

New Mexico State Game Commission New Mexico
Department of Game and Fish
Virtual Meeting
April 7, 2021

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Meeting Called to Order 09:01:40 a.m. (00:00:09)
Called to order by Chairwoman Salazar Hickey.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Roll Call 09:02:17 a.m. (00:00:46)
Present: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Vice-chairman Vesbach, Commissioner Bates,
Commissioner Cramer and Commissioner Salazar-Henry. Excused: Commissioner Lopez.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Approval of Agenda (Action Item) 09:02:52 a.m. (00:01:21)
Motion: Move to approve the agenda as modified.
Motion by: Commissioner Salazar-Henry
Seconded by: Commissioner Bates
Approved: Roll call vote – Approved: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Vice-chairman Vesbach,
Commissioner Bates, Commissioner Cramer and Commissioner Salazar-Henry. Excused:
Commissioner Lopez.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3A: Honoring Commissioner David Soules (Discussion) 09:05:12 a.m.
(00:10:56)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: General Public Comments 09:12:27 a.m. (00:10:56)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Consent Agenda (Action Items A, B, C and D) 09:21:25 a.m. (00:19:54)

- A. Approval of Minutes of the March 22, 2021 virtual special meeting.
- B. Approval of License Revocations.
- C. Approval of Operation Phoenix Outdoors as a non-profit to receive donated licenses.
- D. Reserving two elk licenses for non-profit wish-granting organizations.

Motion: Move to approve the consent agenda A through D.

Motion by: Vice-chairman Vesbach

Seconded by: Commissioner Cramer

Approved: Roll call vote – Approved: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Vice-chairman Vesbach,
Commissioner Bates, Commissioner Cramer and Commissioner Salazar-Henry. Excused:
Commissioner Lopez.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Director's Report (Discussion Item) 09:25:49 a.m. (00:24:18)

- The sudden and unexpected loss of Commissioner David Soules.
- Three significant retirements so far this year, including Russ Benjamin, Vince Olguin and James Comins.
- During the first legislative session, there were several bills that could have affected the Department.
 - Budget and Capital will pass through as presented and additional funds were allotted through the SIKES Act.
 - The Governor signed SB32 on Monday.
- Record numbers of draw applicant and applications. We are ensuring PCI compliance and security. We are seeing an increase in outdoor activities as is noted with the increase in applicants.
- Ensuring compliance with federal grants and gearing up for the budget development cycle and instituting the

- new fiscal year budget.
- Work with the New Mexico Department of Transportation to continue coordination of the Corridors Plan. Ground truthing is currently going on to ensure that what the computers are telling us is correct. Expect public meetings as the project moves forward.
 - The Environmental and Ecological Planning Division is also leading our engagement as a cooperating agency in the Sun Zia Transmission Line.
 - The Information Technology Division is ensuring system functions, ensuring code is up to date and secure. We are moving forward with the cloud-based Microsoft 365 platform.
 - Law Enforcement is working on cases, working with state lands to open public access and installing a gate to open a space that has been closed, patrolling hunts and preparing to address depredation issues.
 - FMD is nearing completion of the pond on River Ranch, which is a step toward recovery of the Chichihua Chub in the Mimbres Drainage.
 - Glenwood hatchery renovations are moving forward with contracts getting put in place in the next few weeks, with work starting shortly after.
 - The annual walleye spawn is underway.
 - 173 animals captured and collared to evaluate migratory herds in the north-central region.
 - 1,000s of native plants were planted along the Canadian River as part of a project with the State Lands Office and plantings at Bernardo and Huey Wildlife Management Area.
 - The annual wolf count was completed, with a minimum of 186 wolves.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Citizens Advisory Committee (Action/Discussion) 09:39:26 a.m. (00:37:55)

Motion: Move to appoint Charles Hibner to the Habitat Stamp Program Committee

Motion by: Vice-chairman Vesbach

Seconded by: Commissioner Bates

Approved: Roll call vote – Approved: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Vice-chairman Vesbach, Commissioner Bates, Commissioner Cramer and Commissioner Salazar-Henry. Excused: Commissioner Lopez.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Overview of United States Fish and Wildlife's Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Program (Discussion Item) 09:41:59 a.m. (00:40:28)

Cliff Schleusner, Chief of the Wildlife, Sport Fish and Restoration Program, presented an overview of United States Fish and Wildlife's Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Program and the impacts for the future of the Department.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Initiation of the Fisheries Rule 19.31.4 NMAC, Hunting and Fishing Manner and Method of Taking Rule 19.31.10 NMAC and Commercial Use of Fish Rule, 19.31.9 NMAC (Discussion) 10:06:46 a.m. (01:05:15)

