not harassing wildlife, I don't see why there is a season to begin with. I recommend they get rid of the shed season completely. Member Cordes said each county could come up with their own shed season. Member Sibley said the whole thing is a moot point if the department is for it in these areas where they have elk that are shedding and have issues. It is already illegal to harass wildlife, so why even put this in place. If the department supports it, it will be really hard to overturn it. Member Curran the legislature authorized the department to establish this. It would have to be a 2-step process to get the legislature to change the regulation. Member Sibley said I think the demerits are just for not taking the class. I brought the same argument up the last time they proposed this. Member Curran said, except for the harassment part, I don't think the commission has any jurisdiction even dealing with antlers. It is a part of waste. Since they do have it, I would support a reduction of the taking and gathering down to a 6 or a 3 and also the regulation down below that I feel is a certification that should be no more than a 3.

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

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to change the demerits for Commission General Regulation 489 for taking, gathering of shed antlers between January 1 and April 30 to 6 demerits and the taking, gathering of shed antlers in certain counties between May 1 and June 30th without a certificate down to 3 demerits. Member Gary Cordes seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

D- Consideration and possible action re: Commission General Regulation 494 - NAC 501 Regulation Simplification.

The Commission will consider adopting changes to NAC 501 recommended by the Regulation Simplification Committee. This regulation was considered during a workshop at the September 2020 meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Sibley said it looks like they are considering getting rid of the actual record book. They actually lined out the word book in this regulation and it just says maintain a record. Member Curran said that is a book they have to maintain for grants, isn't it? Chairwoman Hughes said it says to maintain a record. Member Curran said it has to do with the Habitat Division where they comment on federal actions but then it goes into maintaining a record book containing comments on proposed federal actions. I am not sure why it goes into demerits. Member Sibley said then it does go back to demerits, which is weird. Member Curran said it goes into taxidermy without a license that shows nothing. I would like to know what the rationale for that is. Member Cordes said to Jason, you have to maintain statistics for big game animals, I know that. Is that not a record book? Member Curran said I think the state requires a book where a person could come in and see what the department's position is on federal actions, like on grazing allotments. Member Sibley said I took that as an actual record book. Member Curran said no, not to do with a 10-point deer. That is not that kind of record book. Member Sibley said oh, it's not? Member Curran said it is a book of records or something like that. It sort of falls under like an Open Meeting Law.

Member Sibley said I am kind of curious, with the demerits thing, for possessing a big game animal or parts thereof without where they crossed out a "tag" and put "an attached or validated tag". Is the department going to electronic tags? Member Curran said probably, eventually. Jake Ward said, in the future, they want to go to electronic tags, although I do not know if that is what this is. Member Sibley said it is just the way this is written. It says "attached or validated tag". I know you validate tags out of state through an e-tag system in some states. You can actually just tag it on your phone and you are done. It almost sounded like the direction they were going. Chairwoman Hughes said unfortunately there are some people who don't know how to do that. It still doesn't make sense going to all the computerized stuff. Member Sibley said, at least in this situation, it is not like the draw system where it sounds like they are going to give the option to either have a paper tag or the electronic tag. It sounds like, from stories I have heard from employees that work there, that they have had some people that have been upset that either their tag didn't show up or their kid lost their tag and they had to pay the duplicate tag fees, so this

sounds like this would be a solution to that, as well. From the audience, someone said I think the only hiccup with some of that would be an issue where it does say location kill. There is a location kill with the GPS on your phones or things like that. Member Sibley said I actually thought it would help the department a little bit because then it might be a little harder for people to lie about where they killed their animals at. We know you could just turn the location off on your phone. In half the mountain ranges I have killed stuff in, I have no idea what they are called. I end up having to look and see. I just know where my unit is.

