

# CARSON CITY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE

## Minutes of the February 5, 2007 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 5, 2007 in the City Hall Capitol Conference Room, 201 North Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada.

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Steve Walker  
Vice Chairperson Gil Yanuck  
Jennifer Derley  
John Valley  
Stan Zuber

**STAFF:** Vern Krahn, Park Planner  
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary

**NOTE:** A recording of these proceedings, the board's agenda materials, and any written comments or documentation provided to the recording secretary during the meeting are public record, on file in the Clerk-Recorder's Office. These materials are available for review during regular business hours.

**1. CALL TO ORDER, DETERMINATION OF QUORUM (1-0007)** - Chairperson Walker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

**2. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - November 13, 2006 (1-0013)** - Vice Chairperson Yanuck moved to accept the minutes, as submitted. Member Zuber seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**3. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (1-0017)** - None.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0018)** - None.

**5. DISCLOSURES (1-0023)** - None.

**6. ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS INCORPORATION OF THE CARSON RIVER AQUATIC TRAIL MASTER PLAN INTO THE ADOPTED UNIFIED PATHWAYS MASTER PLAN ELEMENT - Park Planner Vern Krahn and RCI Hydrologist / Fluvial Geomorphologist Lynn Zonge (1-0024)** - Mr. Krahn reviewed the staff report. Ms. Zonge provided background information on the origins of the aquatic trail master plan and narrated a SlideShow presentation. Mr. Krahn provided an overview of the agenda materials pertinent to this item. In response to a question, Ms. Zonge discussed the purpose of the Anderson Dam and advised that it is still actively used. She described the condition of the dam and needed repairs. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn discussed the possibility that the Anderson / Jarrard property will be acquired into the Open Space Program. Ms. Zonge responded to questions regarding signage and liability concerns which have been addressed in the plan. Mr. Krahn reviewed the recommendations outlined in Fire Chief Stacey Giomi's January 12, 2007 memo, included in the agenda materials as Exhibit B. He responded to questions regarding associated costs. Ms. Zonge responded to questions regarding the Santa Maria Ranch take out. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn discussed possible funding sources and prioritization of the project.

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Vice Chairperson Yanuck reviewed concerns outlined in his June 16, 2006 letter which was included in the agenda materials as Exhibit A. He expressed support for the concept of the plan in connection with the V&T Railway, and concern over future maintenance funding. Mr. Krahn advised that Parks and Recreation Director of Operations Scott Fahrenbruch has indicated maintenance of the improvements proposed at Carson River Park and Morgan Mill Road can be absorbed by existing staff. Mr. Krahn provided background information on the River clean up activities coordinated by various community organizations over the years, and the City's improvements in the area of Carson River Park. As a result of the clean up activities and the capital improvements, nefarious activities which were prevalent in the area have moved out. Mr. Krahn further advised that the V&T Railway will cut off an approximate three-mile stretch of vehicle access to the canyon. He expressed the belief that further improvement of the River will continue to move existing unsavory activities out of the area. He responded to questions regarding potential commercial operations along the aquatic trail. In response to a question, Ms. Zonge estimated that both sections of the River are used every weekend once the flow raises above 1,000 cfs.

(1-0823) In response to a question, Mike Hoffman advised of only having rafted the River "a few times" last year. He further advised of having been rafting the River since 1978 and that the sport is growing. He agreed that when the water flows are high enough "to get you over the obstacles," you can sometimes see "20, 30 people" on the River.

Ms. Zonge acknowledged there are dedicated easements at the Santa Maria Ranch take out. Member Valley inquired as to projected numbers of users once the aquatic trail is developed. Ms. Zonge advised that the aquatic trail plan development did not include an economic analysis. She discussed the economic analysis associated with the Truckee River Aquatic Trail master plan, and advised that the outcome has far surpassed the original estimates.

(1-0885) Pat Fried advised of having taken 175 people on the East Fork during a three-month time period last year.

(1-0890) In response to a question, Mike Bowling advised that compared to other rivers in the area, the Carson River is "very much unused."

In response to a question, Ms. Zonge advised that Lyon County is a party to the aquatic trail master plan. Lyon County representatives have developed a plan for signage installation at the Santa Maria Ranch take out. Discussion followed.

