



# Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

## MEETING MINUTES

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Date: March 3, 2011  
Location: Meeting Room: William Pearson Community Center  
1625 W. Carey Ave., North Las Vegas, NV 89032  
Time: 6:00pm  
Board Members Present: Paul Dixon, Chair Tracy Truman, Vice Chair Paul Harris  
Brian Patterson Jacky Holt John Michael Reese

The agenda for this meeting was posted in the following locations;

- Nevada Department of Wildlife, 4747 West Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89107;
- Clark County Government Center, 500 Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89108;
- City of Henderson, City Hall, 240 Water Street, Henderson, Nevada, 89015;
- Boulder City, City Hall, 401 California Avenue, Boulder City, Nevada, 89005;
- Laughlin Town Manager's Office; 101 Civic Way, Laughlin, Nevada, 89028;
- Moapa Valley Community Center, 320 North Moapa Valley Road, Overton, Nevada, 89040;
- Mesquite City Hall, 10 East Mesquite Boulevard, Mesquite, Nevada, 89027.

Date: February 28, 2011

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### 1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by Chairman Paul Dixon.
- Roll call of Board Members was performed by Stacy Matthews. A quorum was present.

### 2. Approval of Minutes of February 1, 2011 CCABMW Meeting- Action

- The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 were approved as written.

### 3. Approval of Agenda for Thursday, March 3, 2011– Action

- The Agenda for this meeting was approved as written.

### 4. CAB Member Items/Announcements/Correspondence

- a. Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this addition to the meeting agenda.
- b. Chairman Paul Dixon noted that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has been holding and plans to hold a series of meetings in various Clark County locations, and asked Commissioner Shrum to elaborate and advise whether Board members should attend upcoming meetings.
  - Commissioner Shrum described the BLM meetings and the purpose of the meetings:

- The meetings are to review the Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) for 3.4 million acres in Clark County.
  - Plans include setting aside areas for atv's, camping, hunting, hiking, etc.
  - Implementation of the plan would take 3 years and establish restrictions on land use and introduce additional fees for use.
  - Chairman Paul Dixon asked if BLM plans to have public Town Hall meetings to review the RAMP?
  - Commissioner Shrum answered that a follow-on phase of the RAMP development will include public meetings.
  - Mike Reese asked if the RAMP included the Gold Butte area which was proposed by the Clark County Commission as a National Conservation Area (NCA). Commissioner Shrum answered yes.
  - Chairman Paul Dixon stated that this is an item that the CCABMW should monitor.
  - Clint Bentley noted that now is the time to provide input and feedback on the proposed Plan as the BLM is scoping and developing the Plan.
  - A current version of the plan can be found at:  
[www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/lvfo.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/lvfo.html)
  - Commissioner McBeath added it is important for NDOW to get involved.
  - Commissioner Howell noted that BLM has set a April 11 deadline for agency input on the Plan.
- c. Chairman Paul Dixon Advised attendees that the Meadow Valley Chapter of the Mule Deer Foundation will hold its Annual Banquet at the Caliente Fire Station in Caliente, NV March 26, 2011.
- d. Chairman Paul Dixon gave a summary of a proposed habitat restoration project targeting part of the Spruce Mountain Allotment in eastern Elko County by the US Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management. He suggested the CCABMW contact the Elko CAB to see if there is any support the CCABMW can provide.
- e. Chairman Paul Dixon expressed his appreciation to Clint Bentley for an editorial published in the Review-Journal on Monday, Feb. 28, 2011, entitled "Solar energy plans should respect our wildlife habitat".
- f. Mike Reese highlighted a Shooting Competition being held at the Clark County Shooting Park throughout the month of March. Scores are recorded each Friday, Saturday, and Sunday and leaders' names and scores are posted daily. This includes archery, shotgun, and rifle-pistol.
- g. Brian Patterson noted that he had received an email regarding the Upland Game Bird Season dates. The concern is why can't those dates go through February.
- Chairman Paul Dixon advised that the Commission will set the new dates at the June meeting. The CCABMW and review and recommend at any meetings up to June.
- h. Mike Reese had a request from a Fishing Guide at Lake Mead to alert them if there were upcoming discussions regarding licenses and fees. Fees were recently raised for \$250 to \$750 and there are rumors for more increases. Clint Bentley recommended contacting Rob Buonamici, NDOW Chief Game Warden.

