

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

DRAFT of Minutes

Thursday ~ October 25, 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
Anthony DoMoe, Secretary
Ray Kabisch
Meghan Ochs

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE [Non-action item]

Chair Robinson 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. and introduced new members Ray Kabisch and Anthony DoMoe. Chair Robinson asked for roll call. A quorum was established.

PRESENT: Anthony DoMoe, Ray Kabisch, Meghan Ochs, Arnie Pitts and Steve Robinson.

ABSENT: None.

Jennifer Gustafson – Deputy District Attorney, was also present.

Chair reordered the agenda to hear agenda item 12 following agenda item 8.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS [Non-action item]

Rex Flowers outlined his concerns about the Ewe Hunt in Area 6 and request to transplant animals over the past several years. Mr. Flowers noted that tonight's (October 25, 2018) agenda did not include the Big Game Release plan. Mr. Flowers commented that he believes the augmentation in the Granites is inadequate and that predator control needs to be increased to address mortality. It is Mr. Flowers' belief that the response thus far appears to be similar to that of leaving the chicken coop open and removing the offender after the damage is done. Mr. Flowers encouraged members to convey this concern to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

Mike Cassidy concurred with Mr. Flowers comments.

Chris Cefalu – NBU, commented that the NBU is also seeking support for trapping on agenda item 7 on the Commission's agenda and drew attention to the financial support provided by NBU as well as volunteer efforts.

Marty Harsin - Northern Nevada SCI for Hunters expressed his support for transplant and his appreciation for the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife's support.

Steve Hall – NBU, believes the sheep release is a positive for wildlife and a great conservation story. Mr. Hall believes that herds should be augmented as often and as soon as possible.

Jim Puryear – NBU, expressed his support for the sheep transplant and stated that this is a dream come true for all those that support the transplant and other activities such as restoration funded by the NBU dinner and other fund raising events.

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Jonathan Lesperance commented that he had received harassing and angry threats and comments for his activities and noted his concern that his family could be endangered by those that dislike his love of hunting. The threats have been of a financial and physical nature and he does not see how that fits in with civil discourse.

Chair Robinson encouraged Mr. Lesperance to contact law enforcement and NODW about the threats.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: 1) *Chair*; 2) *Vice-chair*; and 3) *Secretary* [For possible action]

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item.

Member Pitts nominated Steve Robinson to continue as Chair, seconded by Member Ochs.

Chair Robinson accepted the nominations.

There were no public comments.

The nomination to elect Steve Robinson as Chair carried unanimously.

Member Pitts nominated Anthony DoMoe to serve as Secretary, seconded by Member Ochs.

Member DoMoe accepted the nomination.

There were no public comments.

The nomination to elect Anthony DoMoe to serve as Secretary carried unanimously.

Chair Robinson nominated Member Pitts to serve as Vice-chair, seconded by Member Ochs.

Member Pitts accepted the nomination.

There were no public comments.

The nomination to elect Arnie Pitts as Vice-Chair carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2018, MINUTES (For possible action)

Hearing no board of public comment Chair Robinson asked for a motion.

It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by Chair Robinson, to approve the September 13, 2018, minutes, as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

6. BOARD MEMBER MEETING ASSIGNMENT [For possible action] – *A discussion and selection of member(s) to attend the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meetings on:*

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6-1) *November 2 and 3, 2018, meetings, in Reno/Carson City, Nevada* – Member Ochs will attend the November 2, 2018 meeting. Chair Robinson will attend the November 3, 2018, meeting.

6-2) *January 25 and 26, 2019, meetings in Reno/Carson City, Nevada* – Member Kabisch will attend both meetings.

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

7-1) *Correspondence (including sportsmen's concerns) and Announcements* – Chair Robinson commented that he had received two pieces of correspondence concerning Secretary Zinke's order to allow state agencies to manage wildlife in refuges. Chair Robinson noted that there is a 180-day requirement to make recommendations. Order 3362 prioritizes winter range habitat and migration corridors and some land transfers within Washoe County. The Article referenced can be found at: <https://www.nrahl.org/articles/2018/9/24/secretary-zinke-upholds-states-wildlife-management-authority/>.

Jack Robb – Deputy Director NDOW, stated that NDOW was actively engaged in the Washoe County land bill and that Secretary Zinke appears to be assisting the State of Nevada.

7-2) *Overview of the September 21 and 22, 2018, meetings of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners* – Chair Robinson noted that he had participated in the teleconference and noted the numerous discussions about landowner compensation tags without a resolution. A consensus was reached to form a committee to review and perhaps resolve the issues. Additionally, the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners did not approve the 410 shotgun for Turkeys as it is not felt to be appropriate. During the meeting there was a presentation on Muledeer in Nevada during which it was suggested that there is a need to pray for rain and no wildfires. Another presentation focused on bats and ongoing research in the State of Nevada. A wind generation farm was developed in an area close to an existing bat cave that has implemented sensors to detect when bats are leaving the cave and stop the wind turbines.

