

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife –  
September 23, 2024 minutes

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

*Members in Attendance*

1. Coby Rowe, Chairman
2. Ryan Browne, Vice Chairman
3. Steve Robinson
4. Matt Melarkey
5. Jim Rhea

*Others in Attendance*

1. Mel Belding
2. Joel Blakeslee
3. Wes Coons, NDOW
4. Jenny Lesieutre
5. Darl Persal
6. Sam Sedio, NDOW

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

Larry Johnson from the Coalition to Manage Wildlife gave comment regarding coyote calling contests and whether there should be regulations adopted by the Commission. George Forbush added that he had created a group that was working on the coyote calling contest issues as well. He added that their group may be in favor of having a license for the contests.

4. **Approval of August 12th, 2024 minutes**-[For possible action]

**Member Melarkey motioned for approval of the August 14, 2024 CAB minutes. Vice Chair Browne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

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

Chair Rowe asked who would be able to attend the upcoming Commission meeting. Chair Rowe, Vice Chair Browne, and Member Melarkey said he would be able to attend virtually.

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

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Chair Rowe noted he had received correspondence from Larry Johnson regarding the coyote calling contest and recommendations of seasons. Member Melarkey said he had received correspondence regarding people who were 70 years or older would automatically receive a mule deer tag. He added that he was not in favor of the proposal. Vice Chair Browne spoke about the TAAHC committee meeting and what was discussed earlier in the day.

**7. WCABMW ELECTIONS [For Possible Action]**

Chair Rowe opened the item to elect the Washoe CAB board officers.

**Member Melarkey moved nominate Coby Rowe for Chair. Member Rhea seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Member Rhea moved to nominate Ryan Browne as Vice Chair. Member Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Chair Rowe moved to nominate Jim Rhea as Secretary. Member Melarkey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**8. Presentation – Habitat and wildlife concerns and issues due to overpopulation of wild horses in Washoe County- [Informational]**

Chair Rowe opened the item to hear a presentation from Jenny Lesieutre. After the presentation ended the board along with the public had a discussion regarding the habitat and wildlife concerns due to the overpopulation of wild horses in both Washoe County and across the state of Nevada.

**9. Commission General Regulations – Commission General Regulation 522 – eTag Regulations – Data and Technology Services [For Possible Action]**

Chair Rowe opened the item to make a recommendation regarding the process related to use of game tags in the field and allow the Department to offer game tags in an electronic format. The CAB discussed the issues that had been identified with the proposal especially with the durable material being used. Wes Coons, NDOW, said that law enforcement had similar concerns as those that had been raised by both the CAB and the Commission. There were also concerns regarding the validation codes and the ability to ensure the codes were legitimate. Member Robinson said that until these concerns could be addressed, the proposal should be abandoned. There was no public comment.

**Member Melarkey moved to oppose Commission General Regulation 522 as written and to send back to the Committee to eliminate the durable material requirement and to address the access to validation numbers for taxidermists and processors and adding that if no functional**

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**change can be agreed upon regarding the standard operating procedure of the e-tag, then the proposal should be eliminated immediately. Vice Chair Browne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

- 10. Commission Regulation 23-15, Amendment #1 Fishing Seasons and Regulations for January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025 [For Possible Action]**

Chair Rowe opened the item to consider amending fishing seasons, bag, and possession limits for the period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025. Sam Sedio, NDOW, noted there were no major changes proposed.

**Member Melarkey moved to accept Commission Regulation 23-15, Amendment #1 Fishing Seasons and Regulations for January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025. Vice Chair Browne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

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

Member Robinson said he would like to see an agenda item regarding coyote calling contests at a future meeting so the board could have a more robust discussion.

- 12. Public Comment [Non-action item]**

Daryl Persal said he would like to see NDOW and the Commission add wild horses as a big game animal..

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

Chair Rowe adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.