

Minutes of the Mineral County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife Meeting-Draft Minutes

Date & Time: Monday MARCH 16, 2020 at 6:00 PM

Location : Conference Room, EOC Building, South A Street, Hawthorne NV

Present: Glenn Bunch, Chairman,
Members: Billie Williams Jr., Wayne Larson, Johnny Peterson
Darren Hamrey
Marlene Bunch – Adm Assist.

Absent: None

Public Present: None

Chairman Glenn Bunch called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM and noted that the meeting was properly noticed on March 9, 2020

Chairman Glenn made a statement that the county offices are closed including the Library, with that, the meeting was moved to the EOC building to accommodate the meeting.

Chairman Glenn also updated the Board that the meeting in Reno this weekend will be by telephone and moved to the Wildlife Office on Valley Road. He went on to update the board of the details of the meeting for March 20, 2020.

1* 1* Petition – Mr. John V. Zenz - Big Game Tag Drawing Changes – For Possible Action
The Board will discuss Mr. Zenz who has submitted a petition to change the Big Game Tag Drawing to (1) give twenty-five percent of the overall tags to the max point holders; (2) reduce the number of choices to only three; and (3) allow only up to fifty percent of the tags in any unit to be issued to max point holders. The Commission may take action to deny or accept the petition and initiate rulemaking.

Chairman Glenn gave an update on the petition and information supplied to him. He explained that Mr. Zenz would like a decision on this item so it could possibly be put into effect for the upcoming season. Glenn further advised the board that the Commission will make a decision at the May meeting. What may happen is the Commission may receive the petition and then it will be distributed for input and then back to the Commission in May. In his opinion,

Chairman Glenn explained the process as it now works.

Johnny Peterson stated that what he got out of it was the people that had their own block of tags and wouldn't have to go against everybody. Is that the way it's written?

Billie Williams responded his interpretation is that is pretty much what he understands from it.

Chairman Glenn reported that the petitioner was maxed out and didn't get any tags and several of his friends didn't get tags either and they were maxed out. Reading responses on Facebook is some of the people agree with him, but the majority of people respond that they just want it left alone.

Johnny Peterson stated that it looks like he is wanting to get the tags that he is put in for and he wants to manipulate it so he could get a tag.

Chairman Glenn stated that he didn't have any problem with cutting the choices to 3, but what ever! He stated that the petitioner had sent the info to all the county boards.

One more thing on his opinion, it's a back door way of going back the preferential treatment again. Back in the old days, when you got 5 points, that you would get a tag the next year. At would come to where only the ones with the prime points would get tags. Back then, Mineral County only had 40 tags and it was down to where only hunters with points got tags. It was preferential treatment. Everybody was maxing out with 5 points. And that is when Don Cavin served on a committee and a lot of time was spent on working out the tag draw as we know it now. Anyone could be lucky to get a tag. Not those with the most points.

Chairman Glenn explained to the board the process that it is handled now. It sounds like he is only wanting to the primo areas and not getting a tag. And he's trying to fix it so he can get the area of his choice. If he really was wanting to hunt, he could put in for Elko or area 17 where the tags numbers are high.

Darren Hamrey asked if they were talking about cutting it down to 3 choices.

Chairman Glenn stated that it was a consideration.

Darren Hamrey stated that it could cut the amount of people putting in for this area. The out of towners might not be able to obtain tags for this area. They are probably not putting in for this area as a first choice.

Chairman Glenn stated that it's really the fact that it's a late season that draws the hunters here. It's around the holidays and they are able to have the kids out there. If our season was at the same time as the rest of the state, we could have a lot of tags because the deer aren't here.

Chairman Glenn stated that he could see where it's an advantage of 3. But the way the tag system is now, you could put in for choice # one general hunt, choice # 2 Muzzleloader, choice number 3 archer. It's combined on one application. It used to be that you could only do one way or the other. Now you can put multiple hunt types into one application.

