

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

Minutes

Thursday ~ March 7, 2019 ~ 6:00 p.m.
Nevada Department of Wildlife
Conference Room B
1100 Valley Road, Reno, Nevada

MEMBERS

Steven Robinson, Chair
Arnold Pitts, Vice-chair
Meghan Di Rocco
Anthony DoMoe
Ray Kabisch

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE [Non-action item]

Member Kabisch 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: Anthony DoMoe, Ray Kabisch, Arnie Pitts and Steve Robinson. Member Di Rocco joined the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

ABSENT: None

Jen Gustafson – Deputy District Attorney, was also present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS [Non-action item]

Sean Shea noted that he had been contacted by the Silver State Bighorn Sheep Tag winner about not receiving items he was awarded until late after his hunt. Mr. Shea believes that the automatic renewal process needs to be reviewed since many credit cards might not still be valid for this year.

4. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 17, 2019, MINUTES (For possible action)

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item noting that correspondence from Back County Hunter and Angler on the Silver State Trail be added to the January 17, 2019, minutes.

There were no public comments.

It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by Chair Robinson, to approve the January 17, 2019, minutes as amended. The motion carried: Member Di Rocco 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:

5-1) March 15 and 16, 2019, meetings in Clark County, Nevada – Chair Robinson will attend the March 15 and 16, 2019, meetings via teleconference at the Reno NDOW offices.

5-2). May 3 and 4, 2019, Reno/Carson, Nevada – Member Pitts and Chair Robinson will attend the May 3 and 4, 2019, meetings

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

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

6-2) Overview of the November 2 and 3, 2018, meetings of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners - It was noted that the previous meeting dates were January 25 and 26, 2019 rather than the listed dates.

Chair Robinson commented that he had attended the meeting and that most of the Hunt recommendations proposed had been accepted. Additionally, the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners did not split seasons in Washoe County and had not combined Unit 021 and 022. Additionally, there was some discussion about managing all big game on the Sheldon but it was not well received. Additionally, the Bear Hunt was adopted as presented.

7. NEVADA OPEN MEETING LAW PRESENTATION [Non-action item] – An informational presentation on the requirements of Nevada’s Open Meeting Law (OML), as codified in NRS Chapter 241, and ethics in government, as codified in NRS Chapter 281A.

Jen Gustafson – Deputy District Attorney, narrated a PowerPoint® (copy on file) on the Nevada Open Meeting Law (OML. Ms. Gustafson pointed out that the presentation on the OML is intended to provide a brief overview of the rules and how they are applied to public bodies such as the 911 Emergency Response Advisory Committee. Ms. Gustafson explained that the Washoe County District Attorney’s Office has a Deputy District Attorney present at public meetings to avoid potential violations of the OML. Ms. Gustafson also presented on key aspects of the OML, such as what constitutes a meeting, quorum, public notice provisions, supporting materials, minutes, and OML violations. Ms. Gustafson also provided an overview of ethics in government provisions of NRS Chapter 281A. Additionally, agenda language must be sufficient so that the public has an understanding of what the agenda item encompasses.

Responding to Gerald Lent’s inquiry about Robert’s Rules of Order and other issues, Ms. Gustafson explained that Washoe County does not follow Robert’s Rule of Order and that while the Board may respond to questions during public comment care must be taken so as not to appear to deliberate on the matter. Ms. Gustafson outlined the reasons Members must recuse themselves such as a fiduciary interest or other conflict and cannot use their position on the board to enhance their own businesses. Ms. Gustafson also pointed out that there are specific legal citations applicable to governing public officers and public employees’ advisory board members are expected to follow the same rules.

Member Di Rocco joined the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Ms. Gustafson recommended board members contact her directly before a scheduled meeting to determine whether or not a member should abstain from discussion and/or action on specific agenda items.

8. COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 482, PUBLIC AND SELLABLE LISTS, 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 a proposed regulation amending Chapters 488 and 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code

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(NAC) that clarifies the authority of the Department to make specific personal customer information confidential and remove such information from any list sold or distributed by the Department or the Department's licensing vendor. The regulation also simplifies how a person can request that their personal information remain confidential by removing the requirement that the request be in writing.

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item noting that this was a topic at the previous Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meeting.

Chair opened public comment

Jonathan Lesperance commented that he had applied for a tag in Utah and that they have the same option.

Gerald Lent read the following statement into the record: Request my prepared statement be included into all the distributed minutes of this meeting: My name is Gerald Lent - Let's be very clear about this Regulation change: this Commission General Regulation change is intended to remove all information, including the names of all successful and unsuccessful tag applicants from public viewing. This is contrary to what, for 18 years, the sportsmen have enjoyed and wanted. Now you have to ask yourselves, why does NDOW want to do this, certainly not because they are interested in sportsmen. There already is a law that allows one to opt-out of a saleable list. Nobody wants to opt-out of the successful and unsuccessful lists. In the past 18 years only 1-2 people wanted their names not sold and in MOST years nobody elected to opt-out of publishing the successful and unsuccessful lists, in fact they loved it! Now NDOW wants to oppose what their customers want. Why so with no draw results made public, NDOW can do whatever they want to the Big Game Tag Draw System and nobody will know all the results. Easy solution: just add on the hunter application: in accordance with NAC 502.211, you may have your name, address, phone number and other personal information removed from any list sold by the Department. You do not need to change this regulation unless you want to operate in secrecy which it appears NDOW wants to do!

Chair Robinson closed public comment.