NDOW Staff Specialist Mike Cox acknowledged that the Carson River is a navigable waterway. In response to a question, Member Zuber advised of no proposal for improvements in the Bureau of Land Management section of the aquatic trail master plan. In response to a further question, he advised that the BLM is responsible for the portions of the aquatic trail master plan which are on BLM land, but no more so than presently. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that the areas downstream of the Deer Run Road Bridge are privately owned. He discussed possible future improvements in the Silver Saddle Ranch portion of the aquatic trail. In response to a question, Ms. Zonge advised that signage installation is the first priority of the master plan. "Everything else, it's very usable just how it is. ... There's not a lot that has to be done on the River." In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that the cost of signage will be absorbed in the Parks and Recreation Department operating budget. In response to a question, Ms. Zonge advised there are no snags in the River which are of great concern. She noted that the River bed is the

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responsibility of the State, and discussed methods by which abandoned vehicles have been removed in the past. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that cell phone towers were deemed to be outside the scope of the aquatic trail master plan. He anticipates, however, that communication facilities will be addressed as this plan and the V&T Railway plan are implemented.

In response to a question, Ms. Fried advised that fishing would usually take place at a lower cfs. Mr. Krahn advised of having recently met with NDOW Staff Specialist Mark Warren, who encouraged City representatives to develop a proposal for a portion of NDOW's Question #1 funding for the Morgan Mill Road area. Mr. Krahn acknowledged that the aquatic trail master plan improvements can be phased. Mr. Cox pointed out that, from NDOW's perspective, fishing access can be considered boating access and that federal funding may be available. In response to a question, Ms. Zonge anticipates that signage will be installed by April. Mr. Krahn anticipates the master plan will be presented to the Board of Supervisors at their March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. With the Board of Supervisors approval of the plan, he expressed the hope that grant funding will be in place approximately three months later to begin designing the project.

(1-1261) Mike Hoffman expressed the hope that the board would recommend approval of the plan to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. He discussed the opportunity represented by the plan to improve the River. He agreed that the V&T Railway will cut off vehicular access and, thereby, "save the River in the Carson City section." He noted that the Fire Department is presently responsible for River rescue, and expressed the opinion that the aquatic trail master plan will increase the level of safety at the River. He advised of future opportunities for improving wildlife habitat. As a former Parks and Recreation Commissioner, he noted the uniqueness of the aquatic trail master plan "because we already have the trail. We just have to put the signage on it." He expressed the opinion that funding issues will be worked out in that increased public interest and involvement will support the costs of the plan.

(1-1296) Pat Fried advised of "a lot of demand for people to go out and have family adventure." She suggested that opening opportunities for families in the Carson City area is "something they are entitled to." She described the beauty of the River environment and expressed support for the aquatic trail plan. She proposed a safety education program, starting with school children, in conjunction with the Recreation Division and the School District. She discussed the importance of River education.

Chairperson Walker called for additional questions or comments and, when none were forthcoming, entertained a motion. **Vice Chairperson Yanuck moved to recommend to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors approval of the Carson River Aquatic Trail Plan. Member Valley seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

**7. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING STATUS REPORT /UPDATE ON THE URBAN FISHING POND PROJECT AT THE CARSON CITY FAIRGROUNDS - Park Planner Vern Krahn (1-1364) -** Mr. Krahn distributed project information to the board members and staff, and provided background information on the urban fishing pond project. He reviewed the revenue and expenses associated with the project. He responded to questions regarding possible funding from Trout Unlimited, the original project estimate, and the bid process. Discussion took place regarding possible funding options, and Mr. Krahn advised he would provide additional status reports as appropriate. He discussed the time table associated with the bid process, and the possibility that the pond project could be underway by the end of March if necessary additional funding is secured. The board members thanked Mr. Krahn for his report.

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[Chairperson Walker recessed the meeting and reconvened with a quorum of the board members present.]

**8. REPORT AND DISCUSSION OF POINTS OF INTEREST FROM THE NOVEMBER 17 AND 18, 2006 WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING (2-0319)** - Vice Chairperson Yanuck suggested the board members review the draft minutes which were included in the commission agenda materials.

**9. ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE CONSENT AGENDA.** All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are agendized for the February 9 and 10, 2007 Wildlife Commission meeting and may be acted upon by the Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife with one action and without extensive hearing. Any member of the Board or any citizen may request that an item be taken from the consent agenda and acted upon separately during this meeting (1-1840) - Chairperson Walker suggested pulling items 9-A, 9-E, 9-H, and 9-I. **Vice Chairperson Yanuck moved to pull items 9-A, 9-E, 9-H, and 9-I, and to approve the remainder of the consent agenda. Member Derley seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

**9-A. ACTION REGARDING APPEAL OF ALLEN SHEARER.** Mr. Shearer is requesting a hearing to appeal to the commission that he be granted the first 21 days of the 2007 Elk Heritage tag season (1-1869) - In response to a question, Mr. Cox advised he was uncertain as to the details surrounding the appeal. He suggested that defining a season opening date would avoid future problems. Discussion followed, and consensus of the board members was that no formal action was necessary. (2-0296) Mr. Cox advised that the data base indicates Mr. Shearer did not provide a return card for his heritage tag. Mr. Shearer did purchase an incentive tag and killed a bull elk in unit 222. Chairperson Walker thanked Mr. Cox and Mr. Lackey for their attendance and participation.