Darren Hamrey stated that he wants to hunt close to home. As my choices go down, my choices get further away.

Chairman Glenn stated that for years he only put in for one hunt, the local area and the end response was he either gets it or he doesn't..

Further discussion among the board of different scenarios.

Billie Williams stated that his opinion is that "if it's not broke don't fix it". If you have all these bonus points, quit putting in for areas where your probably not going to get a tag. If you want to go hunting, go where there is more probabilities. That's your decision. Leave the system alone. It's working.

Johnny Peterson concurred with Billie's remarks.

It was moved by Billie Williams moved and seconded by Johnny Peterson that we recommend to not make any changes in the system and deny the petition. Motion carried.

2*

Mandatory Indoctrination / Seminar for Bighorn Ram Tag

The Board will consider recommendation to the Commission relative to Game Division Administrator Mike Scott who will provide a presentation on mandatory indoctrination/ seminar

for bighorn ram tag holders. The Commissioner may take action to require bighorn ram tag holders to complete an indoctrination class/seminar.

Chairman Glenn stated that it used to be mandatory and at one point it was decided to not make it mandatory. It's on-line now and anyone can take it now, it's not mandatory. And now they are discussing whether to make it mandatory again.

Johnny Peterson asked what it's going to do for us?

Chairman Glenn stated that right now it's any ram. But you can go into the indoctrination and they teach everybody how to count the rings.

Billie remarked that he had been there and done that. They all these sheep and you had to tell that it was the one in the middle.

Darren Hamrey stated that if it's offered online, you can go and figure it out. Then it's easy to take the course.

Billie Williams stated that when he did it he had to go into Reno.

Wayne Larson stated that the year that he drew a sheep tag, the class was in Reno. And it was the opening day of deer season, and when Johnny drew his, it was the same way. It's usually always the first part of August and that's the opening day of Bow season. We would miss the first couple of days of hunting because we were in Reno for the indoctrination class.

Billie Williams stated that we can recommend that they don't schedule it during the first days of any of the deer season.

Johnny Peterson stated that it was usually the first part of August.

Darren Hamrey asked if they are trying to make it mandatory again?

Chairman Glenn stated that it's up to the Commissioners to make the determination to make it mandatory.

Wayne Larson stated that they only hold it in Reno, Las Vegas and Elko.

Darren Hamrey stated from all the success of the rams, it's not really needed. With the exception of one that's a 120, the rest is bigger than the 140 that it used to be. The average in the state this year is around 150.

Motion made by Billie Williams and seconded by Wayne Larson that we are in favor of the indoctrination with the stipulation that if they do it, it's not on the day of opening day of deer bow season. Motion carried.

3* Commission Program, LCB File No. R022-

The Board will make recommendation to the Commission as they will consider adopting a regulation relating to amending Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation would provide direction for allowing the transfer, deference or return of tags under certain extenuating circumstances after the passage of Assembly Bill 404 of the 80th Legislative Session.

Chairman Glenn explained that this was worked over pretty hard in the meeting down there (In Las Vegas). They virtually tightened it up on the rules where it is almost impossible to return a tag. Glenn read the new language that is proposed for approval. He explained as to the reasoning for it as was explained at the meeting in Las Vegas. Reasoning that was explained by Deputy Director Robb was provided to the Board for this information.

Billie Williams read the info from the hunt book that you have 7 days to return the tag.

Chairman Glenn read the proposed new ruling to the group as provided.

The example that was provided at the Las Vegas meeting was provided to the Board. Discussion of the situations.

After hearing the reasoning---

Johnny Peterson moved and seconded to by Darren Hamrey that we concur with the new proposed language. Motion carried.

4. Commission General Regulation 490, Party Bonus Points and First Come First Serve, LCB File No. 103

The Board will make recommendation to the Commission as they 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 to be awarded to the alternate list.

Billie Williams talked about the 14 days after the 14 day deadline, you can't give it to another person.

