

# Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

## DRAFT of Minutes

**Thursday ~ March 21, 2016 ~ 6:00 p.m.**  
**Nevada Department of Wildlife**  
**Conference Room B**  
**1100 Valley Road, Reno, Nevada**

### MEMBERS

Sean Shea, Chair  
Miles Humphreys, Jr., Vice-chair  
Michelle Spencer, Secretary  
Cathy Smith  
William Tamblyn

#### **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** (Non-action item)

Chair Shea led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **2. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** (Non-action item)

Chair Shea called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

**PRESENT:** Miles Humphreys, Jr., Sean Shea, Cathy Smith, Michelle Spencer and William Tamblyn

**ABSENT:** None

Jen Gustafson – Deputy District Attorney, was also present.

#### **3. PUBLIC COMMENTS** (Non-action item)

There were no public comments.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 21, 2016, MINUTES** (For possible action)

Hearing no public comment Chair Shea asked for Board discussion or a motion.

Member Smith asked that Project 1 be changed to read Project 21 on page 2 under item 7.

***It was moved by Member Spencer, seconded by Member Humphreys, Jr., to approve the January 21, 2016, minutes, as amended. The motion carried unanimously.***

#### **5. BOARD MEMBER MEETING ASSIGNMENT** (Non-action item) – *A discussion and selection of member(s) to attend the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meetings on: 1) March 24 and 25, 2016, in Yerington, Nevada; and 2) May 13 and 14, 2016, in Reno, Nevada.*

Chair Shea will attend the March 24 and 25, 2016, meetings in Yerington, Nevada.

Member Smith and Chair Shea will attend the May 13 and 14, 2016, meetings in Reno, Nevada.

#### **6. COMMITTEE, MEMBER AND LIAISON UPDATES** (Non-action items)

6-1). *Correspondence (including sportsmen's concerns) and Announcements* – There was no correspondence.

6-2). *Overview of the January 28 and 29, 2016, meetings of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners* – Chair Shea outlined actions taken at the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meetings noting that the Ewe Tags for non-resident hunters had been approved and the Unit 195

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Desert Big Horn Sheep had been removed due to issues with the landowner and access. It is thought that an agreement may be near. The Black Bear season was removed from the month of December and a letter is being sent to Senator Harry Reid about the land transfer. The Commission also may consider an apprentice tag program not a junior apprentice program and that there may be changes to wait times for Antelope and Elk in the future. Additionally, the Commission also approved the change in the PIW tag draws to before the regular draw. Chair Shea noted that a Damage Management Committee will be held in the near future.

**7. INFORMATIONAL UPDATE ON MAISON T. ORTIZ YOUTH OUTDOOR SKILLS CAMP – (Non-action item) – *An informational update on the Mason T. Ortiz Youth Outdoor Skills Camp.***

Mike Bertoldi – Mason T. Ortiz, Youth Outdoor Skills Camp, provided a video presentation on the Maison T. Ortiz Youth Outdoor Skills Camp noting the attendance increase since the camps inception in 2011. Mr. Bertoldi commented that sponsors include The Sparks Rotary Club, NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) and others based on the request of the Ortiz family for a memorial fund rather than flower after their son Maison died after a snowboarding accident in 2009. The intent is to reverse a trend of fewer youth participating in hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities in the State of Nevada. The camps are held at the Winnemucca Ranch with all volunteers being fully trained with criminal background investigation. It is hoped that the program will be expanded to other locations throughout the state to provide training in trail and firearm safety as well as survival skills along with guest speakers and other organized activities. Additional information and the video can be found at <https://mtoyouthoutdoorskills.com/gallery/.com>. Volunteer applications can also be found on the Nevada Big Horn website <http://nevadabighornsunlimited.org/>.

