

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife –
draft minutes

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. Arnie Pitts, Vice Chairman
3. Jim Rhea
4. Coby Rowe

Members Absent

1. Matt Melarkey

Others in Attendance

1. Jon Ewanyk, Washoe County Wildlife Biologist
2. Cooper Munson, Nevada Department of Wildlife
3. Rex Flowers, public
4. Louise Martin
5. Tracy Wilson
6. Ash Caselli

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

Tracy Wilson, member of the American Wildhorse Campaign, spoke in opposition to the proposed Commission Policy 67 - Federal Horses and Burros. She said the policy was in conflict with a majority of Nevadans and it supports a failed approach to wildlife management. She said she supported more humane measures for population control like fertility drugs. Louise Martin also spoke in opposition to Commission Policy 67.

4. **APPROVAL OF October 28, 2021 MINUTES**-[For possible action]

Member Pitts motioned for approval of the October 28, 2021 CAB minutes. Member Rhea seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Members of the CAB had discussion and determined which member(s) would attend the upcoming Nevada Board of Wildlife Commission meeting. Chair Robinson said that Washoe County will not be represented at the next meeting due to travel constraints.

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

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Chair Robinson opened discussion on the agenda item noted the commission had implemented a new one-horn ram hunt. There was no other discussion.

7. CONSENT ITEMS – For Possible Action –[For Possible Action]

7.1 - Commission Policy 1– General Guidelines for the Commission The Commission will have a second reading of Commission Policy 1, General Guidelines for the Commission, and may take action to repeal, revise or adopt the policy.

7.2 - Commission Policy 10–Heritage Tags and Vendors The Commission will have a second reading of Commission Policy 10, Heritage Tags and Vendors, and may take action to repeal, revise or adopt the policy.

7.3 - Commission Policy 31 Commission Policy 31, Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Management The Commission will have a first reading of Commission Policy 31, Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Management, and may take action to repeal or revise the policy. The Commission may advance the policy to a second reading for possible adoption at a future meeting.

7.4 - Commission Policy 33 - Fisheries Management Program – The Commission will have a first reading of Commission Policy 33, Fisheries Management Program, and may take action to repeal or revise the policy. The Commission may advance the policy to a second reading for possible adoption at a future meeting.

7.5 - Commission Policy 63– Protecting Wildlife from Toxic Ponds

Chair Robinson asked if there was any discussion or public comment regarding the consent agenda items. There were no member comments or public comment.

Member Pitts moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items 7.1 through 7.5 as written. Chair Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Commission Policy 67, – Federal Horses and Burros– First Reading – APRP Committee – [For Possible Action]

Chair Robinson opened discussion on the recommendation that that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify a first reading of Commission Policy 67, Federal Horses and Burros, and may take action to repeal or

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revise the policy. There was no initial comment from members of the board. Chair Robinson opened the item for public comment.

Rex Flowers said the Coalition for Nevada Wildlife would be supportive of the item for one year. He noted that Dina Titus recommendations would make it more unsafe for employees in working with wild horses and that she doesn't have any wild horses in her district. Ash Caselli said that horse roundups in Nevada had initially started with cowboys on horses but was changed to helicopter roundups due to the increased safety for both the wild horses and the individuals tasked with completing the roundup. Changing the policy back to cowboys on horses would decrease the safety for those implementing the roundup. There was no further public comment.

During discussion of the item amongst members of the board, Member Rhea said he was concerned with the loss of sagebrush and habitat. The population of wild horses had increased dramatically which had caused many issues for all animals' habitats. Member Pitts asked if the policy was to reenact existing policy, and Chair Robinson said his understanding was proposal would encourage the federal government to enforce existing regulations. Chair Robinson said he agreed with Mr. Flowers that without legal action, there would not be the implementation and enforcement of the regulations to address the huge increases in the wild horse population.

Chair Robinson moved to recommend the Commission adopt Policy 67 as written with the addition of adding any legal means where necessary to encourage the Department to file a lawsuit with the Bureau of Land Management and the State Department of Agriculture to bring the wild population within the wild horse population to the levels of the 1971 Act. Member Pitts seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- 9. Commission Regulation 22-10, 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 – 2022 – 2023 Season – [For Possible Action]**

Chair Robinson opened discussion on the recommendation that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify adopting recommendations for seasons, bag limits and special regulations for migratory game birds for the 2022-2023 season and adopt regulations consistent with proposed regulations framework for the 2022-2023 hunting seasons on certain migratory game birds established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Commission will also consider rules regulating public hunting on Wildlife Management Areas and designated state lands. Member Rowe asked if population estimates were based on survey prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Cooper Munson, Nevada Department of Wildlife, said the estimates are based on of international migratory flyway guidelines.

There was no public comment or additional discussion from members of the board.

Member Rhea moved to approve Commission Regulation 22-10, 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 – 2022 – 2023 Season as written. Member Rowe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Election of Board Members – [For Possible Action]

Chair Robinson opened discussion regarding the election of new officers for the board. The board voted on the election of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary of the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife.

Member Pitts nominated Matt Melarkey as chairman. Member Rhea seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Member Pitts nominated Coby Rose as vice chairman. Member Rhea seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Member Pitts nominated Jim Rhea as secretary. Chair Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Member Pitts thanked former Chair Robinson for his years of service as chair of the board.

11. Future Meeting Agenda Items – Informational only–[Non-Action item]

Vice Chair Rowe opened discussion for future agenda items. Member Robinson said he would like to see an agenda item on discussion of habitat and have a presentation for the board. Member Robinson also said he would like to have the BLM director for wild horses also present to the board.

During public comment, Rex Flowers said he recommended the board wait for a presentation from the BLM regarding wild horses until Policy 67 had been heard and either approved or denied. He also asked for an update on the mule deer enhancement projects at a future meeting.

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12. PUBLIC COMMENTS –[Non-Action item]

There was no public comment

13. ADJOURNMENT [Non-action item]

Vice Chair Rowe adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m.