

DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE
Minutes of the August 11, 2020 Meeting

Pursuant to Governor Sisolak’s March 22, 2020 Declaration of Emergency Directive 006, the requirement contained in NRS 241.023(1)(b) that there be a physical location designated for meetings of public bodies where members of the public are permitted to attend and participate is suspended in order to mitigate the possible exposure or transmission of COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

- Public comment will be accepted prior to the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting. To offer public comment before the Board meeting, members of the public may submit public comments by email to: lkabat@douglasnv.us. Please be sure to state your name, item number, and your position on the item.
- Written public comments may also be mailed to the attention of the Recording Secretary, Lorraine Kabat, P O Box 218, Minden, Nevada 89423, but all public comments must be received prior to the date of the meeting if the comments are to be included in the supplemental materials.
- All written public comments that are received prior to 4:00 PM the day before the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting will be compiled and will be added as supplemental material for the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife members and the public to review prior to the meeting.
- Any written public comment received the day of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting will be compiled and added as supplemental materials to the County’s website and distributed to the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife members within 24 hours after the meeting.
- Members of the public needing assistance with making public comment can call Lorraine Kabat at 775-782-0029.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Craig Burnside, Chairman
Bob Cook, Vice Chairman
Robert Rittenhouse
JT Chevallier

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike Turnipseed

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm and determined a quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Member Chevallier led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Burnside noted the absence of member Turnipseed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment submitted prior to the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting have been compiled and made a part of the supporting materials that have been provided to the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife Board members and public for review.

No public comment was submitted prior to or after the meeting.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Chevallier/Rittenhouse to approve the agenda as presented; carried with Turnipseed absent.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **June 23, 2020**

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MOTION by Rittenhouse/Burnside to approve the minutes as presented; carried with Turnipseed absent and Chevallier abstaining.

- 1. DISCUSSION ON THE RESULTS OF THE JUNE 26 & 27, 2020 NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS.** There will be no action taken.

Chairman Burnside recounted the actions taken by the Wildlife Commission and highlighted the ultimate denial of the Zenz petition.

This was a discussion only.

- 2. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE REGULATION SIMPLIFICATION COMMITTEE'S SIMPLIFICATION AND UPDATES TO NEVADA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE (NAC) CHAPTERS 501 AND 502.** The Committee will be discussing simplification and updates to NAC chapters 501 and 502 and have solicited recommendations from County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife.

The members expressed support for what was proposed and stated they had no additional recommendations.

By consensus, no action was taken.

- 3. The following items, 3a through 3f are items that will be heard before the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners at the next meetings, August 14, 2020, by videoconference. The Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' meeting will be broadcast live at the following website:**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrFHgHLM0MZa2Hx7og8pFcQ>

The Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife may take the following action, or a variation thereof, on each item: support the item, not support the item or not take a position on the item.

3a–3f. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING WHETHER THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD SHOULD TAKE A POSITION ON:

3a. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON ELECTION OF OFFICERS. In accordance with Commission Policy #1, the Commission will elect a chairman and vice chairman. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 2)*

There was no input provided and no action taken.

3b. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 493, NEVADA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE (NAC) 488, SIMPLIFICATION. The Commission will review the Regulation Simplification Committee's recommendations regarding language updates and simplification of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 488 relating to watercrafts. *(This item is agendaized as a workshop on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' agenda) (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 9A)*

The members felt it made sense to have the chapter consistent with the Coast Guard regulation.

Member Rittenhouse talked about the lack of parameters for buoys when they are set up for a special event.

MOTION by Cook/Chevallier to recommend the Commission approve the language updates for Commission General Regulation 493, NAC 488, Simplification; carried with Turnipseed absent.

3c. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 490, PARTY BONUS POINTS AND FIRST COME FIRST SERVE LCB FILE NO. 103-19. The Commission will consider adopting a regulation relating to amending Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation would allow children under 12 to purchase a bonus point if they turn 12 before the first day of the last season for that species. The regulation also addresses bonus points for sportsmen who apply as a party. Lastly, the regulation would allow a first-come-first-serve opportunity for returned tags that miss the 14-day deadline. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 10A)*

The members discussed what the procedure would be if one or more persons in a party returned their tag.

Chairman Burnside recapped the Commission discussion on the use of the alternate list and whether or not it should be used up to the start of the season, which would require other Nevada Administrative Code changes. The Commission decided to use the alternate list up to 14 days before the season start and after that the tags would be available on a first come first serve basis. He was still unclear on how people would be notified of available tags.

MOTION by Rittenhouse/Cook to recommend the Commission adopt Commission General Regulation 490, Party Bonus Points and First Come First Serve as presented; carried with Turnipseed absent.

