

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

**155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406  
September 20, 2023**

**Call to Order:**

The regular meeting of the Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife was called to order at 7:00 PM on September 20, 2023.

**PRESENT:**

Member Peggy A. Hughes  
Member Jim Curran  
Member Jason Sibley  
Member Andrew Howells  
Member Aubry Burgess  
Deputy Clerk to the Board Pamela D. Moore  
N/A

**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 13th day of September, 2023, between the hours of 1:00 and 4:00 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 revised. 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 21, 2023.**

The Minutes of the meeting held on June 21, 2023 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 Andrew Howells made a motion to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on June 21, 2023 as presented. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

**B- August 9, 2023.**

The Minutes of the meeting held on August 9, 2023 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 Jason Sibley made a motion to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on August 9, 2023 as presented. Member Andrew Howells seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

**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 asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

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

**B- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Policy 65, Designation of Wildlife Management Areas, Second Reading.**

The Commission will have a second reading of Commission Policy 65, Designation of Wildlife Management Areas and may make any necessary changes and may repeal, revised, or adopt the policy.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Sibley said are we going to hear from the department in regards to the Carson Lake Pasture and what they plan on doing, at some point? I thought they were supposed to come out and kind of discuss that with us. Chairwoman Hughes said we had asked them but I have never seen anything on it being completed. Member Curran said, according to Facebook, they did

have a map and at their last meeting. I thought it was the one along the highway where we always see the deer in that big meadow but it is not; it is actually on the bypass from Interstate 80 down to Ruby Valley. Member Sibley said the Carson Lake? Member Curran said no, we have not received any management plans for Carson Lake. Member Sibley said, right, but it is here. That is why I was curious. Member Curran said they made a management area quite a few years ago. Member Sibley said so this has just ben added.,

Chair Hughes 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 Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

**C- Consideration and possible action re: Commission General Regulation 512, Fisheries.**

The commission will hold a workshop to consider amending Chapter 488 and 503 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation would change vessel motor restrictions, amend tackle restrictions, and reclassify protected species classifications.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Chairwoman Hughes said the Commission will hold a workshop to consider amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) to amend motor restrictions on Knott Creek Reservoir, amend tackle restrictions on Hobart Reservoir, Smith Creek Reservoir, and the Snake Range High Lakes, and update the classification of the Dixie Valley Toad. Member Sibley said the Department is proposing an amendment to update the classification of the Dixie Valley Toad to "endangered". Member Curran said the feds did that to stop geothermal.

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

**Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve Commission General Regulation 512, Fisheries, as presented. Member Andrew Howells seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

**D- Consideration and possible action re: Commission General Regulation 511, Wildlife Management Area Designations.**

The commission will hold a workshop to consider amending Chapter 504 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation would update Wildlife Management Area (WMA) designations and restrictions.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Curran said they are specifically mentioning Carson Lake in regards to restricting shot, shotgun capacity during the Snow and Ross' Geese season and other waterfowl seasons but it says nontoxic. The use of shotguns capable of holding more than three shells is prohibited on all wildlife management areas owned or managed by this state unless the shotgun is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so that the total capacity of the shotgun does not exceed three shells. That would mean that, for dove season and things like that, you have to use steel shot or nontoxic. What does that do for rifle rounds? Member Howells said this particular section does not prohibit rifles. Member Sibley said where is Pole Canyon? Member Howells said Pole Canyon is out by Carson Lake. Member Curran said I reviewed this the first day it came out with support data and they didn't have all of this in there. So far, all it does is talk about steel shot. They are even prohibiting commercial guiding and trapping on Pole Canyon. The owner put it in a Conservation Easement. Member Sibley said I am concerned that the Carson Lake Management Area will get swallowed up by all the other Wildlife Management Areas and they are going to start implementing things like no rifles, trapping regulations, and things like that when this really should be a very unique area. Chairwoman Hughes said we would have thought that they had something by now. Member Sibley said a person may use decoys on a wildlife management area so long as the decoys are not left set up in the field between the hours of 9 p.m. and 3 a.m. It just lists it under the regulations for Wildlife Management Areas. It does not say Carson Lake. They are talking about adding Carson Lake to this. Member Curran said I don't see where they added Carson Lake. Member Sibley said I am assuming that this is kind of incumbent on all Wildlife Management Areas. This is the concern. It looks like they are just trying to slide Carson Lake in with all the other regulations for Wildlife Management Areas. I am not necessarily against it because I am not somebody that goes out and sets 1,500 snow geese decoys but we have a responsibility to Churchill County residents to have that discussion, so I think we should table this. I do know of Churchill County hunters that hunt the Greenhead/Carson Lake that will go set a lot of decoys during snow goose season but some of them do leave them up overnight. I am not 100% in agreement with that but I don't know. I don't know until we talk to Jake that we have the information to even weigh in on a vote. Chairwoman Hughes said I will put that in the notes that I sent to the Commission.

