

CARSON CITY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE

Minutes of the May 6, 2002 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife was scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 6, 2002 in the City Hall Capitol Conference Room, 201 North Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Norman Pedersen
Vice Chairperson Greg Davis
Bill Allyn
Steve Walker
Gil Yanuck

STAFF: Kathleen King, Recording Secretary

NOTE: Unless indicated otherwise, each item was introduced by Chairperson Pedersen. A tape recording of these proceedings is on file in the Clerk-Recorder's Office and is available for review and inspection during regular business hours.

1. CALL TO ORDER, DETERMINATION OF QUORUM (1-0001) - Chairperson Pedersen called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m. A quorum was present.

2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (1-0016) - None.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0022) - C.K. Baily advised of a conversation with Parks Superintendent Scott Fahrenbruch, wherein he advised that the air compressor for the aerator at Ross Gold Pond has been installed. Mr. Baily described the plan to install aerators in the pond after which the pond will be filled and the water will be tested. He read into the record a letter from High Sierra Flycasters regarding eradication of non-native fish species in Silver King Creek.

4. DISCLOSURES (1-0148) - Chairperson Pedersen advised of conversations with Parks and Recreation Department staff regarding the Ross Gold Pond, and with Environmental Health Director Daren Winkelman.

5. DISCUSSION OF POINTS OF INTEREST FROM THE MARCH 29 AND 30, 2002 WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING (1-0172) - Chairperson Pedersen advised of providing input at the Saturday meeting. Member Yanuck referred to the draft Commission minutes provided to the Board members and provided an overview of the presentation on the nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain. Discussion took place with regard to the same and with regard to anticipated NDOW budget shortfalls, web-enabled tag applications, NDOW's current budget allocations, and range management.

Member Yanuck discussed the permit denial appeal by the owners of Gone Fishin' to which the last three hours of the Friday Commission meeting were devoted. Vice Chairperson Davis commented that these types of matters should be addressed outside the Commission meeting. Member Yanuck advised of the reports provided regarding the Elko County Elk Subplan, the Black Bear Management Program and the Internet application demonstration provided by Don Sefton. A report was also provided on the Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan.

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Chairperson Pedersen advised that most of the county boards were represented at the Commission meeting. He indicated there was no information provided in the Commission agenda materials on the proposed alternative for the Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan. He provided an overview of the discussion which took place regarding the non-resident harvest of bobcat.

(1-0595) Mr. Baily provided background information on development of the Internet tag application, and discussion took place regarding the cost, the percentage increase in fees, and the importance of ensuring that NDOW is running efficiently as a business. Member Walker suggested providing comments with regard to the percentage increase in fees. Chairperson Pedersen suggested inquiring as to cost saving methods implemented this year, and requesting the Commission to appoint a budget committee to oversee NDOW. Discussion took place regarding NDOW's budget increase, the increase in the trout stamp, and allocation of trout stamp and other fees. Member Walker referred to the discussion reflected in the Commission minutes regarding the Heritage Trust Fund, and expressed a preference that the money be spent by sportsmen and the Division of Wildlife rather than run the risk of having the legislature appropriate it for an unrelated project. Discussion took place regarding the possibility of NDOW losing revenue by utilizing the new Internet application process and justification provided in that manpower costs will be reduced. Member Walker expressed an interest in reviewing the actual figures.

6. REPORT ON GOVERNOR'S SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION PLAN (1-1037) - Member Yanuck referred to the April 9th and April 30th letters to Mayor Masayko included in the agenda materials, and reviewed the same. Chairperson Pedersen discussed the importance of this process.

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE MAY 10 AND 11, 2002 WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING:

7-A. DISCUSSION OF INFORMATIONAL REPORTS TO BE PROVIDED AT THE WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING: (1-1090) Chairperson Pedersen explained the purpose for agendaizing the informational items and advised that reports will be provided by NDOW personnel at the Wildlife Commission meeting. (It should be noted, in light of the fact that the informational reports are addressed at the Wildlife Commission meeting, the Board members did not comment on each one.)

