

## Eureka County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

### Minutes

August 3, 2023

The Eureka County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife (CAB) held a public meeting on August 3, 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, Jayme Halpin

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Josh Kirk, NDOW Game Biologist; Jake Tibbitts, Eureka County Natural Resource Manager; and Hallee Dechambeau, CAB Secretary

#### **Call to order**

Chairman Evans called the meeting to order at 4:35 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.*

By Consensus the agenda was adopted without out addition of any emergency items, or deletion of any items.

*Review and approve the minutes from the June 15, 2023 Meeting.*

Mr. Evans made a motion to approve the June 15, 2023 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gordon and carried unanimously.

*Correspondence and Member Reports.*

None

#### **Agency Reports**

*Reports and updates from various wildlife and land management agencies.*

Mr. Kirk extended an invitation to Nevada's first Mule Deer Enhancement Summit to be held August 17 – 19, 2023 in Winnemucca.

Mr. Kirk shared information regarding a study with Colorado State University that he has been assisting with. He has been on Roberts's Mountain collecting data to examine wild horse and mule deer diet overlaps.

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Mr. Kirk informed the Board that guzzlers have been flown, and some repairs have been taking place.

Mr. Kirk informed the Board that chucker routes have taken place in the Diamond Mountain range. He was able to classify a record sample of over 500 birds, with an average of 8 chicks per adult in that area.

### **Current and Emerging Wildlife, Natural Resources and Public Land Issues**

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

Mr. Tibbitts shared that a wild horse gather in the Roberts Mountain complex has been approved by Nevada State BLM. The Environmental Assessment has gone out for public comment. This horse gather needs to receive national BLM approval, and is highly likely to make the gather schedule. Roberts Mountain Complex features multiple Herd Management Areas heavily overpopulated by wild horses.

### **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 that a Cooperative Range Improvement Agreement has been established with the BLM. This range improvement project is initiated by Eureka Conservation District, with grant funds for sage grouse habitat improvement. This project will be pinion and juniper thinning in the Cottonwood and Little Minoletti Creek crested wheat seedings. Mr. Tibbitts shared that the current agreement covers only the pinion and juniper thinning, but that it would be possible to request additional approval for seeding and/or fuels management treatments within the fenced areas.

Mr. Tibbitts shared an update on the Tonkin Reservoir Access Improvement. It has been determined that the BLM will require an Environmental Assessment (EA) and a new Right of Way to put the boat launch back at its historical location. The former boat launch had never been constructed with a Right of Way for recreational access. The Board discussed options in moving forward with this initiative. It was determined that designating a proposal and submitting it to the BLM with a completed EA would be the quickest, and most certain route in completing the initiative. It is estimated that an EA for this project would cost around \$50,000 to \$60,000. The Board discussed possible grant opportunities to fund the initiative. Mr. Evans committed to drafting a work plan

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to be reviewed by the Board and interested parties, and used towards obtaining grant funding to move forward with the project.

Mr. Kirk informed the Board that proposals for Wildlife Enhancement Projects require being an action item on the County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife agenda and are due on September 1, 2023. It is planned to work off of the proposal from last year, by expanding on the pinion-juniper clearing that was done on Whistler by the BLM last year. There are 379 acres available for pinion-juniper clearing, herbicide treatments and re-seeding.

**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 August 11-12, 2023 meeting.*

The Board reviewed the NWBC agenda for the August 11-12, 2023.

Mr. Halpin made a motion to support, without recommendation, Item 23: *Commission Policy 24 – Hunting Opportunities Among Various Weapons Classes and Hunter Groups – First Reading*. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gordon and carried unanimously.

Mr. Evans mad a motion to support, without recommendation, Item 24: *Designation of Wildlife Management Areas – Firs Reading*. The motion was seconded by Mr. Halpin and carried unanimously.

**Next Meeting**

By consensus, the Board set the next meeting date for Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

**Public Comment**

None

**Adjournment**

Mr. Halpin made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Gordon seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15: p.m. by consensus.

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2023.

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_, Secretary  
Hallee Dechambeau

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_, Chairman  
Jim Evans