Chairman Glenn explained that if a tag came in before the close of business on Friday they would put the tag available, and if you were looking at the computer to see if a tag came available, you could grab it right away. Glenn explained to the board of the new consideration of who is next in line for that tag on the next available hunter list. They word smithed it and re-done it and brought it back out. And what it came out is that on your application, he hadn't see it yet, but there is a box to check and another box after it for an alternate after 14 days. The reason for that is that you don't have to be sitting on the computer to see if you could get a tag.

Billie Williams stated that they were talking about 1,000 tags and they couldn't divi them out and could don't do this---- and a bunch of hoopla.

Johnny Peterson stated that a lot of people work and can't sit on the computer day and night.

The board's is in favor of this type of process. It's a good idea.

It was moved by Wayne Larson, seconded by Darren Hamrey to concur with the new proposed process as is submitted for consideration. Motion Carried

5. Commission Regulation 20-10, Migratory Game Bird Seasons, Bag Limits, and Special Regulations for Waterfowl and Webless Migratory Game Birds; Public Hunting Limited on Wildlife Management Areas and Designated State Lands – 2020–2021 Season –

The Board will Consider Recommendation to the Commission as they will consider recommendations for seasons, bag limits, and special regulations for migratory game birds for

the 2020–2021 season and adopt regulations consistent with proposed regulations framework for the 2020–2021 hunting seasons on certain migratory game birds established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Commission Regulation will become final pending adoption of federal frameworks. The Commission will also consider rules regulating public hunting on Wildlife Management Areas and designated state lands.

Mourning & White-Winged Dove

Open Statewide
September 1, 2020 – October 30, 2020
Daily Bag limit 15 Possession 45
½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Board Concurs with Recommendation

American Crow

Open Statewide
Fall Season September 1 – November 17, 2020
Spring Season March 1 – April 15, 2021
Daily bag limit 10
Shooting Sunrise to sunset
Special Regulations – Shotguns only. All crows must be retrieved and removed from the field.
Season closed on raven.

The Board concurs with Dept recommendation

SPECIAL YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNT

Open Areas:

Northeast Zone
September 12 & 13, 2020
Northwest Zone
September 19, 2020 & February 6, 2021
South Zone (to include the Moapa Valley portion of the Overton Wildlife Management area)
February 13 & 14, 2021
Moapa Valley portion of the Overton Wildlife Management Area
October 24, 2020

Daily bag limit is the same as that for the general season for ducks, mergansers, geese, coots, and moorhens.

Limits singly or in the aggregate for Canada geese and Brant.

Limits singly or in the aggregate for Snow and Ross' geese.

Snow and Ross' geese are closed in Ruby Valley within Elko and White Pine Counties.

Shooting Hours- ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Special Regulations: Open to hunters 17 years of age or younger.

Youth hunters 16 years of age and older must possess a Federal duck stamp.

Youth Hunters 12 years of age and older must possess a state duck stamp

Youth must be accompanied by an adult who is at least 18 years old.

Adults are not allowed to hunt during this season.

Open to Nonresidents.

The Board concurs with Dept recommendation

DUCKS AND MERGANSERS

Northeast Zone.

September 20, 2020 – October 25, 2020

October 28, 2020– January 10, 2021

Northwest Zone

October 3, 2020 – January 3, 2021

January 13, 2021 – January 24, 2021

South Zone – Clark and Lincoln County (except the Moapa Valley)

October 17, 2020 – October 25, 2020

October 28, 2020 – January 31, 2020

South Zone – Moapa Valley to the confluence of Muddy and Virgin Rivers

October 31, 2020 – January 31, 2021

Limits:

General Duck Limits: 7/21

Pintail: 1/3

Mallard (total/female): 2 hen mallards daily and 6 in possessions.

Redhead: 2/6

Canvasback: 2/6

Scaup 2/6 (within Scaup season)

Shooting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Special Regulations: Open to Nonresident.