Member Sibley said it looks like they are making commercial taking of crayfish a 6-demerit violation. Member Curran said they just moved it into a different category. At the very bottom it says performing taxidermal services without a license, which is 502.370, and it says no demerit points will be assessed for violation of 502.370. I am really confused about why as it has always been after taxidermist. Member Sibley said it sounds like now they are getting rid of it, right? Member Curran said now it sounds like there will be no demerits. There is no explanation for law enforcement. Member Sibley said there is still a criminal aspect, right? Member Curran said I can't really make any comment. Member Curran said there are two licenses now; one is commercial and one is a hobby, so Roy should have a hobby license. With regard to operating a shooting preserve without a license, they are eliminating the 6 points there and maybe it was moved down into the 3 points somewhere but it is not on the support data. I don't think there is a shooting preserve here or in the state.

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

Member Jim Curran made a motion to approve Commission General Regulation 494 as submitted. Member Gary Cordes seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

E- Consideration and possible action re: Commission General Regulation 499 - Bonus Point Only Application Period.

The Commission will review draft language amending NAC 502 chapters that would decouple the hunt application periods from the 7-day bonus point only application period and create a separate period for bonus point only purchases that would facilitate a more timely draw process and provide increased opportunity for bonus point purchases. The change also defines what "awarded" means to a successful draw applicant.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Sibley said what is the reasoning behind that? Does anybody know? Chairwoman Hughes said it would decouple the hunt application periods from the 7-day bonus point only application period and create a separate period for bonus point only purchases that would facilitate a more timely draw process and provide an increased opportunity for a bonus point purchase. The change also defines what "awarded" means to a successful draw applicant. Member Sibley said how do you change what awarded means? Member Curran said I think it is administrative. Member Cordes said, in my opinion, if you put in and get a bonus point, that is

great. Member Sibley said it is weird that, in the support data, it says that also proposed by the department is a definition of 'awarded' that once defined, would close loopholes regarding the return of a customer's bonus points after a failed payment. I don't know what that means. Chairwoman Hughes said the department is proposing having application periods and a bonus point only application period as two separate entities. Bonus points will still be available for purchase during every application period but the grace period for bonus point only purchases will be held after both the main draw and second draw are conducted and results are released to the public. Only one bonus point may be obtained per license as stated in NAC 502.4187. The open period to only purchase a bonus point will be determined by the Commission in the Commission Regulation Big Game Application Deadlines that is heard every January. It also says that also proposed by the department is a definition of 'awarded' that once defined, would close loopholes regarding the return of a customer's bonus points after a failed payment for a tag if a customer was successful in the draw. How would you have a failed payment? Member Sibley said does that mean that right now the way the regulation is, is if you draw a tag and have a failed payment, they are giving you your bonus points back but now they are saying that they are not supposed to. It just sounds weird. I don't care. It just sounds off that they are going to have another draw and another bonus point after the main and the second draw. Member Curran said a new period to apply, not a draw. Member Sibley said is that period going to be the only time you can apply for bonus points? Member Curran said no. Member Sibley said it says they are decoupling it, so there would be a bonus point only for the time period that is after the 2 draws. They are saying they are going to be separate. The bonus point period is going to be by itself. Chairwoman Hughes said it says another bonus point after the main and the second draw are conducted. It sounds like you could have 2 draw periods. Member Sibley said and now you would only have 7 days versus whatever there is now for the application period. It says they are decoupling it or separating it. I do not understand why. Kris Urquhart said, in the last two sentences that you read there, I believe there was a sentence or two above that that explained that the bonus point option would still be available during the normal draw periods. Chairwoman Hughes said no, it doesn't say anything like that. It says only one bonus point may be obtained per license. The open period to only purchase a bonus point will be determined by the Commission. Member Curran said bonus points will still be available for purchase during every application period but the grace period for bonus point only purchases will be held after both the main draw and second draw. Mr. Urquhart said there has been discussion that this is for people that forget to get their bonus point paid during the normal application period, like I do. I will apply for a couple of hunts and then go away from it and then come back to it, so, if you forgot to check for the bonus point only or you forgot to apply for a tag, after the draw is over, you can go back and apply for a bonus point after the draw. That is what some of the other discussion has been. I am not any more familiar with it than you guys are right now. Member Cordes said so you get a do-over. Mr. Urquhart said you can buy a bonus point. Member Sibley said now that sounds like a good idea. The question I would have for whoever wrote this is, in their description, it does say that they would decouple the application periods with the 7-day bonus point only application period and create a separate period for bonus point only purchases. The way that it is right now, you can apply for bonus point only throughout the entire draw process and that lasts weeks. This is saying it is only going to be a 7-day window, so that would be something I am curious about. Mr. Ward said, in the discussion I have heard, part of the rationale for decoupling it is to relieve some of the pressure during the normal draw. If there are

