

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife –  
April 6, 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
2. Coby Rowe, Vice Chairman
3. Jim Rhea
4. Ryan Browne

*Members Absent*

1. Steve Robinson

*Others in Attendance*

1. Cooper Munson, Nevada Department of Wildlife
2. Ash Caselli

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

Ash Caselli said he encouraged the members of the CAB to participate in the 2023 Legislative session.

4. **Approval March 7, 2023 minutes**-[For possible action]

**Vice Chair Rowe motioned for approval of the March 7, 2023 CAB minutes. Member Browne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

5. **Approval of April 6, 2023 Agenda**-[For possible action]

**Member Rhea motioned for approval April 6, 2023 meeting agenda. Vice Chair Rowe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

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

Chair Melarkey asked who would be able to participate at the upcoming Commission meeting. Member Rhea and Chair Melarkey would be able to attend.

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

Member Rhea and Chair Melarkey had received communication from Mel Belding to call for support of SB212. Member Browne noted that he was able to attend to previous Commission meeting and he recommended that the CAB examine proposed legislation

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earlier because he said it would be better to be on the forefront of the hearings at the session. Member Rhea recommended that CAB members from across the state organize a day at the Capitol to have be able to meet and speak with legislators.

**8. Legislative Committee Report– [For Possible Action]**

Chair Melarkey opened the item and detailed the reasoning for it being placed on the agenda. He explained that there were a list of bills that may have an affect on areas in which the CAB takes action on, and this item was for member of the CAB to formally support, remain neutral, or oppose bills that affect its purview.

Chair Melarkey began by discussing bills which the Commission had taken a position on. The first bill was Senate Bill 224 which added two more seats to the Commission which the Commission opposed. The second bill was SB87 which the Commission supported. Chair Melarkey also highlighted AB102 and noted the Commission remained neutral. Chair Melarkey said the Commission chose not to take a position on SB141. The Commission was supportive of AB112. Regarding AB70, the Commission opposed. The Commission took no position on SB88. SB90 was opposed by the Commission.

Chair Melarkey said SB311, SB312, SB338, AB349, and AB355 would be discussed by the legislature on April 6, and he recommended the CAB vote on their position to those bills and he would communicate that out.

Chair Melarkey began with SB311 which would require the Commission to establish a program to allow a person to transfer a tag to hunt bug game mammal and require a course of instruction in the responsibilities of hunters to be made available online. Chair Melarkey said that the CAB would need to be either supportive, or opposed, to the entire bill, so if there were aspects of a bill in which the CAB supported, but others that they did not, they would need to weigh each and decide on the bill as a whole. Both Member Rhea and Member Browne were both supportive of the bill. Vice Chair Rowe was also supportive of the bill. Member Rhea asked about how points would be determined on the bill. Member Browne said the wording of the regulations would be written if the bill was approved. Chair Melarkey said some of the points were addressed in the party tag from a few years ago.

During public comment, Ash Caselli said the bill could be amended if there were certain aspects of it that the CAB did not agree with.

**Member Rhea motioned to support SB311 as written. Member Browne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

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Chair Melarkey moved to SB312 which would authorize a person who finds a carcass of a big game mammal to report the location of the carcass to the Department and request the antlers and horns to be donated to a non-profit organization for display, raffle, or auction; and authorizes a person to take or gather shed antlers and heads with antlers attached for certain purposes. Chair Melarkey said that he did not agree with the bill as written. He said that if this bill would be approved, it would affect multiple aspects of NRS. Member Browne agreed and said he did not agree with the bill as proposed. He added that the definition of commercial and personal use was unclear and it may create issues in the future.

During public comment, Ash Caselli said he too was opposed to SB 312.

**Chair Melarkey motioned to oppose SB312 as written. Vice Chair Rowe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

SB338 was discussed which revised provisions relating to off-highway vehicles. Member Rhea said he did not feel this was in the purview of the CAB and thought the CAB should remain neutral. There was no public comment.

**Member Rhea motioned to take no position regarding SB338 as written. Member Browne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

AB349 was discussed which would establish the Wildlife Conservation Program. There was no comment from the CAB or public comment.

**Chair Melarkey motioned to support AB349 as written. Vice Chair Rowe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

The final bill discussed was AB355 which would prohibit a person who is less than 21 years of age from possessing certain firearms; making it unlawful to aid or knowingly permit a person who is under 21 years of age to possess a firearm under certain circumstances; revised provisions related to the storage of a firearm; and revised provisions relating to the handling, possession, or control of a firearm by certain children.

Chair Melarkey said he was opposed to the bill. Member Rhea said he thought the bill would limit legal hunting weapons.

During public comment, Ash Caselli said he felt the bill should be strongly opposed and encouraged the CAB to oppose the bill as well.

**Vice Chair Rowe motioned to oppose AB355 as written. Chair Melarkey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

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**9. Regulation Simplification Committee - Review of Governor Lombardo's Executive Order 2023-003– [For Possible Action]**

Chair Melarkey explained this item was for the CAB to review recommendations made by the Commission to review regulations in an attempt to simplify. There was no discussion or public comment.

**Vice Chair Rowe moved accept the Departments changes as written. Member Browne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**10. Review of Governor Lombardo's Executive Order 2023-004– [For Possible Action]**

Chair Melarkey opened the item to discuss a report to the Governor and Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau by all occupational and professional licensing boards. There was no discussion from the CAB or public comment.

**Member Browne moved accept Governor Lombardo's Executive Order 2023-004 as written. Chair Melarkey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**8. Legislative Committee Report– [For Possible Action]**

Member Rhea asked that the Cab go back to agenda item 8 to discuss AB102 which would affect wildlife competitions. He said that he had heard the Commission would remain neutral, but he felt the CAB should oppose AB102 and inform the Commission on its opposition.

During public comment, Ash Caselli said he had heard the amendment would be around inducement.

Member Browne said he was opposed to AB102.

**Member Rhea moved to oppose Ab102 and any legislation that would limit wildlife competitions. Member Browne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

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

Chair Melarkey said the next meeting would be quota setting and he hoped Karl Lackey would be able to join to discuss bear hunts. Member Rhea said he

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hoped to receive a report on the survey data from the most recent flights that had been taken.

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

Ash Caselli said he hoped the CAB would request and review information regarding potential flooding due to historic runoff that had been projected because of the record winter in the Sierras.

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

Chair Melarkey adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.