

**New Mexico State Game Commission New Mexico**  
**Department of Game and Fish**  
**Virtual Meeting Notes**  
**August 13, 2020**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Meeting Called to Order** 08:39:52 AM (00:01:33)

Called to order by Chairwoman Salazar Hickey at 8:39 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Roll Call** 08:41:36 AM (00:03:17)

All present: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Vice-chairwoman Salazar-Henry, Commissioner Bates, Commissioner Cramer, Commissioner Lopez, Commissioner Soules and Commissioner Vesbach.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Approval of Agenda** 08:43:08 AM (00:04:49)

**Motion by:** Commissioner Vesbach moved to approve the agenda amending agenda item number eight to change the word general public comment to agenda items and to remove agenda item 14b.

**Seconded by:** Vice-chairwoman Salazar-Henry.

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

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Consent Agenda** 08:43:32 AM (00:08:12)

**A. Approval of Minutes of June 25, 2020, Virtual meeting**

**B. Approval of License Revocations**

**C. Approval of Global Opportunities Unlimited as a non-profit to receive donated licenses**

**D. Approval of Department's Asset Disposal Request**

**Motion by:** Vice-chairwoman Salazar-Henry moved to approve consent items A, C and D as written and remove item B for further Commission discussion and action.

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Vesbach.

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

**Motion by:** Vice-chairwoman Salazar-Henry moved to approve consent items 4B to for all accept for five individuals for review at the next commission meeting.

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Vesbach.

**Approved:** Roll call vote – Approve: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Vice-chairwoman Salazar-Henry, Commissioner Bates, Commissioner Lopez, Commissioner Soules and Commissioner Vesbach. Disapprove: Commissioner Cramer.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Director's Report (Discussion)** 09:24:30 AM (00:46:11)

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

- The Department stocked 15,000 Gila Trout into Whitewater creek, the culmination of a considerable effort from the Department to restore over 20 miles of occupied habitat for the native Gila trout and an additional Gila Trout fishery.
- Several employees and commissioners attended the WAFWA 2020 meeting.
  - o Hosting the 2021 meetings in New Mexico.

- With the increasingly popular New Mexico Trout Challenge, the Department is prepared to launch the New Mexico Bass Challenge this fall.
- The Department and Commission extend our condolences to our colleagues in Texas who lost their lives conducting a bighorn sheep survey.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Rule Making Hearing on the new Migratory Game Bird Rule for the 2020-2021 Hunting Season** 09:24:30 AM (00:46:11)

Stewart Liley presented the Department's final 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. The proposed amendments focus on:

- Duck Season in the north zone of the Central Flyway running from October 10, 2020 to January 13, 2021.
- Duck Season in the south zone of the Central Flyway running from October 28, 2020 to January 31, 2021.
- Duck Season in the Pacific Flyway running from October 19, 2020 to January 31, 2021.
- Northern pintail bag limit to remain at 1 per USFWS regulatory framework.
- Move youth crane hunt to November 21, 2020.
- The number of sandhill crane permits issued will remain the same. Based on allocation, permits will be redistributed between existing hunts.

**Motion by:** Commissioner Lopez moved to repeal and replace 19.31.6 NMAC, as presented by the Department and allow the Department to make minor corrections to comply with filing this rule with State Records and Archives.

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Cramer.

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

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Rule Hearing on Repealing and replacing the Boundary Descriptions for Game Management Units Rule** 09:44:24 AM (01:06:04)

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

- Areas that were inadvertently not included in any Game Management Unit (GMU),
- Assigning areas to only one GMU that were inadvertently assigned to two GMUs,
- Modifying GMU assignment of certain areas and/or boundary descriptions to align with implementation on the ground. Other proposed minor changes include modifying boundary descriptions so that they correspond to features on the ground, using correct feature names and including additional clarifying language.

**Motion by:** Commissioner Bates moved to repeal and replace 19.30.4 NMAC, as presented by the Department and allow the Department to make minor corrections to comply with filing this rule with State Records and Archives.

**Seconded by:** Vice-chairwoman Salazar-Henry.

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

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: General Public Comments** 10:02:18 AM (01:23:51)

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Availability of Director's Draft of the Biennial Review of WCA Species (Discussion)** 10:45:56 AM (01:57:31)

Matt Wunder requested that the Commission approve the Draft 2020 Biennial Review of state listed threatened or endangered species and open a 14-day public comment period pursuant to the Wildlife Conservation Act (17-2-40 NMSA 1978).

**Motion by:** Commissioner Cramer moved to authorize the Department to initiate the opening of a 28-day comment period on the Director's Draft 2020 Biennial Review of state listed threatened or endangered species to commence upon the publication of a legal notice of the comment period.

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Bates.

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

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Initiation of Public Land User Stamp Rule (Discussion)** 11:25:32 AM (02:37:07)

Stewart Liley presented the Department's initial perspectives on changes to the Habitat Stamp Program rule (19.34.6 NMAC) based on public comment and coordination with the federal partners from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and United States Forest Service (USFS). Proposed changes will include reducing the number of appointed Citizen Advisory Committees (CAC) and removing redundancies in the planning process.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Subsequent Presentation of the Hunter Education Rule (Discussion)** 12:39:31 PM (02:37:07)

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. The proposed age rollback would more effectively align with the minimum age requirement of 10 for online hunter education certification. It would also allow hunting opportunities for pronghorn antelope.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Approval of Department's Fiscal Year 2022 Budget** 01:44:05 PM (04:35:33)

Paul Varela presented the Departments proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Operating Budget Request for Commission review, approval and certification. The Department will seek final approval from the Commission for submission by the statutory deadline of September 1, 2020.

**Motion by:** Vice-chairwoman Salazar-Henry moved to approve the Department's Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget as presented.

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Bates.

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

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Initiation of Importation of Live Non-Domestic Animals, Birds and Fish Rule (Discussion)** 02:01:55 PM (04:53:23)

Kirk Patten presented an overview of proposed amendments to the Importation of Live Non-Domestic Animals, Birds and Fish Rule (19.35.7 NMAC). This presentation will serve to open the rule for Game Commission consideration of amendments. Proposals include:

- Removing the requirement for Game Commission review for any permit application for the importation of carnivores into New Mexico.
- Removing the requirement for fish hatchery renovation or depopulation upon a positive finding of Bacterial Kidney Disease.
- Clarifying language for whirling disease testing at different fish ages.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Closed Executive Session** 02:28:30 PM (05:19:58)

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:** Vice-chairwoman Salazar-Henry moved to adjourn into Executive Session closed to the public pursuant to Section 10-15-1(H)(8) NMSA 1978, to discuss property acquisition.

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Bates.

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

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: Return from Executive Session** 04:32:32 PM (05:26:43)

**Motion by:** Commissioner Lopez moved to adjourn.

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Bates.

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

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: Adjourn at** 4:36:14 PM (05:30:24)

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES  
NEW MEXICO STATE GAME COMMISSION

August 13, 2020

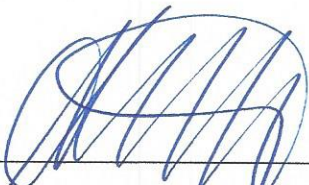
VIRTUAL MEETING LOCATION  
<http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/webcast/>

Michael  
B. Sloane

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Date



Sharon Salazar Hickey, Chair

New Mexico State Game Commission

9/18/2020

Date