

# **CARSON CITY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE**

## **Minutes of the August 30, 2000 Meeting**

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A regular meeting of the Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife was held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 30, 2000 in the City Hall Capitol Conference Room, 201 North Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada.

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Chris MacKenzie  
Vice Chairperson Norman Pedersen  
Larry Blank  
Greg Davis  
Steve Walker

**STAFF:** Kathleen King, Recording Secretary  
(ABMW 08/30/00; Tape 1-0001)

**NOTE:** Unless indicated otherwise, each item was introduced by Chairperson MacKenzie. 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 MacKenzie called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. A quorum was present. Member Davis arrived at 8:04 p.m.

**2. WELCOME NEW MEMBER, STEVE WALKER (1-0003)** - Chairperson MacKenzie welcomed Member Walker.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - JULY 24, 2000 (1-0007)** - Member Blank advised of a needed correction to line 3 of page five which should read, "Boundary Waters Canoe Area." Vice Chairperson Pedersen moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Member Blank seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**4. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO FORMALLY RECOGNIZE THE PARTICIPANTS WHO ASSISTED IN THE ASH CANYON CREEK FISH PLANTING PROJECT ON JULY 25, 2000 (1-3570)** - Member Pedersen provided a memo, dated August 15, 2000, from Patrick Sollberger listing the names of the twelve volunteers who assisted with this project. In response to a question, Mr. Sollberger advised that approximately 650 brook trout were planted. Chairperson MacKenzie thanked Vice Chairperson Pedersen for organizing the project. Discussion took place regarding maintenance of the road and access to Hobart Reservoir.

**5. PRESENTATION BY PATRICK SOLLBERGER, NEVADA DIVISION OF WILDLIFE WESTERN REGION BIOLOGIST, REGARDING THE LAKE TAHOE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN (1-0050)** - Member Blank inquired as to the history behind the Sceirine Ranch, and Mr. Sollberger discussed the usual agreements used by the Nevada Division of Wildlife ("NDOW") for private property access. He advised that fish were stocked at the Sceirine Ranch until 1997 and that a "gentlemen's agreement" existed between Jackie Sceirine and a now retired NDOW staff person. When Jackie Sceirine passed away, his sons developed plans for a fishery business and the general public was no longer allowed to walk onto the property and fish. Mr. Sevon provided information on the working relationship between NDOW staff and the Sceirine family. He advised that the habitat at the Sceirine

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Ranch is not as good as at the Rosaschi Ranch. Member Blank inquired as to whether or not NDOW will be willing to work with the Sceirine family again if they decide at some time in the future that they want to reopen the ranch to the public. Mr. Sollberger advised that the decision will be based upon the success of the program being implemented at the Elbow. Some fish may have to be diverted back to the Elbow which could detract from the Sceirine Ranch. He advised of a previously made decision to only stock 200-300 fish at the Sceirine Ranch before the family decided to close it to general public access. He concurred with Mr. Sevon's assessment of the spawning habitat at the Sceirine Ranch.

Mr. Sollberger indicated that he is interested in scoping issues for Lake Tahoe as a draft plan has yet to be developed for management of the fishery. Mr. Sevon displayed and reviewed the 1997 Comprehensive Strategic Plan, which includes an emphasis on planning documents for all fisheries. He reviewed the Fisheries Bureau Program Plan which covers goals and objectives from 1999 through 2003. The Strategic Plan and the Fisheries Bureau Program Plan require that the biologists develop fisheries management plans for all the waters in the Carson City/Douglas County area, including Lake Tahoe, Topaz Reservoir, the East Walker River, and the East Carson River, by the year 2003. He displayed a matrix which charges the biologists to maintain, enhance, and promote the above-named fisheries.

Mr. Sevon displayed and reviewed a listing of regional waters which all have fisheries management plans. These included Walker Lake, Boulder Reservoir, Catnip, Hobart, Marlette, Spooner, Squaw, Walt Canyon, Washoe Lake, Big Springs Reservoir, Blue Lakes, Chimney Dam Reservoir, Knott Creek Reservoir, Onion Valley Reservoir and Rye Patch Reservoir. The Lake Tahoe plan is scheduled to be completed in 2002, and the process is presently in the scoping stage. Topaz Reservoir and Fort Churchill Cooling Pond are scheduled to be completed in 2001. Lahontan Reservoir is scheduled to be completed in 2000, Lahontan Valley Lakes and Reservoirs in 2003, and the Mason Valley Pond plan is currently being developed. Because the Mason Valley is a management area, a comprehensive management plan has already been developed; scoping was completed last year, and a fisheries management plan, which is subsidiary to the comprehensive management plan, has been completed. The Carson River plan is scheduled to be completed in 2002, the plan for the east fork of the Carson River is presently being developed, and the plan for the east fork of the Walker River is completed in draft. Each of the plans have an implementation schedule which covers ten years.

