

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

**155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406
November 3, 2021**

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife was called to order at 7:00 PM on November 3, 2021.

PRESENT:

Member Peggy A. Hughes, Chair
Member Jim Curran
Member Jason Sibley
Member Gary Cordes
Deputy Clerk to the Board Pamela D. Moore
Member Timothy Gubler
Carl Erquiaga
Dana Weishaupt

ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

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 27th day of October, 2021, between the hours of 1:00 and 5:00 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 Gary Cordes seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

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

A- September 22, 2021.

The Minutes of the meeting held on September 22, 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 September 22, 2021, as presented. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Appointments:

A- Commission Policy 1 - General Guidelines for Commission.

The Administrative Policies, Regulations and Procedures Committee reviewed Commission Policy 1 at their September meeting. Commission Policy 1 was updated to reflect changes to the Wildlife Trust Fund made in the 2021 Legislative Session.

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. This item was presented for informational purposes only and no action was taken.

B- Commission Policy 10 - Heritage Tags and Vendors.

The Commission will have a first reading of Commission Policy 10 - Heritage Tags and Vendors and may take action to repeal or revise the policy. The Commission may advance the policy to a second reading for possible adoption at a future meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

To inform the public and guide the Nevada Department of Wildlife in administering the disbursement, through an auction or sealed bid process, of not more than 15 big game tags and 5 wild turkey tags annually, to be known as "Wildlife Heritage Tags," The Commission, at the meeting which establishes big game seasons, or the first scheduled February Commission meeting of the calendar year.

Member Cordes said is this for that Stillwater Project. Chairwoman Hughes said no, I don't think so. This is statewide.

Chairwoman Hughes said a vendor proposal to auction must provide the following information and then there is different information they have to provide. Member Sibley said that is the non-profits and stuff that apply for those tags to auction off and things like that. Chairwoman Hughes said the Commission will review all proposals and select vendors to auction the respective tags. If no proposals are received, the Commission may authorize other organizations within or outside Nevada to auction the tag. If no acceptable organization can be found to administer an auction, the tag may be sold by sealed bid. The Commission reserves the right to refuse any proposal received for auctioning Wildlife Heritage Tags annually. All vendors who submit proposals will

be notified in writing of the results by the Department. There is no action needed on that. Member Curran said the department is asking the commission to take action to approve the changes in Policy 1 and 10. That does not mean we have to take a position on them. Member Sibley said it says recommended action; informational only. Pam Moore said that is from our Agenda Report based on what Peggy provided. Actually, we do not have them marked as an action item so you cannot take action.

Chairwoman Hughes asked if there was any public comment but there was none. This item was presented for informational purposes only and no action was taken.

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

The Commission will review language amending chapters of Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 502 that would decouple the hunt application periods from bonus point purchase periods, remove the requirement for a 7-day bonus point only purchase period, and allow for the creation of a separate period for bonus point purchases to facilitate a more timely draw process and, potentially, provide increased opportunity for customers to obtain bonus points in the future. The change also outlines the definitions for "awarded" or "successful" relative to obtaining a big game tag.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Curran said that is strictly to take some of the workload away from the vendor. Member Sibley said they are just trying to separate the two because, according to what I have heard, when they have both bonus point and the general draw happening, it overloads their system, so they are just trying to create two different time periods so there are less applications going in at the same time.

Chairwoman Hughes said it says the Commission will review language amending chapters that would decouple the hunt application periods from bonus point purchases, remove the 7-day bonus point only purchase period, and allow for the creation of a separate period for bonus point purchases to facilitate a more timely draw process and provide increased opportunity for customers to obtain a bonus point. Member Sibley said, my only pushback that I had in this originally was, they were talking about doing only a 7-day period for bonus points. Now, as it stands, they have the entire application process to look at bonus points. So, they are shortening their time that they have. I wanted to make sure that they maintained the same time period for the bonus point as they do for the general draw. Chairwoman Hughes said it looks like they have done that, right? Member Sibley said it doesn't really specify a bonus point time period, from what I can see.

