

Eureka County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

Minutes

April 27, 2023

The Eureka County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife (CAB) held a public meeting on April 27, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. at the Eureka County Administrative Facility (Annex). A virtual option to attend was made available.

Members Present: James Evans, Chairman; Trent Gordon, Vice-Chairman (virtually); and Jayme Halpin.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Tom Donham, NDOW Eastern Region Supervisor; Cody Byrne, NDOW Eastern Region Fisheries Supervisor (virtually); Josh Kirk, NDOW Game Biologist; Robert Burdick, Battle Mountain District BLM Natural Resource Specialist (virtually); Jake Tibbitts, Eureka County Natural Resource Manager; and Hallee Dechambeau, CAB Secretary.

Call to order

Chairman James Evans called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm. A quorum was determined to be present.

Public Comment

None

Board Business

Approval of the agenda notice with addition of any emergency item and/or deletion of any item.

Mr. Halpin made a motion to address the Tonkin Reservoir Access Improvement item following Board Business. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Review and approve the minutes from the March 6, 2023 Meeting.

Mr. Evans made a motion to approve the March 6, 2023 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Halpin and passed unanimously.

Correspondence and Member Reports.

None

Wildlife Enhancement Projects

Discuss pinyon-juniper thinning projects, wildlife guzzlers installation, and other potential projects including fisheries and the Tonkin Reservoir Access Improvement Planning Initiative and consider further efforts to move forward for successful

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implementation of projects including potential funding requests for the County or other entities.

Tonkin Reservoir Access Improvement-

By consensus it was determined that an on-site visit to Tonkin Reservoir would be scheduled for June 5, 2023 at 10 a.m. to discuss access improvement plans.

Mr. Burdick updated the Board that previous right-of-way permitting documents were located and BLM reality specialists are working on determining what NEPA requirements will be associated to the project.

Agency Reports

Reports and updates from various wildlife and land management agencies.

Mr. Byrne informed the board on current research that is being done in regards to implementing possession limits on fish. This was addressing a request brought forth by Washoe County CAB last fall. Mr. Byrne informed the Board that a regulation change will be proposed at the September Commission Meeting to establish possession limits in the Western, Eastern and Southern regions. The current recommendation for the Eastern region proposes that the possession limit be two times the daily limit, and daily limits be simplified to five fish per day with the exception of special waters that are regulated to catch and release only. Mr. Byrne encouraged CAB involvement in the following months as more details on this proposal are outlined.

Mr. Donham introduced Mr. Kirk, Eureka's newly appointed NDOW Game Biologist, and shared that annual sage-grouse surveys are taking place along with finalizing annual big game status and trends reports.

Mr. Burdick gave the Board an update on current plans to implement Pinion-Juniper (PJ) thinning projects in the Venini, Frasier, Henderson, and 3-Bars units this year. These projects will involve 'lop and scatter' techniques near grouse habitat, and 'cut and pile' in other areas. Burning in the winter months will take place in areas where the 'cut and pile' techniques are applied.

Mr. Evens asked Mr. Tibbitts and Mr. Burdick for an update regarding the rescinding of the CX Authority for PJ thinning in the Diamond Mountain area. It was shared that those projects will not be authorized. Mr. Burdick shared some PJ thinning treatments would take place in road side hazardous fuel projects, along with some of the crested wheat seeding areas in Diamond Valley, where there has been juniper encroachment taking place.

Current and Emerging Wildlife, Natural Resources and Public Land Issues

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Report on and discuss current and emerging wildlife, natural resources and public land issues affecting Eureka County.

None

Wildlife Enhancement Projects

Discuss pinyon-juniper thinning projects, wildlife guzzlers installation, and other potential projects including fisheries and the Tonkin Reservoir Access Improvement Planning Initiative and consider further efforts to move forward for successful implementation of projects including potential funding requests for the County or other entities.

Mr. Tibbitts informed the Board on a grant the Eureka Conservation District received to continue PJ thinning projects to improve Sage-Grouse habitat.

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Meeting Agenda and Support Material—
Board may discuss and act upon any or all items on the Wildlife Commissioners Agenda for the May 5-6, 2023 meeting.

The Board reviewed the entire agenda for the upcoming Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Meeting on May 5-6, 2023. It was determined that there were no recommendations. A motion was made by Mr. Evans that the Board would not submit recommendations on any of the proposed Big Game Quotas for the 2023-2024 Season. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gordon. Motion carried.

Next Meeting

By consensus, the Board set the next meeting date for Thursday, June 15, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m. by consensus.

Approved this _____ day of _____ 2023.

Respectfully submitted: _____, Secretary
Hallee Dechambeau

Approved: _____, Chairman
Jim Evans