**8. INFORMATIONAL UPDATE ON FERAL HORSES IN WASHOE VALLEY (Non-action item) – *An informational update on feral horses in Washoe Valley.***

Alan Jenne – Habitat Chief, NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), provided an update on the ongoing discussion on ways and means to address the wild horse issues at the Scripps Wildlife Management are. Mr. Jenne noted that additional horse have found feed and water with the recent snow/rain, which impacts public safety when horse are on the roadway. Over the past winter there have been approximately 3 incidents involving vehicles and horses near the smaller of the lakes. Mr. Jenne noted that privately owned property in the area also prevents certain fencing activities and that fencing in certain areas would result in horses not having an alternate means of moving off the roadway, which is a significant concern.

Member Humphreys, Jr., commented that the most dangerous area, in his opinion, is at the south end of Washoe Lake and that in some instances fences may have been impacted by road maintenance. Of particular concern is that a family member or school bus might be involved in a tragic accident with a wild horse.

Mr. Jenne concurred with Member Humphreys, Jr., concerns and noted that a portion of the land in question is not under the control of the State and that there is limited interest in property owners to allow fencing on their property. Mr. Jenne emphasized that it is not in the public's interest to isolate

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the public right-of-way and that staff continues to work on the issue with the Nevada Department of Agriculture, State Parks and Washoe County.

Member Humphreys, Jr., noted that Washoe County has placed warning signs along the roadway and that he feels the agencies involved are still tip-toeing around the notion of fencing.

Member Spencer noted her concerns about the fence cutting and lack of interest in the wild horse issue.

Responding to Member Humphreys, Jr., inquiry about relocation of the wild horses, Mr. Jenne noted that this is an open access area and that the wild horse population continues to grow at about 20-percent annually.

9. **HUMBOLDT COUNTY ELK SUB-PLAN (First Reading)** (For possible action) – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify the draft Humboldt County Elk Sub-plan for review and possible action.*

Ed Partee - Humboldt County Biologist, provided an overview of the draft Humboldt County Elk Sub-plan noting that a total of eight (8) meetings had been held since June 2015. The Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners will have the first reading of the plan at the March meetings and will be sent back to the sub-committee if any modifications are suggested. Mr. Partee noted that the Humboldt County Commission is aware of the plan and the process.

Chair Shea opened public comment.

Rex Flowers outlined his concern with the Committee's recommendation being 50% of the TRT recommendation. The recommendation is in fact only 25% of the high allowable population gap. He suggested that issue be reviewed and increased to avoid future population issues.

Chair Shea closed public comment.

Chair Shea commented that he believes many of the issues identified by Mr. Flowers will be addressed and that he does not see a need for any specific action at this time.

No specific action was taken.

10. **WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT AND FISCAL YEAR 2017 DRAFT PREDATION MANAGEMENT PLAN (Second Draft)** (For possible action) – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify a report from the Wildlife Damage Management Committee chairman, the second draft of the proposed Fiscal Year 2017 Predator Management Plan.*

Chris Hampson commented that this is the second reading and that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners is seeking final comments and recommendation.

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Chair Shea opened public comment.

Gerald Lent - Nevada Hunters Association, asked that his comments be on the record. Mr. Lent noted his concerns about the lack of Park Committee recommendations and questioned whether anyone had actually read the entire document, which he believes is required if the board is going to recommend approval. Mr. Lent noted that the agenda item does not include all projects included in the plan making it difficult to determine whether or not the projects are each approved. Drawing attention to the 80-percent rule, Mr. Lent questioned why the Park Committee recommendations were not included on the agenda and that he believes it is important that those recommendations be part of the discussion and decision making process. Drawing attention to AB78 and the 80-percent rule, Mr. Lent noted that AB78 mandates that the board review each recommendation on the agenda before making a recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners. Mr. Lent noted the Policy 3 require that the work project be supported by scientific evidence on the need to kill coyotes in the Diamonds and that one cannot just kill coyotes or mountain lions for the heck of it without having supporting scientific evidence. Therefore, it is Mr. Lent's belief that if this is approved "carte blanche" that the board is not doing its job properly.

Chair Shea closed public comments.

Member Smith commented that she would like others to compare the information provided on the FY 2015 report with FY 2017 information. It is Member Smith's belief that the information provided is not as detailed as in the past nor as well formatted. Member Smith suggested that the plan revert to its former format. Member Smith commented that Project 21 has been ongoing since 2007 without any demonstration of the long term benefits. Long term benefit should be assessed annually to determine if projects should be continued.