**9-B. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 333, LCB FILE NO. R107-05 - STEVE ALBERT.** Amends and adopts wildlife regulations regarding: assessment and revision of demerits for convictions of certain hunting and trapping violations; provides for temporary transport of unsealed bobcats from the state; completion and return of trapping report forms or questionnaires; requirement of a tag to hunt mountain lion; establishment of license revocation periods for felony and gross misdemeanor convictions of certain wildlife crimes; establishment of a provision making it unlawful to capture a mammal or bird with a trap set within 30 feet of exposed bait. Due to input provided at the Commission's Administrative Procedures and Regulations Committee meeting, there will be no change to existing mountain lion regulations other than language to clarify that a mountain lion tag is required to hunt mountain lion. It is also proposed that trapping provisions related to visitation, handling or disposal of non-target trapped animals, descriptions of bait, and application of civil penalties be dropped from the proposed regulation; this would include sections 5 through 9. *This item is agendized as part of an informational workshop on Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> and for action on Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>.*

**9-C. ACTION REGARDING LEGISLATION - CHAIRMAN MacKENZIE.** The commission will hear a report from the commission's legislative committee and may vote to support or oppose proposals to the 2007 session of the Nevada State Legislature.

**9-D. ACTION REGARDING 2006 LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU AUDIT REPORT - ACTING DIRECTOR ROB BUONAMICI**

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**9-E. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION REGULATION 07-01 - 2007-08 PROPOSED BIG GAME SEASON DATES - RUSS MASON.** The commission will adopt the 2007 - 2008 and 2008 - 2009 hunting seasons for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat, including limits, hunting hours, special hunt eligibility, animal gender, age and physical characteristics, and legal weapon requirements; Partnership in Wildlife (“PIW”) and emergency depredation hunt structure and statewide quotas; the 2007 - 2008 nonresident restricted deer tag quotas and seasons; resident junior mule deer hunt statewide quota; big game application hunt rules; dates and times for indoctrination courses (1-2087) - NDOW Biologist Carl Lackey reviewed the interstate hunts for deer, and discussed a proposal to recommend an early season hunt. He and Mr. Cox responded to corresponding questions, and extensive discussion ensued. Chairperson Walker entertained additional questions or comments and, when none were forthcoming, a motion. **Vice Chairperson Yanuck moved to recommend to NDOW, with regard to areas 194 and 196, that it be broken into early and late season hunts with the percentage of tags to be established by the department in conjunction with the county advisory boards. Member Derley seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.** Chairperson Walker thanked Mr. Cox and Mr. Lackey for their presentation.

Chairperson Walker noted that two PIW tags for Rocky Mountain big horn sheep had been allocated to non-resident hunters, and inquired as to the reason for not allocating the same tag to a resident hunter. Mr. Cox clarified that only one Rocky Mountain big horn sheep tag had been allocated to non-resident hunters over the past two years. He advised that a hunt unit had been added at Mount Moriah, and suggested the board could recommend adding a PIW season for Rocky Mountain big horn sheep, “any ram, one quota.” Discussion followed, and Chairperson Walker entertained a motion. **Vice Chairperson Yanuck moved to recommend to the commission and NDOW to add to the PIW hunts one resident Rocky Mountain Big Horn Sheep tag. Member Valley seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.** Mr. Cox acknowledged there should be no biological impact from adding a PIW tag for Rocky Mountain big horn sheep. In response to a question, he advised that a total of six tags was allocated last year. (2-0150) Discussion took place regarding the possibility of a bear season.

**9-F. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION REGULATION 07-02 - Craig Mortimore.** The commission will adopt mountain lion harvest objectives for the 2007 - 08 and 2008 - 09 hunting seasons.

**9-G. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION REGULATION 07-03 RAPTORS FOR FALCONRY - LAURA RICHARDS.** The commission will establish 2007 and 2008 season dates, species, quotas, hours, limits, closed areas, application procedures and deadlines, and take for raptors for falconry.

**9-H. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION REGULATION 07-04 2008 HERITAGE TAGS - BOB HAUGHIAN.** The commission will adopt Heritage Tag species, seasons, and quotas for the 2008 year (2-0102) - Chairperson Walker introduced this item. Mr. Cox reviewed a proposed language revision which will provide for a depredation bull hunt in area 23. He provided background information on the proposal, and discussion ensued. No formal action was taken.

