

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

DRAFT of Minutes

Thursday ~ June 15, 2017 ~ 6:00 p.m.
Nevada Department of Wildlife
Conference Room B
1100 Valley Road, Reno, Nevada

MEMBERS

Sean Shea, Chair
Michelle Spencer, Vice-chair
Meghan Di Rocco
Arnold Pitts
Steven Robinson

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. A quorum was established.

PRESENT: Arnie Pitts, Steve Robinson, Sean Shea and Michelle Spencer.

ABSENT: Meghan Di Rocco

Jen Gustafson – Deputy District Attorney, was also present.

Chair Shea noted an oversight that resulted in the agenda having a duplication of item 14.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS [Non-action item]

Gerald Lent read a prepared statement into the record (copy on file)

Don Molde - Nevada Wildlife Alliance, concurred with Mr. Lent's comments noting that AB101 had not been approved by the legislature. Drawing attention to the nearly \$6-million expended by NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) on predator control since 2002 approximately 10,000 coyotes per year have been taken with Mule Deer populations continuing to decline. Mr. Molde noted that this was common throughout the western U.S. and not an issue unique to the State of Nevada. Mr. Molde pointed out that while NDOW has tried to show a benefit from the program the statistical techniques did not show any evidence of benefit to Mule Deer populations. Additionally, evidence suggests that coyote litter sizes had nearly tripled and resulted in a shift to juvenile males.

4. APPROVAL OF MAY 4, 2017, MINUTES (For possible action)

Chair opened the agenda item and hearing no public comment asked for Board discussion or a motion.

Chair Shea recalled that he had talked about the need for NDOW to update their website and his subsequent discussion with Chris Vasey, that indicate NDOW is in the process of designing a new website.

It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by Member Robinson, to approve the May 4, 2017, minutes, as submitted. The motion carried: Members Pitts, Robinson, Spencer and Chair Shea assenting; and Member Di Rocco absent.

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- 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) June 23 and 24, 2017, in Las Vegas, Nevada; and 2) August 11 and 12, 2017, meetings in Minden, Nevada.*

Chair Shea will attend the June 23 and 24 meetings in Las Vegas as well as the Heritage Committee meeting on June 23.

Member Robinson will attend the August 11 and 12 meetings in Minden.

Member Spencer may also attend the August 11 meeting.

- 6. COMMITTEE, MEMBER AND LIAISON UPDATES** [Non-action items]

6-1). Correspondence (including sportsmen's concerns) and Announcement – Chair Shea noted that there was no correspondence to report. Chair Shea commented that an Administration, Policy and Procedures meeting will be held on Thursday, June 22, 2017 at the Clark County Commission as well as an 8:00 a.m. meeting June 23, 2017, of the Heritage Committee that he will attend.

6-2). Overview of the May 12 and 13, 2017, meetings of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners - Chair Shea noted that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners had accepted most of the recommendations made for Washoe County.

- 7. BIODIVERSITY PRESENTATION** [Non-action item] – *An informational presentation on NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) biodiversity programs and activities.* Jennifer Newmark

Chair Shea noted the absence of Jennifer Newmark and stated that the presentation will be added to a future agenda.

- 8. LANDOWNER DEER AND ANTELOPE COMPENSATION TAG PROGRAM** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify a briefing to the Commission on recent developments regarding the Landowner Deer and Antelope Compensation Tag Program.*

Chair Shea opened the agenda item noting that he had not received and could not find any support material on the item on the NDOW website.

Rex Flowers recalled that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners at the last Commission meeting had engaged in significant discussion on the matter and that the intent is to identify any regulations that may need modification. Mr. Flowers noted that the regulation is part of NRS and would most likely need legislative action. Mr. Flowers noted that in his discussion with interested parties the overall feeling was that there should be a standardized process that is applicable statewide under a single administrator rather than a region by region process. Other concerns include how populations are counted on private property and that some property owners appear to receive more in compensation than others for similar issues. Mr. Flowers recommended that the matter be sent to Committee for an in-depth review and recommendation.

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Ray Kebisch stated that while he supports landowner tags he believes that property owners should take measures to protect their crops. Additionally, hunts should also be open to the public on private lands with access for a specific hunt such as archery, muzzleloader, etc.

Chair Shea closed public comment.

Member Robinson recommended that the matter be taken to Committee for review noting that there appears to be a lot of abuse in the program that require oversight to make it a better program.

Member Pitts noted his concern about landowners receiving compensation if damage is done after the crops have been harvested.

Chair Shea noted that NDOW sends someone to take the count once a call is received.

Member Pitts suggested that the landowner should be selling the tags to the hunters rather than brokers.

Chair Shea recommended that additional questions and concerns be conveyed to him via email for presentation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners at their upcoming meeting.