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

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve Commission General Regulation 499 as

presented. Member Gary Cordes seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

D- Adjustment to meeting intervals for coordination and oversight teams responsible for overseeing existing Elk Management Sub-plan.

Chair Hughes will present information concerning the adjustment to meeting intervals for coordination and oversight teams responsible for overseeing existing elk management sub-plan.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

Member Sibley said I don't really think that applies to us. Chairwoman Hughes said that was just for information. Member Curran said the statute requires they meet every year and, in some cases, they can't even keep up with that schedule. I think that is the only change.

Chairwoman Hughes asked if there was any public comment but there was none. This item was presented for informational purposes only and no action was taken.

E- Consideration and possible action re: Commission General Regulation 503 - Predator and Fur-bearing Contests.

The Commission will hold a workshop to discuss potential language on predator and fur-bearing contests proposed by Commissioner McNinch.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Sibley said it looks to me like they amended it to where fishing derbies don't fall under this anymore, from that title anyways. I still don't understand what the benefit is. Member Curran said I think this is the 4th or 5th workshop on this regulation and I know they are getting pressures from anti-hunting type groups to protect the coyote and pressure even from the director and maybe even higher up just to come up with something to get the subject settled. Each time they modify it and now the commissioner has submitted new wordage, which has narrowed it down from wildlife contests to just furbearing and predatory animal contests to get the bass fisherman and chukar hunters that have a contest to keep them happy. Member Sibley said isn't the Battle Mountain contest for coyotes? It is a coyote contest, so that is the same thing. Member Curran said, I see, even on the internet, where there are a bunch of coyote contests planned and some of them have changed the name a little bit. Member Sibley said the Department of Wildlife endorsed it when they put the ad for one in their paper. So, I am trying to understand their thought process. Member Curran said the commission is just not going to drop this until something passes. I know the Northern Nevada Wildlife Coalition and some in southern Nevada are recommending that the commission take no action on this. I think probably all 17 counties are going to recommend the same, that this is not necessary or based on science. It is appeasing some animal rights people. There is a statute that the commission is supposed to make decisions based

on the best available science and this sure does not fit into that. Some of the counties are talking about bounties and incentives to hunt coyotes.

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

Member Jim Curran made a motion to oppose Commission General Regulation 503 and recommend that the Board of Wildlife Commissioners take no action as it is not based on good wildlife management practices or science. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

F- Consideration and possible action re: Presentation by Dana Weishaupt concerning swan tags, quotas, and online process.

Dana Weishaupt will make a presentation concerning swan tags, quotas, and the online process.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Other

Dana Weishaupt said I went to my cousin's place at Frontier Liquor and it is about time to get swan tags this year. He said he had heard that they had already sold them all out in 2 days and I don't now how much truth there is to it. All those applications for deer and elk and all those people that buy those tags and then don't even use them. He told me that he heard that there were 100 of those swan tags purchased by somebody. They must turn them in if not filled. I think that the state started putting these tags online last year. When they did that, as far as swans go around here, that lets Las Vegas and Reno and anyone else in the state that wants to apply for those tags and you are going to get those people that want to save those birds. If that is what is going on, I was wondering if possibly we could get the quota raised on those swans by 20% to allow for these people that want to do this. Maybe that could give somebody else a chance to get those tags. It is hard when you hear about the same thing going on with the elk and the rest of them and there is nothing you can do to stop that because they are statewide tags. Anybody can apply but with a swan tag, if they have to come to the Fallon Office to get those tags, they are not going to drive from Las Vegas to get those tags and I don't know if that would help or not but there has got to be something done, if they can. I got a paper from the wildlife office there on Harrigan Road and they said that last year there was a 66% kill on the swan, so if you raise that quota 20%, you are still not going to exceed that 66%. It is going to be higher but I don't think we ever get those 600 tags used up. When you go to get a swan tag and find out this is going on and you have to wait until next year because somebody has to buy those tags up to save the birds, you get tired of hearing that. I know you can't stop it but you might be able to slow it down.