## 5. Public Comment

- Jennifer McCarty asked for clarification on the roles of the Wildlife Commission and the CCABMW. She wanted to know, for example, when and where discussion of the Bear Hunts were held and when public input was solicited.
- Chairman Paul Dixon and other Board members endeavored to provide clarification on the roles and processes involved with the CCABMW and Wildlife Commission.
- With no further Public Comment, Chairman Paul Dixon closed Public Comment.

## 6. Informational – Committee and Member Updates

- A. **Review of February Wildlife Commission Meeting Actions-** Commission draft minutes additional items for discussion. Discussion regarding the Board of Wildlife Commissioners Draft Minutes February 4th and 5th, 2011. Draft Commission meeting minutes are available upon request to Stacy Matthews (702) 455-2705 (smatthews@co.clark.nv.us) or at [www.ndow.org/learn/com/mtg/](http://www.ndow.org/learn/com/mtg/)
- 1) Kirch Award given to Cecil Fredi.
  - 2) Review and discuss numerous changes to hunt seasons by Commission.
    - Paul Harris noted that there were many changes to season dates, too many to try to discuss specifically.
  - 3) Changes to Heritage language tabled at Governors request.
  - 4) Mountain Lion harvests quota set at 500 by Commission.
    - Chairman Paul Dixon noted that this quota was up from 150-200 in previous years.
  - 5) Controversial Findings of Mule Deer Restoration Committee accepted by Commission in a 6-3 vote.
  - 6) Nevada Waterfowl Hunt Zone and Swan Hunt Area Changes
    - Chairman Paul Dixon noted that there are now 3 Waterfowl zones and changes to the hunt area for Swans.
    - Clint Bentley raised the issue that when the Commission makes decisions on revised agendas that have not been available for public comment, that is a violation of the Open Meeting Law. He cited the Waterfowl Hunt Zone changes, the Mountain Lion quotas, and the many changes to the hunt seasons as examples. He feels that when those types of decisions are made, those topics should be reopened for public discussion.
    - Karen Layne (LV Valley Humane Society) asked what the CCABMW's input was on the Mountain Lion quotas
    - Chairman Paul Dixon answered that the CCABMW agreed with the limits proposed by the biologist, just over 200.
    - Jennifer McCarty asked who the biologist is. He is Russell Woolstenhulme.
  - 7) Review and discuss Silver State Tag and Partnership in Wildlife Seasons and Quotas 2011 and 2012.
    - Commissioner McBeath noted that two years ago, one of the two Heritage Desert Bighorn tags was removed leaving one Heritage tag and one Silver State tag. That tag has not been reinstated.
    - Chairman Paul Dixon stated that as a result, \$70K-\$120K per year has been lost for the Heritage Fund.

## 7. Action Items

**A. Discuss & make recommendations regarding the following Action Items from the Board of Wildlife Commissioners Agenda March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011.**

- 1) **Agenda item #9B: Wildlife Damage Management Fiscal Year 2011 Plan – Commissioner Vogler – Action.** The Commission will discuss and provide guidance to the Department concerning development and information provided in the 2011 and future Wildlife Damage Management plans.
  - Chairman Paul Dixon summarized this item and from available backup materials it appears that an discussion at the Commission meeting will be strictly informational. He recommended tabling this item.
  - Motion was made and seconded to table this item. Motion passed unanimously.
  
- 2) **Agenda item #10: Additional Application Hunt System Report Format – Chief of Operations Bob Haughian – Action.** The Commission may endorse or deny a request made previously at the December 2010 Commission meeting from Commissioner Cavin to introduce an additional report format to publicly display a list of successful tag applicants by hunt unit on the huntnevada.com website.
  - Chairman Paul Dixon noted there is currently no backup for this item and recommends tabling.
  - Clint Bentley asked if there is any fiscal impact for System Consultants Inc., to provide this additional report.
  - Commissioner McBeath reports are available on huntnevada.com that list all hunters who received tags.
  - Paul Harris noted that the reports are in Excel format so sorting the reports is not an issue.
  - Motion was made and seconded to table this item due to lack of backup material. Motion passed unanimously.
  
