CARSON CITY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE

Minutes of the December 13, 2004 Meeting Page 1

A regular meeting of the Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 13, 2004 in the City Hall Capitol Conference Room, 201 North Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Steve Walker

Vice Chairperson Gil Yanuck

Wes Clyde Stan Zuber

STAFF: Kathleen King, Recording Secretary

NOTE: A tape recording of these proceedings is on file in the Clerk-Recorder's Office, and is 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. Member Derley was absent.
- **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES November 4, 2004** (1-0012) Member Clyde moved to approve the minutes. Vice Chairperson Yanuck seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
- **3. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA** (1-0016) None.
- **4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS** (1-0021) Chairperson Walker provided a copy of the draft minutes of the November 5 and 6, 2004 Wildlife Commission meeting to Kevin Baily in response to a question regarding an update on the NDOW hatchery refurbishment projects.

Member Zuber advised that he had nominated Vice Chairperson Yanuck for the Wayne E. Kirch Conservation Award for his hard work and commitment invested in development of the Sage Grouse Conservation Plan as a member of the Governor's Sage Grouse Conservation Team. Vice Chairperson Yanuck thanked Member Zuber.

Vice Chairperson Yanuck displayed information on the 2005 Engaged Leadership Program for members of Carson City Boards, Commissions, and Committees. He recommended that the Board members who had never attended do so, and described the topics covered when he and Chairperson Walker attended last year's program. Chairperson Walker agreed. (1-0109) Vice Chairperson Yanuck advised that the Secretary of the Treasury appointed him to represent the State of Nevada on the Taxpayer's Advocacy Panel. He described the purpose of the Taxpayer's Advocacy Panel to receive public input regarding possible improvements to the Internal Revenue Service.

- **5. DISCLOSURES** (1-0105) None.
- **6. DISCUSSION OF POINTS OF INTEREST FROM THE NOVEMBER 5 AND 6, 2004 WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING** (1-0139) Chairperson Walker advised of having attended the November 5th meeting and that he and Member Derley attended the November 6th meeting. He referred to the draft Commission minutes, and provided an overview of the presentation made by BLM Director Fran Cherry with regard to wild horse management in Nevada. Discussion took place with regard to the same.

Member Zuber discussed the rider attached to the recently passed appropriations bill which the President subsequently signed into law. Chairperson Walker discussed another program presented by Mr. Cherry offering sale of mustangs on the eastern side of the Mississippi River. Additional discussion ensued regarding the appropriations bill rider and the issue of wild horses in sage grouse conservation.

Chairperson Walker provided an overview of the presentation and discussion which took place regarding the non-resident tag issue in conjunction with the 2005/2006 Big Game Season Structure. Discussion took place with regard to the status of the non-resident tag litigation. In response to a question, Member Clyde advised that the Ormsby Sportsmen's Association sent postcards to its membership requesting support of Senate Bill 2978. Additional discussion followed regarding the status of SB 2978.

(1-0556) Dan Buonamici related comments he has received with regard to the non-resident tag issue which indicate a great deal of misinformation on the part of the general public. He discussed the need to better inform the general public. Chairperson Walker discussed the NDOW website and the Wildlife Almanac as excellent sources of information.

(1-0783) In response to an earlier question with regard to the non-resident tag issue, Vice Chairperson Yanuck read a portion of the draft Commission minutes into the record. Discussion took place regarding the potential revenue to be generated by an increase in issuance of non-resident tags.

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE PROPOSED MULE DEER MANAGEMENT POLICY PRESENTED BY THE NEVADA WILDLIFE COMMISSION'S COMMITTEE TO ESTABLISH SAID POLICY AT THE DECEMBER 7, 2004 JOINT MEETING OF THE CARSON CITY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE AND THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE (1-0515) - Vice Chairperson Yanuck advised of having attended the meeting together with Members Clyde, Derley, and Zuber. He estimated there were 25 people in attendance in addition to the members of the two county advisory boards. He provided an overview of the presentation by NDOW Wildlife Staff Specialist Tony Wasley, and commented that the presentation provided a good perspective on the mule deer management issue.

In response to a question, Vice Chairperson Yanuck advised that the mule deer management policy is in the "educational" stage of development. Commissioner MacKenzie's Mule Deer Management Policy Committee is in the process of coordinating a presentation for all the county advisory boards. Vice Chairperson Yanuck was not certain as to the direction NDOW will take at the conclusion of the presentation process. He encouraged anyone interested to attend a presentation or review the materials which are available for purchase through the NDOW website.