- **ANTELOPE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN (1-1095)** - Chairperson Pedersen referred to the information included in the Commission agenda materials. Member Walker advised that the management plan was supposed to be published in February. Chairperson Pedersen suggested mentioning this at the Commission meeting.
- **OVERVIEW OF AMPHIBIANS (1-1121)** - In response to a question, Member Walker advised that Anita Cook will be providing information on frog populations.
- **NEVADA WILDLIFE DATA SYSTEM UPDATE**
- **ELKO COUNTY ELK SUBPLAN**
- **CENTRAL NEVADA ELK SUBPLAN**
- **OVERTON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA**

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- **LITIGATION**
- **PRIVATE LANDS WILDLIFE**
- **COMMERCIAL COLLECTION OF WILDLIFE**
- **LION TAGS VALID CONCURRENT WITH HUNTING SEASON**
- **COMPENSATION TAGS VALID FOR ALL WEAPONS HUNTS**
- **WILDERNESS PROPOSALS IN CLARK COUNTY**
- **WIND POWER GENERATION PROPOSALS IN CLARK COUNTY (1-1156)** - Vice Chairperson Davis discussed the money-saving aspect of this proposal. Member Walker advised of discussion which took place regarding placing the wind power generators in traditional bighorn sheep lambing grounds. Vice Chairperson Davis explained the method used for choosing a suitable location, and suggested closely monitoring this matter to ensure that wildlife is not compromised.
- **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

7-B. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MANAGEMENT OF RESIDENT CANADA GEESE (1-1205) - Chairperson Pedersen commented on the increasing concern over resident geese. He referred to the proposals included in the Commission agenda materials to address this matter. Vice Chairperson Davis discussed the quantitative analysis he conducted while in college on the snow geese at Greenhead. He suggested increasing the bag limit and hunter access. Member Allyn discussed transplanting efforts which have taken place. Chairperson Pedersen commented on the importance of monitoring this issue.

7-C. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON WILDLIFE HERITAGE PROJECTS (1-1329) - Chairperson Pedersen discussed the "considerable amount of money" dedicated to administrative costs, and the majority of the submittals by NDOW. Member Walker acknowledged the necessity of administrative costs, and inquired as to how the available funding will be allocated. He discussed the mission and purpose of the Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn. Chairperson Pedersen reviewed the cost breakdown for project proposal 03-08 as an example, and discussion took place regarding differences in the cost breakdown provided in the Wildlife Commission agenda materials and the Heritage Program Project Proposals table included in the Board's agenda materials. Member Walker referred to the backup material attached to project proposal 03-08 and explained that the amount listed on the Heritage Program table indicates the amount of heritage trust funding requested.

7-D. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ELKO COUNTY COMMISSION RESOLUTION (1-1612) - Chairperson Pedersen referred to the documentation included in the Wildlife Commission agenda materials, and advised that the Elko County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife is supporting the resolution. In response to a question, Member Walker provided background information on this item. (1-1659) Mr. Baily recalled the Trout Unlimited organization expressing opposition to delisting the bull trout and opening up the road. He expressed no opposition to delisting a species if it is

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ready. Vice Chairperson Davis read a portion of the proposed resolution into the record and expressed support for the same. **Vice Chairperson Davis moved to support the Elko County Commission's petition to delist the bull trout from the endangered species list if the Wildlife Commission supports the petition. Member Yanuck seconded the motion.** Vice Chairperson Davis explained that the Elko County Commission has requested the Wildlife Commission's support. In response to a question, he advised that extensive study will be conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prior to the actual delisting. Chairperson Pedersen read a portion of the resolution into the record. He called for public comment and, when none was provided, called for a vote on the pending motion; **motion carried 5-0.** Mr. Baily suggested monitoring this matter closely.

7-E. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON STILLWATER NATIONAL REFUGE PLANS (1-1822) - Chairperson Pedersen noted that Alternative E was not included in the Commission agenda materials. He suggested closely monitoring this matter. Member Walker commented on the pending litigation associated with the conservation plan. Vice Chairperson Davis commented on the interest of The Nature Conservancy in the Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge. Chairperson Pedersen suggested that the Board representative advise the Commission that more consideration could have been given to this matter if Alternative E had been provided.

