

MINUTES OF THE CHURCHILL COUNTY
ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE

155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406
March 8, 2023

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife was called to order at 7:05 PM on March 8, 2023.

PRESENT:

Member Peggy A. Hughes, Chair
Member Jim Curran, Vice-Chair
Member Jason Sibley
Member Andrew Howells
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:

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

Verification of the Posting of the Agenda:

It was verified by Pamela D. Moore, Deputy Clerk to the Board, that the Agenda for this meeting was posted on the 1st day of March, 2023, 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 Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

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

A- January 25, 2023.

The Minutes of the meeting held on January 25, 2023 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 25, 2023. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by majority

vote, with Member Andrew Howells abstaining due to the fact he was not present at the meeting.

Appointments:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Policy 23 - Predation Management, Third Reading.

The Commission will review Commission Policy 23 and may make any necessary changes and may decide to repeal, revise, or adopt the policy.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Chair Hughes said I think it is the same thing we have been looking at. Member Curran said they make some minor changes now and then. I know they meet again Friday. There are some real good projects here but I really don't have enough background to comment on them. We never see the results of year 1, year 2, or year 3 and, for some reason, it is continual. Chair Hughes said maybe there is something we can ask for them to provide if they would be willing to do that. Member Sibley said we did last year. Member Curran said they do a progress report on each one, I assume, every year. Member Sibley said does it say who is paying for all these projects in here? I don't see that. Jason Salisbury said there is a budget for that particular code. Member Curran said the last page is the budget, if I remember right. There is AB 70 that was jointly introduced between the SAG committee and Natural Resources and what that does is, right now, they are sifting off 80% of that \$3 in there that is to be spent on lethal control. The Legislative Committee has indicated they are opposed to AB 70. I don't know why. I know there are some commissioners on there that would like to see that 80% eliminated so they have more non-lethal control. I am surprised the Legislative Committee is voicing opposition to that bill. There are only two bills they are opposing and the other one is the state animal bill. On the rest of them, they are either neutral or for it. Jason Salisbury said there is that animal contest one. Member Sibley said any animal contest, they don't specify coyote. Jason Salisbury said they specify most of the migratory animals. Member Curran said they are listed as neutral on that one. I am not sure. I don't feel that there is a public opinion on that. It is about 50-50 or pretty close to change it in favor of it and, in opposition, but they have not had a hearing on it yet. With that wild horse bill with all the little kids writing in in favor of it, it is obvious it will be 70-30 or something like that. Back to this, I assume the Predator Committee and the State Predator Committee have come to some kind of agreement that it is okay, so I do not have any recommended changes. Do we want to make a motion or take no action at this time? Member Curran said I would rather take no action than support it. Either way it is not going to make a difference. Chair Hughes said we have voted on it before. There was no action taken.

B- Consideration and possible action re: Commission General Regulation 506 - Possession of Golden Eagles Under Certain Circumstances.

the Commission will hold a second workshop to consider amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 503 to allow for possession of a Golden Eagle under certain circumstances.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Chair Hughes said this would authorize a person who is licensed as a master falconer and who meets certain federal conditions to possess a Golden Eagle that is obtained from the wild under a new eagle permit if the Golden Eagle is obtained for rehabilitation purposes, is legally obtained in another state, is legally possessed by a master falconer in another state and that master falconer moves to this state, or if a Golden Eagle is transferred to the master falconer from another falconer in a manner authorized by this regulation and upon Department approval. Member Curran said I am sure they have no opposition to allowing a qualified falconer to have a Golden Eagle. Member Sibley said they would be able to hunt a Golden Eagle? Impressive. Member Curran said yes. Chair Hughes said what it looks like they have done is added a number of sections to this. Member Curran said it is 20 pages. Member Sibley said what is allowed to be hunted with a falconer license, it is waterfowl and rabbits. Jason Salisbury said pretty much any kind of bird or rabbit. No big game or anything.