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

**Member Jim Curran made a motion to oppose Commission General Regulation 511 until the board is able to obtain more information on the Carson Lake Management Plan. Member Andrew Howells seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

**E- Consideration and possible action re: Commission General Regulation 509, License and Vessel Product Refunds.**

The commission will consider and may take action to approve amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 502 and 488 to allow the department the authority to provide refunds on licenses and vessel products.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

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

**Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve Commission General Regulation 509, License and Vessel Product Refunds, as presented. Member Andrew Howells seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

**F- Consideration and possible action re: Commission General Regulation 510, First Come, First Serve Exchange to Obtain a Tag.**

The commission will consider and may take action to approve amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 502 that would include any money, goods, or services exchanged for procurement of a tag through the First Come, First Serve Program as grounds for suspension from the program. Commission General Regulation 510 is currently a temporary regulation that is set to expire on November 1, 2023.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Sibley said so it is against the rules for Andrew to pay me to sit online on his account and get him a First Come, First Served tag (FCFS)? Member Howells said, correct. Member Sibley said how in the world is anybody going to govern this? Member Howells said it's not up to us to decide how they are going to manage it, it just whether or not we think it is worth putting together a workshop to amend the administrative code. Member Curran said it would be like you waiting for your daughter. Member Sibley said only if there is an exchange of money, goods, or services. It doesn't say that I couldn't log in for another person and procure them a tag. Member Curran said there are going to be some companies that are set up just to do that. Member Howells said I think this would help with that, as well. If you were to go to a company and say I want a tag in this area for this animal and then pay them to sit there for it. Member Sibley said I am confused where the unfair advantage is. Member Howells said some of it is due to the commercial part. If you are doing it for a spouse or a child, what is wrong with that? Member Sibley said if you buy me a beer because I got you a tag, that is money, goods, or services. That is what I mean. They are leaving that very ambiguous to where if you get a warden on the wrong day and somebody makes a comment that I got a First Come, First Served tag, all I had to do was buy him a beer and all of a sudden, not only am I in violation, you are too and we lose our privileges to the electronic system for any future hunting seasons. That just seems really excessive. I am confused where the unfair advantage is. Member Curran said there is more than one company setting up operations to review your application for a fee. Is it that much different. Member Sibley said is it different than a guide? Member Curran said it is a regulation that could never be enforced unless somebody brags about it and then I don't know how you would prove it. Member Sibley said I know what my vote is going to be because I am not the type to just pass regulations just to pass them. I think the penalty is excessive. Member Howells said if a person who uses the electronic system to apply for a tag abuses the system by

making continued and substantial efforts to create an unfair advantage, as described in subsection 4, he or she, and all involved parties, shall be suspended by the Department from using the electronic system to apply for remaining tags in any future hunting seasons. Member Sibley said that is a lifetime ban for hunting in Nevada. It doesn't say First Come, First Served. It was not written very well. Member Howells said they are just asking to add the exchange of money, goods, or services. If they don't have this what keeps things like GoHunt from making that a service? Member Sibley said I think he is right. I think if it is commercial. Member Burgess said under the summary it actually says this regulation includes an additional provision that would qualify for a suspension from the FCFS program. Member Sibley said so it is specifically FCFS? Member Sibley said I don't understand where the unfair advantage is in Subsections E and F. Some people have to work. Not everybody is as fortunate as I am and can sit and watch it. With the new FCFS timing that they are doing, some people are just flat out of it. Member Burgess said also under 4E, multiple browsers open at a single time. How many times have you had multiple browsers open at a single time. Member Sibley said if you log into the First Come, First Served and log into another browser, it kicks you out of the first one. They have kind of fixed the technology to where it prevents that from happening. My only concern is like you said, inadvertently. I have it on my phone and I forget and then log in on my computer and now I have two browsers open. Am I going to lose that? That is not as big of a concern to me. It is already written so I don't know if we can get that removed.