Member Sibley said the wildlife office on Harrigan? Dana Weishaupt said yes.

Dana Weishaupt said statewide it was 66% last year and the year before it was 70% and the year before it was 74% and the year before that was 71% and in 2016 it was 29%. I don't know what can be done but these people just make it hard on everybody. If you could look at the people that are lying and applied for those tags and if you found out that most of them are from Las Vegas,

they are not going to come up here to shoot a swan. I would say some of them probably get those tags and they say unsuccessful. If they fill out successful tags, they have to show a head. You have to bring a head to the office down there and show a head. Then if they get so many of a certain species killed then they shut the season down and if that is still the case, which is all right, I am still wondering what is going to happen to those tags. If you still have a tag to fill and they shut the season down, what is going to happen to your tag that you did not fill? Why? You can't give somebody a tag and then shut the season down. You either have to give them a credit for the next year or else you got to give them a refund on their money. You can't just shut the season down. That hasn't happened for quite a while, if it has happened at all. Member Sibley said it has happened one time and that was 2 years ago. They closed the day before the end of the season. That is kind of the argument now. The season is open now through February, so what kind of timeline are you talking, the first 2 months? There is really no way to regulate that. Our regulations are in line with other states. Utah has the same thing and their season has closed twice in the last 3 years because of trumpeter swans. The biggest thing with an increase of quota is that is a federal number. It is not set by the state, so all of that information would have to go to the actual flyway to get that increase. Dana Weishaupt said you are not going to stop those people from getting those tags. You can't or you would be charged with discrimination or something, so if there is no way of correcting it then I don't know what else to tell you. It is disheartening when you hear something like that. I have a daughter that is 13 years old and she didn't even get a deer tag this year. She got nothing for a 13-year-old girl and she applied for everything and got nothing. She goes and applies for a swan tag and finds out this is going on and it seems to fall on deaf ears, not with you guys but everywhere else. Member Sibley said I am a pretty avid swan hunter and I fill both tags every year. I hunt every single year. Dana Weishaupt said did you get your tag this year? Member Sibley said I did. Dana Weishaupt said did you know when they were coming out? Member Sibley said I did. Dana Weishaupt said most people don't. Member Sibley said that is public knowledge. That information is public. Dana Weishaupt said yeah, if you happen to be online and watching. If you start watching now starting in October and every morning. Member Sibley said as far as the tags selling out, I can't speak whether or not there are 100 people buying tags and are not using them, I would not be shocked. It is no different than some of the people that apply for bear tags who are for the bear conservation and things like that. I can tell you that, for the last four years, I know that the demand to hunt swans has increased greatly. It went from selling out in 2 weeks to selling out in 3 days and you can have 2 tags. Dana Weishaupt said I was told you could only have one swan tag. Member Sibley said the only thing is you cannot do them both in the same transaction or in the same day. Dana Weishaupt said I don't know if there is anything anybody can do because you got to start, this next year we are going to start the first of October. Member Sibley said next year it won't be as in demand because we don't have the water this year, so there is going to be a lot of people that get discouraged. There is nowhere to hunt swan. If you go back and look at the numbers in past years, some of those lower numbers are from years like this where there is no water and then you are going to see a drop in the demand. Last year, we had a lot of swans come through the valley and that is why you are seeing the numbers increase. With them going online, out of state people can buy them now. People come from other states to hunt here. The problem is, you can't really regulate because they are from Vegas so they can't have a tag. Those people do. Swans can only be killed in 8 states in the country right now. It is a bucket list hunt. There are a lot of people that want to hunt it just because you can't do it everywhere. That is where that demand comes from, so

