

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife –
draft minutes 6-17-2021

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** [Non-action item]
2. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** [Non-action item]

Members in Attendance

1. Steve Robinson Chairman
2. Anthony DoMoe secretary
3. Ray Kabisch,
4. Jim Rhea

Members Absent

1. Arnie Pitts, Vice Chairman

Others in Attendance

1. Wayne Carner – Deputy District Attorney, Washoe County
2. Jon Ewanyk, Washoe County Wildlife Biologist
3. Rex Flowers, public
4. Joel Blakeslee, public
5. Steve Kellers, public

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

Rex Flowers provided public comment and noted that next week Washoe County will be having their first mule deer meeting. He said NDOW is meeting by Zoom and he hopes they meet in person as soon as possible. Mr. Flowers also explained his contention with the draft charter online resource enhancement committee. He explained that in March 2021, there was a Commission meeting where there were two agendas for one meeting. NDOW officials were unable to answer why there were two agendas. Mr. Flowers also noted that there wasn't an opportunity to give public comment. Mr. Flowers went on to add that in May, there was a Heritage Committee meeting that wasn't properly agendized. The Finance Committee met at 10 a.m. but a new Zoom link was sent out after the meeting had started. Mr. Flowers wondered how the public was supposed to participate in these meetings when they weren't properly agendized.

4. **APPROVAL OF April 29, 2021 MINUTES**-[For possible action]

No changes were noted.

Member Kabisch motioned for approval of the April 29, 2021 CAB minutes. Chair Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

5. **BOARD MEMBER MEETING ASSIGNMENT**-[Non-action item]

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Members of the CAB had discussion and determined which member(s) would attend the upcoming Nevada Board of Wildlife Commission meeting in Winnemucca. Chair Robinson said that it was his intention to attend the meeting, but it was still tentative.

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

Chair Robinson opened discussion on the agenda item. Member Kabisch explained that he had difficulties receiving the support materials for the meeting which made it difficult for him to properly prepare. He noted that at the last CAB meeting, there was outdated meeting materials. Chair Robinson said the information comes out Wednesday evenings, and then he begins putting the information together. The goal is to have all information available online on Thursday, a week before the meeting.

Chair Robinson said he had received some sportsman's concerns specifically; Theresa Hildebrand had sent a letter regarding the fairness of the deer tag draw. She would like to see a waiting period of a year if you are successful for a deer tag draw.

Lastly, Chair Robinson asked for the overview of the May 7 and 8, 2021 Commission on Wildlife meeting. Member Rhea said the meeting was confrontational. Chair Robinson said Washoe County did approve what the CAB board had proposed, however the first two hours of the meeting was discussion regarding CABS needing to have solid back up information if they were going to oppose the Department's recommendations. Chair Robinson also said he was disappointed with the Commission's decision regarding mule deer tags quota in Northeast Nevada.

7. Fiscal Year 2022 Heritage Project Proposals-[For Possible Action]

Agenda Item Pulled

8. Duck Stamp Request-[For Possible Action]

Agenda Item Pulled

9. Upland Game Bird Stamp Request-[For Possible Action]

Agenda Item Pulled

10. Commission Regulation 20-12, Amendment #1, 2021-2022 Upland Game and Furbearer Seasons and Bag Limits –[For Possible Action]

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Chair Robinson opened the item and asked if there were any comments from members of the board. Seeing none, Chair Robinson asked if the Department had any comments regarding the agenda item. John Ewanyk, Washoe County Wildlife Biologist, said there were record low counts of males for this year. Based on those counts, the decision to shorten the season was made. Chair Robinson asked what the possibility was of extending the seasons again. Mr. Ewanyk said that the season length is determined based on the surveys and as of now he does not see the season being extended until the male population increases.

Chair Robinson called for Public Comment. Joel Blakeslee said he supported the Department's recommendations and asked that members of this board support the recommendations as well.

Member Rhea moved to approve Commission Regulation 20-12, Amendment #1, 2021-2022 Upland Game and Furbearer Seasons and Bag Limits as proposed. Member DoMoe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Commission Regulation 21-07 Amendment #1, 2022 Heritage Tag Vendors–[For Possible Action]

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item. There were no comments from members of the board or the Department. During Public Comment, Mr. Flowers said he would like to see members of this board support the proposed recommendations.

There was no further comment.

Member DoMoe moved to approve Commission Regulation 21-07 Amendment #1, 2022 Heritage Tag Vendors as proposed. Member Kabisch seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

12. Commission Regulation 21-13 Amendment #1, 2021-2022 Seasons, Bag Limits and Special Regulations for Migratory Game Birds–[For Possible Action]

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item and there was no discussion or public comment.

Member DoMoe moved to approve Commission Regulation 21-13 Amendment #1, 2021-2022 Seasons, Bag Limits and Special Regulations

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for Migratory Game Birds as proposed. Member Rhea seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- 13. Biennial Upland Game Release Plan for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 – Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa**–[For Possible Action]

Agenda Item Pulled

- 14. Wildlife Contests**–[For Possible Action]

Chair Robinson opened the agenda and asked for any comments from members of the board. He noted that he was unclear what was being proposed because there was no support material that he could find online. Member Rhea agreed with Chair Robinson and said there are individuals who are willing to hunt for free and he did not understand why there was a need to pay. Member Kabsich also wondered if this item were approved, how would that affect other contests such as fishing. Member DoMoe said he too was unclear about the specifics of this proposal and therefore would not be supporting it. Member Rhea asked to see more specifics regarding this item before it be placed on any future Commission agendas, commenting that he would like to see the term “wildlife” defined further.

Chair Robinson called for Public Comment. Joel Blakeslee said this recommendation doesn’t have anything to do with biology. He noted that he has been battling this entity for many years and added that when New Mexico had approved a similar ban, they then moved to ban trapping on public lands. Rex Flowers said he spoke with Chairwoman East and the Commission would be doing a lot of public comment on this issue. He was opposed to the ban and said this is based out of bias and not science. Mr. Flowers said he hoped members of this board would oppose the proposal and the Commission eliminates it from future agendas.

Chair Robinson moved to recommend the Commission immediately discontinue the discussion of banning of contests and remove the item from all future Commission meeting agendas. Member DoMoe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- 15. PUBLIC COMMENTS** –[Non-Action item]

Joel Blakeslee said he was sick, and tired, of hearing at every commission meeting

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about human dimensions and that he has been dealing with this for 40 years. He says there are 15 to 20 people out there and they are given more power than they deserve. He noted the Nevada Legislature puts the resource committees at the bottom of the priority list which shows that there is a lack of attention paid to these important issues. Steve Kellers said he was attending this meeting because he was interested in Nevada Wildlife. He said he would first like to commend the members of the board for the work they have been doing. However, he noted that he was extremely disappointed with NDOW and their lack of participation. He said he doesn't understand the lack of care from the Department and it had him very irritated.

16. ADJOURNMENT [Non-action item]

Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 6:42 p.m.