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**9-I. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION REGULATION 07-05 2009 HERITAGE TAGS - BOB HAUGHIAN.** The commission will adopt Heritage Tag species, seasons, and quotas for the 2009 year.

**9-J. ACTION REGARDING UPLAND SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN - SHAWN ESPINOSA AND RUSS MASON.** The Board of Wildlife Commissioners will consider a draft upland species management plan for comment and adoption.

**9-K. ACTION REGARDING AMERICAN BEAVER MANAGEMENT PLAN - CRAIG MORTIMORE AND RUSS MASON.** The Board of Wildlife Commissioners will consider a draft American beaver management plan for comment and adoption.

**10. DISCUSSION REGARDING INFORMATIONAL REPORTS TO BE PRESENTED AT THE FEBRUARY 9 AND 10, 2007 WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING.** A report on each of the following informational items will be provided by a Nevada Department of Wildlife representative or a Wildlife Commissioner at the upcoming Commission meeting (2-0333) - The board members had no comment on these items.

**10-A. CORRESPONDENCE - ACTING DIRECTOR ROB BUONAMICI.** The commission will review and may discuss written items sent or received by the commission since the last regular meeting.

**10-B. HERITAGE ACCOUNT INTEREST AND PRINCIPAL - CHIEF OF OPERATIONS BOB HAUGHIAN**

**10-C. NEVADA WILDLIFE DATA SYSTEM - CHIEF OF OPERATIONS BOB HAUGHIAN**

**10-D. WILDFIRE REHABILITATION FUND - CHIEF OF HABITAT DAVE PULLIAM**

**10-E. WILDLIFE WATER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM UPDATE - CHIEF OF HABITAT DAVE PULLIAM**

**10-F. MULE DEER FOUNDATION UPDATE - MILES MORETTI**

**10-G. WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES 2007 MID-WINTER MEETING - COMMISSIONER McNINCH**

**10-H. WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES 2007 MID-WINTER MEETING - COMMISSIONER McNINCH**

**10-I. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE - COMMISSIONER LURIE**

**10-J. OVERTON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA COMMITTEE - COMMISSIONER SWANSON**

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**10-K. LITIGATION REPORT - DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL NHU NGUYEN**

**10-L. 2006 MERCURY SAMPLING UPDATE - CHIEF OF FISHERIES RICH HASKINS**

**10-M. LAKE MEAD ZEBRA MUSSEL UPDATE - CHIEF OF FISHERIES RICH HASKINS**

**10-N. 2006 PRELIMINARY BIG GAME HARVEST RESULTS - MIKE COX.** Summary and overview of preliminary big game harvest data and implications to hunting season structure and herd status.

**11. REPORT ON NEVADA SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION TEAM - GIL YANUCK (2-0344)** - Vice Chairperson Yanuck referred to the reports included in the agenda materials. In response to a question, he advised that Supervisor Pete Livermore occasionally provides feedback on the reports.

**12. DISCUSSION REGARDING BUDGET REPORT - GIL YANUCK (2-0354)** - Vice Chairperson Yanuck advised that he had prepared the board's budget based on the commission meetings planned for the upcoming fiscal year. He further advised of having spoken with Rob Buonamici, who informed him there were nine commission meetings planned. He provided an overview of the draft budget, and advised that he would finalize it after receiving additional information from NDOW.

**13. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING BOARD MEMBER COMMITMENTS TO UPCOMING WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS (2-0395)** - Vice Chairperson Yanuck volunteered to attend the upcoming meeting. Member Valley volunteered to attend the Saturday session. Member Derley advised she would be resigning from the board as her family will be relocating to Fernley by mid-March. The board members reviewed the list of upcoming commission meetings.

**14. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO SCHEDULE NEXT CCABMW MEETING.** The next meeting of the Wildlife Commission is scheduled for March 30 and 31, 2007 in Las Vegas. The Board meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 26th (2-0457) - Consensus of the Board was to schedule the meeting for Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.

**15. COMMENTS AND STATUS REPORTS FROM STAFF (2-0462)** - Ms. King advised that the vacancy created by Member Derley's resignation would be advertised, and that interviews would be agendized for the next meeting.

**16. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (2-0480)** - Chairperson Walker requested to re-agendize discussion of the urban fishing pond.

**17. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (2-0486)** - Vice Chairperson Yanuck moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m. Member Derley seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The Minutes of the February 5, 2007 Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting are so approved this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2007.

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STEVEN R. WALKER, Chair