7-F. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON COMMISSION RESOLUTION REGARDING M-44 DEVICES (1-1910) - Vice Chairperson Davis discussed the benefits of M-44 as a tool for predator control, and advised of the disadvantage that it is an indiscriminate killer. He expressed support for the resolution. Member Walker referred to the \$3 fee for predator management and expressed support for providing the necessary tools. Vice Chairperson Davis discussed the need to ensure proper management of species and range if M-44 is to be used. Discussion took place regarding whether or not M-44 has secondary killing properties. **Member Yanuck moved to support the request for a label change to use sodium cyanide for protection of wildlife to be used solely for animal depredation in specific areas where there are significant problems. Vice Chairperson Davis seconded the motion.** Member Walker reviewed the proposed uses and suggested that there is no reason to specify location because M-44 is "just a tool." Member Yanuck reviewed the intent of his motion to ensure there will be no indiscriminate use of M-44. Vice Chairperson Davis explained the reason M-44 was abolished in 1972. Member Allyn commented that the agenda materials indicate the M-44 will only be used in specific areas. Discussion took place regarding the likely reduction in predator management costs as a result of using M-44. Chairperson Pedersen circulated the most recent Animal Damage Control report, and reviewed a portion of the same. He called for a vote on the pending motion; **motion carried 5-0.**

7-G. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON COUNTY ADVISORY BOARDS TO MANAGE WILDLIFE BUDGETS (1-2205) - Chairperson Pedersen thanked Member Yanuck for preparing and submitting the Board's budget to NDOW. Member Yanuck expressed an interest in the method by which the Wildlife Commission recommends supplementing the budgets of the individual county advisory boards, and discussion took place with regard to the same.

[Chairperson Pedersen recessed the meeting at 9:07 p.m. and reconvened at 9:15 p.m.]

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7-H. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS (1-2405)

- LICENSE STRUCTURE
- LICENSE, TAG STAMP AND PERMIT FEE INCREASES (1-2430) - Chairperson Pedersen referred to the discussion of this matter which took place earlier in the meeting. Member Allyn commented that sufficient documentation was not provided to make an informed decision.
- A HABITAT CONSERVATION FEE

THE COMMISSION WILL ALSO REVIEW LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN SENT TO THE GOVERNOR, AS FOLLOWS:

- REVERSION OF THE DIVISION TO A DEPARTMENT (1-2451) - Member Walker advised of discussing this matter with Member Yanuck, and commented that he does not see a reason for NDOW to revert to a department. Discussion took place regarding the benefits to NDOW of becoming a department, associated costs, and benefits to the public.
- COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE DIVISION BUDGET
- ADVERTISING IN AGENCY PUBLICATIONS
- USE OF PRIVATE PRINTING FIRMS FOR DIVISION PUBLICATIONS (1-2410) - Chairperson Pedersen advised that this item was discussed at the last Wildlife Commission meeting, and that Administrator Crawforth discussed considerable savings which would result from using private printing firms. (1-2655) Member Yanuck expressed support for this proposal if it will save money. He discussed the measures taken at the State Printing Office to cut costs and provide a competitive service. Member Walker discussed the time element associated with printing NDOW publications. (1-2749) Mr. Baily advised that during legislative years, the State Printing Office runs "24-7." Discussion took place regarding the benefits of having the flexibility to use private printing firms. Mr. Baily suggested requesting the Director of the State Printing Office to attend the Wildlife Commission meeting. Chairperson Pedersen provided an overview of Administrator Crawforth's comments with regard to this matter, and requested that the Board's representative to the Wildlife Commission carefully monitor this item.

THE COMMISSION WILL ALSO ADDRESS A REQUEST BY WILDLIFE SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO AMEND NRS 503.005 TO ALLOW AERIAL HUNTING OF RED FOX (1-2595) - A brief discussion took place regarding this matter.

7-I. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ALTERNATIVE FUNDING (1-3005) - Discussion took place regarding potential ramifications of the proposed user fee, and Member Walker discussed the provisions of the proposal. Chairperson Pedersen discussed consumptive versus non-consumptive use. Vice Chairperson Davis referred to the Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge and advised

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that during hunting season nature walks are prohibited. He suggested establishing similar schedules for other areas. Discussion took place regarding possible ways the user fee could be allocated, the need to generate additional revenue, ways to ensure that all users benefit, and the escalating costs of doing business. (1-3274) Mr. Baily commented on the financial status of the California Department of Fish and Game. Chairperson Pedersen discussed the "mechanics" of implementing the proposal, and discussion took place regarding other user fees and alternative revenue sources. Chairperson Pedersen suggested supporting fees for both consumptive and non-consumptive users and continuing to monitor this matter. Mr. Baily discussed the advertisers which appear in California and Oregon fishing regulation handbooks, and suggested this as a possibility for Nevada. Chairperson Pedersen requested the Board's representative to monitor this item and report back to the Board.

7-J. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON BIG GAME SURVEY, INVENTORY AND POPULATION ESTIMATION (1-3676) - Chairperson Pedersen referred to the presentation made by NDOW Biologist Walter Mandeville at the April 24th Board meeting, and a brief discussion took place with regard to the same.

