

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

**155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406
March 6, 2024**

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife was called to order at 7:00 PM on March 6, 2024.

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:

Chairman 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 28th day of February, 2024, between the hours of 8:00 and 10:00 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 Andrew Howells made a motion to approve the Agenda as submitted. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

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

A- January 24, 2024.

The Minutes of the meeting held on January 24, 2024 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 24, 2024 as presented. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Appointments:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Wild Horse and Burro Letter.

The board will review and discuss the wild horse and burro letter addressed to Tracy Stone-Manning, the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, from the Coalition for Healthy Nevada Lands, Wildlife and Free Roaming Horses.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Curran said I see that the wild horse groups have posted a notice trying to get all of the wild horse supporters to attend that meeting in Las Vegas. That should be a long, tedious process. Member Sibley said when is that meeting? Member Curran said it is on Friday. Member Sibley said who is this Coalition for Healthy Nevada Lands, Wildlife and Free Roaming Horses? If these people are a coalition for free roaming horses, it reads like they are suggesting that the numbers be reduced. Did I read this wrong? Member Howells said that is how he read it. Member Curran said the way I read the letter, it is for control of wild horses. If you look at the list of signatures on there, they are asking the Commission to join. It is pretty simple and just suggests that they manage them at established numbers or AML. Member Sibley said I am in agreement with that. Member Howells said I thought the letter was asking us to join the letter. Member Hughes said I would think they could add our name on there. Member Sibley said I am for that but does the rest of the board agree? Chair Hughes said yes, with others consenting.

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to accept the letter as presented. Member Andrew Howells seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

B- Consideration and possible action re: Petition filed by Rebecca Goff to add a new section to Chapter 503 of the Nevada Administrative Code, Hunting, Fishing and Trapping; Miscellaneous Protective Measures, regarding Wildlife Killing Contests.

The board will consider the Petition filed by Rebecca Goff to add a new section to Chapter 503 of the Nevada Administrative Code, Hunting, Fishing and Trapping; Miscellaneous Protective Measures, regarding Wildlife Killing Contests. The board may take whatever action the board may deem appropriate.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Sibley said I am, obviously, against this Petition. Member Curran said this same proposal has been defeated three times in the Legislature and four times before the Wildlife

Commission over the last four years. There is absolutely no justification for the Commission going forward with a draft regulation as she has requested.

Member Jim Curran made a motion to reject the Petition. Member Andrew Howells seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C- Consideration and possible action re: Commission General Regulation 520 - Tag Deferral Extenuating Circumstances Revision.

The Commission will hold a workshop to consider amending Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code to amend the circumstances surrounding tag deferrals. The board may take whatever action it deems appropriate regarding this matter.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Sibley said have they specified what they consider an extenuating circumstance? Member Curran said I think it specifies a definition at the bottom. Mr. Salisbury said there were quite a few tag deferrals. Member Sibley said do you know the number, which he did not but was told it is over 100. Mr. Salisbury said it definitely does affect when you have tag deferrals on the big horn sheep when there is low quota on those. There could be a quota of 1 or 2 and somebody puts in for it and then there might only be 1 tag available. It does affect that. I know there was one incident where someone in the Mormons did a tag deferral as a non-resident and that person is basically getting their points back because we took the Mormons off the non-resident big horn sheep pools. He had a tag and then it doesn't have a tag. Member Sibley said I know of an incident where a lady that applied, who was pregnant at the time she applied, drew a tag and then requested a tag deferral because of her pregnancy. There has to be some limitation of this because, as you said, you start running into now there are going to be over 100 tags that get deferred, so they are not even available for draw. They are automatically getting assigned to people, so there has to be some sort of limitation on that. Just because your doctor says you can't, there must be something in writing that says why. Member Burgess said the policy does state that it must not have been diagnosed before notification of draw results. Member Sibley said this individual was pregnant at the time of the application, admitted that, but still got a tag deferral. The problem is that I know for a fact that the department's hands, for the most part, are tied. There is not a whole lot they can do if someone comes in with a doctor's note that says she is 8.5 months pregnant and can't hunt. The department can't do anything about that. That is my frustration with tag deferrals. There is not a clear definition. Member Howells said it is under NAC 502.103, which defines it as a "severe or unanticipated injury or illness". Member Sibley said I foresee that as being abused unless they are very clear. Member Howells said it reads "series illness means medical illness, physical injury, or condition that substantially affects the quality of life of the person for more than a short period of time." Series illness or injury under the statute is a medical illness or injury that was unknown and unanticipated before the person was awarded the tag. The department may request additional medical information from the customer who submitted the deferral request to determine if the request qualifies. It also says that each deferral request shall be reviewed for compliance on an individual basis by the