3d. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 491, NOTIFICATION OF DRAW RESULTS, LCB FILE NO. R058-20. The Commission consider adopting a regulation amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) NAC 502.4208 relating to providing notification of draw results to clients who have opted out of having their results made public. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 10B)*

Chairman Burnside said neither his wife nor he was notified of their draw results because they had opted out of having their results posted online. This change allows the Department to notify applicants of the draw results by many other means and not solely using an online platform. He supports the recommended change because it allows people who have opted out to be notified in other ways.

MOTION by Cook/Chevallier to recommend the Commission adopt Commission General Regulation 491, Notification of Draw Results; carried with Turnipseed absent.

3e. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 492, THERMAL IMAGING OPTICS, LCB FILE NO R035-20. The Commission will consider adopting a regulation amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 503 and NAC 503.1485 relating to wildlife; prohibiting the use of certain night-vision equipment and devices for locating, hunting and taking game mammals and game birds; revising the definition of “trail camera or similar device”; and providing other matters properly relating thereto. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 10C*)

The members expressed support for the format of this regulation because it more clearly defines what can and cannot be used. It is well written, clear, definitive, and easy to comprehend.

MOTION by Rittenhouse/Chevallier to recommend the Commission adopt Commission General Regulation 492, Thermal Imaging Optics as written; carried with Turnipseed absent.

3f. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON MULE DEER ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM. A presentation on the Nevada Mule Deer Enhancement program will be given. The Commission will consider recommendations and may choose to provide direction to the Department on the Nevada Mule Deer Enhancement Program. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 12*)

Vice Chairman Cook feels this program will be helpful to the Wildlife Working Group as well as every state Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife. Many of the issues raised have been of concern for a long time. He highlighted the need for and lack of underpasses or overpasses for deer migration.

Member Chevallier added the program will help obtain the metrics needed to make fact-based decisions on management. He feels the document is well done and he is in support of it.

Member Rittenhouse pointed out how the population is growing in Nevada and the developers need to take wildlife into consideration as both residential and industrial development takes place. Nevada needs to be looking at the competition for habitat for the deer including the role feral horses play. We need to plan correctly to achieve a sustainable balance between wildlife and the increased population.

Chairman Burnside believes this provides a great opportunity to evaluate every hunt unit or group of hunt units and identify the mule deer problems statewide. Once the limiting factors are identified, the teams will have to come up with strategies to address them. He thought the Department of Transportation should be a partner in this.

Vice Chairman Cook added state and federal partners would be important.

Member Chevallier thinks this program allows for the opportunity to collect data that is specific to each one of the factors and to test the data to understand where the numbers are specific to the region. Then the best solutions and best practices could be found to form management strategies. He agreed that there needs to be more partners at the table. However, it is a great document and a great start.

MOTION by Burnside/Cook to recommend the Commission approve the Mule Deer Enhancement Program as presented; carried with Turnipseed absent.

4. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. CORRESPONDENCE OR COMMUNICATIONS BOARD MEMBERS HAVE RECEIVED.

Member Chevallier discussed his conversation with Mike Scott, Western Region Supervisor, regarding trash mitigation and bears. He noted bears will be coming into the local communities as their mountain food and water sources dry up. People need to be reminded to use bearproof trash cans and to glean the fruit from their trees to keep human/bear interactions to a minimum.

Vice Chairman Cook received emails from Thomas Smith. One was regarding the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act and the other was related to the Air Force expansion.

Chairman Burnside received a text from Matt Bernard about the progress being made at the Seman Pond.

This was a discussion only.

5. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. DISCUSSION REGARDING ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER COMMITMENTS TO ATTEND UPCOMING WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS AND TO REPRESENT THE FINDINGS OF THE DOUGLAS COUNTY WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD. ONE MEMBER WILL BE DESIGNATED AS A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD.

Member Rittenhouse will attend the meeting virtually.

6. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. DISCUSSION TO SCHEDULE THE NEXT DOUGLAS COUNTY WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for September 25 and 26, 2020, in Las Vegas. The Commission will review and discuss potential agenda items for that meeting. The Commission may change the time and meeting location at this time. The chairman may designate and adjust committee assignments as necessary at this meeting.

The next Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 22, 2020.

7. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

- Town of Minden's planned improvements to the Seman Pond.

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT.

Public comment submitted prior to the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting have been compiled and made a part of the supporting materials that have been provided to the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife Board members and public for review.

No public comment was submitted.

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to come before the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife, the meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

The minutes of the August 11, 2020 meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 22nd day of September 2020.

Respectfully submitted:

Craig Burnside, Chairman