8. TAG APPLICATION PROCESS UPDATE [Non-action item] – An informational update on the updated Tag Application Process.

Jack Robb – Deputy Director, NDOW, narrated a PowerPoint® presentation (copy on file) drawing attention to the Western Association of Wildlife conference hosted by NDOW, Mr. Robb noted that 26 states were represented. Mr. Robb pointed out that NDOW had restructured licenses and discontinued stamps along with other actions that simplified the process reducing costs and enhancing the user base. Additionally, the simplification also streamlined how Game Wardens conduct inquiries concerning licensure without the use of stamps. Mr. Robb also noted that the programs funding by the stamps remained intact and fully funded as the transition was designed to be revenue neutral. Mr. Robb then addressed concerns about having an off-site tag draw pointing out that the results of the draw are certified and saved on four different storage devices that are kept in separate and secured areas that can be compared with the other devices to confirm that no changes were made. Mr. Robb outlined that simplification process used by the State of Arizona and was used by NDOW. Mr. Robb noted that while the state's population has increased the number of sportsmen has not increased proportionately. However, with the revisions to the process an increase in tag applications has been seen across all age groups. Mr. Robb pointed out that while the modification to the process had been relatively easy the data transfer was not. During that process a mobile application was developed that allows sportsmen to update and apply via their mobile device. Mr.

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Robb noted that NDOW will continue to seek new features and invest in newer technologies and enhancements as needed.

During a brief discussion it was noted that the funds saved with the new processes will be used to cover staff expenses including salary and increases as well as funding current programs. It was pointed out that the Dream Tag and the Silverstate PIW are primary funding mechanism for NDOW and that it has been found that product placement on the NDOW website does have an impact on sales of various licenses. Other discussion noted that under the former vendor applications cost approximately \$10.00 and has been reduced to about \$0.85 per transaction to the Department. Other discussion noted that other enhancements are being considered such as bar code check from mobile devices to verify and authenticate tags in the field. As the discussion continued, it was suggested that funds be invested in game wardens and biologists in rural areas as well.

- 12. COMMISSION REGULATION 482, Public and Sellable List, LCB File No. R192-18** [For possible action] – A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify recommendations to amend Chapters 488 and 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) to clarify the authority of NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) to remove specific personal information from any list sold or distributed by NDOW to the Department's Licensing Vendor and makes it confidential. [Taken out of agenda order]

Chair Robinson opened the agenda.

Member Kabisch questioned whether this would conflict with the public's ability to get information.

Chair Robinson commented that he does not believe this would address the issue of social media and anti-hunting groups finding out who is hunting various species as some of the information is still public and could result in possible harassment

Jack Robb – Deputy Director NDOW, commented that while the ability for one to check whether a friend drew tags in the same areas with this proposal about 85-percent of the individuals polled preferred to now have their information not available to the general public. Mr. Robb noted that the portion of information that is still public the Attorney General's office will address along with concerns associated with request for public records. Mr. Robb noted that the process is still being refined.

During the discussion it was suggested that another set of options be added so that hunters have an opportunity to opt in or out of licensed guides and taxidermists. As the discussion continued, it was noted that an email blast had been sent to those holding tags to drive business for licensed guides and taxidermists. The overall intent is to protect those interested in recreating by securing information that individuals might not want made public or offered for sale due to intimidation and death threats being received.

Chair Robinson opened public comment.

Jim Puryear noted that he sees a lot of positive aspects to the proposal and emphasized that he is proud to be a hunter. Mr. Puryear suggested that an option be provided so that an individual can opt in for information from guides for big game, sheep and elk.

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Chair Robinson suggested that a box for information that is not public be added so that information can be sent to guides.

Mr. Puryear suggested that the bear hunt be off the list as most intimidation and threats are related to the bear hunt. Mr. Puryear noted that his spouse had received a call from a former college roommate about a legally taken animal in Africa. Perhaps an opt-out for the bear successful hunt list could be added along with a separate opt in or out for big game successful list not all applicant list (unsuccessful not included).

Rex Flowers commented that he has no issue with opting out of the saleable list many of which are not related to hunting, fishing or trapping. However, the successful/unsuccessful lists should remain intact as these are the results of a contract between the Department and applicants and as such there is a need for transparency. These lists can be designed to only show the applicant, no addresses, etc. and the results of the draw.

Chair Robinson closed public comment.