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

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve Commission General Regulation 506 as presented. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Regulation 23-13 - Migratory Game Bird Seasons, Bag Limits, and Special Regulations for Waterfowl and Webless Migratory Game Birds Public Hunting Limited on Wildlife Management Areas and Designated State Lands 2023-2024 Season.

The Commission will consider recommendations for seasons, bag limits, and special regulations for migratory game birds for the 2023-2024 season and adopt regulations consistent with proposed regulations framework for the 2023-2024 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 to Jim, are you looking for Carson Lake? Member Curran said yes. Member Sibley said I asked Jake on Saturday what the status is. Member Curran said I had just looked at this section when I was reviewing. Jason Salisbury said they haven't finalized anything as far as I know. I assume there will be more regulations until they get a management plan. Jason Salisbury said I don't know when that will show up. Chair Hughes said there is nothing in the works, Jason? You have not heard of anything? Jason Salisbury said it is supposed to be in the works, but who knows. I know they identified the places in Reno you could or couldn't use as far as weapon types for antelope. They identified different zones for using rifle and identifying zones to use muzzleloaders in Carson Lake. Member Curran said

where is it designated? Do you mean in future plans? Jason Salisbury said in the short term little map that they provided but it's not in the regulations. I don't know if anybody is really enforcing it but they did throw those maps out there for the hunters. The only contention I have, which has to be presented by somebody else, is they allowed antelope to be taken with a shotgun but, when you got into the hunt book, shotgun is an illegal take for antelope. There is a little hiccup there. Member Curran said I'll bring that up. There is nothing we reviewed in regards to regulations. It looks to me like all the regulations are identical to those from last year. These are just draft regulations anyway until the feds come out with more.

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

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve Commission Regulation 23-13 as presented. Member Andrew Howells seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

D- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Regulation 23-04 Amendment 1 - 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 Big Game Seasons.

The Commission will consider and may take action to approve the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 emergency depredation hunt structure and statewide quota.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Curran said I think they just forgot to put in the original regulation. Member Sibley said that is just for the emergency big game hunts. Chair Hughes said that is all it is. Member Curran said, in the original regulation, they did not include the possibility of an emergency hunt. Chair Hughes said the emergency big game seasons and harvest quotas were inadvertently left out of CR 23-04. The purpose of this amendment is to add the emergency big game seasons to CR 23-04. Member Sibley said emergency hunt tags will be awarded by draw order sequence of unsuccessful applicants who applied in the current year's main big game draw with applications that meet similar criteria to season date, location, and weapon class of the emergency hunt. Jason Salisbury said they had an emergency hunt for mule deer in area 6. I think they were looking at people that actually put in for the doe tag and from the sequence of who didn't draw would possibly be awarded at tag. Member Sibley said, last year, I had a cow elk tag, they had like 80 cow elk tags and I asked why I didn't get one and they said because that hunt was not my first choice. It is just, basically, like an alternate tag. Member Howells said so it is not like a depredation hunt? Member Sibley said it is a draw, the way they do the draw. It is going to the alternate.

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

Member Jim Curran made a motion to approve Commission Regulation 23-04 Amendment 1 as presented. Member Andrew Howells 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 10 and 11, 2023, which is attached as Exhibit "A".

Should the board want to discuss Items listed on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Agenda for March 10 and 11, 2023, which is attached as Exhibit "A".

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

There was no further discussion.

Consider Future Agenda Items:

There were no future Agenda items suggested.

Public Comment:

Chair Hughes asked if there was any public comment but there was none. Member Curran asked Jason Salisbury if there were any sheep dying from starvation up there yet? Jason Salisbury said no, I think we are fine in Churchill and all of that. Member Curran said what about in the Stillwaters? Did the sheep move to the east side? Jason Salisbury said even the east side just stays burned off the whole time. There are still sheep on this side sometimes. Most of the east side is burned off. Everything in the Clans is burned. There are still plenty of places in Churchill that are okay. Member Curran said there used to be antelope out by Travis'. Where do they winter? Jason Salisbury said I have never put any collars on them. I see numbers up against the Desatoyas but I can't say those are the same ones. This is more of a winter than Churchill has seen in a while, for sure.

