

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife –  
August 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
2. Coby Rowe, Vice Chairman
3. Steve Robinson
4. Jim Rhea
5. Ryan Browne

*Others in Attendance*

1. Mike Cassidy
2. Judi Caron
3. Ash Caselli
4. Cooper Munson, NDOW

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

Judi Caron spoke on behalf of the Coalition of Nevada Wildlife and concerns the Coalition had regarding an item at the upcoming Commission meeting.

4. **Approval June 20, 2023 minutes**-[For possible action]

**Vice Chair Rowe motioned for approval of the June 20, 2023 CAB minutes. Member Browne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

5. **Approval of August 7, 2023 Agenda**-[For possible action]

**Member Rhea motioned for approval August 7, 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 attend the Commission meeting in Ely. Board members noted they would be able to attend the upcoming Commission meeting.

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

Judi Carron said the Coalition's had concern regarding the Winecup Gamble Ranch Land Exchange. Ms. Caron noted that details proposed in the informational item at the

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upcoming Commission meeting left the Coalition with questions and concerns regarding the implementation of the proposed plan. Chair Melarkey asked if there was any board comment. Member Browne said he was not in support of the proposal because there could be impacts to hunting units. Member Robinson asked if the CABS would have input into the overall process, and Ms. Caron said the item was scheduled as an informational presentation at the upcoming Commission meeting. Chair Melarkey said that he did think sportsman of Nevada would have input even though it was a BLM issue. Chair Melarkey also noted that Elko County was very opposed to the proposed measure. Ms. Caron added that there may be an opportunity to do public comment at the end of the Commission meeting.

**8. Commission Policy 23 – Predation Management - Third Reading —**  
[For Possible Action]

Chair Melarkey opened the item to review Commission Policy 23. There was no public or board comment.

**Vice Chair Rowe moved to accept Commission Policy 23 Predation Management Plan as written. Member Browne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**9. Commission Policy 24 – Hunting Opportunities Among Various Weapons Classes and Hunter Groups – First Reading–** [For Possible Action]

Chair Melarkey opened the item to review and discuss Commission Policy 24, Hunting Opportunities Among Various Weapons Classes and Hunter Groups. Member Robinson asked demand and success ratios with regard to bear hunts and said he would like to see bears added to the proposed policy 24. Cooper Munson, NDOW, said when the bear hunt tag allocation was released there was nothing released internally regarding demand success on bear tags. If bears are added, he said it would likely increase bear tags. Mr. Munson did note that he wasn't sure if adding bear hunts to this proposed policy was correct, but Member Robinson and Chair Melarkey noted the policy says all species. Mr. Munson said the intent of the proposal is to hopefully allow for a better allocation of tags.

During public comment, Ms. Caron on behalf of herself, said she agreed with Member Robinson to include bears in the proposed policy. Ms. Carson said it would be beneficial to have it included so there was more clarity around the tag allotments from year-to-year. Ms. Caron also noted that past policy approvals revolved around harvest levels which change each year and it will be important to add the bear hunt to allow the biologist to provide input. Mr. Munson added that if the bear hunt was added, the board may want to include hunt types in

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addition to weapon classes.

The board continued discussion, and Chair Melarkey said he felt the proposal was an improvement over previous policy. Additionally, the board discussed details regarding the proposed motion.

**Member Browne moved to accept Commission Policy 24 with the following exceptions, under demand tag successes, a demand tag success formula will allocate tags to various weapon classes for deer, elk, antelope, and bear. Under specific rules by species, add the bear hunt to include demand success, hunt type, and weapon group. Member Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**10. Commission Policy 65 – Designation of Wildlife Management Areas – First Reading– [For Possible Action]**

Chair Melarkey opened the item to discuss and review Commission Policy 65, Designation of Wildlife Management Areas. Mr. Munson said with the designation of the Pole Canyon conversation, it would be a cooperative management area, which would allow the Department to manage access and the ability to minimize impacts from recreation activities such as dispersed camping. Member Browne asked if this would lead to the area being designated a wilderness area. Mr. Munson said it may lead to it not being designated as a wilderness area. There was no public comment.

**Vice Chair Rowe moved accept Commission Policy 65 – Designation of Wildlife Management Areas as written. Member Rhea seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

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

Member Robinson said the next meeting should have elections for board officers.

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

Ash Casseli asked the board if they had information regarding the land swaps in the Pah Rah Range and Washoe Lake. Ms. Caron said there was an upcoming meeting to discuss Washoe County Public Lands bill on August 11.

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

Chair Melarkey adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.