

**New Mexico State Game Commission
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Virtual Meeting Notes**

Thursday, June 25, 2020

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Meeting Called to Order [09:15:55 AM \(00:00:10\)](#)

Called to order by Chairwoman Salazar Hickey at 9:15 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Roll Call

Present: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Vice-chairwoman Salazar-Henry, Commissioner Bates, Commissioner Cramer and Commissioner Vesbach. Commissioner Soules was able to attend the meeting by phone for several agenda items.

Commissioner Lopez was absent.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Approval of Agenda [09:17:37 AM \(00:01:52\)](#)

Motion by: Vice-chairwoman Salazar-Henry moved to approve the agenda as written.

Seconded by: Commissioner Vesbach.

Approved: Roll call vote – Unanimously: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Vice-chairwoman Salazar-Henry, Commissioner Cramer, Commissioner Vesbach and Commissioner Bates.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

B. Approval of License Revocations

Motion by: Commissioner Cramer moved to approve consent items A and B as written.

Seconded by: Vice-chairwoman Salazar-Henry.

Approved: Roll call vote – Unanimously: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Vice-chairwoman Salazar-Henry, Commissioner Cramer, Commissioner Vesbach and Commissioner Bates.

C. Game Commission Meeting Spreadsheet (Discussion)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Commission Subcommittee reports (Discussion)

A. Finance

- a. Vice-chairwoman Salazar-Henry presented the finance committee meeting goals and objectives. This committee has met twice reviewing information on statutes, license trends, budget impacts and updates to the audits.

B. Customer/Stakeholder

- a. Commissioner Cramer presented updates to the customer/stakeholder committee. The committee developed a questionnaire and sent it to other states for information.

C. Overarching/Organizational

- a. Commissioner Soules was not present to update on the committee work.

D. Hunt Structure

- a. Commissioner Vesbach presented that the committee members have looked at the hunt structure and are reviewing items to decide what they are going to work on. They are working slowly and deliberately to ensure that they are getting it right and ensuring that

every option is taken into consideration.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Director's Report (Discussion) [09:34:37 AM \(00:18:52\)](#)

Director Michael Sloane presented on the Department's accomplishments that included:

- A court recently issued the final order for a poacher to pay \$74,000 in restitution for a mule deer buck.
- eDNA sampling of Whitewater Creek is showing that all non-native trout have been removed and the Department will start working toward restocking native Gila trout.
- Crews have found a strain of pneumonia in the bighorn sheep in the Rio Grande Gorge, early results are finding that there is a good lamb to ewe ratio and no evidence of die-offs.
- Crews have been working with Arizona Game and Fish Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service putting 20 cross-fostered wolf pups in western New Mexico.
- The Department has hired a wolf team lead and is working toward interviewing a wolf biologist.
- Continued to work on the Gila elk study, capturing 200 calves for collaring.
- Working through questions and comments about the E-PLUS program and issuing tags.
- Developed and implemented strong online presence such as online hunter education classes and providing commission meetings online.
- Returned to the normal stocking schedule and are moving fish.
- Ongoing fish surveys across the state including Eagle Nest Lake and Navajo Lake.
- Officers continue to be a strong presence across New Mexico, especially working on off-highway vehicle issues
- Entered an agreement with Tourism and other agencies for a new campaign *Keep New Mexico True*. The campaign will run from now until September.
- A video highlighting the Department's accomplishments was presented.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Initiation of Game Management Unit Boundary Rule [09:52:27 AM \(00:36:41\)](#)

Stewart Liley presented the Department's proposed changes to the Boundary Descriptions for Game Management Units Rule (19.30.4 NMAC).

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Initiation of Hunter Education Rule [10:04:35 AM \(00:48:49\)](#)

Lance Cherry presented the Department's proposed changes to the Hunter Education Rule (19.36.3 NMAC) to allow first-time youth hunters, eight years of age and older, the ability to hunt small game, turkey, javelina, deer and pronghorn antelope for two license years in the Department's Mentored-Youth Hunting (MY) Program.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Update on the Department's Native Fish program (Discussion) [10:38:12 AM \(01:22:27\)](#)

Kirk Patten presented an update on the native fish program including priority initiatives, individual project outcomes and progress towards conservation goals and recovery. Priority activities include stream habitat restoration, repatriation of native fish and invertebrates.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Financial Review, Discussion, Fiscal Year 2022 Capital Request (Action Item) [11:45:26 AM \(02:23:18\)](#)

Paul Varela presented the Department's financial and license sales data for the past three fiscal years for discussion purposes. The presentation included revenue data related to license sales, federal revenue and other revenue generated by the Department. In addition, the Department sought Commission approval of the five-year Capital Plan.

Motion by: Commissioner Bates moved to approve the Capital Plan as presented.

Seconded by: Commissioner Cramer

Approved: Roll call vote – Unanimously: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Vice-chairwoman Salazar-Henry, Commissioner Cramer, Commissioner Vesbach, Commissioner Soules and Commissioner

Bates.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Request to Recognize United Special Sportsman Alliance as a Qualified Non-Profit Organization to receive donated licenses or permits and as a Qualified Non-profit Wish Granting organization to receive elk licenses pursuant to 17-3-13.5 NMSA 1978 (Action Item) [12:27:28 PM \(03:05:20\)](#)

Chad Nelson presented the Department's request to recognize United Special Sportsman Alliance as a qualified non-profit organization to receive donated hunting licenses or permits and also as a wish-granting organization to receive one of the two elk licenses reserved in state law (17-3-13.5 NMSA 1978) for persons under the age of 21 with life-threatening illnesses.

Motion by: Commissioner Bates moved to approve USSA as qualified non-profit organization to receive donated hunting licenses or permits and also to receive one of the two elk licenses.

Seconded by: Commissioner Vesbach

Approved: Roll call vote – Unanimously: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Vice-chairwoman Salazar-Henry, Commissioner Cramer, Commissioner Vesbach and Commissioner Bates.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: General Public Comments [12:33:27 PM \(03:11:19\)](#)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Closed Executive Session [12:46:49 PM \(03:24:41\)](#)

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.

Moved by: Vice-chairwoman Salazar-Henry

Seconded by: Commissioner Vesbach

Approved: Roll call vote - Unanimously: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Vice-chairwoman Salazar-Henry, Commissioner Cramer, Commissioner Vesbach and Commissioner Bates.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: Return from Executive Session [02:03:04 PM \(03:25:07\)](#)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: Adjourn at 2:14 PM [02:14:56 PM \(03:36:58\)](#)

Moved by: Vice-chairwoman Salazar-Henry

Seconded by: Commissioner Cramer

Approved: Roll call vote - Unanimously: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Vice-chairwoman Salazar-Henry, Commissioner Cramer, Commissioner Vesbach and Commissioner Bates.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

NEW MEXICO STATE GAME COMMISSION

June 25, 2020

VIRTUAL MEETING LOCATION

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

**Michael
B. Sloane** Digitally signed by
Michael B. Sloane
Date: 2020.09.15
10:16:27 -06'00'

Michael B. Sloane

Date



Sharon Salazar Hickey, Chair

New Mexico State Game Commission

9/18/2020

Date

Final Copy