The current Fisheries Rule 19.31.4 NMAC expires on March 31, 2022. Fisheries Management Division Chief Kirk Patten presented the Department's proposed changes to the Fisheries rule and Manner and Method rule, as well as the need to amend part of the Commercial Use of Fish rule to ensure consistent language with these rules.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Initiation of Migratory Game Bird Rule 19.31.6 NMAC (Discussion) 10:32:29 a.m. (01:30:58)

Wildlife Management Division Chief Stewart Liley presented the Department's proposed changes to the Migratory Game Bird Rule (19.31.6 NMAC) based on public comment, the latest information from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), recent survey information and management goals. Season selections and bag limits are determined in conjunction with the USFWS working through the Central and Pacific Flyway Councils. We are currently analyzing data and reaching out to migratory bird hunters to evaluate alternatives and to help inform the rule development process.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Overview of Department's Law Enforcement (Discussion) 10:46:18 a.m. (01:44:48)

Colonel Robert Griego presented an overview of the Department's Law Enforcement efforts, highlighting some of the higher-profile wildlife investigations, cases, prosecutions and newest technology.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: General Public Comments 11:15:37 a.m. (02:14:06)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Laguna del Campo Transfer (Discussion) 11:18:20 a.m. (02:16:49)

Fisheries Management Division Chief Kirk Patten presented an update on the Laguna del Campo Property Transfer. At its June 2019 meeting, the Commission conditionally approved the transfer of Laguna del Campo and associated lands to the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant. Since that meeting, the Department has met with representatives of the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant on multiple occasions..

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: Executive Session (Closed to the Public) 12:18:55 p.m. (03:17:24)

Motion: Motion: The State Game Commission voted to adjourn into Executive Session closed to the public; pursuant to 10-15-1(H)(2) NMSA 1978, to discuss limited personnel matters relating to complaints and discipline; pursuant to Section 10-15-1(H)(8) NMSA 1978, to discuss property acquisition; and pursuant to Section 10-15-1(H)(7) NMSA 1978, to discuss matters subject to attorney-client privilege relating to threatened or pending litigation.

Motion by: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey

Seconded by: Commissioner Bates

Approved: Roll call vote – Approved: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Vice-chairman Vesbach, Commissioner Bates, Commissioner Cramer and Commissioner Salazar-Henry. Excused: Commissioner Lopez.

Return from Executive Session 02:10:58 p.m. (03:22:21)

Motion: To allow the Department to engage in discussions on the acquisition of property in McKinley and Sandoval counties.

Motion by: Vice-chairman Vesbach

Seconded by: Commissioner Salazar-Henry

Approved: Roll call vote – Approved: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Vice-chairman Vesbach, Commissioner Bates, Commissioner Cramer and Commissioner Salazar-Henry. Excused: Commissioner Lopez.

Motion: Commissioner Lopez and Vice-chairman Vesbach work with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Staff and Director to finalize the agreement to transfer ownership of Laguna del Campo property as per SJR2.

Motion by: Commissioner Salazar-Henry

Seconded by: Commissioner Bates

Approved: Roll call vote – Approved: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Vice-chairman Vesbach, Commissioner Bates, Commissioner Cramer and Commissioner Salazar-Henry. Excused: Commissioner Lopez.

Motion: The Commissioners use a draft form performance evaluation to proceed at our next Commission meeting as a blueprint for discussions to create a mid-year evaluation discussion with the Director. In addition, the Commissioners will each present to the chair their priority of issues of policy, goals and achievements that they would like to see addressed by the Director. Chair Salazar Hickey, Commissioner Bates and Commissioner Lopez will present those to the Director, who can understand and be prepared for our discussion at the May Commission meeting. Also, an annual performance evaluation should occur at the November Commission meeting.

Motion by: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey

Seconded by: Commissioner Cramer

Approved: Roll call vote – Approved: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Vice-chairman Vesbach, Commissioner Bates, Commissioner Cramer and Commissioner Salazar-Henry. Excused: Commissioner Lopez.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: Adjourn (Action Item) 02:18:37 p.m. (03:30:01)

Motion: Move to adjourn.

Motion by: Commissioner Salazar-Henry

Seconded by: Vice-chairman Vesbach

Approved: Roll call vote – Approved: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Vice-chairman Vesbach, Commissioner Bates, Commissioner Cramer and Commissioner Salazar-Henry. Excused: Commissioner Lopez.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
NEW MEXICO STATE GAME COMMISSION

April 7, 2021

VIRTUAL MEETING LOCATION
<http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/webcast/>

Michael B. Sloane Digitally signed by Michael B. Sloane
Date: 2021.05.18 16:14:11 -06'00'

Michael B. Sloane

Date

Sharon Salazar Hickey

05/18/2021

Sharon Salazar Hickey, Chair

Date

New Mexico State Game Commission