Director or Deputy Director. Member Sibley said therein lies the problem. It is already in place but it looks like they are adding to exclude some of the tags, for instance, if you are on an alternate, first come first serve, or non-resident guided, depredation, Dream, Heritage, or Silver State. It looks like that is the only change, as well as some small verbiage. I see down below it is very clear. I don't think there is anything we can really argue because it is already in effect. They are just clarifying some language and it is very little.

Member Andrew Howells made a motion to approve Commission General Regulation 520 as presented. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

D- Consideration and possible action re: Commission General Regulation 521 - Junior Tag Transfer.

The Commission will hold a workshop to consider amending Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code to provide for the circumstances surrounding the transfer of a tag to a junior hunter. The board may take such action as it deems appropriate.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Curran said this is one that sounds good. I'm sure it would be open for abuse. If Mama, Grandma, and Grandad all put in. Whether that will be an issue I don't know. How many people would buy a license with an application fee and then hope their grandson did not draw a junior tag? Member Sibley said even if they did and they both drew, they could just turn their tag back in and get points. Essentially, guaranteeing. Member Curran said that would go to an alternate, so it is not a wasted tag. Member Curran said I think the concept is pretty good. Member Sibley said am I correct that this is limited to deer tags only? Member Curran and Chair Hughes both said that is correct.

Member Howells said I am curious where it says the minor receiving the transfer may only receive one male deer tag annually and must have been unsuccessful in receiving any big game tag through the main draw. They have to apply and be unsuccessful in order to be eligible? Member Sibley said that is correct. It is interesting that they word it as "any big game tags" though. If junior draws an antelope tag, you can't give him your deer tag. Member Howells said that is correct. Member Sibley said I am okay with that.

Member Sibley said one thing I can foresee becoming an issue is that it doesn't specify that it has to be given to a family member. It just asks for the relationship between the tag holder and the minor receiving the tag but it doesn't specify what qualifies. That could turn into an issue because now somebody who has been applying for 15 or 20 years draws a blue chip unit and there is nothing in here that says you can't have an exchange of goods or services for that tag. All of a sudden that tag could be sold to a junior. Member Curran said it can't be sold. Member Sibley said it doesn't specify that. Member Curran said it does somewhere. Member Sibley said

that was in the deferral. Member Curran read “exchange of anything of value, including without limitation, money, goods, and/or services is strictly prohibited”. That is found in number 11.

Member Howells said does it say whether or not it changes it to a junior tag where they are able to hunt all seasons? Mr. Salisbury said it is whatever tag it is. Member Howells said if you pull a 18 muzzleloader that is the November hunt, that is what that junior has? That was answered affirmatively. Member Curran said does it become a junior tag where he can hunt under all three? Member Sibley said no. Member Curran said he is restricted to whatever tag is transferred to him. Member Sibley said that is what it looks like.

Member Curran said I don’t see any real downside myself. It can always be repealed at a later time if it is not beneficial. There are quite a few juniors that are not getting tags, some of which is their own fault but some of it is not. Member Sibley said no matter what we decide, if people want to take advantage of something, they are going to.

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve Commission General Regulation 521 as presented. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

E- Consideration and possible action re: Commission General Regulation 500 - Subdivision Map Review.