Chair Shea concurred with Member Smith's comments and explained that he believes it would be difficult to recommend approval without more information.

Member Spencer noted her concern that there were no NDOW or Wildlife Services personnel available to answer questions and that she finds it difficult to provide a proper recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners without additional information.

Member Humphreys, Jr., noted that it is always better to have more, rather than less information in order to make an informed recommendation.

***It was moved by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners take no action until additional information is provided. The motion carried unanimously.***

- 11. WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, APPROVED REVISION TO EXISTING POLICY #23 ON PREDATION MANAGEMENT (First Reading)** (For possible action) – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify suggested amendments to existing Commission Policy #23 on Predation Management approved by the WDMC on Jan. 28, 2016,*

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*at their meeting in Las Vegas. The amendments suggested are generally to make the existing policy compliant with Assembly Bill 78 (adopted during the last legislative session) and to make the policy consistent with adopted practice.*

Chair Shea opened the agenda item noting that this is the first reading.

Hearing no public comment Chair Shea asked for Board discussion or a motion.

Member Smith commented that she believes this is intended to bring existing language into compliance and that she hopes that the CAB (County Advisory Board) or Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners can provide legislative testimony in the future to prevent this type of legislation as she believes this is a poor way to manage wildlife.

No specific action as this is the first reading.

- 12. COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 456, SPECIAL INCENTIVE ELK ARBITRATION PANEL, LCB File No. R031-15** (For possible action) – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify a proposed temporary regulation which expired Nov. 1, 2015, relating to amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 502.42283 by which the Commission may facilitate decisions by appointing or serving as the arbitration panel should arbitration of elk incentive tag awards become necessary.*

Hearing no public comment Chair Shea asked for Board discussion or a motion.

***It was moved by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Humphreys, Kr., to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission General Regulation 456, Special Incentive Elk Arbitration Panel, LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) File No. R031-15, as written. The motion carried unanimously.***

- 13. COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 460, Definition of "Spike Elk," LCB File No. R013-16** (For possible action) – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed amendments to NAC 502.104 and 502.1045 to define "Spike Elk" in a manner that limits inadvertent errors in the field. The intent is to consider and possibly broaden the definition of spike in a manner that is consistent with the management objective of defining a spike while reducing the likelihood of errors in harvest identification.*

Chair Shea opened the agenda item and asked for public comment.

Darin Elmore commented that as a tag holder for the past two seasons he has found that the definition of a spike elk somewhat vague in that the intent is to manage the young bull population. However, a success rate of only 14-percent this year is much too low. Mr. Elmore recalled an incident in which a citation was issued for a branch that was below the ear. It is Mr. Elmore's recommendation that the definition of a spike elk be modified based on the two photos contained in the report.

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Chair Shea closed public comments.

Responding to Chair Shea's inquiry about the location below the ear, Lt. Kristy Knight explained that a nub is considered a branch and that she did not anticipate any issues anywhere along the branch.

Chair Shea pointed out that the single spike and fork are in the same age group and that the purpose is to reduce the number of bull elk.

Member Humphreys, Jr., concurred with Chair Shea that the intent is to reduce the number of young bulls and that a recommendation should be made to modify the definition to achieve that goal.

There was some discussion about the modification on the definition of a spike elk. During the discussion it was suggested that spike could be changed to mean that any elk with at least one antler without branching above the ear or not to exceed a specified length above the ear. Other discussion noted that there should not be more than two branches on either antler and that anything below the ears should be removed from the definition.