Jack Robb – NDOW, commented that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners will address two separate issues: one whether or not an individual wishes to be on a publically posted list of successful tag draw that would be available to guides and other businesses. Additionally, the revised language will simplify and make it more understandable. Mr. Robb noted that NDOW had used an auditor that routinely works for the State of Nevada to assure that tag draw results are subject to strict criteria to maintain confidentiality without showing any favoritism to NDOW, Commission or CAB members.

It was moved by Chair Robinson, seconded by Member Pitts to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission General Regulation 482, Public and Sellable Lists, LCB File No. R192-18, as written. The motion carried unanimously.

9. COMMISSION REGULATION 19-13, MIGRATORY GAME BIRD SEASONS, BAG LIMITS, AND SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR WATERFOWL AND WEBLESS MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS; PUBLIC HUNTING LIMITED ON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS AND

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DESIGNATED STATE LANDS – 2019–2020 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 2019–2020 season and adopt regulations consistent with proposed regulations framework for the 2019–2020 hunting seasons on certain migratory game birds established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item and asked for clarification on the season date of October 1 through 31 when Federal Regulations indicate a 90-day season.

Jack Robb - NDOW, noted that the Board may modify recommendations different from NDOW.

Josh Vittori – Canvas Back hunters, asked that the board support NDOW recommendations to assure a quality hunt and maximize the opportunity for water fowl.

There were no other public comments.

Chair Robinson suggested that the closing date for doves be extended to the end of October.

It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by Chair Robinson, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 19-13 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 – 2019–2020 Season as written with the exception of change the season date to September 1 through October 31 for Morning Dove. The motion carried unanimously.

10. WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT AND FISCAL YEAR 2019 DRAFT PREDATION 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 the proposed Fiscal Year 2019 Predator Management Plan.

Chair Robinson noted that support material had not been distributed to the Board members and that it is unknown if there were any changes.

Jen Gustafson – Deputy District Attorney, suggested that the matter be continued until the next meeting.

Jack Robb – NDOW, commented that he did not believe there were any changes and suggested that members voice any concerns or recommendations.

Chair opened public comments.

Public comments Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife March 7, 2019 on agenda item 10 by Gerald Lent

Gerald Lent read the following into the record:

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In the proposed Fiscal Year 2019 Predator Management Plan update provided to this Board at your January 17, 2019 meeting by NDOW's Predator Management Staff Specialist Game Division, all that was discussed was how many predators were removed and what it costs.

This is not being honest to the program. We should be presenting what are we protecting and is it working and are you successful not how many dollars you have spent! In the only deer predation project in Nevada, Project 40 (Diamond Mountains), it shows the adult/fawn ratio decreasing. This doesn't tell the story: even if you have a decrease in adult-fawn ratio you can still have a growing deer herd. Look at the past Granite Mountain predator 10 year study, you had adult/fawn ratios go up and down, yet every year the deer herd continued to increase. Predator control took pressure off the deer herd with this project and the deer herd continued to increase and as soon as it was discontinued, the deer herd nose-dived!

Chair Robinson closed public comments.

It was moved by Chair Robinson, seconded by Member Pitts to continue *Wildlife Damage Management Committee Report and Fiscal Year 2019 Draft Predation Management Plan to the next meeting due to lack of support materials. The motion carried unanimously.*

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 April 25, 2019.*

The April 25, 2019, meeting agenda may include, but is not limited to an update by Alan Jenne on wildfire rehabilitation and outlook for the next year; update on guzzler maintenance and repair schedule.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS [Non-action item]

Jonathan Lesperance suggested that the Board contact Sherm Swanson, PhD, Associate Professor at UNR on integrated management tools.

Gerald Lent read the following statement:

Request my prepared statement be included into all the distributed minutes of this meeting.

My name is Gerald Lent - At your last meeting on January 17, 2019 you had NDOW's predator biologist attend the meeting to give an update on predator management in Nevada with a focus on Washoe County.

I applaud this board for this effort, but it accomplished NOT ONE THING for Washoe County. Nobody on this board asked for not one single deer predator project for Washoe County and I guess it doesn't matter as there are no deer in Washoe County.

AND at that meeting this Predator Biologist for NDOW in his presentation stated and I quote: "I don't know that much about deer in Nevada to increase deer predator projects!"

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This is disgraceful, despicable, and shameful and an insult to sportsmen and he should not have this job in NDOW as a biologist!

This shows how Nevada's deer biology is going --- NOWHERE!

Now you know why we have no deer.

This board is missing the boat for Washoe County by watching sheep NGO's run NDOW with large sums of money and it's all Sheep, Sheep, Sheep predator projects and nothing for deer enhancement projects.

Mr. Lent also drew attention to examples of the deer tag values and what hunters are willing to pay to hunt large mule deer: New Mexico deer tag \$60,000, Utah landowner tag \$35,000, Nevada heritage tag \$130,000, Indian tag \$60,000, Utah muzzleloader deer tag \$27,500, another landowner deer tag \$90,000, Utah muzzleloader deer tag \$105,000, Arizona deer tag \$280,000, Utah conservation deer tag \$90,000, Colorado deer tag \$85,000, Utah statewide deer tag \$180,000, Utah Henry Mts. Deer tag \$87,500 ETC.

Conclusion: the demand is there but the deer aren't there!!

The full article can be found at the following website:

<https://www.ksl.com/article/38493763/controversial-antelope-island-mule-deer-permit-sells-for-world-record-410k-bid>

Sean Shea suggested that a Collaring update be provided by Chris Hampson at the next meeting.

13. ADJOURNMENT [Non-action item]

Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

AS APPROVED BY THE WASHOE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE IN SESSION ON APRIL 25, 2019.