Member Howells said how are the lion numbers in the Stillwaters? Jason Salisbury said bad. I have recommended a project but we will see where it goes. The problem with the Stillwaters is the disease and stuff and the Clans are starting in the 20s and we were starting to see a little recruitment post die-off but the Stillwaters has always been a bad lion area but there were enough numbers. We had the disease in the Stillwaters and, at the same time, all that disease was happening on the south end. They wanted sheep in Utah and I said we probably had enough sheep there, so we moved some of them not knowing I was going to have a die-off. We took a hundred something out of there. The problem with the lions, we need a lion removal with probably adding some extra sheep in there to get them up to a level where they can sustain lion mortality. They did good for a long time on their own but we will probably have to step in a little bit somehow. Chair Hughes said will the lions take the horses that are out there? Jason Salisbury said they will but it is always easier to take a sheep or a deer than it is a horse. We have done a lot of studies. I always hate the argument that those are good lions because they eat the horses but, at the same time, we have places that go from having wildlife to going into areas that end up being just straight horses with very little wildlife and so those lions are still in there but it seems like the dominance of the horses, whether it is the water or whatever, if the

numbers get excessive, you basically lose your wildlife. The lions are still nickel and diming the wildlife that are still trying to get to the water. At a point, it is lost. There is no wildlife; just horses and lions. It is excessive. Chair Hughes said my grandson was in northern Washoe and said they had a herd of 250 head of deer in there but the lion population was pretty big. They took the horses out of there and the deer population went down. Jason Salisbury said we have made recommendations when we know the horse removal is happening then we go in and look at predator management post-horse removal and, in some places, there is enough wildlife to come back and other places you don't see it. Member Curran said you have that horse gather out in the Clan Alpines. Jason Salisbury said we have that and we have the Marietta burro removal. Those lions eat the heck out of the burros there. We have been okay in the Desatoyas. They have been showing positive responses. There needs to be more studies involved because, for me, we have a lion project in the Del Mar Clovers. The research isn't coming up with information. It is hard to know what was there before. If you have a really good spring with water but, if horses dominate, they sometimes say, "Oh, they just eat horses". This spring might have supported deer earlier. Now the horses dominate the spring and those lions don't have to go anywhere, so the research can be all over the place and they say they are just eating horses. They probably eat deer but horses are dominating the area, so why would they have to go anywhere else, they can just stay on that spring. I would love to dive into areas that we have enough wildlife left where we go in and have free monitoring. I have done the fencing where you monitor water holes to see what is coming in and put up fences and exclude horses, allow horses over here and watch, I have watched where I put a pipe rail. There is horse, horse, horse, and a month after I put up the pipe rail, I started seeing antelope show up. They feel more confident about utilizing the water source. I wish they would dive into more studies. Member Curran said the Virginia Range is nothing but horses and lions. Jason Salisbury said horses and a few deer but that is the end of the sheep. That mountain used to produce big mule deer. You see that in the Clans and a lot of these places; I don't know what those horses are doing in the summertime. Maybe they are chasing cheat grass and whatever but I think some of it has to do with predation. They feel safe on that bottom end even though they are eating the scraps of whatever, they feel a lot safer than going up on that mountain. Sometimes that is good for wildlife when maybe they are not utilizing all of that upper elevation and then at least we have a few pockets for deer and antelope.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.


CHAIRWOMAN PEGGY HUGHES


MEMBER JIM CURRAN



MEMBER TIMOTHY GUBLER



MEMBER ANDREW HOWELLS



MEMBER JASON SIBLEY

ATTEST:

Linda Rothery, Clerk/Treasurer



Renae Paholke, Deputy Clerk