regulating it, I have friends from Elko that come over and hunt and they can't hunt them there. I don't know that with the 100 tags, I would not be surprised if there are some bought by the anti-swan hunt people, I don't know, but based on that information, it sounds like the success has been pretty consistent for the last 3 years. That is why I asked where that number came from because I thought it was a lot lower than that. Dana Weishaupt said can these non-residents apply for swan tags too? Member Sibley said yes, as soon as they are available, they can buy them. Dana Weishaupt said one way to fix it is, if they want a tag, they have to come to the Fallon office and get their tags through the Fallon office. If you take it offline, then you would not have that problem. I don't think it would be so hard to get a tag if you did that. Member Sibley said you are right. The sellout is a lot faster now. Dana Weishaupt said I know the money is great but when you have a daughter that can't get one because there are 600 tags and some of those go out of state. Member Sibley said I have questioned the thought process before behind the process for swans because it is the same cost for out of state residents and residents. The problem is I don't know where to go to change that. As far as increasing the quota, I have tried to do that for 2 years because 650 is such an arbitrary number for how many come through the valley. Dana Weishaupt said if they don't want to listen to what you have to say then, then the next thing is they ought to close to non-residents. Member Sibley said that is something that could be proposed. Dana Weishaupt said either increase the quota or take the non-residents out of it. Member Sibley said we can't just take the non-residents out because I can go hunt in Utah. It is a federal regulation so it is all done by the flyaway, so I can hunt in Utah or Montana.

Dana Weishaupt said we should have left Trump in there and we would have got something done. Anyway, I don't think anything can be done but I just wanted to talk to you guys. We were watching and, when you hear about these people doing this, just go bank a kank and stay out of everybody else's hair, you know. Anyway, thank you for your time and if you can do anything about it and need my help, I would be glad to come in and do whatever I can because it is disgusting and if those people, if that is all they have to do with their time is buy tags and throw them away or turn them back in as unsuccessful, then find something else to do. Member Curran said there is no refund on those. Same with deer. Member Sibley said it is the same with bear and lion. You can't really refund because somebody didn't go hunt. The only time we have ever even come close was 2 years ago and they shot the last trumpeter quota because it was still 5 then and they shot the 5th one the day before the season ended, so I don't know that it has ever been an issue. Dana Weishaupt said she told me that last year when I went to get the tag, she said if they reach the 10-tag quota then they shut the season down and then you say I have one or two tags, what are you supposed to do with them. It is like \$25 buck gone. That is one thing that should be changed. Either one of two things have to happen. Either refund the money or else you get a voucher for a tag next year.

Dana Weishaupt said we used to go hunt swan out of high school and it was \$8 bucks to get a tag and go shoot one and go home. Now it seems like these other things keep coming into it and makes it harder and harder and harder to get a tag. I will be 64 next year and waited 15 years to get an elk tag and came really close to getting an elk but it was my fault for not getting it. When you have to wait that amount of time to get one, some people get so dang lucky, they can get a tag every year. Thank you guys.

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

Informational Items:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Items listed on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Agenda for November 5 and 6, 2021, which is attached as Exhibit "A".

Should the board want to discuss Items listed on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Agenda for November 5 and 6, 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

There was no further discussion of items listed on the state's Agenda.

Consider Future Agenda Items:

The following future Agenda items were suggested.

Chairwoman Hughes said, at the last meeting we had a young man that came and talked to us about Carson Lake and some of the things going on out there and we talked about having whoever is over that to come and talk to the board. Do we still want to do that? Member Sibley said yes. Chairwoman Hughes said do we have information so I can contact the person in charge to see if they will come to our next meeting? Member Sibley said his name is Jake and he is in charge of that area. Him and Isaac, who is the supervisor, are in charge. Member Curran said he is in charge of the area contracts here and in Mason Valley, Fernley, and Humboldt. The next meeting is in January.

Deputy Clerk Moore provided the board with a draft schedule of meetings based upon the draft schedule for the state board. She will provide a final schedule once the state finalizes its schedule.