- 3) **Agenda item #11B: Legislative Committee Report and Actions – Commissioner Capurro – Action.** The Commission may take action to support, not support, or take no action on bills reviewed at the Legislative Committee meeting.
  - Chairman Paul Dixon reviewed the invasive species legislation proposed (AB-167). The intent of the legislation is to prevent species from contaminated waters spreading to other parts of the state.
  - Mike Reese questioned how effective it could be if boaters choose to avoid having to decontaminate their boats as they leave a contaminated lake.
  - Chairman Paul Dixon stated that the bill would authorize law enforcement to impound boats, etc., until proper cleaning was done.
  - Chairman Paul Dixon then reviewed ACR3, the Sage Grouse Resolution. The legislation urges proactive protection and restoration of the population and habitat of the greater sage grouse in Nevada.
  - Mike Reese asked about the wind energy industry vs. the sage grouse.
  - Chairman Paul Dixon indicated that this legislation will strengthen the laws and requirements thus better protecting the sage grouse.
  - SB-102: Shed Antlers – Chairman Paul Dixon noted that SB-102 would remove the penalties for non-commercial shed hunting and would remove requirements for having a valid hunting license.
  - SB-108: Boat Fees – Intended to bring Nevada Boat Fees in line with fees charged in neighboring Western States. Currently, Nevada is 30%-60% lower. Proponents need to get approval from Governor Sandoval who has stated he wants no new or raised taxes.

- SJR-5: Resolution on Wild Horses – expresses opposition to certain proposed actions concerning wild horses and burros on public lands in Nevada, and urges Congress to take certain actions concerning those herds. States that populations of wild horses and burros, if left unmanaged, doubles every five years. It further urges the Nevada Legislature to oppose allowing any horse herds to grow or allowing establishment of horse herd preserves in Nevada.
  - VCT noted that as the wild horses are under federal control, the State of Nevada cannot establish laws with regard to the wild horses. What they can do is establish a position as the State of Nevada regarding wild horses for consideration by the US Congress and Department of Interior.
  - Karen Layne offered that with respect to SJR-5, it appears that BLM is making some changes to its handling of the wild horses. She suggests that BLM should be allowed to make those changes. She opposes the position stated in the proposed Resolution.
  - Clint Bentley stated that he feel the CCABMW should recommend support of SJR-5 and further that the State of Nevada go on record that BLM needs to follow the law as stated in the Horse and Burro Act.
  - Commissioner McBeath added that support of this resolution needs to be from the standpoint of wildlife.
  - Chairman Paul Dixon noted that the proposed Spruce Mountains Restoration project stated the intent to restrict access by cattle and domestic sheep herds, but nothing was said regarding the wild horse herds that number 700-800. The Allowed Management Level for the area is 300 horses.
  - Jay Holt asked how SJR-5 would stop a wild horse preserve.
  - A motion was made and seconded to recommend support of AB-167, ACR-3, SB-102, and SB-108. Motion passed unanimously.
  - A motion was made and seconded to support SJR-5 as written. Motion passed with one abstention, Paul Dixon.
- 4) **Agenda item #12: Consideration of Disbanding de facto Committee to Meet with Governor Sandoval - Chairman Raine – Action.** At a prior meeting the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners voted to send a two-member delegation to meet with Governor Sandoval concerning regulation changes being brought before the Board. Counsel advised that it is possible the previous vote technically created a de facto public body subject to the Nevada’s Open Meeting Law. The Board will consider taking action to disband the delegation.
- Motion was made and seconded to table this item due to lack of backup material. Motion passed unanimously.
- 5) **Agenda item #13: Administrative Procedures, Regulations and Policy (APRC) Committee Report and Recommendations – Vice Chairman Lent – Action.** The Commission will hear a report from the APCR and be asked to take action to approve or modify for reading APCR Committee’s recommendations to change or create new policies.
- Chairman Paul Dixon reviewed proposed changes to **Policy #10** regarding fees charged for Heritage Tags by vendors.
  - Clint Bentley stated that allowing a vendor to add fees is a violation of the NRS. The Commission cannot change the NRS.
  - Commissioner McBeath reviewed the current fee procedure for Heritage Tags. No additional fees can be added for the purchase of the Tag other than credit card fees, if applicable.