Darren Hamrey stated that he objects – He would prefer it to Open on the 10th or the 17th.

Chairman Glenn stated that the Fed's say these are the days you can hunt.

Darren Hamrey responded yes, it's 105 days. But the dates are set by the state.

Johnny Peterson reported that it's set by the State.

Darren Hamrey referred by to the reply from Russell

Chairman Glenn gave scenarios of hunting requests. He stated that you have to remember that once you change it, it's hard to get it back.

Darren Hamreystated that they still could start on October 10th, close it for 2 days and the second Saturday is chucker. And then you still have the 10 days they shut it down in January in some of the best hunting in the year. For me, (Darren) in 365 days a year, I have to eat a weekend. So the guys that only hunt 1 weekend can go out. I know there will be a lot of back lash in shutting it down for the 10 days and 1 whole weekend. There's going to be lot of unhappy duck hunters.

Chairman Glenn stated that we can make that recommendation. Whether or not it flies, he didn't know.

Darren Hamrey responded that even if the 10th doesn't work, you have the following weekend the 17th. And end on January 31st.

Chairman Glenn stated that if it's what you (Darren) say what you want. There are 17 boards out there and they all need to be on board.

Darren Hamrey stated: Gauging on the response from meeting. Sounding like they are uncompromising on doing it on the first day of chukar. He read the same thing.

Billie Williams responded with the facts from last year but it didn't give a weekend.

Darren Hamrey stated that that was not what he wanted. It was still a week late.

Chairman Glenn stated that if it's like you say, and it is close to what you are recommending, if we put it in here, the other boards want changes, they can ask him (Dept) about it. If they are not there to suggest it, then this is what it's going to be.

Darren Hamrey stated that his suggestion would be the 10th or the 17th. The first choice would be the 10th, but with Chukar season opening, then his second choice would be the 17th.

Chairman Glenn verified that Darren would prefer the 10th instead of the 3rd opening.

Darren Hamrey responded yes, then it would only be a 2 or 3 day close instead of 10 days. Which they have done in past years so they could end on a Sunday. Maybe other guys don't care, but live to hunt every weekend.

Chairman Glenn stated that if other boards request changes,

Chairman Glenn reported that in the southern zone it opens on October 17, 2020 – October 25, 2020 then October 28, 2020 – January 31, 2020

Darren Hamrey responded – Why can't they do it like that here? He stated that he likes the dates of the south zone better than the Northwest Zone. He stated that he has kept of record of the hunt dates for years. It always started on the 2nd Saturday and it's not that far ago. He stated he had gone back through all the days and there are so other days. Remember the 90's when there was only 1 day. And it's been forever up to the last 4 or so years that it was that way.

Darren Hamrey moved that we request a change in the opening date to 1st choice the 10th, and 2nd choice the 17th. And make the closing on Sunday and shorten the days off in the middle of the week and keep the weekends open. Seconded by Billie Peterson Motion Carried.

SCAUP (Lesser and Greater)

Northeast Zone.

September 26, 2020 – October 25, 2020

October 28, 2020 – December 22, 2020

Northwest Zone

October 22, 2020 – January 3, 2021

January 13, 2021 – January 24, 2021

South Zone – Clark and Lincoln County (except the Moapa Valley)

November 7, 2020 – January 31, 2021

South Zone – Moapa Valley to the confluence of the Muddy and Virgin Rivers

November 7, 2020– January 31, 2021

Limits – 2/6 (Included within general duck limit, not in addition to)

Shooting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Special Regulations: Open to Nonresidents.

The Board concurs with Dept recommendation

COOTS AND COMMON MOORHENS (Common Gallinules)

Northeast Zone.