The Commission will hold an adoption hearing to consider amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 278 to provide for the departmental review of tentative subdivision map(s) and inclusion of recommendations for methods to avoid or minimize impacts to wildlife, mitigation measures, best management practices or required design features, and to provide for the collection of associated fees to the department for carrying out such reviews.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Chair Hughes said we have seen this before. Member Curran said I don’t believe it requires any action. No action was taken on this matter as it had been discussed previously and did not require action by the board.

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

The Commission will hold an adoption hearing to consider amending Chapter 504 of the Nevada Administrative Code. 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 Howells said this is the second or third time this has come up too, correct? Member Sibley agreed. Member Curran said most of it deals with Pole Creek and that new area over Steptoe over in Ely. It does include Carson Lake. I think everything else we have addressed in past meetings. Rifles are still allowed at Carson Lake. Mr. Salisbury said does it say no trapping allowed at Steptoe? Member Curran said it does on Pole Creek but not on Carson Lake or any of the other WMAs, with a permit. It also has to do with campfires on WMAs.

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

G- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Regulation 24-10 - Migratory Game Bird Seasons, Bag Limits, and Special Regulations for Waterfowl and Webless Migratory Birds and rules regulating public hunting on Wildlife Management Areas and designated state lands for the 2024-2025 Seasons.

The Commission will consider recommendations for seasons, bag limits, special regulations for migratory game birds for the 2024-2025 season, and adopt regulations consistent with the proposed regulations framework for the 2024-2025 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 Curran said it looks to me like the framework is identical and there are just adjustments to dates. Member Sibley said you will notice that, under swan, the permit quota has been increased by 100. The new quota is 750. I spoke with Russell two weekends ago and he told me that this was coming out. He was finally able to get that added 100 permits.

Member Jim Curran made a motion to approve the regulation as submitted. Member Andrew Howells seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

H- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Regulation 23-04 - Amendment 3, Big Game Seasons for 2024-2025.

The Commission will consider and may take action to approve an amendment to the 2024-2025 hunting seasons and dates.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Sibley said it looks like the only thing on this is the change to that one elk season. Member Curran agreed.

Member Jim Curran made a motion to approve the regulation as submitted. 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 March 8 and 9, 2024,

Should the board want to discuss Items listed on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Revised Agenda for March 8 and 9, which is provided for the board's consideration.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

Member Sibley said I am a little confused why the once in a lifetime is not being discussed or why it is not on our Agenda. Member Curran said it is on the sub-committee's Agenda. I assume it will be on a future Agenda but not now. If it is not on here, the Commission can't discuss it. They are receiving a report from that committee. Member Sibley said I am a little frustrated with that whole request. The data does not back up what they are asking for. I think that is part of why I am frustrated. I have the data for how many people have truly drawn two sheep tags in their life. Chair Hughes said I am one of them. Member Sibley said you have received two desert tags? Chair Hughes said yes and my husband too. Member Curran said I have. Member Sibley said then you are one of 16 people who have drawn two tags since 2003. Chair Hughes and Member Curran said their tags were before that time. Member Sibley said I will be curious to see this when it comes out. Member Howells said I thought it was listed on the Agenda that was emailed out but I don't see it on this one. Member Sibley said this will be something that I would attend the meeting in Reno on. There are some other things being floated around, like an age limit for sheep tags, which I am very against. They are talking about not letting you apply until you are 18. I think that is stupid. I have that on good information. It was one of the things discussed at that meeting. There was no further discussion of items on the Agenda.

Consider Future Agenda Items:

There were future Agenda items suggested.

Public Comment:

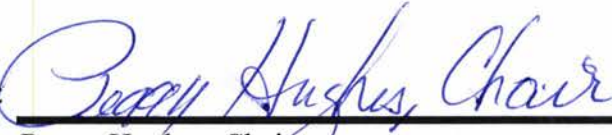
Chair Hughes asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Adjournment:

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The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Approved: 
Peggy Hughes, Chair

Approved: 
Jim Curran, Vice-Chair

Approved: 
Jason Sibley, Member

Approved: 
[unintelligible]

Approved: 
Andrew Howells, Member

ATTEST:
Linda Rothery, Clerk/Treasurer


Pamela D. Moore, Deputy Clerk to the Board