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

**Member Jason Sibley made a motion to oppose Commission General Regulation 510, Section 4, Subsections E and F. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

**G- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Regulation 23-15, Fishing Season and Regulations for January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025.**

The commission will consider and may take action to approve the Fishing Seasons and Regulations for 2024 and 2025.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

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

**Member Jim Curran made a motion to approve Commission Regulation 23-15, Fishing Seasons and Regulations, as presented. Member Andrew Howells seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

**H- Consideration and possible action re: Approval of a letter to the Nevada Department of Wildlife Commissioners asking that they consider adoption of a regulation for salvaging wildlife.**

Member Sibley has requested that the board approve sending a letter to the Nevada Department of Wildlife Commissioners asking that they consider adoption of a regulation for salvaging wildlife.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Andrew Howells said I would like to draft a letter and send it to all other CABs in the state to seek their input, support, or ideas before submitting a letter to the state. Member Curran said I imagine they will probably comment on it at their meeting. Member Sibley said if we all have the same Agenda, they have already seen the letter. Member Curran said your letter supports the opportunity but do you think you would need to have a license or just for the general public salvage. Member Sibley said that is a tough one because I don't know that most of the general public is equipped to properly take care of it. The thought process that I had when I wrote this was, Montana has a list that basically you have to sign up for to be on the list and if an animal is hit on the highway, the responding officer has access to this list and they call the first person on the list and tell them you have a certain amount of time to get down and claim this animal if you want it. If they say no, then it passes to the next person on the list. Once you claim an animal, you have to put your name back on the list. I think it should be sportsmen specifically because, if the general public person hits a deer, I don't know that they will have the knowledge of how to care for game in order to take advantage of this. I don't have a problem with not having a license. Member Howells said I think it would be easier if they just put it with the same as the hunting license. They could just incorporate this into the online system to produce a list. Whether or not it has to be an active license would come up in the future. Member Curran said a license is not required by law to possess a dead deer. It is to shoot one. Member Sibley said a license is not required by law to possess a dead deer? Member Curran said I can give anybody deer meat. Member Sibley said okay. Member Curran said I am in favor in seeing if it goes anywhere. Member Sibley said when I did research on this, in New Mexico they have a salvage permit that you acquire, which allows you to salvage highway kill if you see it. I don't know if there is a charge or not. Member Curran said I know in Alaska they have to call the highway patrol. Member Howells said is it possible to send this to other CABs to see what they say? Member Sibley said they all get the same Agenda as we have, so they are reviewing the same stuff we are. Deputy Clerk to the Board Pam Moore said this is just on our Agenda, this did not come off the states Agenda. Member Curran said we can clean it up and see if the department will even put it on the Agenda. I don't have any real problems with your letter. Member Howells said I don't have any problem with it either. I just think it would have more clout faxing the state with all of the CABs thinking it should be considered as opposed to just the Churchill County Advisory Board. Chairwoman Hughes said maybe at the bottom of this we could put a place for each one of the CABs to agree and make comments. Member Curran said address it to the board of each county and then ask for them to make comments or give ideas and then sent a letter with all the comments and ideas. Member Howells said it makes the process a little longer before sending it to the state but it stands a better chance of being recognized. Deputy Clerk to the Board Pam Moore said if you guys just give me what you want to say or if you want me to take a stab at it, I can do that too, and then I can type it up to each of the individual CABs. Member Sibley said we are good with the body of the letter,

aren't we? Member Howells said yes. I think we should send it to the other CABs that this is what we propose and this is why and do you have any comments and do you support this and can we include you in a letter to the state.

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

**Member Andrew Howells made a motion to clean up and approve a letter being sent to all other CABs in the state to seek their input, support, or ideas before submitting a letter to the State Board of Wildlife Commissioners. 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' Revised Agenda for September 22 and 23, 2023, which is attached as Exhibit "A".**

Should the board want to discuss Items listed on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Revised Agenda for September 22 and 23, 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

Member Sibley said where are we at on the Winecup situation? I noticed it is not on this but it is on the state Agenda but it has not come to our board. Chairwoman Hughes said it is because I didn't think it was that important to put it on there. That was me. Member Curran said it was on the preliminary meeting and now it will be a discussion for the pros and cons. I don't think it is an action item. Chairwoman Hughes said the Department will provide an update to the Commission on recent developments regarding the Winecup Gamble Land Exchange. Member Sibley said it is for possible action. Chairwoman Hughes said Jason you went to that meeting and were there for that discussion. What was the response to that? Member Sibley said they did not allow public comment on this. It was basically the representative of the Winecup came in and presented what their thoughts were. The feedback I got from the other boards was very negative about this land exchange. It is not a one-to-one exchange. It is more like a three-one exchange benefiting Winecup. Winecup would be taking 3 times the amount of land that they have for their exchange. Some of the big red flags that came up to a lot of people were the Winecup would retain any mineral rights to the land that they are exchanging away. They will be able to continue to own the water rights to the land they are giving away. I had an opportunity to talk to the representative from Winecup and expressed my personal concerns because this is an area that I hunt frequently. There is a conservancy in that area that has an access permit but they stipulate no hunting, fishing, or trapping on this. I asked about an access permit and the concern is that on the permit they stipulate no hunting, fishing, or trapping on that permit, so I wanted to make sure if they are possibly looking at charging for this or if they are going to impose something similar where they don't allow hunting, fishing, or trapping. He said that that was not their intention. I brought up that I know last year the Winecup had a certain amount of depredation tags and cow tags and bull tags for elk and they could not