people who want to apply for a bonus point and they know that, they can go over here and only apply for that and it limits the number of applications that they have. The bonus points is another application and it does go through their system. It is a computer relief pressure aspect. They are hoping it relieves some of the congestion. Member Sibley said I just want to make sure that it is still going to be available through that whole process and we are not taking away time for people who are doing bonus point only and we are only going to give him a 7-day window versus the entire application process. That is my only question. Otherwise, it is a good idea.

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

Member Gary Cordes made a motion to approve Commission General Regulation 499 as submitted. 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 September 24 and 25, 2021, which is attached as Exhibit "A".

Should the board want to discuss Items listed on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Agenda for September 24 and 25, 2021, which is attached as Exhibit "A", the board may do so.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

Chairwoman Hughes asked if there was any public comment but there was none. There was no further discussion of items on the state Agenda.

Consider Future Agenda Items:

Member Sibley said I really do want to get the department's stance on horses with someone from the department to attend and weigh in on that and what we could do for that. If we let it continue the way it is going, it is going to be a big problem. We will continue to see a decline on our native wildlife. Also, discussing the steel shot only requirement at Carson Lake. I want to have a conversation with the board about that. Member Curran said it is going to be the whole management area regulation. There is going to be a lot more than just steel shot. Member Sibley said that is my concern because that is a pretty good antelope area. Kris Urquhart said if you guys want to discuss that, it is an issue for Churchill County. That is a change that is going on right now out there, as you guys know. Put that on your Agenda for your next meeting and then we will try to get some support from people that are making those decisions. We can have them give us information that we can give to you as an informational thing.

Public Comment:

Kris Urquhart said drought has been really bad for Churchill County in particular, worse than other places. Some of the other counties have experienced drought but what I am seeing here is

worse than a lot of other areas. In the Desatoyas, they were concerned about some populations of fish that have been there for as long as I have been around. I remember fishing as a kid in Edwards Creek and Willow Creek. Earlier this summer, we did some stream surveys along in there and they were very limited. Everyone was watching the fish die in some of those streams. It is bad out there. I am planning on going back out again in the next few weeks to follow up on that to see if I can find fish in some of those areas where we saw them die. Unfortunately, there is not a whole lot we can do about it because some of these areas are not really the greatest and there were no fires, we just didn't get the precipitation in the mountains to support a lot of the springs. It is tough to watch some of them. Most of our reservoirs are almost dry. One of the things we did this summer, which the department has not been involved with since the 1990s, is an aeration system out at Lahontan. Part of the rationale for doing that was similar to what happened back in the 1990s. We had several good water years and the fish population had expanded. Then the water went down to the 4,000-acre-foot pool. All those fish get concentrated down. The timing of it was also earlier this year than it normally is. We have gone through this cycle before. When we get down to the 4,000-acre-foot, typically, it is not in mid-July. It is later in September or later when the temperatures are already cooling off and the reservoir recovers quickly. This year we knew it was going to happen earlier, so we put together a small project and we did get some aerators out there. We have been maintaining those for the last few weeks. It seems to be helping. We have been monitoring the oxygen levels and the temperatures and we have not seen any major die-offs yet. It is hard to know if we would have lost the fish without doing that but it couldn't have hurt. We will probably be doing that for another week or 10 days and then the temperatures will get lower and the wind action will oxygenate the water. We are out of the critical levels for Lahontan since the temperatures are getting lower now.

