

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

**155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406
March 23, 2022**

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife was called to order at 7:00 PM on March 23, 2022.

PRESENT:

Member Jim Curran
Member Jason Sibley
Member Gary Cordes
Deputy Clerk to the Board Pamela D. Moore

ABSENT:

Member Peggy A. Hughes
Member Timothy Gubler

Pledge of Allegiance:

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

Public Comment:

Vice-Chairman Curran 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 14th day of March, 2022, 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 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 26, 2022.

The Minutes of the meeting held on January 26, 2022 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

January 26, 2022 as presented. Member Gary Cordes seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Appointments:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Policy 10 - Heritage Tags and Vendors.

The Commission will have a third reading of Commission Policy 10 - Heritage Tags and Vendors and may take action to repeal, revise, or adopt the policy.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Cordes said I have looked at this and I have no problem and I recommend adoption.

Vice-Chairman Curran asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Member Gary Cordes made a motion to approve Commission Policy 10 as presented. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

B- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Policy 31 - Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Management.

The Commission will have a second reading of Commission Policy 31 - Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Management and may take action to repeal, revise, or adopt the policy.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Vice-Chairman Curran said I did look at that and there were absolutely zero changes from, primarily, what I wrote 10 years ago. I have no recommended changes.

Vice-Chairman Curran asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Member Gary Cordes made a motion to approve Commission Policy 31 as presented. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Policy 33 - Fisheries Management Program.

The Commission will have a second reading of Commission Policy 33 - Fisheries Management Program and may take action to repeal, revise, or adopt the policy.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Vice-Chairman Curran said there were absolutely zero changes from the existing policy. I have no recommended changes.

Vice-Chairman Curran asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve Commission Policy 33 as presented. Member Gary Cordes seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

D- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Policy 40 - Statewide Boating Safety.

The Commission will have a first reading of Commission Policy 40 - Statewide Boating Safety and may make any necessary changes and may decide to move it to a second reading.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Vice-Chairman Curran said if there were any changes it was not major.

Vice-Chairman Curran asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Member Gary Cordes made a motion to approve Commission Policy 40 as presented. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

E- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Policy 63 - Protecting Wildlife from Toxic Ponds.

The Commission will have a second reading of Commission Policy 63 - Protecting Wildlife from Toxic Ponds and may take action to repeal, revise, or adopt the policy.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Vice-Chairman Curran said there were no changes from the existing policy.

Vice-Chairman Curran asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve Commission Policy 63 as presented. Member Gary Cordes seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

F- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Policy 64 - Input on Land Sales.

The Commission will have a second reading of Commission Policy 64 - Input on Land Sales and may take action to repeal, revise, or adopt the policy.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Vice-Chairman Curran said there were no changes from the existing policy.

Vice-Chairman Curran asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve Commission Policy 64 as presented.

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

G- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Policy 65 - Designation of Wildlife Areas.

The Commission will have a second reading of Commission Policy 65 - Designation of Wildlife Areas and may take action to repeal, revise, or adopt the policy.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Vice-Chairman Curran this is a policy where they are adding the Carson Lake Wildlife Management Area that the state just purchased. That is the 3,000 acres or so they bought between Battle Mountain and Dunphy and it was a big historical slough and they used to oppose a development there because it would take away water from the wetlands down in Lovelock. They are also purchasing the water rights from this big ranch, which would offset and it is a historical wetlands. There is the change of adding the Carson Lake and Pasture Wildlife Management Area and the Argenta Wildlife Management Area to the list of Western Region Management Area, which it seems the approval does kick in some of the generic regulations, not specific ones that they will be putting in. Member Cordes said is this a trend or just an opportunity? Vice-Chairman Curran said it is just an opportunity, really. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Lander County, and the state were able to get the money together to acquire this big property up there and I know the sportsmen in Elko County have been pushing for this for years. It would give them another management area, waterfowl area.

Vice-Chairman Curran asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve Commission Policy 65 as presented.