Mr. Robb explained that NDOW starts with the LCB to obtain acceptable language for NRS and that NDOW can change a business process thus providing the individual an opportunity to decide if their name should remain on certain lists. Additionally, Mr. Robb noted that NDOW is the only organization in the west that maintained a list of who drew what.

It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by Chair Robinson, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 482, Public and Sellable List, LCB File No. R192-18 as written and consider a discussion about providing a separate opt out for the business side for outfitters, guides and other sportsman oriented businesses. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting recessed at 7:25 p.m. and reconvened at 7:34 p.m.

- 9. COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 480, SHOTGUN GAUGES LEGAL FOR TURKEY HUNTING, LCB File No. R194-18 [For Possible Action]** – A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify a recommended amendment to Chapter 503 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation would remove the prohibition against using a shotgun smaller than 20 gauge to hunt wild turkey. It would also clean up unnecessary language regarding shot size used on a wildlife management area. The Commission held a workshop on September 21, 2018, and the Commission directed the Department to reverse the changes on page 1, keeping the prohibition against using a shotgun smaller than a 20 gauge and retaining the cleanup language on page 2 relating to shot size used on a wildlife management area.

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item

Jack Robb noted that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners had taken testimony on the matter and directed that staff do a “very small clean-up”.

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There were no public comments.

It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by Chair Robinson, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission General Regulation 480, Shotgun Gauges Legal for Turkey Hunting, LCB File No. R194-18 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

- 10. COMMISSION REGULATION 19-01, TAKING OF RAPTORS FOR FALCONRY FOR 2019-2020** [For Possible Action] – A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify the 2019-2020 season dates, species, quotas, limits, closed areas, application procedures and deadlines, and take of raptors for falconry.

Chair Robinson opened the agenda.

Responding to Chair Robinson's inquiry about whether there may be a need in the future to consider a quota on Raptors, Jack Robb – NDOW, explained that if the Raptor population becomes an issue in the future the matter will be reopened.

Chair Robinson opened public comment,

Jonathan Lesperance commented that he finds Falconry fascinating and believes that the pursuit of game with animals promotes respect for the game and healthy animal husbandry

Chair Robinson closed public comment.

Responding to Member Ochs inquiry about who to contact at NDOW for additional information, Mike Scott suggested Jen Newmark. Mr. Scott then pointed out that each region other than the Eastern Region has a Regional Supervisor. Mr. Scott noted that David Catalano is the Supervisor in this region and is located in the Valley Road office.

Chair Robinson commented that he was invited to a large gathering at Topaz Lake in mid-January (2019).

It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by Chair Robinson, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 19-01, taking of Raptors for Falconry for 2019-2020 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

- 11. COMMISSION REGULATION 19-02, NONCOMMERCIAL COLLECTION OF REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS FOR 2019-2020** [For Possible Action] – A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify the 2019-2020 season and limits for noncommercial hobby collecting of live, unprotected reptiles and amphibians.

Chair opened the agenda item and asked for board discussion.

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Chair Robinson questioned whether there was an update on unprotected reptile and amphibians and how NDOW collects data on populations without input that was previously provided.

Jack Robb – NDOW, commented that there is a large active group in Southern Nevada that assists in the survey and data collection on reptiles and amphibians. Mr. Robb believes that the information may be available.

Chair Robinson opened public comment.

Rex Flowers commented that he does not believe this needs to be considered nor does it need to have a Regulation in place. Mr. Flowers pointed out that children are the primary collectors of reptiles and that it is better that the focus remain on the declining number of muledeer, sage grouse and other issues.

Chair Robinson closed public comment.

Member Ochs agreed with Mr. Flowers as it is unlikely that those that do collect reptiles are unlikely to look at the NDOW website. Although Member Ochs is not opposed to setting limits, she is unsure as to how many would actually pay attention to the regulation. Member Ochs noted that there is a need for more education on how to take care of such animals at an individual's house.

It was moved by Chair Robinson, seconded by Member Pitts, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners deny Commission Regulation 19-02, Noncommercial Collection of Reptiles and Amphibians for 2019-2020. The motion carried unanimously.

- 13. 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 January 17, 2019.*

The January 17, 2019, meeting agenda may include, but is not limited to 1) Predator Update; 2) Update and Inventory of Guzzlers, Repairs and associated expenses statewide; and 3) Informational update on Human and Bear conflict and efforts to decrease those incidents.

Jack Robb – NDOW, reminded the Board that Season Setting will be on the January agenda and suggested that he work with the Chair to determine when the Guzzler and Bear updates should be brought to this body.

- 14. PUBLIC COMMENTS** [Non-action item]

There were no public comments.

- 15. ADJOURNMENT** [Non-action item]

Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.