***It was moved by Member Spencer, seconded by Chair Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the spike elk hunt definition with the following modification that a spike elk is any elk with two or fewer branches. The motion carried unanimously.***

14. **COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 458, Electronic Rifle Triggers, Caliber and Cartridge Length, and Smokeless Powder Restrictions, LCB File No. R144-15** (For possible action) – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify a regulation relating to amending Chapter 503 of the Nevada Administrative Code. The proposed regulation amendment contains two changes. The first change will clarify the use of black powder substitutes that are considered smokeless powder. The second change would make it unlawful to hunt a big game mammal with a rifle using a centerfire cartridge of caliber .46 or larger or an overall loaded cartridge length of 3.8 inches or longer. The amendment would also make it unlawful to hunt a big game mammal with any firearm equipped with an electronic or computer-controlled trigger.*

Chair Shea noted that this item is still in the workshop phase and will be heard at the next regular meeting of the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife. Chair Shea opened public comments.

Dan Shoupe expressed his opposition to anything that requires a specific caliber. Mr. Shoupe explained that there are most likely fewer than 50 individuals in the western states that would shoot a thousand yards or more. Mr. Shoupe noted that an animal can be wounded by most types of ammunition and that only an unethical hunter would resort to such practices.

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Daryl Harwell drew attention to his concerns about how this revision might adversely affect handicapped sportsmen confined to a wheelchair using a specifically design mechanism to fire a weapon.

Rex Flowers - Coalition for Nevada Wildlife, noted that while the group supports the electronic trigger and smokeless powder portions of the proposal, there is concern about the 50 caliber restriction and the need for LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) clarifications. Mr. Flowers pointed out that the regulation is largely based on anecdotal and hearsay testimony and that handicap concerns were discussed and resolved.

Chair Shea closed public comment.

Chair Shea noted that on the handicap this was discussed and not affect what is already in place. Of particular concern is the lack of LCB clarifications on caliber. Chair Shea suggested that since there is another workshop scheduled that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners take no action pending receipt of the LCB caliber clarifications.

***It was moved by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners take no action on Commission General Regulation 458, Electronic Rifle Triggers, Caliber and Cartridge Length, and Smokeless Powder Restrictions, LCB File No. R144-15 until clarification from the LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) on cartridge lengths is received. The motion carried unanimously.***

The meeting recessed at 7:24 p.m. and reconvened at 7:34 p.m.

15. **COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 459, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones), LCB File No. R145-15** (For possible action) – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify a regulation relating to amending Chapters 501 and 503 of the Nevada Administrative Code. The proposed regulation amendment contains two changes. The first change would make the prohibition of using aerial devices for the purpose of hunting year-round rather than the current prohibition of 48-hours prior to any open season and during any open season. The second change is to clarify existing language that prohibits the use of unmanned aerial vehicles for the purpose of hunting, locating, or observing big game animals. The changes would extend aerial scouting prohibitions and clarify the existing regulation by explicitly listing unmanned aerial vehicles.*

Chair Shea opened public comment.

Lt. Kristy Knight stated she was available to answer questions.

Caron Tayloe questioned how the non-consumptive public could be increasingly prohibited from harassing wildlife with drones

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Rex Flowers - Coalition for Nevada Wildlife, commented that the regulation was generally supported except for the no-fly that should, in his opinion, be restricted only from July 1 through February 28 each year making the regulation easier for the public to understand.

Dan Shoupe commented that there is one other late season for Snow Geese.

Chair Shea closed public comments.

During the discussion it was noted that the suggestion was to remove the 48-hour provision and replace it with a set calendar date for no-fly. Other discussion noted that while non-consumptive users can be fined for wildlife harassment, harassment has to be proved. Other discussion suggested that the regulation be modified to read "any game animal" rather than "big game mammal".

***It was moved by Member Humphreys, Jr., seconded by Chair Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission General Regulation 459, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones), LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) File No. R145-15 with the following modifications: 1) change "Big Game Mammal" to read "Any Game Mammal" and 2) replace 48-hours with the specific calendar date of July 1 through February 28. The motion carried unanimously.***

**16. COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 440, Trail Cameras and Other Devices, LCB File No. R012-16** (For possible action) – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify a regulation relating to amending Chapter 503 of the Nevada Administrative Code. The proposed regulation change is intended to restrict the use of motion and heat sensing cameras that are left for a period of time, and not held in the hand. The proposed language would prohibit the use of trail cameras to locate or observe big game mammals for the purpose of hunting from August 1 to December 31.*

Chair Shea opened public comment.

