

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife –  
March 7, 2023 minutes

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

*Members in Attendance*

1. Matt Melarkey, Chair (via zoom)
2. Coby Rowe, Vice Chairman
3. Jim Rhea
4. Ryan Browne

*Members Absent*

1. Steve Robinson

*Others in Attendance*

1. Mike Scott, Deputy Director NDOW
2. Jon Ewanyk, Washoe County Wildlife Biologist
3. Mel Belding

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

There was no public comment.

4. **Approval January 24, 2023 minutes**-[For possible action]

**Vice Chair Rowe motioned for approval of the January 24, 2023 CAB minutes. Member Browne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

5. **Approval of March 7, 2023 AGENDA** -[For possible action]

Vice Chair Rowe called for approval of the consent agenda and additional agenda items for the January 24, 2023 meeting. No members of the board asked for any items to be pulled.

**Member Rhea motioned for approval March 7, 2023 meeting. Vice Chair Rowe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

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

Vice Chair said he would be present on Friday March 10, for the upcoming Commission meeting via zoom. Chair Melarkey said he would be available for both days of the meeting.

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

Vice Chair Rowe said the board had received three items. He said the board had received a letter regarding use a scope on a muzzleloader and broadening the definitions, which would allow for hunters with disabilities would have a better opportunity to hunt. Member Browne said there are many different types of one power optics available online. Member Browne said broadening the definition could cause issues which have been in other states such as Arizona and New Mexico.

Additional correspondence requested a future agenda item for legislative bill tracking during the 2023 Nevada Legislative Session. Member of the CAB also discussed proposed legislation currently, including making the wild horse the official state horse of Nevada, which was an example of legislative proposals that may be added to future agenda items.

**8. CONSENT ITEMS – [For Possible Action]**

A. **Draft Fiscal Year 2024 Predation Management Plan**– [For Possible Action]

B. **Commission Policy 23 – Predation Management – Third Reading**– [For Possible Action]

C. **Commission General Regulation 506, Possession of Golden Eagles Under Certain Circumstances** – [For Possible Action]

Vice Chair Rowe asked if there was any public comment, and no public comment was given.

**Chair Melarkey motioned for approval of March 7, 2023 consent items as written. Member Rhea seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**9. Consent Calendar items pulled for further discussion – For Possible Action** – [For Possible Action]

No items were pulled from the consent agenda, so this agenda item was skipped.

**10. Commission Regulation 23-13, Migratory Game Bird Seasons, Bag Limits, and Special Regulations for Waterfowl and Webless**

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**Migratory Game Birds Public Hunting Limited on Wildlife  
Management Areas and Designated State Lands – 2023 – 2024  
Season– [For Possible Action]**

Vice Chair Rowe opened the item to consider recommendations for seasons, bag limits and special regulations for migratory game birds for the 2023-2024 season and adopt regulations consistent with proposed regulations framework for the 2023-2024 hunting seasons on certain migratory game birds established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and to also consider rules regulating public hunting on Wildlife Management Areas and designated state lands.

Member Rhea commented on the youth hunt and how the end of the season hunt was more conducive to waterfowl, and to split out chukar to a different two days in the season. Jon Ewanyk, Washoe County Biologist, said he was not sure that was a possibility. Mike Scott, Deputy Director NDOW, added that there are two youth days, one at the beginning, and one at the end of the season. Member Rhea said he would like to see those days combined into one weekend.

During public comment, Mel Belding asked what days the split was occurring this season. Jon Ewanyk said the split was on January 7. Mr. Belding said he would like to move the split later in the season.

Member Rhea said it would be difficult to know how changing the split would impact the season. Mr. Scott added that each group in the state wants different things, but there is a limit on the number of days that can be hunted, and changing the split may not make that big of a difference in the long run. Member Rhea agreed and said at this time, he didn't believe there was enough information to make the change at this time.

**Member Rhea motioned for approval of Commission Regulation 23-13, 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 – 2023 – 2024 Season as written. Member Browne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**11. Commission Regulation 23-04 Amendment 1, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 Big Game Seasons– [For Possible Action]**

Vice Chair Rowe opened the agenda item to consider and possibly approve the 2023-2024 and 2024- 2025 emergency depredation hunt structure and

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statewide quota. Vice Chair Rowe said he didn't feel the language clearly defined if it was for residents or would also include non-residents. Mr. Scott said that is a depredation hunt was needed, the Department would look at the unsuccessful list and contact those individuals first to see if they would be interested in doing the hunt. Mr. Scott also added that if he recalled correctly, he did not believe non-residents would be included in the additional tags.

There was no public comment.

**Member Rhea motioned for approval of Commission Regulation 23-04 Amendment 1, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 Big Game Seasons with a change to awarding of emergency big game hunt tags, and those tags would be awarded to Nevada residents by draw order sequence of unsuccessful Nevada applicants who applied during the big game hunt year. Chair Melarkey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**12. Future Meeting Agenda Items – Informational only- Public Comment Allowed**

Chair Melarkey said he and Member Robinson had a discussion about adding a meeting in April to discuss the 2023 legislation, hunter safety, and regulations. The members of the CAB decided to have an additional meeting on April 6, 2023.

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

There was no public comment.

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

Vice Chair Rowe adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.