- Motion was made and seconded to oppose allowing any premium fees for any organization to be added to the fees for Heritage Tags and that the policy remain unchanged. Motion passed unanimously.
- Policy on Transparency: The purpose is to develop a transparency of information provided to the public concerning methods, determining huntable populations and quota for undulates. It is the policy of this Commission to provide the public and the County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife as much scientific information as possible to enable them to submit recommendations to the Commission for the establishment of regulations. The Department will post on their website all survey data without modification from each biologist for their specific units. All adjustments/modifications made to the data by biologists will also be noted. All carrying capacity data biologists have gathered will also be noted on the website. All population models used by the biologists to determine undulate populations and quotas, including explanation s of variables and inputs used, will also be posted on the website.
- Paul Harris stated his belief that having all survey data available would be giving hunters unfair advantage, as they would know more precisely where animal were.
- Clint Bentley noted that each year the populations are available when the quotas are set.
- Karen Layne believes that having additional information is valuable in understanding quotas.
- Paul Harris is opposed to highly detailed information that can be detrimental to the wildlife herds.
- Jay Holt is very opposed to publishing detailed information on the numbers and locations of animals.
- Paul Harris added that it could be a roadmap for poachers.
- Clint Bentley objected to having carrying capacity included.
- Motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of the Transparency Policy with the following changes:  
The Department will post on their website ~~all~~ **general** survey data ~~without modification~~ from each biologist for their specific units. ~~All~~ Adjustments/modifications made to the data by biologists will also be noted. ~~All~~ Carrying capacity data biologists have gathered will also be noted on the website. ~~All~~ Population models used by the biologists to determine undulate populations and quotas, including explanations of variables and inputs used, will also be posted on the website.
- Motion passed unanimously.
- Commission Policy on Wolves – Chairman Paul Dixon read the proposed policy which states that under Nevada law, wolves will be an unprotected species.
- Brian Patterson asked why this policy when wolves are federally protected. This policy has no effect should someone kill a wolf. Killing a wolf is a federal crime.
- Chairman Paul Dixon stated that this policy is to state that there has never been a native wolf population in Nevada and that Nevada does not want one should the Federal Government want to start a wolf presence in Nevada like they did in Idaho.
- Karen Layne stated that while the Commission has been using Science as its justification for various actions, but using history as justification for unprotecting the wolf in Nevada is wrong. She is opposed to the policy.
- Motion was made, amended, and seconded to recommend approval with the following changes:  
#5: Delete everything following the word “State”.  
#6: Remove the last four words.  
#8: Delete everything following the word “Nevada”.
- Motion passed unanimously.

6) **Agenda item #15A: Management Bull Elk: Definition – Chairman Raine – Action.** The Commission may give guidance, and provide guidelines to NDOW concerning, development of language for regulation establishing a management bull elk season.

- Chairman Paul Dixon summarized discussion held at earlier Commission Meetings regarding the definition of a “management bull elk”.
- Commissioner McBeath explained the rationale for a managed bull elk hunt to keep the bull to cow ratio at the ideal level. The problem is it creates undue pressure on the trophy elk. The Utah “spike” hunt appears to not be working to maintain herd balance.
- Chairman Paul Dixon noted that there are large 5 point bulls, and most hunters would be delighted with one.
- Paul Harris added that many hunters will not put in for an elk tag if they can’t get at least a 5 point bull.
- Kensen Lee feels 4 point or less is a management bull. Often a hunter sees a 5-6 bull but only sees the 5point side so there’s a good chance a 6 point will be left out there to rot.
- Chairman Paul Dixon noted that there appears to be a genetic limit in Nevada that stops at 5 points. Rarely if ever is a bull seen that is 6 or more points. They seem to stop at 5 points, but some are huge.
- Motion was made and seconded to recommend that the management bull elk hunt be established for bull elks with 4 points or less.