Mr. Sevon explained that the biologists have been charged with evaluating the biological capability of the water. Most of the biologists have varied concepts for coldwater fisheries, and the matrix Mr. Sevon displayed breaks down the management and regulations for each concept, the potential angler success, the location of the fisheries to meet the management concept, the origin of the fish species, fish size, and anticipated carry over rates. He pointed out that the biologists have learned through the years that if the water doesn't have the potential to maintain the regulations, the public will become dissatisfied. He discussed the example of Spooner Lake, and advised that Mr. Sollberger will be working on this plan.

In response to a question, Mr. Sevon advised that Kingston Canyon Reservoir is classified as a general fishery. Once the water level is higher, it could be classified as a quality fishery. It has naturally-reproducing brown trout and some hatchery carryover of the stocked rainbow. The fish size is generally average. In response to a further question, Mr. Sevon advised that the initial size of hatchery fish is 8" to 10". Mr. Sollberger discussed the public's perception of a quality fishery. Mr. Sevon discussed the design

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of the angler survey boxes, described their sizes and locations, and the information they will provide. Mr. Sollberger discussed the questionnaire forms, and the information provided by NDOW to the fishermen.

Mr. Sollberger distributed and reviewed the 1999 Job Progress Report for Lake Tahoe. Since there has never been a management plan written for Lake Tahoe, he is starting from scratch. His goal is to implement the plan, which will cover ten years, by July 2002. In response to a question, Mr. Sollberger advised that he is not aware of a management plan for the California side. He discussed the management practices of California Fish & Game with regard to Lake Tahoe, reviewed statistical and historical information for Lake Tahoe, and listed the fish species found in the Lake.

Mr. Sollberger advised that Lake Tahoe is managed by both Nevada and California and that meetings are held annually between the two agencies. NDOW contracts with university groups to work on the Lake. Mr. Sollberger reviewed the regulations outlined in the Job Progress Report and, in response to a question, discussed the results of closing Incline, Third, Wood, and Glenbrook Creeks to anglers. In response to a further question, he advised of the spawning seasons for the various species.

Mr. Sollberger then reviewed existing Management Concepts for mackinaw, and discussion took place regarding populations and productivity. Mr. Sollberger continued reviewing the Management Concepts for rainbow trout and Kokanee salmon, and discussion followed regarding the Kokanee salmon. Mr. Sollberger continued reviewing the Management Concepts for brown trout and brook trout. He then reviewed the Lakeside Questionnaire Angler Origin graph and discussed the various methods of gathering data. These include the lakeside drop boxes, two of which are located at Sand Harbor and Cave Rock. Stocking takes place at Sand Harbor and Cave Rock, and he reviewed the Trout Stocking Summary for 1999 and the Trout Stocking History for 1995 through 1999. He described development of the Tahoe strain rainbow trout and the numbers which have been stocked over the period 1995 to 1999. In response to a question, Mr. Sollberger advised that the average cost for catchable rainbows is \$1.52 per pound. He discussed his proposed strategy for stocking - 8,000 Eagle Lake strain in April and May of each year, 4,000 each month at Cave Rock, to supply the anglers who fish at that time of the year. The bulk of the fish, 30,000 Tahoe strain, will still be stocked in July. Discussion took place regarding trophy size fish in Lake Tahoe.

Mr. Sollberger reviewed the Mail-In Angler Questionnaire summary for 1994 to 1998, and the Lakeside Questionnaire Summaries for Deepline, Topline, and Shore Anglers for 1999 and for 1996 through 1999. Mr. Sollberger requested that comments be submitted in writing within thirty days.

