

*Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife –
August 12, 2025 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. Matt Melarkey
4. One Vacant Seat

Members Absent

1. Steve Robinson

Others in Attendance

1. Mel Belding
2. Joel Blakeslee
3. Sam Sedio, NDOW
4. Cooper Munson, NDOW
5. John Ewanyk, NDOW
6. Wes Coons, NDOW
7. Mitch Bailey

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

Sam Sedio, NDOW, provided an update regarding Battle Born pond and the types of water craft that were allowed to be used in the pond. He also provided updates regarding city and county work to ensure accessibility for the pond.

4. **Approval of June 29, 2025 minutes**-[For possible action]

Member Melarkey motioned for approval of the June 9, 2025 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. Board members noted they would be able to be in attendance for the upcoming Commission meeting in Ely.

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

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There were no updates or communications from members of the public since the June meeting.

7. Wildlife Health Update [Informational]

Chair Rowe opened the item to discuss the status of Chronic Wasting Disease in mule deer, *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (M. ovi.) in various bighorn sheep herds in Nevada and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1). There was no discussion by the board or public comment. The item was for information only, so no action was taken.

8. Nevada Revised Statutes 338 Public Works Contracts- [Informational]

Chair Rowe opened the item to discuss public works contracts awarded by the Department in the previous fiscal year. There was no discussion by the board or public comment. The item was for information only, so no action was taken.

9. Mule Deer Population Ecology and Management in Nevada [Informational]

Chair Rowe opened the item to discuss population ecology, habitat use, migrations and management within Nevada. There was no discussion by the board or public comment. The item was for information only, so no action was taken.

10. Bats and Abandoned Mine Lands – [Informational]

Chair Rowe opened the item to discuss statewide bat conservation efforts under the Department's bat conservation program, focusing on habitat assessments, mine closures that protect roosting sites, and interagency partnerships to mitigate impacts while supporting bat populations. There was no discussion by the board or public comment. The item was for information only, so no action was taken.

11. Trespass Discussion– [Informational]

Chair Rowe opened the item to discuss a presentation that would be given to the Commission on Trespass related concerns. There was no discussion by the board or public comment. The item was for information only, so no action was taken

12. Reports – [Informational]

- A. Emerging Technologies Committee Report
- B. Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee (TAAHC) Report
- C. Statewide Raptor Activities

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Chair Rowe opened the item to discuss various reports that were going to be presented to the Commission. The members of the CAB discussed information that had seen in some of the reports specifically regarding emerging technologies and tag allocations. The item was for information only, so no action was taken.

13. Commission General Regulations – [For Possible Action]

A. Commission General Regulation 515 – Demerit Points Associated with Trail Cameras and Thermal Imaging Devices

Chair Rowe opened the item to consider amending Chapter 501 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) to change demerit points associated with trail cameras and thermal imaging devices. During public comment, Mel Belding said he would like to see less regulations and he was disappointed Governor Lombardo had not done more to eliminate regulations that he felt were overly cumbersome. Members of the CAB discussed amongst themselves and with NDOW staff about the demerit points that would be issued if folks were found in violation of the regulations for trail cameras and thermal imaging devices.

Chair Rowe moved to approve Commission General Regulation 515 with the following changes: Demerit points for thermal devices from 3 to 12, unlawfully placing and maintaining trail cameras capable of transmitting images, videos, or locations to 12 demerit points, and unlawfully placing maintaining and using any trail camera from August to December, August 1 to December 31st to 9. Member Melarkey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Commission General Regulation 521 – Junior Mule Deer Tag Transfer

Chair Rowe opened the item to consider amending Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) to provide for the circumstances surrounding the transfer of a mule deer tag to a junior hunter. Members of the CAB discussed some questions they had regarding horns shorter than ears and some of the requirements for the adult supervision while juniors were on the hunt. Overall, the CAB found the regulation to be reasonable. There was no public comment.

Member Melarkey moved to approve Commission General Regulation 521 as written. Vice Chair Browne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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14. Commission Regulations - Commission Regulation 25-04, Amendment #2, 2026 Heritage Tag Seasons and Quota– [For Possible Action]

Chair Rowe opened the item to consider the recommended changes to 6 the Nelson (Desert) bighorn sheep 2026 Heritage Tag season. There was no discussion by members of the CAB or public comment.

Chair Rowe moved to approve Commission Regulation 25-04, Amendment #2 as written. Member Melarkey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Chair Rowe said he still planned on having a presentation regarding the turkey tag allocation.

16. Public Comment [Non-action item]

Mitch Bailey spoke about houndsmen permits. He said there were quite a few interest groups and people discussing the petition that was brought forth earlier in the year. He said he didn't want to see special interest groups overrun the discussions.

17. Adjournment [Non-action item]

Chair Rowe adjourned the meeting at 6:51 p.m.