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

H- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Policy 67 - Feral Horse and Burros.

The Commission will have a second reading of Commission Policy 67 - Feral Horse and Burros and may take action to repeal, revise, or adopt the policy.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Sibley said I don't have an audience to talk to about how this is finally on the Agenda. Vice-Chairman Curran said do you see anything in that policy that is not your belief. Member Sibley said no but I am a little shocked by the numbers that state that nationwide there are 86,189 feral horses on BLM land, of which 53,741 reside in Nevada. We currently have 62% of the entire population. Vice-Chairman Curran said and that is before the colts are born in the next couple weeks. Member Sibley said I don't quite understand. It looks like we are just asking the department that they to start doing something about this. Vice-Chairman Curran said and the state has no jurisdiction. Member Sibley said it says the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (NBWC) shall establish and implement policies necessary for the preservation, protection, restoration and management of Nevada's wildlife. Then it goes on to list about how the horses are an issue. I don't see anything written in here about what they plan on doing. I assume that will be forthcoming. It looks like they added rehoming. Vice-Chairman Curran said they changed the name from feral horses to free roaming. Member Cordes said it looks like the state is involved in this action and then you look at the federal side and I am not sure how that relationship works. Vice-Chairman Curran said one thing it comes down to is no matter what BLM or Forest Service wants, it is up to Congress to allocate funds and that is where things seem to get caught up.

Vice-Chairman Curran asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve Commission Policy 67 as presented. Member Gary Cordes seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

I- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Regulation 22-10 - Migratory Game Bird Seasons, Bag Limits, and Special Regulation for Waterfowl and Webless Migratory Game Birds for the 2022-2023 Season. Furthermore, to consider rules regulating public hunting on Wildlife Management Areas and designated state lands.

The Commission will consider recommendations for seasons, bag limits, and special regulations for migratory game birds for the 2022-2023 season, as well as to adopt regulations consistent with proposed regulations framework for the 2022-2023 hunting seasons on certain migratory game birds established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Commission 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 Sibley said it doesn't look like there are many changes, from what I can see. Vice-Chairman Curran said the season dates, as I compared them, are, basically, the same. It is the maximum allowed by the federal government and it is the same structure, except just an adjustment for Saturday openings and a change of date. The only change I could find anywhere

is under the swan permits. There has been some demand for just over the counter swan permits where they have all been used up in the first few days. You could only acquire one permit. You can still get 2 for the season if there are any left over but the first go round you can only apply for one permit. Member Sibley said isn't that how it used to be? Vice-Chairman Curran said, originally, there was never 2 anywhere, it was just 1 permit.

Vice-Chairman Curran asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Member Cordes said I will make a motion to approve but to highly recommend that they red-line or blue-line any changes in future submittals. Vice-Chairman Curran said generally changes are highlighted. Member Sibley said they are but it doesn't look like they did this time. Member Cordes said say that in a very civil way. Vice-Chairman Curran said it looks like the dates are changed but only 1 or 2 changed but it is the same structure. Member Sibley said did you notice that they added Mexican Duck on here? Vice-Chairman Curran said yes. They have separated those as a separate and unique species. You can't tell them from a mallard.

Member Gary Cordes made a motion to approve Commission Regulation 22-10 as presented. Member Jason Sibley 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 25 and 26, 2022, which is attached as Exhibit "A", and Final Combined MDEP Project Approval List 2-15-2022, which is attached as Exhibit "B".

Should the board want to discuss Items listed on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Agenda for March 25 and 26, 2022, which is attached as Exhibit "A", and the Final Combined MDEP Project List 2-15-2022, which is attached as Exhibit "B", the board may do so.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

Vice-Chairman Curran said, with regard to the Fiscal Year 2023 Predator Management Plan, which is the second reading, since we met last time, the Department established mule deer sub-committees in different parts of the state. There is one for the north Washoe deer herds, one for the bi-state herd in Carson City, there are several in Lincoln County, and in Elko County. These sub-committees are made up of biologists, sportsmen, deer hunters, and mule deer federation representatives. They have been working on ideas and recommendations now for close to a year. They have really spent a lot of time on this. Since we met last time, they have come up with five projects that they are recommending. There is also a master committee that is trying to consolidate all deer management ideas. At least these five projects were approved and rated 1-5. They have some other recommendations in here. If we are looking at strictly predator projects that would be financed with that \$3 predator fee that we pay, I think those are the projects. I think Washoe County is coyote and lion removal, basically, everywhere north of Gerlach.