Member Blank inquired as to the amount of revenue raised through the sale of trout stamps and the comparison to the NDOW budget for stocking programs throughout the State. Mr. Sevon explained that when the trout stamp program was first established, \$9 million was required over the course of ten years to pay off construction of the Mason Valley Hatchery. Some of that money has also gone into fish production costs. NDOW has one more payment due on the hatchery bond. Mr. Sevon discussed the aging hatchery system, and the work needed on the Lake Mead Hatchery. He anticipates that the trout stamp program will continue and that there may be increases in the stamp fee. In response to a question, Mr. Sevon advised that the trout stamp has not totally covered the trout fisheries program. He estimated that 80% of the revenue generated has been allocated toward paying off the Mason Valley Hatchery. The other 20% has been used for fish production costs statewide, but hasn't covered all the costs of producing trout.

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The remaining revenue is generated by fishing license sales and matching the license sales to sport fish restoration dollars or obtaining federal funding to match State funding. In response to a question, Mr. Sevon advised that the Wildlife Commission has the authority to increase the trout stamp fee. Discussion took place regarding the cost per pound of the fish, increasing the trout stamp fee by \$1, improving habitat, and the purpose and tasks of the Recovery Implementation Team.

Chairperson MacKenzie thanked Mr. Sevon and Mr. Sollberger for their presentation. Vice Chairperson Pedersen expressed support for Mr. Sollberger's proposals for Lake Tahoe. Mr. Sollberger advised that the mackinaw and rainbow trout populations will continue to be monitored. Discussion took place regarding the stocking schedule and drawbacks to advertising the stocking dates. Mr. Sollberger invited the Board members to call with questions.

**6. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE NEVADA DIVISION OF WILDLIFE FOR THE EAST WALKER RIVER, EAST CARSON RIVER, TOPAZ RESERVOIR, AND LAKE TAHOE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLANS (2-0295)** - Chairperson MacKenzie solicited comments and suggestions from the Board members. Member Davis suggested that the commercial guides be made more accountable, and discussion took place regarding the party boats on the California side of Lake Tahoe. Further discussion followed regarding whether to submit comments individually or as a Board, and consensus was that the comments should come from the Board. **Member Davis moved that the commercial guides be required to cooperate with the California Department of Fish and Game or the appropriate permitting authority for better accountability. Member Blank seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.** Chairperson MacKenzie passed the gavel to Vice Chairperson Pedersen and **moved that NDOW explore other access points for fish planting and make sure that fish planting dates are not publicized except for put and take fisheries. Members Blank and Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.** Vice Chairperson Pedersen returned the gavel to Chairperson MacKenzie.

Member Davis commented that the proposed management plans for the East Walker River, the East Carson River, and Topaz Reservoir are acceptable with the input provided by the Board at the August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Member Blank commented that the East Walker River plan was by the far the most complex. He has since worked through the written presentation and is comfortable with the proposal. **Member Davis moved to fully support the proposed management plans and recommendations for the East Walker River, the East Carson River, Topaz Reservoir, and Lake Tahoe. Vice Chairperson Pedersen seconded the motion.** Vice Chairperson Pedersen suggested keeping the recommendation for Lake Tahoe separate, and discussion took place with regard to the same. Chairperson MacKenzie called for a vote on the pending motion. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**7. DISCUSSION OR COMMENTS REGARDING WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA TOPICS FOR MEETING SET FOR SEPTEMBER 8 AND 9, 2000 IN TONOPAH (2-0522)** - Chairperson MacKenzie solicited comments from the Board members. Vice Chairperson Pedersen referred to Section 13E, page 9, Bighorn Sheep Management Planning Team Meeting Notes, and expressed a concern regarding the policy statement that "nonresidents will be allowed up to 25 percent of annual tag numbers for subspecies specific bighorn sheep units." Discussion took place regarding the possible economic reasons for the proposed policy and the percentage of allotments in other states. **Vice Chairperson Pedersen moved to recommend that the 25 percent be reduced to the more historic ten**