physically sell the cow tags that they had and they turned them back into the department and they actually went to alternates because they could not find people to buy the tags. My concern is, if you are going to start charging for a permit, you can't sell the tags you are already given, so are you going to start selling permits and tags now and how is that going to work? He was a very nice guy and he offered to come to our board meeting to discuss this. I think it is a very dangerous land exchange in the sense that the lot that they are trying to exchange for is just about the entire Pilot Valley and that is a huge migration corridor for mule deer and elk. It is just a major thoroughfare for wildlife migration. One of the rumors that had gone around before that meeting was the possibility of this land exchange ultimate goal was to convert that into solar, a giant solar field. I did ask him directly about that and he said that they have been approached by several solar companies. Everything was very much 'at this time' did not have any plans on converting it to solar. They had a couple of representatives on the Zoom call and you could tell were attorneys because they very much dodged every question. Me personally, I am against this land exchange. It is the largest land exchange in the state and one of the largest in the country that has been done. Chairwoman Hughes said how many acres is that. Member Sibley said it is a huge topic on the internet. A lot of sportsman that do podcasts are talking about it and are opposed to it. Member Curran said the guy that owns this is a billionaire. He buys stuff for his wife. He is not a hunter. Member Sibley said here is some background information. The person that actually owns it is named Stanley Kroenke. He owns the LA Rams. He was sued by the NFL for moving them out of St. Louis. He owns a basketball team, a baseball team. He is not a sportsman; he is just a businessman. The current land exchange proposal is they are exchanging 85,000 acres in exchange for 235,000, so it is a giant land exchange. Member Curran said some of these land exchanges have to go through Congress and they have to have support of your local Congressman. Member Sibley said that was discussed at this meeting and the Winecup representative said they are not going through a Congressional action. Member Curran said everything I have read said it was. Member Sibley said or through a Congressional action but not through the department. It would not go to a vote is essentially what he is saying. Member Curran said all land exchanges even in Churchill County has proposed a land exchange to enhance more private Churchill County land. That all has to be submitted by your local Congressman. Amodei is the one that could break it right off the bat if he gets enough opposition. Reno has one called the Washoe County Land Enhancement Act or something like that. It is waiting to be introduced. You can bet that guy has a lot of political influence. Member Sibley said the feedback that was a little frustrating for some of the other CABs is this apparently has been in the works for 3 years and this is the first any of us has every heard of it. People feel like the Winecup is just trying to slide this through. Just the sheer size of the land exchange is just unimaginable. Member Curran said it has probably taken 3 years just to get it into a package. Member Sibley said there is nothing stopping them from the land exchange and then selling the mineral rights to the property that they exchanged out. I was not happy about it. I am opposed to it. Member Curran said as soon as they bought the Winecup they closed a very popular fishing lake up there called Crittenden Reservoir. I would not trust anything to do with future management. Member Sibley said when I asked about it I said you guys are proposing this 3-1 trade because of the value of the land that you are giving us. That land has value because of the water and mineral rights but you are retaining both of those, so it is not any more valuable because you are taking what makes it valuable. It doesn't make sense to me. I have his number in case we want him to come speak to our board. Member Curran said

we are just so low on the totem pole. All the water rights can be put in a pipeline and sent to Las Vegas. They are worth a lot of money. The state water engineer stopped the White Pine water transfer but you never know about the next one. Member Sibley said especially if it is owned by a billionaire with a lot of political pull.

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

**Consider Future Agenda Items:**

Chair Hughes will ask Jake to make a presentation on the Carson Lake Management Plan.

**Public Comment:**

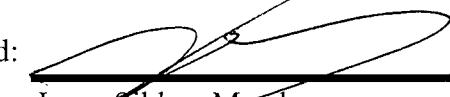
Chair Hughes asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Approved:   
Peggy Hughes, Chair

Approved:   
Jim Curran, Vice-Chair

Approved:   
Jason Sibley, Member

Approved:   
Aubry Burgess, Member

Approved:   
Andrew Howells, Member

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ATTEST:

Linda Rothery, Clerk/Treasurer

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Renae Paholke", written in black ink.

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Renae Paholke, Deputy Clerk