Chairwoman Hughes said where did you put the aeration system? Kris Urquhart said at the dam. The compressor is on the west side of the dam and we have a major one inch air line that goes from the compressor and then there is a manifold system that has a bunch of fusers off of it that are spread out. Right next to the dam we have them scattered and every time the wind blows, I have to get in my little raft and go put them back out. It has been a project and I think it helped. Member Cordes said an aerator? Kris Urquhart said it is just a big airline like a compressor you air up your tires with. We have 6 of those going out from the manifold and on the end of those is PVC lines with like a sprinkler hose that sprays water all over the place. It is similar type material on the end of the PVC and it diffuses the air into tiny bubbles. You get more surface area and better oxygenation with those tiny bubbles as opposed to just putting a hose in the water and letting it blow air. I found one of the old ones from the 1990s and it is huge. It is long and it is big. They only had 2 of them out there. They ran steel conduit lines down from the tower. They used to use a little bit different system. They had an electric motor on a compressor that they had on a timer in the control tower and ran steel lines down to the water and then 2 of the big aerator units out into the lake. That was 30-40 years ago or something like that. They have been under water all this time and I went out there and had to fix one of the lines. All you see on the surface is just like a spring under the water and they bubble out.

Member Curran said do you know what they are doing on the Truckee Canal? The day they quit irrigating they shut the canal off. Kris Urquhart said it was shut off about a week later, actually. I was watching pretty close. They got down to the minimum flows. The Tribe has minimum flow

requirements downstream and, as soon as they can't meet the requirement below Derby Dam, they have to cut off the flows down the canal. That happened about a week after the irrigation season ended. They have done a lot of work on the Derby Canal with the fishway and the passage and have been doing a lot of weir work up there but the flow cutoff was due to the requirements.

Member Sibley said did they get the dam repaired at Lahontan? Kris Urquhart said no they have not. I don't know when that is going to happen. They had budgeted for the repairs but they had to have custom gates built just for that and they are very expensive. They are going to get them built and then the next cycle where we get down to minimum flows, they will have to put those gates in. I have talked with TCID and the BOR a couple of times trying to figure out a solution where we can maintain water in the lake while they do that work. I am not certain that we have come up with a solution yet. Hopefully, we can because, if they have to drain the whole reservoir to do that then we are starting from scratch, which is a longer process and is more expensive. Member Sibley said do they have to drain the whole thing? Kris Urquhart said, pretty much, I think. One of the ideas they came up with was putting a cofferdam around it, which I think was one of the TCID employee's suggestion. There is also the safety aspect of putting the cofferdam in and working around it. I don't know if there is going to be a solution to that or not. Member Curran said, hopefully, it will not be 10 years off. Kris Urquhart said, hopefully it is never. I hope we get water in there and it stays all year long but that is probably not a reality. We will have to deal with it, at some point. Again, if there is an area that we can salvage fish to that is within the valley or another area that is suitable for the fish to go, we can salvage the fish out of there and some of those are our larger root stock fish that we have, like larger catfish and Walleye. If we can hold them somewhere for a little while and then put them back, it would be a lot better than starting over because those fisheries take several years to rebuild themselves. Some of the other fish, like the White Bass, boom right back. It doesn't take long for them to recover. The catfish, the Largemouth Bass and Walleye take longer to mature and to recover from.

Member Sibley said, on the drought side, is the department monitoring the guzzlers? Last year I ran into several dry ones. Kris Urquhart said please report those. We have guzzler crews scattered more throughout the state now than we had in the past. We have guys in Fallon, Winnemucca, Vegas, and even over in Elko that do some work. Our Fallon guy that does part of the guzzler program has also gotten a bunch of water tanks that we can put in the back of our trucks so, if we see an emergency situation, we can grab one of those tanks and alleviate the immediate need. We are getting better at being able to respond to those issues and getting more experience with it too. I don't know how many helicopter water hauls we had to do down south when it was hot this year. Especially report if you see a dry guzzler or see animals around one. We will try to get on that right away. Member Sibley said the ones I ran across were in 077. Kris Urquhart said our guzzler guy, right now, is flying over in the Washoe County area and looking at guzzlers while they are doing other surveys too. So, not only is Jason doing it but it does it seem fitting when they are doing their sheep surveys or antelope surveys, they will go by and check out the guzzlers too. We do a lot of ground checks during the heat of the summer when the critical need is the highest and we will do ground looks at some of the more concerning areas for guzzlers that we have seen issues with in the past. Our guys will just drive