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**percent for non-resident issued tags.** Member Walker inquired as to the membership of the Bighorn Sheep Management Planning Team. Discussion took place regarding possible action by the Commission at the September meeting. **Member Walker seconded the motion.** Vice Chairperson Pedersen suggested that the Board provide input on the proposal prior to the September meeting. Member Blank suggested that the motion indicate the Board's recommendation to lower the 25 percent, but not necessarily state a specific percentage. He indicated he would like to receive more information as to the reason for increasing the percentage to such a degree. Vice Chairperson Pedersen advised that most states allow up to 10 percent which seems to be adequate to qualify for federal funding. **Vice Chairperson Pedersen amended his motion to indicate an objection to the 25 percent.** Member Walker commented that approximately 130 Desert Bighorn Sheep tags are given out each year, and pointed out that 25% of that would be too many to allocate to non-residents. Further discussion regarding the possible economic reasons for the proposed policy followed. **Member Walker continued his second.** Further discussion followed, and **Vice Chairperson Pedersen further amended his motion to express a concern over 25 percent of the annual tags being allocated to non-residents, and to question the author of the Bighorn Sheep Management Plan to obtain an explanation as to the reason for the high percentage. Member Walker continued his second,** and volunteered to call one of the Wildlife Commissioners to request clarification on the reason for the 25 percent allocation. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Member Blank referred to Section #1 of the Wildlife Commission agenda, and indicated a desire to have an NDOW representative do some research on other states which have adopted similar policies. He advised of a telephone conversation with an uncle who provided the name of a retired enforcement officer in Minnesota who may be willing to discuss problems he experienced. Member Blank's uncle indicated that there has been more abuse of the general handicap provision in the rifle hunt with being allowed to shoot from a motorized vehicle. He expressed an interest in reviewing language from other states covering the way in which "handicapped" is defined, and indicated that further research should be done before approving the proposed amendment. Vice Chairperson Pedersen discussed the concerns expressed by the Wildlife Commissioners at the time the presentation was made on this matter at the May Commission meeting. He pointed out that the proposed amendment does not include language requiring the handicapped hunter to hunt with another person. Member Davis pointed out that the crossbow is not currently a legal weapon in Nevada. Discussion took place with regard to tracking wounded animals, reloading the weapon, concerns over potential abuse, and whether or not the crossbow is a comparable weapon.

Member Walker indicated an interest in talking with other county boards regarding matters such as these. He suggested appointing a Board liaison to keep in touch with the other sixteen county advisory boards. He concurred with Member Blank in that the proposed regulation and the Americans with Disabilities Act should be researched further. Chairperson MacKenzie pointed out that a recommendation would need to be submitted prior to the September Wildlife Commission meeting. **Member Blank moved that the Board recommend that the Commission form a special committee or direct NDOW to conduct additional research to review language utilized by other states on the use of crossbows for big game; in those same states conduct research on possible documentation of abuse/experience; and to do some type of analytical comparison between the type of crossbow that is defined in the draft regulation to bows that are legal in Nevada for big game hunting. Member Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

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(1-1265) Member Blank agreed to prepare a letter to the Wildlife Commission outlining the Board's recommendations prior to the September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**8. DISCUSSION REGARDING POSSIBLE ATTENDANCE BY CCABMW MEMBER TO WILDLIFE COMMISSION TONOPAH MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 8 AND 9, 2000. NOTE FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS OCTOBER 20 AND 21 IN RENO, AND DECEMBER 1 AND 2 IN LAS VEGAS (2-1245)** - Discussion took place regarding the members' schedules, and Chairperson MacKenzie volunteered to attend the meeting if he fills his archery tag before September 8<sup>th</sup>. Member Blank volunteered to attend the Reno meeting because he will be out of the country on December 1 and 2. Member Walker advised that he will be available for the Reno meeting and for the Las Vegas meeting. Member Davis advised that he will be available for the Las Vegas meeting.

**9. DISCUSSION OR COMMENTS REGARDING WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING HELD IN ELY ON JULY 28 AND 29, 2000 (2-1365)** - None.

**10. BUDGET STATUS (2-1372)** - Member Blank is awaiting information from a staff person in the City Finance Department. He has requested information on the history of the budget and will provide a report at the next meeting. Discussion took place regarding travel reimbursement procedures and the possibility of utilizing the State's contract with Southwest Airlines.

**11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE, TIME AND LOCATION (2-1443)** - Chairperson MacKenzie suggested scheduling the next meeting for Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, and the Board concurred.

**12. PUBLIC COMMENT** - None.

**13. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (2-1500)** - Member Blank advised that he had been to the Kingston Canyon Creek area twice in the last month. He discussed a meeting with Jonathan LaCombe, of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, who is responsible for predator control for the area east of Austin, Nevada. Mr. LaCombe was also very familiar with trapping regulations and Member Blank suggested keeping this in mind for future reference.

**14. ADJOURNMENT (2-1546)** - Member Blank moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 p.m. Vice Chairperson Pedersen seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The Minutes of the August 30, 2000 meeting of the Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2000.

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CHRISTOPHER MacKENZIE, Chairperson