Jen Gustafson – Deputy District Attorney, suggested that the board include the suggestions in their motion with last minute items being forwarded in writing to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners via Chair Shea.

It was moved by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners refer Landowner Compensation to Committee for discussion with the following recommendations: range of hunt be one mile from the damaged area; restrict weapons choice and remain within that season's guidelines; rancher secure areas where feasible to prevent future crop damage, rancher to sell tags to sportsmen rather than a broker; standardize counting procedures and process with oversight by a single individual, take steps to assure that property owners are not baiting animals.

Chair Shea commented that additional questions to bring forward to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners can be emailed to him. Additionally, he believes there may be some abuses of the existing program.

The motion carried: Members Pitts, Robinson, Spencer and Chair Shea assenting; and Member Di Rocco absent.

9. DUCK STAMP REQUEST [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify projects submitted for funding from Duck Stamp funds.*

Chair Shea opened the agenda item. Hearing no public comment Chair Shea noted his concern that staff was not present to address any questions that might arise and asked for Board discussion or a motion.

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It was moved by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Pitts, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Duck Stamp funding requests, as submitted. The motion carried: Members Pitts, Robinson, Spencer and Chair Shea assenting; and Member Di Rocco absent.

10. UPLAND GAME BIRD STAMP REQUEST [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify projects submitted for Upland Game Bird stamp funds.*

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

Jonathan Lesperance commented that initially he felt that the upland Game Bird Stamp was just another fee. However, the projects being funded by the fee are fascinating in what they do for conservation.

Chair Shea closed public comment.

Chair Shea suggested that NDOW should be looking for additional funding from NGO's (Non-government organizations) Of some concern is that biologists have no idea what happened to birds that had been in a pen and reiterated his earlier concern that staff was not present at tonight's (June 15, 2017) meeting to address questions and concerns.

Member Robinson recommended that projects funded on private property should include some discussion about how sportsmen benefit.

It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by Chair Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Upland Game Bird Stamp Requests with the following provision that additional information be provided to better understand the mortality rate on Columbia Sharp Tail Grouse; and how sportsmen benefit from funded projects located on private property and information on what happened to the birds that were supposed to be in a pen. The motion carried: Members Pitts, Robinson, Spencer and Chair Shea assenting; and Member Di Rocco absent.

11. HERITAGE PROJECT EXTENSION REQUESTS [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify recommendations and requests for extension of projects approved in previous years pursuant to NAC 501.340.*

Chair Shea opened the agenda item and hearing no public comment asked for Board discussion or a motion.

It was moved by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Heritage Project Extension Request as submitted. The motion carried: Members Pitts, Robinson, Spencer and Chair Shea assenting; and Member Di Rocco absent.

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- 12. HERITAGE FUNDING REALLOCATION** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify the reallocation of unused Heritage funds from previously approved projects to any other previously approved projects from the same fiscal year Pursuant to NAC 501.340.*

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

Rex Flowers suggested that Projects 16-04 and 16-09 be reallocated to 16-03.

Chair Shea closed public comment.

It was moved by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Robinson, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the Heritage Funding Reallocation with the following modification: reallocate Projects 16-04 and 16-09 to Project 16-03. The motion carried: Members Pitts, Robinson, Spencer and Chair Shea assenting; and Member Di Rocco absent.

- 13. FISCAL YEAR 2018 HERITAGE PROJECT PROPOSALS** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify recommendations from the Heritage Committee to approve 2018 project applications for funding.*

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

Ray Kebisch suggested that a proposal be made to repair and improve existing guzzlers rather than the installation of new ones.

Rex Flowers noted that a deficit for Heritage Projects had been funded by a donation by NBU (Nevada Bighorns Unlimited). Additionally, Mr. Flowers believes that these types of projects such as 18-08 that improve habitat, specific for fisheries project, migratory birds and habitat improvement should also be seeking other funding sources including Duck and upland Game Bird stamp funds.

Chair Shea closed public comment.

It was moved by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Robinson, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Fiscal Year 2018 Heritage proposals as written with an amendment to Project 18-08 to use Trout and Duck stamps funds as it deals with fisheries and migratory bird and habitat. The motion carried: Members Pitts, Robinson, Spencer and Chair Shea assenting; and Member Di Rocco absent.

- 14. COMMISSION REGULATION CR 16-13, AMENDMENT #1 – Upland Game and Furbearer Seasons, Bag Limits and Special Regulations 2017–2018** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify amendments to this regulation for seasons, bag limits, and special regulations for upland game birds, rabbits, wild turkey, furbearers, and falconry seasons for 2017–2018.*

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Chair opened the item asked for public comment.

Mitch Bailey – Trappers Association, commented that the Trappers Association recommends accepting the recommendation of the biologist on Bobcat and Gray fox.