out and look at them too, sometimes. Member Sibley said I think that is another issue when the horses continue to decimate a lot of the water sources. The wildlife is going to become a lot more dependent on the guzzlers. That is really their only protected water source. Kris Urquhart said, like Jason mentioned earlier too, the fencing of some of the riparian areas and some of the springs too, that is a difficult process to get approved through the various sources that we have to get them approved through. I think it is helpful. We do some of it for LCT up in the northern part of the state too and we monitor those pretty closely to make sure that the fences are still in good repair. It is pretty impressive to see the difference from one side of the fence opposed to the other. It is pretty clear that they are doing their job. Member Sibley said it is kind of depressing when you get out there and you see that the horses that is decimated, it is nothing. There is no feed, there is no water.

Member Curran said with regard to regulatory reservoirs here like Indian Lakes, I think it was unavoidable that they took the 2 Harmon and what have you down. Harmon, I did talk to Kelly one day and I think that last couple hundred-acre feet of water that they took out of that would have accomplished nothing for the farmers and it would have left a little bit more. I know there are some individuals transplanting fish back into Harmon. It has actually recovered fairly fast to at least a survival rate. Kris Urquhart said individuals in the valley are not supposed to be moving fish around, and we did restock the bass and Blue Gill into Harmon a couple of years ago. Member Curran said I know that but the public is not going to stand by and watch them die. Member Sibley said I think it is more out of the canal pools right off of Harmon and moving them over. Member Curran said we used to recruit the public to do that. Kris Urquhart said and I am more than happy to work with the public if they come across issues where they think we might have game fish in some of these places. We get calls about carp all the time and we are not going to be saving carp. If they are a game fish stranded somewhere and there is a place we can move them, please have the public contact me. Member Sibley said Coleman is one of them. It looks like quite a few game fish but they are just a bunch of small fish. Kris Urquhart said we also need somewhere to put them. Sometimes there is not much you can do. The canals, especially, every year, even on good water years, go dry in the winter. Sometimes we do find good fish. I have found walleye in some of them and those are fish that are worth saving. We will do that. Member Curran said there are actually hundreds of small walleyes below the 26 foot drop. The thing that was surprising this year was the reproduction of crayfish this year in the canals. The cement ditches that I irrigate are a favorite for them. When they turn off the water that ditch is literally 1-2 inches deep of crayfish. We had a commercial person here one year trying to find them. There is some condition this year for them. Kris Urquhart said we see that a lot. Sometimes there is a higher game fish population when we get these low reservoir levels too. Behavior of some of the fish is different. Carp will run downstream when they get stressed and there is a downstream flow but most of the game fish go upstream, except White Bass seem to like to go downstream. We see a lot of the White Bass getting irrigated out into the corn fields. At the Corn Maze a few years ago, we went to one of those situations. We went to the maze with my kids and in the middle of it was these White Bass. It does happen.

Gary Cordes said your engineer, Rob Lighthouse, has he accomplished his task at Cave Lake? Kris Urquhart said I am not familiar with it. I can make a note and ask and see how they did. I just don't think they had the Fire and Ice Festival and it is something I really look forward to.

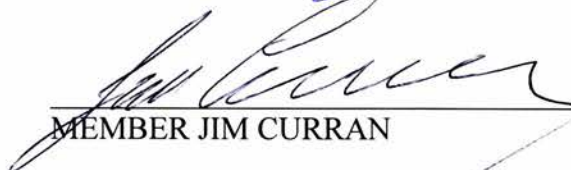
Kris Urquhart said I am not sure where they are at with that project. I am vaguely familiar with it but I don't know if they are completed or still in the works. Gary Cordes said he is a nice guy. A great part of your team.

Deputy Clerk Moore said the next meeting is scheduled for November 3, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 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