September 26, 2020 – October 25, 2020

October 28, 2019 – January 10, 2021

Northwest Zone

October 3, 2020 – January 3, 2021

January 13, 2021 – January 24, 2021

South Zone – Clark and Lincoln County (except the Moapa Valley)

October 17, 2020 – October 25, 2020

October 28, 2020 – January 31, 2021

South Zone – Moapa Valley to the confluence of the Muddy and Virgin Rivers

October 31, 2020 – January 31, 2021

Limits – 25 / 75

Shooting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Special Regulations: Open to Nonresidents.

The board requests the same reasoning and changes as ducks.

SNIPE

Northeast Zone.

September 26, 2020 – October 25, 2020

October 28, 2020 – January 10, 2021

Northwest Zone

October 3, 2020 – January 2021

January 13, 2021 – January 24, 2021

South Zone – Clark and Lincoln County (except the Moapa Valley)

October 17, 2020 – October 25, 2020

October 28, 2020 – January 31, 2021

South Zone – Moapa Valley to the confluence of the Muddy and Virgin Rivers

October 31, 2020– January 31, 2021

Limits – 8 / 24

Shooting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Special Regulations: Open to Nonresidents.

The Board concurs with Dept recommendation

CANADA GEESE AND BRANT

Northeast Zone.

September 26, 2020 – October 25, 2020

October 28, 2020 – January 10, 2021

Northwest Zone

October 3, 2020 – January 3, 2021

January 13, 2021-January 24, 2021

South Zone – Clark and Lincoln County (except the Moapa Valley)

October 17, 2020 – October 25, 2020

October 28, 2020 – January 31, 2021

South Zone – Moapa Valley to the confluence of the Muddy and Virgin Rivers

October 31, 2020 – January 31, 2021

Limits – 4/12

Shooting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Special Regulations: Open to Nonresidents.

The Board concurs with Dept recommendation

WHITE-FRONTED GEESE

Northeast Zone.

September 26, 2020 – October 25, 2020

October 28, 2020 – January 10, 2021

Northwest Zone

October 3, 2020 – January 3, 2021

January 13, 2021 – January 24, 2021

South Zone – Clark and Lincoln County (except the Moapa Valley)

October 17, 2020 – October 25, 2020

October 28, 2020 – January 31, 2021

South Zone – Moapa Valley to the confluence of the Muddy and Virgin Rivers

October 31, 2020– January 31, 2021

Limits – 10/30

Shooting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Special Regulations: Open to Nonresidents.

The Board concurs with Dept recommendation

SNOW AND ROSS' GEESE

Northeast Zone.

October 28, 2020 – January 3, 2021

February 20, 2021 – March 7, 2021

Northwest Zone

October 19, 2020– January 3, 2021

January 13, 2021 – January 24, 2021

February 20, 2021 – March 7, 2021

South Zone – Clark and Lincoln County (except the Moapa Valley)

October 17, 2020 – October 25, 2020

October 28, 2020 – January 31, 2021

South Zone – Moapa Valley to the confluence of the Muddy and Virgin Rivers

October 31, 2020 – January 31, 2021

Limits – 20/60

Shooting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Special Regulations: Open to Nonresidents.

CLOSED: Ruby Valley within Elko and White Pine Counties

CLOSED: Kirch WMA, Mason Valley WMA, Fernley, Alkali Lake Humboldt, Steptoe and Scripps WMA/ Washoe State Park during February 20, 2021 – March 7, 2021 season.

Special Regulations: Restrictions on three shotshell capacity and recorded or amplified bird calls do not apply during the light goose seasons from February 20, 2021 until March 10, 2021

The Board concurs with Dept recommendation

FALCONRY SEASON FOR MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

Northeast Zone.

September 26, 2020– October 25, 2020

October 28, 2020 – January 10, 2021

Northwest Zone

October 3, 2020 – January 3, 2021

January 13, 2021 – January 24, 2021

South Zone – Clark and Lincoln County (except the Moapa Valley)

October 17, 2020 – October 25, 2020

October 28, 2020 – January 31, 2021

South Zone – Moapa Valley to the confluence of the Muddy and Virgin Rivers

October 21, 2020 – January 31, 2021

Limits – 3/9

Shooting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Special Regulations: Open to Nonresidents.