Shannon Green - Nevada Sporting Alliance, stated that NSA also supports the furbearer season as submitted.

Caron Tayloe outlined her concerns about an increase in the Bobcat Season and explained that the longer season will also increase the capture of non-target species. Ms. Tayloe noted that she has encountered animals that were tossed aside since they were not the intended target.

Don Molde commented that, in his opinion, there is no science involved other than the data collection, which is used on a limited basis. Mr. Molde noted that the kitten population appear to be down to about 53-percent which is about half of what should be 100 kittens. Mr. Molde believes that the recommendation is not based on science and caters to trappers. Mr. Molde stated that he believes this to be a poor decision.

Rex Flowers pointed out that new guidelines for season and quota setting had been developed from three years of trend data. It appears that NDOW now has sufficient information to allow the increase based on that. Mr. Flowers recommends that the proposal be supported.

Jonathan Lesperance commented that he had seen an abundance of bobcat tracks and believes that the recommendation is science based.

Chair Shea closed public comment.

It was moved by Member Robinson, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation CR 16-13, Amendment #1 – Upland Game and Furbearer Seasons, Bag Limits and Special Regulations 2017–2018 as written. The motion carried: Members Pitts, Robinson, Spencer and Chair Shea assenting; and Member Di Rocco absent.

14. COMMISSION REGULATION 17-06 AMENDMENT #1, 2018 HERITAGE TAG ORGANIZATION/VENDOR SELECTION AND SPECIAL REGULATIONS [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify 2018 Heritage Tag vendors/organization recommendations.*

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

Chair Shea drew attention to the last page of Heritage Notes and recommended that the Turkey Tag allocation for Carson Valley should be two not one. Chair Shea will bring the matter to the attention of the Heritage Committee.

It was moved by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation CR 16-13, AMENDMENT #1 – Upland Game and Furbearer Seasons, Bag Limits and Special Regulations 2017–2018 with the following modification, clarify that the Heritage Committee recommended that the Carson Valley Chukar Club receive two Wild Turkey Tags rather than one. The motion carried: Members Pitts, Robinson, Spencer and Chair Shea assenting; and Member Di Rocco absent.

- 15. DRAFT NEVADA AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN** [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 on Nevada’s Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan (AIS Plan). The AIS Plan is intended to provide guidance to AIS control and prevention programs in the State of Nevada and enhance coordination and effectiveness of AIS control efforts in Nevada and regionally through establishment of an inter-agency Nevada Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group.*

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

Jonathan Lesperance explained that part of his profession is invasive species that requires chemical control in order to get ahead. It is Mr. Lesperance’s opinion that this is a waste of time and money.

Chair Shea closed public comment.

Member Robinson noted his disappointment that no one was present from NDOW to explain the document.

Chair Shea noted that since is the first draft the matter will be seen again.

It was moved by Member Robinson, seconded by Chair Shea, to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners take no action until such time as NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) can make a presentation to the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife and others to address questions and issues of concern. The motion carried: Members Pitts, Robinson, Spencer and Chair Shea assenting; and Member Di Rocco absent.

- 16. BIENNIAL UPLAND GAME RELEASE PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2018 and 2019** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed biennial upland game release plan for fiscal years 2018 and 2019.*

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

It was moved by Member Robinson, seconded by Chair Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the Biennial upland Game Release Plan for Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019, as written. The motion carried: Members Pitts, Robinson, Spencer and Chair Shea assenting; and Member Di Rocco absent.

- 17. WASHOE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE MEMBER S AND/OR STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS, REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND SELECTION OF**

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TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS [Non-action item] – *Selection of additional agenda item(s) for the next meeting is August 3, 2017.*

The August 3, 2017, meeting agenda may include, but is not limited to 1) Election of Officers: Chair, Vice-chair and Secretary; 2) Biodiversity or Fisheries Presentation; 3) Guzzler Improvement project; and 4) discussion on predator plan specific to Washoe County.

18. PUBLIC COMMENTS [Non-action item]

Gerald Lent read a prepared statement into the record (copy on file).

Don Molde drew attention to a study conducted in southern Idaho that included control groups, statistical and financial information on predator control. Mr. Molde noted that when rabbits are plentiful coyotes prefer rabbits to deer and that he would be happy to share the Hurley Report with interested parties.

Caron Tayloe outlined legislation introduced by Senator Ratti SJR13 that was organized by sportsmen and non-consumptive representative that if federal funding is approved will lead to matching funding to increase wildlife populations.

Jonathan Lesperance outlined an incident in which he and his dogs were verbally attacked and his dogs were threatened with death. Mr. Lesperance noted his concerns about the escalating extremism and violent rhetoric. Mr. Lesperance encouraged those present to speak out against such actions when it is encountered.

19. ADJOURNMENT [Non-action item]

Chair Shea adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.