Rex Flowers suggested that the regulation be modified to prohibit live action cameras only rather than still only trail cameras. Mr. Flowers recalled language written and reviewed in August and September 2013. Mr. Flowers noted that once again the regulation was based mostly on anecdotal and hearsay evidence on how the cameras were being misused. Additionally, little attention was paid to the effects of such regulations to small businesses such as small sporting goods retailers, gasoline retailers, grocers and motel/hotel operators that cater to those traveling to the area.

Jonathan Lesperance concurred with Mr. Flowers' comments noting that still cameras also provide a way for individuals to share their hunting experience with others. Additionally, still cameras also provide a means for non-hunters to capture photos of wildlife.

Dan Shoupe agreed with previous comments noting that the way the regulation is written even non-hunters would be prohibited from using a still camera.



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Mike Bertoldi noted that real time cameras send a signal to either handheld or laptop devices and concurred that real time cameras should be prohibited.

Chair Shea closed public comments.

Member Smith noted her concern about hunters being able to identify the location of a bear's den when starting to hibernate and will support the regulation as written.

Member Humphreys, Jr., commented that he supports giving game a fair chance and his opposition to the use of a trail cam to possibly assist in the harvest of an animal.

Member Spencer questioned how one would discern whether or not the camera owner had a tag or was assisting a tag holder.

Lt. Kristy Knight stated that it is difficult to enforce and would take some time to properly investigate whether the camera was being used for hunting purposes or not. Lt. Knight noted that this issue is a low priority given the limited number of Game Wardens and low success rate when prosecuted.

Chair Shea commented that the real time cameras were his primary concern and that no one should be exempt including those listed in the draft regulation.

***It was moved by Member Spencer to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission General Regulation 440, Trail Cameras and Other Devices, LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) File No. R012-16 as written. Member Spencer withdrew the motion.***

***It was moved by Member Spencer to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners deny COMMISSION General Regulation 440, Trail Cameras and Other Devices, LCB File No. R012-16 as written and include a provision to prohibit the use of real time cameras. Member Spencer withdrew the motion.***

***It was moved by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission General Regulation 440, Trail Cameras and Other Devices, LCB File No. R012-16 with the modification to only prohibit real time trail cameras. The motion carried: Members Humphreys, Jr., Spencer, Tamblyn and Chair Shea assenting; and Member Smith dissenting.***

- 17. APRPC RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUEST FOR COMMISSION GUIDANCE ON POLICY NUMBERING AND POLICY REVIEW DELEGATION TO VARIOUS COMMITTEES**  
(For possible action) – A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify the Committee's recommendation and request the Commission's guidance to retain the current policy numbering format, and to delegate the review of Commission Policy #24, "Hunting Opportunities Among Weapons and Hunter Groups" to the Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee, and to delegate the review of Commission Policies #60 through #67 related to habitat and publically owned lands to the Commission's Public Lands Committee.

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Chair Shea opened public comment.

Rex Flowers noted that his only concern was the move towards elimination of policy numbers and rely solely on Titles. Mr. Flowers believes that policy number should be retained as Policy 26 is identified in State Elk Management Plan. Mr. Flowers also noted that in addition to the removal of policy number there is a desire to “farm out” certain policies to specific subcommittees.

Chair Shea closed public comments.

Chair Shea pointed out the difficulty that would be encountered without policy numbers as a reference point.

***It was moved by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners deny APRPC Recommendations and Request for Commission Guidance on Policy Numbering and Policy Review Delegation to Various Committees. The motion carried unanimously.***

- 18. RULES OF PRACTICE REVIEW, STATUS, AND COMMISSION GUIDANCE** (For possible action) – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify a status report on the Rules of Practice review, including Commission Policies #1 “General Guidelines for the Commission;” #3 “Appeals;” #4 “Petition Process and Regulatory Adoptions Policy,” and NAC 501.195 related to petitions, and NAC 501.140 - 190 related to appeals.*

Hearing no public comments Chair Shea asked for board discussion or a motion.