7-K. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON COMMISSION REGULATION 02-15 (1-3728) - Chairperson Pedersen advised that the Board's recommendations were submitted to the Wildlife Commission prior to the May 2, 2002 deadline.

8. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO IMPLEMENT A UNIFORM METHOD FOR SUBMITTING EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT REQUESTS TO THE CITY FINANCE DEPARTMENT (1-3765) - Member Yanuck provided background information on this item and reviewed the sample letter, expense report, and attachments included in the agenda materials. He suggested that the expense reports be reviewed by the Chairperson or the Secretary prior to submitting them to the City Finance Department, and discussion ensued. He offered to copy the expense report to disk and provide one to each of the Board members.

Member Walker commended Member Yanuck on developing the expense report, and discussed the difficulty involved in trying to get to the Friday Wildlife Commission meeting which starts at 8:30 a.m. and then catching the last flight home after the meeting ends late on Saturday afternoon. Discussion took place with regard to the same. Vice Chairperson Davis expressed agreement with flying the night before Wildlife Commission meetings in Las Vegas and leaving the day after the meeting concludes. He suggested including these expenses in next year's budget request. Member Walker pointed out that the Board representative to the Wildlife Commission has to take at least one day off work with no compensation, and that the Commissioners and NDOW employees receive compensation for attending the meetings. Vice Chairperson Davis pointed out that the Board's budget request has been extremely conservative over the years. Chairperson Pedersen suggested discussing this matter with other county advisory board members and requesting their input.

Vice Chairperson Davis moved to accept the expense report and make it a uniform report for everyone to fill out when they go out of town for a meeting. Member Walker seconded the motion, with the condition that the form will be signed by the Chairperson or the Secretary prior to submission to the City Finance Department. Vice Chairperson Davis amended his motion to reflect Member Walker's condition. Member Walker continued his second. Motion carried 5-0.

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9. REPORT AND DISCUSSION REGARDING STATUS OF CCABMW BUDGET (2-0228) - Vice Chairperson Davis referred to earlier discussion regarding establishing a policy that the Board's representative have the option of arriving at an out-of-town Wildlife Commission meeting destination the night before the meeting begins and leaving the morning after the meeting ends. Member Yanuck reviewed the method he used to develop the Board's budget request, and discussed the additions to be made to next year's budget to allow for the out-of-town meeting policy. Discussion took place regarding the same, and consensus of the Board was to leave the option to the individual Board representative. (2-0333) Mr. Baily suggested contacting NDOW's travel coordinator and discussing their policy. Vice Chairperson Davis discussed the travel policy at Southwest Gas. Member Walker discussed the reservation blocks made by NDOW for airlines and hotels, and the advantages of making one's own reservations. Chairperson Pedersen expressed support for leaving the option to the individual Board representative, and for submitting a budget augmentation request to the Wildlife Commission if necessary.

Member Yanuck reviewed the budget expenditures for FY01 and 02, this year's ending balance, and the expenses included in the Board's budget request for FY 02/03. He responded to questions regarding the fiscal year period and the balance remaining in this year's budget. He advised that two meetings remain in this fiscal year, one in Reno and one in Tahoe, both of which will be inexpensive. In response to an additional question, he advised that the \$1,856 recommended by NDOW will be received at the beginning of the new fiscal year. Discussion took place regarding the procedure for requesting a budget augmentation.

10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO DESIGNATE A CCABMW REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND THE MAY 10 AND 11, 2002 WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING IN RENO (2-0525) - Member Walker volunteered to attend the Friday meeting. Members Allyn and Yanuck volunteered to attend the Saturday meeting. Member Walker reviewed the agenda items to be addressed at the Friday Wildlife Commission meeting. Member Yanuck reviewed the agenda items to be addressed at the Saturday Wildlife Commission meeting.

11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SCHEDULE NEXT CCABMW MEETING (2-0615) - The next Wildlife Commission meeting is scheduled for June 21 and 22, 2002 in South Lake Tahoe. Vice Chairperson Davis volunteered to attend both days of this meeting. Consensus of the Board was to schedule the next meeting for Monday, June 17th.

12. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (2-0655) - Previously covered.

13. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (2-0670) - Member Walker moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:47 p.m. Vice Chairperson Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The Minutes of the May 6, 2002 meeting of the Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this _____ day of June, 2002.

NORMAN PEDERSEN, Chair