7) **Agenda item #17A&B: Report from Feral Horse Committee, Horse Monument and Letters and/or Resolutions**

**17A: The Commission may consider approving a draft letter to the State Water Engineer in reference to the issue of giving water rights meant for wildlife to wild horses Mike Stremler, chair – Action**

**17B: The Commission will hear a report from the APRC Committee and conduct a first reading of a proposed new Commission policy on horses (policy number pending) – Chairman Raine – Action**

- This item was tabled. The revised Commission Agenda removed these items to informational.

8) **Agenda item #18: Commission Regulation Number 11- 09 – Black Bear Draw Application Deadline – Program Officer III Maureen Hullinger** The Commission will consider adoption of the 2011 and 2012 black bear hunt online application deadline of the second Friday in May until 5 p.m. except as provided in LCB file R155-09, and the Wildlife Administrative Services Office will accept applications for the black bear hunt online only at [www.huntnevada.com](http://www.huntnevada.com).

- Chairman Paul Dixon asked for clarification of LCB File R155-09. None of the Commissioners or others in attendance were able to answer.
- Motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of this Regulation with the deadline stated specifically as May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011.
- Motion passed unanimously.

**B. Authorize the Chairman to prepare and submit the recommendations from today’s meeting to the Commission for its consideration at its March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011 meeting in Reno, NV.**

- Motion was made and seconded to authorize the Chairman to prepare and submit recommendations from today’s meeting to the Commission. Motion passed unanimously.

**C. Discussion of important Informational items from the Board of Wildlife Commissioners March 11th and 12th, 2011 Agenda.** CCABMW agenda & support materials are available upon request to Stacy Matthews (702) 455-2705 or [smatthews@co.clark.nv.us](mailto:smatthews@co.clark.nv.us). The final Commission agenda & support materials should be available on March 1st at [www.ndow.org/learn/com/mtg/support/agenda.pdf](http://www.ndow.org/learn/com/mtg/support/agenda.pdf).

- 1. Agenda item #14: Commission General Regulation 394 Wolf Status, Temporary-T006-10 – Chairman Raine – Informational** The Commission will discuss the concept of a temporary regulation revising the status of gray wolves (*Canis Lupis*) from a game mammal to unprotected mammal and other matters related thereto, however, no regulatory language will be proposed.
  - Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
  - Commissioner McBeath added that until Governor Sandoval lifts the restriction on new regulations, no actions can be taken by the Commission. Discussions at the upcoming Commission meeting would allow the Commission to have a plan in place for when the restriction is lifted.
  - VCT recommended that the Commission develop a plan that will meet Federal approval.
- 2. Agenda Item #16: Wayne E. Kirch Wildlife Conservation Award Judging Committee Report and Recommendations – Commissioner Howell – Informational.** The Commission will hear a report from the Wayne E. Kirch Wildlife Conservation Award Judging Committee on changes to Commission Policy #51, Wayne E. Kirch Nevada Wildlife Conservation Award, and the Commission will hear a second reading of those changes.
  - Chairman Paul Dixon explained that Marlene Kirch has asked that her father's name be removed from the award and the award be renamed.
  - CH added that the Committee will meet Friday morning before the Commission Meeting in preparation for a vote on Saturday.
- 3. Agenda Item #23: Second Readings of Commission Policies – Vice Chairman Lent – Informational** The Commission will conduct second readings of proposed changes to Commission Policy #10, "Wildlife Heritage Tags and Vendors"; and second readings on two new proposed Commission Policies, "Transparency" (policy number pending) and "Wolves" (policy number pending).

**8. Informational Items – No action may be taken on these items.**

- A. Member Comments** – any item requiring Board action will be scheduled on a future agenda
- No comments.

**9. Next scheduled meetings of the Board and Commission** The next Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting is scheduled for April 12th is scheduled to be held in Henderson, location to be determined.

**10. Adjournment**

- Motion made to adjourn. Motion seconded.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.

DRAFT