

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

DRAFT of Minutes

Thursday ~ August 2, 2018 ~ 6:00 p.m.
Nevada Department of Wildlife
Conference Room B
1100 Valley Road, Reno, Nevada

MEMBERS

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

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE [Non-action item]

Member Spencer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL [Non-action item]

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

PRESENT: Arnie Pitts, Steve Robinson and Michelle Spencer.

ABSENT: Meghan Di Rocco and Sean Shea.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS [Non-action item]

Jonathan Lesperance commented that he believes the link to support materials on the agenda may be broken.

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

August 2, 2018 – Public Comments by Gerald Lent

In accordance with Nevada's Open Meeting Law, I request my written comments be included in all the distributed minutes of this meeting.

In 1999, as a result of my group's efforts, we orchestrated a bill to privatize the Big Game Tag Drawing and take it away from the corrupt NDOW.

We have been successful up until this year of having a honest draw. Now the corruption has shown itself again.

I, along with interested Nevada hunters, have attended the draw in Fallon every year to monitor the results. This has been complete transparency.

This year I asked Director Wasley to attend the tag draw in Texas and was refused stating I could not attend.

NDOW does not want anyone to see how the draw is accomplished so they can do what they want in issuing Big Game Tags without no one watching and with no transparency.

Just like in 1990 when I demanded to see the fraudulent draw results and the State Auditor and the Legislature saw the fraud and abuse and illegal acts of NDOW and removed the drawing from their dirty hands.

NDOW even lied at a public meeting telling everyone publically that the process has not changed and it would be a public event. Lies!

We had an honest drawing since 1999 but now we are back to potentially a dishonest draw for all Nevada Sportsmen.

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Nevada Sportsmen should be very concerned!

NDOW has proven that a government that operates in secrecy cannot be trusted.

Examples of Public Information

The names of over 6,000 sexual predators are going to be released to the public.

All voter registration lists are public information.

The Pope is releasing the names of all Catholic priests accused of sexual misconduct.

All people that apply for a Big Game Tag, successful or not is public information!

You can only opt out of a “saleable list” if you don’t want your name sold commercially.

Sportsmen should be concerned whenever there is an organized effort to withhold public information and transparency from the public, fraud, abuse and illegal acts can occur.

4. APPROVAL OF JUNE 25, 2018, MINUTES (For possible action)

It was noted that Annie Pitts had been changed to read Arnie Pitts.

It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by Member Spencer to approve the June 25, 2018, minutes as amended. The motion carried with Member Di Rocco and Shea absent.

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) August 10 and 11, 2018, meetings in Caliente, Nevada; and 2) September 21 and 22, 2018, Las Vegas, Nevada.*

Chair Robinson cannot attend the August 10 and 11, 2018, meeting, but will attend the September 21 and 22, meeting in Las Vegas. Member Pitts will attend if the Las Vegas meeting is teleconferenced in Reno.

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

6-1) Correspondence (including sportsmen’s concerns) and Announcements – Chair Robinson noted correspondence from the Douglas and Carson City County attempting to reconvene the Tri-county group of Carson, Douglas and Washoe County consisting of not more than 2 members from each body. Chair Robinson stated that he and member Pitts planned to attend. Chair Robinson commented that he had received comments about how wildfire is started by discharge of fire arms and asked that NDOW or someone from Washoe County provide an overview of the causes of these fires including fires started by off road vehicles on cheat grass and bullet ricochet.

6-2) Overview of the June 20 and 30, 2018, meetings of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners – No report.

7. COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 477, Landowner Deer and Antelope Compensation Tag Program, LCB File No. 096-18 [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife*

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Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify a proposed regulation relating to amending Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation would provide direction for equitably allocating landowner deer and antelope compensation tags if the statutory limit is reached.

Chair Robinson opened public comment.

Rex Flowers recommended that the Board encourage the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to slow the process due to remaining issues about hunters being restricted to areas closer to the area where a land owner has been issued a tag using Units 161 and 162 as an example. Mr. Flowers drew attention to language under item 4 that appears to be incorrect.

Chair Robinson closed public comment.

Chair Robinson recalled having recommended that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners slow the process on Landowner Compensation tags similar to what was suggested by Mr. Flowers.

Member Pitts suggested that as with deer compensation tag applicants should have to pick a season for Elk.

It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners slow the review process for Commission General Regulation 477, Landowner Deer and Antelope Compensation Tag Program, LCB File No. 096-18 to consider the location of the ranch and how far a hunter can hunt from the ranch to maximize impact on the animals and remove the word “the” in front of department and the landowner must choose a specific season. The motion carried with Members Di Rocco and Shea absent.

8. COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 478, Bighorn Sheep Ewe and Mountain Goat Online Course, LCB File No. R151-18 [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 a regulation relating to amending Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation would require any ewe or mountain goat tag holders to complete an online course. It will also require the tag holder for ram bighorn sheep, mountain goats, mountain lions and bears to provide questionnaire information during physical inspection and eliminate the subsequent need to submit a questionnaire.*

Chair Robinson opened the agenda and asked for public comment.

Jonathan Lesperance concurred with the suggested language, but suggested an expansion of the unsuccessful hunter questionnaire for all species, especially for unsuccessful Black Bear Hunts.

Rex Flowers concurred with the questionnaire but asked that there be a way to acknowledge the questionnaire had been completed.

Chair Robinson closed public comment.

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Responding to Chair Robinson's inquiry about whether an expanded survey on unsuccessful hunts would be helpful, Mike Scott – NDOW, explained that he believes that can already be done from the NDOW website.

Mr. Lesperance noted that other questions could be included such as how did the hunter determine the animal's sex.

Mr. Scott noted that similar information is also needed for Mountain Lion as well as other species.

It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission General Regulation 478, Bighorn Sheep Ewe and Mountain Goat Online Course, LCB File No. R151-18 with the following modification: expand the questionnaire for successful and unsuccessful hunts to include all animals in this regulation, as well as whether or not an animal was wounded and ability to identify gender during the hunt and if any collared animals were identified along with a paper or other information trail. The motion carried with Member Di Rocco and Shea absent.

9. **COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 479, Rosy Boa Reptile, LCB File No. 152-18** [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 amendment of Chapter 503 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This amendment would revise the scientific name of the rosy boa, which is classified as a protected reptile, from Lichanura trivirgata to Lichanura orcutti. This name change is needed due to new scientific studies that have split the species into two distinct entities, one that occurs in Nevada and one that occurs outside the state. Current NAC protects the species outside Nevada rather than the species that occurs here.*

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item and asked that staff clarify the request.

Mike Scott – NDOW, explained that he did not have the pertinent information and could not clarify the issue.

It was moved by Member Spencer, seconded by Chair Robinson, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission General Regulation 479, Rosy Boa Reptile, LCB File No. 152-18, as written. The motion carried with Members Di Rocco and Shea absent.

10. **COMMISSION REGULATION 18–12 Amendment #1, 2018-2019 Upland Game and Furbearer Seasons and Bag Limits** [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 amendment to the season for upland game birds for the 2018 and 2019 seasons. The amendment recommends an adjustment to the open units for sage-grouse hunting due to the effects of wildfire on habitat.*

There were no public or Board comments.

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It was moved by Member Spencer, seconded by Member Pitts, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 18-12 Amendment 1 2018-2019 Upland Game and Furbearer Seasons and Bag limits as written. The motion carried with Member Di Rocco and Shea absent.

- 11. 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 to be held September 13, 2018.*

Chair Robinson commented that the BLM will provide a status update on management of Feral horses

Member Pitts suggested that there be a presentation on how to refurbish burned areas to benefit wildlife.

Jen Gustafson – Deputy District Attorney, commented that the BCC had extended the terms of Members Shea and Spencer to October 1, 2018, and that Washoe County had encountered some issues in reaching out to organizations seeking recommendations for replacement members. It is hoped that the volunteer posting will be on the County website on Monday, August 6, 2018 with the intent of taking recommendations to the BCC on October 9.

Chair Robinson noted that the election of officer would typically have been scheduled for tonight's meeting but were being held until new members were appointed.

- 12. PUBLIC COMMENTS** [Non-action item] – *Comments heard under this item will be limited to three (3) minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife (Board) agenda. The Board will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to three (3) minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the Board as a whole. Please sign the sign-in sheet.*

Gerald Lent voiced his concern that sending 2 of the current 3 member board would violate the Open Meeting Law by establishing a quorum at the Carson/Douglas meetings.

Member Pitts pointed out that the board still has five members as Member Shea and Spencer's terms had been extended.

Gerald Lent drew attention to the minutes April 26, 2018, minutes and suggested that an update on predator control in Washoe County be added to the next agenda.

Rex Flowers noted that the Perry fire as well as many other fires are devastating large areas and suggested that an agenda item be added to better understand what NDOW and this body can do to assist in the regrowth of the area that benefits both public and private lands. Mr. Flowers would like to see more done on private lands where NEPA and EIs are not required and a quicker response time can be established for rehab.

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Jonathan Lesperance suggested annual updates on habitat conditions including how wildlife is impacted by wild horses.

13. ADJOURNMENT [Non-action item]

Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 6:37 p.m.