Chairwoman Hughes said I can watch to see if there is a lot on the Agenda and if so, we might ask them to come back in. Deputy Clerk Moore I am looking at the one from January of this year and there were items from A to O, so we had a lot of items on the Agenda. There were a lot of Commission General Regulations. Chairwoman Hughes said it seems like their Agenda items have decreased at the state level over the past few months that you have to take action on. I can watch that and see. If there are too many of them that we have to have a discussion on, then we can ask them to come at a later date.

Member Sibley said I still want to talk about the wild horses. I am serious. I have seen a difference between the area we hunted this year and them taking 150 horses and what it did. I still want the state to come in and actually find something to do with these horses because, somebody has to do something. According to what I heard, the state would have to sue the feds. They are not being managed. There is no management for horses, right now, at all and they are decimating all wildlife. Chairwoman Hughes said who do you think we should talk to? Member Sibley said, Joe Biden. Somebody that can actually do something. Member Cordes said there is a public

affairs office at the BLM that could let us know what they are doing and maybe give us some dialog. Member Sibley said let's find out who that is and maybe get an NDOW biologist down here because it is getting to be an issue. Seeing the difference in Eureka this year was like night and day. Member Curran said in the legislature, the last 2 sessions, there was a resolution against it. Member Sibley said against what? Member Curran said against wild horses. They were calling Congress for appropriation and control. The governor signed it. Member Sibley said so how do we get the governor in here then? I guess I want to argue with just about anybody because I guarantee you, if we put something in it to do with the horses, we will have a lot of sportsmen that have something to say. When you are going out hunting and they see 150-200 deer and now you go out and see only 5, there is something wrong. We have to do something before this renewable resource is not there anymore for my kids. Chairwoman Hughes said the numbers that they have put out on the history of the deer populations and such, they really have the time. I will try to put them on the Agenda too and find out who the biologist would be for NDOW. Member Sibley said it just depends on the area. Maybe I will start doing some digging to see which areas are most affected. I know 16 is real bad for it.

Carl Erquiaga said you won't find a biologist for NDOW that doesn't agree with you but they cannot do anything about it. There is a non-profit group forming in Reno that has been working on it for 2 years. It is called the Coalition for Healthy Nevada Lands and Wildlife and they are doing exactly what you want to do. They are trying to get the message to Congress that we have to do something but it falls on deaf ears. You have the Nevada BLM Director, John Raby, who is trying very hard. They have come up with a plan to reach an appropriate management level for wild horses and, in order to reach an appropriate management level, they have to remove at least 12,000 horses a year because they are so fertile and prolific and they double the population every 5 or so years. You are not alone; we all feel this way. Even some people at the BLM feel this way. Last year, in the legislature, the Coalition for Healthy Nevada Lands had a resolution that was to ask Congress to do something and a southern Nevada Congresswoman got wind of it and changed the meaning of the whole thing to where it was not going to result in anything because they didn't want to do birth control and of course they don't want to do lethal removal. It is an uphill battle and the Coalition for Healthy Nevada Lands argues about this every month among themselves whether or not you can get anywhere with this and whether or not you can do anything. I definitely would go to someone in the BLM. The Deputy State Director's name is Alan Shepherd and he is very knowledgeable about it. I don't know if you could get Alan here but you will get that information.

Public Comment:

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

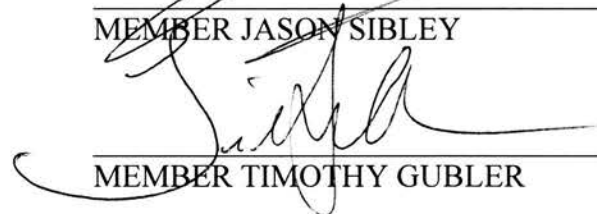
Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.


CHAIRWOMAN PEGGY HUGHES


MEMBER CURRAN


MEMBER JASON SIBLEY


MEMBER TIMOTHY GUBLER


MEMBER GARY CORDES

ATTEST:
Linda Rothery, Clerk/Treasurer


Renae Paholke, Deputy Clerk