In response to a question, Member Zuber anticipates that a mule deer policy will be developed which will include management plans. He commented that the presentation was very educational, and discussed the various factors involved in successful herd management. He expressed the opinion that NDOW will need to establish a policy and address mule deer management with the same approach as has been used for sage grouse. He discussed the importance of NDOW being designated as a participating agency in the Pine Nut Mountains Plan Amendment prior to its publication for agency comment.

- 8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING NDOW'S SUGGESTED 2005 AND 2006 BIG GAME SEASON STRUCTURE (1-0957) Discussion took place regarding the documentation included in the agenda materials. Vice Chairperson Yanuck moved to support NDOW's Suggested 2005/2006 Big Game Season Structure. Member Zuber seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
- **9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING WILDLIFE HERITAGE TRUST ACCOUNT PROJECTS** (1-1147) Vice Chairperson Yanuck commented that Carson City is in an awkward situation because of being situated in an area with very little game. He noted that the Board has been supportive of the Fuji Park Urban Fishery, and discussed the nature of previous Wildlife Heritage Trust Account projects. He advised he didn't feel qualified to act on this item, and suggested that the general public should propose projects to the Board which could be investigated and subsequently supported. In response to a question, Chairperson Walker reviewed project criteria and provided informational materials to C.K. Baily.
- 10. ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE CONSENT AGENDA. All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are agendized for the December 17 and 18, 2004 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 (1-1239) Vice Chairperson Yanuck moved to remove item 10-C from the consent agenda. Member Clyde seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0. (1-1649) Vice Chairperson Yanuck moved to approve the balance of the consent agenda. Members Clyde and Zuber seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
 - **10-A. ACTION REGARDING THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE'S BIENNIAL BUDGET DIRECTOR CRAWFORTH.** The Department budget for fiscal years 2006/2007 will be presented to the Commission for review and recommendation in accordance with NRS 501.337(6).
 - **10-B. ACTION REGARDING LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE'S PROPOSED LEGISLATION COMMISSIONER BRADLEY.** The Commission will hear a report from the Legislative Committee and may vote to take a position regarding proposed legislation.
 - 10-C. ACTION REGARDING EUREKA COUNTY WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD BUDGET AUGMENTATION. The Commission will be asked to approve a request from the Eureka County Advisory Board for a budget augmentation of \$600 for remaining fiscal year 2005 (1-1256) Vice Chairperson Yanuck advised that he will be contacting NDOW with regard to appropriate use of the county board's budget allocation, and the Eureka County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife secretary with regard to whether the ECABMW is using their budget allocation to fund their own meetings. Extensive discussion took place with regard to the same, and Vice Chairperson Yanuck requested Chairperson Walker to check into this matter at the upcoming Commission meeting.
 - **10-D. ACTION REGARDING REVIEW OF ELK DEPREDATION DAMAGE CLAIM - MIKE COX.** The Commission will hear a claim for damages caused by elk depredation in the amount of \$21,000 filed by Atlanta Farms in Lincoln County. The amount exceeds the \$10,000 maximum claim that can be granted without Commission review pursuant to NAC 504.421.

- **10-E. ACTION REGARDING NEVADA WILDLIFE FEDERATION PETITION.** The Commission will review a proposal to provide deer tags to the Diana Project, and may accept the petition and initiate policy action or deny the petition.
- **10-F. ACTION REGARDING TAG QUOTAS FOR BIG GAME HUNTS WAYNE HOWLE.** The Commission will hear a report from the Deputy Attorney General about recent litigation against the Commission and the Director challenging nonresident quotas. In response to the litigation, the Commission may act to reinstate Commission Policy 20 for the coming hunt season, or may decide instead to implement alternative policy and develop associated regulations. Among alternatives to be considered are those suggested by County Game Boards and members of the public at the previous Commission meeting on November 6.
- **10-G. ACTION REGARDING FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS SECRETARY CRAWFORTH.** The next Commission meeting is scheduled for February 4 and 5, 2005 in Las Vegas, and the Commission will review potential agenda items. The Chairman may adjust committee assignments and create new committees.
- 11. DISCUSSION REGARDING INFORMATIONAL REPORTS TO BE PRESENTED AT THE DECEMBER 17 AND 18, 2004 WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING. A report and additional detail 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 (1-1659) Chairperson Walker opened this item for discussion; however, none took place.
 - 11-A. SECRETARY'S REPORT SECRETARY TERRY CRAWFORTH
 - 11-B. LITIGATION REPORT DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL WAYNE HOWLE
 - 11-C. LINCOLN COUNTY ELK SUB-PLAN COMMISSIONER CLINT BENTLEY
 - 11-D. WHITE PINE COUNTY ELK SUB-PLAN COMMISSIONER MIKE RIORDAN
 - 11-E. GOVERNOR'S SAGE GROUSE TEAM COMMISSIONER McNINCH
 - 11-F. MULE DEER SPECIES POLICY PLAN COMMITTEE COMMISSIONER MacKENZIE
 - 11-G. SPORTSMEN E-MAIL ADDRESSES FOR DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATIONS PATTY WAGNER
 - 11-H. NEVADA WILDLIFE DATA SYSTEM UPDATE STEVE BREMER
 - 11-I. LINCOLN COUNTY LANDS BILL SECRETARY CRAWFORTH
 - **11-J. OVERTON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA KEITH BROSE.** The Department will provide a project update on the Overton Wildlife Management Area, followed by a tour of the area. The public is encouraged to participate but will need to provide their own transportation.