***It was moved by Member Humphrey’s Jr., seconded by Chair Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Rules of Practice Review, Status, and Commission Guidance, as written, The motion carried unanimously.***

- 19. COMMISSION REGULATION 14-11 AMENDMENT #3, 2015 – 2016 Upland Game, Migratory Upland Game and Furbearer Seasons and Limits Amendment** (For possible action) – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify amendment #3 to the 2015 – 2016 season dates and length for the third Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area wild turkey hunt period. Amendment #3 would extend the wild turkey hunt for this period from two days to its original, intended 9-day length extending from April 23 through May 1, 2016 rather than the current two day hunt period of April 30 through May 1, 2016.*

Chair Shea opened the agenda item.

Chris Hampson – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), commented that the only modification was to correct the third week season on Wild Turkey.

Hearing no public comment, Chair Shea asked for Board discussion or a motion.

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***It was moved by Member Humphreys, Jr., seconded by Chair Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 14-11 Amendment #3, 2015 – 2016 Upland Game, Migratory Upland Game and Furbearer Seasons and Limits Amendment, as written. The motion carried unanimously.***

- 20. COMMISSION REGULATION 16-11 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 2016–2017 Season** (For possible action) – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify recommendations for seasons, bag limits, and special regulations for migratory game birds for the 2016 – 2017 season and adopt regulations that comply with the proposed regulations framework for the 2016 – 2017 hunting seasons on certain migratory game birds established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Commission will also consider rules regulating public hunting on Wildlife Management Areas and designated state lands.*

Chair Shea opened public comment.

Chris Hampson – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), commented that this is similar to the previous year with a modification that allows up to 17-years old to participate in the Youth Water Fowl hunt under the Federal Framework.

Darryl Harwell noted that there was some concern since 16 and 17 year olds may have driver's licenses. The Federal Guideline requires that a licensed adult age 18 or older has to accompany a youth during the youth hunt.

Responding to Member Smith's question about the 39-percent decline in population that is not reflected in the bag limits, Mr. Hampson noted that the decline is due to the continued drought. As the drought has continued water levels have dwindled significantly causing water fowl to by-pass the region during their migration. The recommended bag limits are believed to be the same as the previous year.

***It was moved by Member Humphreys, Jr., seconded by Chair Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 16-11 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 2016–2017 Season, as written. The motion carried unanimously.***

- 21. WASHOE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE MEMBERS AND/OR STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS, REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND SELECTION OF TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS** [Non-action item] – *Selection of additional agenda item(s) for the next meeting is May 5, 2016.*

No new agenda items were identified.

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### **22. PUBLIC COMMENTS** [Non-action item]

Mike Bertoldi commented that real time camera could be easily identified by Game Wardens as they have antennas.

Gerry Lent pointed out that, in his opinion, each of the projects identified in the Predator Management Plan should be heard individually allowing the public to provide up to three (3) minutes of comment on each project. Mr. Lent believes that it is inappropriate to limit comment to three minutes without having an opportunity to speak on each project.

Darin Elmore commented that he planned to attend the next TAAHC (Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee) meeting where changes to antelope and elk waiting period would be discussed. Mr. Elmore believes that the topic should be a standing agenda item to provide ample opportunity for public input as many individuals are heavily invested in the bonus points.

Darryl Harwell noted that the Tahoe Pyramid Link has fencing along portions of its route and questions why it is impossible to do something similar in Washoe Valley to address wild horses.

Mitch Bailey noted his concerns about the issues surrounding overall cartridge length and pointed out that a. Of particular concern is the unintended consequence that may be associated with any major changes. Mr. Bailey outlined the damage done when a 20-gauge shotgun with bird shot is only considered a legal weapon for mountain lions and it should not be. Mr. Bailey does not believe that there is any need for additional advantage such as trail cameras and drone in hunting. It is Mr. Bailey's belief that hunters and non-hunters do not need to use a drone noting that non-hunters can use their camera in the field to capture photographs.

### **23. ADJOURNMENT** [Non-action item]

Chair Shea adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.