Member Sibley said I think that is good thing to have. Member Curran said, in Area 111-115 in White Pine County, it is coyote and lion removal; Lincoln County has a recommendation by their committee; and White Pine County has another for predator removal. The list that we considered last time, which I believe we stayed neutral on until we received more information, there is only so much money that they have but project 37, which was on that original list for big game protection – mountain lions – it was \$100,000. Big game protection – coyotes – it was \$100,000. It was generic. I am irritated that somewhere we do not get a summary of what has happened in this last year to see what they have done. That is a lot of money. The one that really irritates me is increasing the understanding of common raven densities and space use in Nevada. That totals \$300,000. This is about the 4th year that they have had that in there. My recommendation is that the Commission seriously consider funding the CDEP committee ranking of these five projects in lieu of these other things. It just about offsets that \$300,000 under the raven control. I think it would be a real slap in the face to all of these sub-committees that have been meeting weekly and monthly to not have their recommendations considered.

Member Cordes said I cannot agree with your more. I definitely have an issue with the feral horses, as well as what you have just stated. If we could put those two together is some kind of motion. I am very passionate about the feral horses, as there are too many. Member Curran said the Department recognizes that. They even went to the Legislature and got them to pass a resolution recommending to BLM that they bring horse numbers down to AML. There are quite a few horse gathering projects going on right now. Some of the horse groups tried to stop those in court but the judges denied their injunctions.

Member Curran made a motion to recommend that the Commission seriously consider funding MDEP's committee recommendations for project priority 1-5 and, if additional funding is needed that they discontinue project 41, which is increasing the understanding of common raven densities in Nevada. Member Cordes seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Member Curran said those 5 projects would have to be funded the predator fee and not matched with Pitman Robinson funding. Right now, that raven is a study and the federal government will finance $\frac{3}{4}$ of a study but they will not finance any control work. That is a \$300,000 project. Looking at the budget down below, there are adequate funds available in that account for predator control. They would save about \$87,000 of predator money by doing away with project 41, the ravens.

Member Curran said there is an elk damage payment that exceeds \$10,000 to the Granite Peak Ranch in White Pine County, which is an action item. Any award over \$10,000 has to be brought back to the Commission for approval. There are adequate funds, as they decided there is \$19,170 worth of damage to the elk out there. Member Cordes said I read that and I have no problems with that. Member Curran said I think that is an automatic approval.

Consider Future Agenda Items:

There were no future Agenda items suggested. However, Deputy Clerk Moore informed the board that the next meeting is scheduled for May 4, 2022.

Public Comment:

Vice-Chairman Curran asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Adjournment:

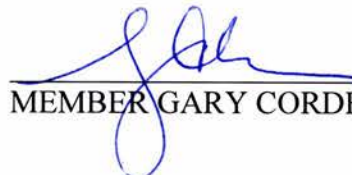
The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.


CHAIRWOMAN PEGGY HUGHES


MEMBER JIM CURRAN

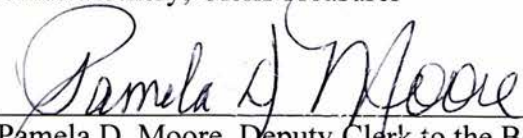

MEMBER JASON SIBLEY


MEMBER TIMOTHY GUBLER


MEMBER GARY CORDES

ATTEST:

Linda Rothery, Clerk/Treasurer


Pamela D. Moore, Deputy Clerk to the Board