- 11-K. BIG GAME SEASON DISCUSSIONS MIKE COX. The Commission will hear a report on the Department's efforts to gather County Advisory Board and public input into the development of the biennial big game season setting process. The input is to be considered in the preparation of the Department's recommendations package for Commission review and action at their February meeting.
- 12. REPORT ON GOVERNOR'S SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION PLAN GIL YANUCK (1-1671) Vice Chairperson Yanuck provided a status report on this item. He advised that the Nevada Sage Grouse Conservation Team ("NSGCT") is in the process of prioritizing action plans contained in the report, and will be meeting with representatives of various land agencies to ensure coordination of effort. The NSGCT will meet every other month in Reno. Vice Chairperson Yanuck will continue to serve as a member and report on the bi-state activities.

Vice Chairperson Yanuck advised that notice has been published that listing the sage grouse as an endangered species is not warranted at this time. An official document will be published during the first week in January. Chairperson Walker commended Vice Chairperson Yanuck on his participation in the process.

- 13. REPORT REGARDING THE FY 2004/2005 CARSON CITY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE BUDGET (1-1781) Vice Chairperson Yanuck provided a status report on the Board's budget. He anticipates that no budget augmentation will be necessary as a number of the Wildlife Commission meetings between now and June 2005 are scheduled for Reno.
- 14. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER COMMITMENTS TO UPCOMING WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS (1-1804) Ms. King distributed a tentative schedule of Board meetings for 2005. Discussion took place regarding the Wildlife Commission meeting schedule, and Member Clyde offered to attend the February Commission meeting in Las Vegas. Member Zuber offered to attend the March and June Commission meetings. Chairperson Walker suggested deferring further discussion of this item until the full Board could be present.
- 15. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO SCHEDULE NEXT CCABMW MEETING. The next Wildlife Commission meeting is scheduled for February 4 and 5, 2005 in Las Vegas (1-1969) Consensus of the Board was to schedule the meeting for Monday, January 31st.
- 16. UPDATE ONLY REGARDING BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT (1-1982) Ms. King provided background information on this item, and advised that the auditor had resigned. City Manager Linda Ritter has been reviewing the audit and will be presenting a plan of action after the first of the year. In response to a comment, Ms. King reviewed the process by which she maintains communication with Parks and Recreation Department and other City staff regarding items of mutual interest to this Board. She advised that the recommendations outlined in the audit report have been addressed.
- 17. COMMENTS AND STATUS REPORTS FROM STAFF (1-2104) Ms. King reviewed the memo included in the agenda materials regarding the Clear Creek / Kings Canyon Landscape Analysis, and consensus of the Board to was to send representatives to the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting at which it will be presented.

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- 18. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (1-2274) Vice Chairperson Yanuck advised that Don Sefton offered to provide a presentation to the Board. Chairperson Walker suggested deferring Mr. Sefton's presentation until later in 2005. Member Zuber advised that the Pine Nut Mountains Plan Amendment will not be published for public review until some time in the future. The new BLM field officer is in the process of reviewing the Plan Amendment. Member Zuber advised of a discussion with a fire planner in the BLM office regarding fuels reduction in the Pine Nuts, Prison Hill, and Pinion Hills. He described the fuels reduction process, and the Board members indicated their interest in hearing a presentation.
- **19. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT** (1-2438) Vice Chairperson Yanuck moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Member Clyde seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

The Minutes of the December 13, 2004 meeting of the Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 31st day of January, 2005.

STEVEN R. WALKER, Chair