Migratory birds allowed for take include: geese, ducks, mergansers, coots, common moorhens and common snipe. Limits for all permitted migratory birds are singly or in the aggregate.

The Board concurs with Dept recommendation

SWAN

OPEN AREAS: Churchill, Lyon and Pershing counties

October 3, 2020 – January 3, 2021

January 13, 2021 – January 24, 2021

Limits: One swan per swan hunt permit,

Maximum two swan hunt permits per season

One swan per day.

SHOOTING HOURS: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

SPECIAL REGULATIONS APPLY AS NOTED BY THE DEPT.

6. Review and Consideration of Possible Changes to Waterfowl Hunt Zones for 2021 - 2025 –

The Board will made recommendation to the Commission as they will consider recommendations and may choose to provide direction to the Department on possible changes to waterfowl hunting zones. The Pacific Flyway entertains changes to waterfowl hunting zones every five years, and potential changes must be noticed by May 1, 2020 to receive consideration. Any changes accepted by the Pacific Flyway will not take effect until the 2021 waterfowl seasons and would remain in effect until 2025.

The Board reviewed the proposed zones and likes number 1 better.

It was moved by Wayne Larson and seconded by Johnny Peterson to go with Zone 1 Map. Motion carried.

7. The Board May Review remaining items of the March 20-21, 2020 Commission Agenda.

8. Public Comment No action can be taken by MCABMW at this time; any item requiring MCABMW action may be scheduled on a future MCABMW agenda.

Billie Williams state he had some good news. He was going to resign the board tonight but he's going to stay on now. He was fed up with what was going on. He explained a discussion that

he had with the Commission Chairman about getting Elk in Mineral County. Billie was advised that he (Chairman) didn't want the elk in Mineral County because it was in his back yard. So we were not given the opportunity. Billie Stated " I almost called foul on him because he didn't recuse himself. But, Glenn would have had to do that because I was just a member of the board. But I've been pissed at him (Chairman) ever since"

But with the good news that Johnston is leaving in June, I'll stay on the board and see what happens. We still want Elk in Mineral County

Chairman Glenn stated that if you go on line and read the minutes of the Las Vegas meeting that he went to the podium during public comment and he reported that just the week before Idaho removed 200 head of elk from their numbers. He reported that it would have been really nice if we had a plan, which he knows we need a plan in place. So in the future, we can be ready then those 200 head of elk could have been brought to Mineral County instead of being Slaughtered!!!!!! We can take all those animals they don't want. You have to have an elk plan in place. You are telling everyone in the area that we are going to manage this herd of elk to 200. When it goes over 200, we have to be ready to maintain it at 200. And that's what they lost track of in other areas. His whole thing is we don't have a plan in order. I have all the letters from 1994 ready to start again.

Chairman Glenn further stated that after he made the remarks in the Las Vegas Meeting, he had several of the Dept staff come to him and ask him if he was serious that Mineral County wanted elk. He told them "YES! MINERAL COUNTY WANTS ELK"

Johnny asked if we would need an environmental study for that?

Chairman Glenn responded that yes we will. Also he was asked if it was for Mt. Grant, and he advised them that he wants them to the south.

He advised the Board that in 1994 there was elk in the trailer coming to Hawthorne when Hilton hired a new Forman and he didn't want elk. So Hilton called the Dept to stop them from coming, and was advised they were already on their way. So then Hilton called Senator Reid to stop the elk, and the elk got unloaded at Table Mountain. They never made it to Mineral County. Well, now there are State Parks on the Hilton property and in talking with the State Parks staff, they thought it would be a great calling card for the parks there to have elk viewing areas there. They were all for it. Times have changed.

And it was just in the news the night before the Las Vegas meeting of the Idaho elk slaughter and it was time to bring it back up.

We want elk in Mineral County.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM