

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

DRAFT OF MINUTES

Monday ~ May 10, 2010 ~ 6:30 p.m.
Nevada Department of Wildlife
Conference Room B
1100 Valley Road, Reno, Nevada

MEMBERS

Rick Smith, Chair
Glen Copeland, Vice-chair
Rex Flowers, Secretary
Daryl Harwell
Thomas Wilson

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE *

Chair Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL *

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was established.

PRESENT: Glen Copeland, Rex Flowers Daryl Harwell, Rick Smith and Thomas Wilson.

ABSENT: None.

3. APPROVAL OF MARCH 11, 2010, MINUTES

It was moved by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Copeland, to approve the March 11, 2010, minutes, as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS *

There were no public comments.

5. COMMITTEE, MEMBER AND LIAISON UPDATES *

5-1. Correspondence (including sportsmen's concerns) and Announcements – Chair Smith read prepared statements from the following individuals into the record (copies on file): 1) Tal Browne opposed to regulation of trail cameras; 2) Nicole Brown on tag recommendations; 3) Rex Flowers personal recommendations on Heritage Tag vendors; 4) Correspondence from Governor Jim Gibbons seeking recommendations from the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife for Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioner appointments; 4) Chair Smith's response to Governor Gibbons advising that this board would take action on the Governor's request for recommendations on May 10, 2010, during the regular meeting; 5) comments on an article in the Nevada Appeal on March 21, 2010 as it pertains to predator control from Jeanne Frelick. Chair Smith commented that he had met with Governor Gibbons in Elko on April 30, 2010 noting that the Washoe County Game Board would be unable to provide Commission candidate recommendations until after the Monday, May 10, 2010, meeting. Mr. Smith noted that Ken Wellington and others had participated in the meeting with the Governor.

5-2. Overview of the March 19 and 20, 2010, Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meeting – Member Harwell noted that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners had

* denotes NON action item

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approved the recommendations at the previous meeting and that the Department (Nevada Department of Wildlife) will be transitioning to a paperless application process in the future.

5-3). Update and status report on the Washoe County Predator Control Project and the Wildlife Damage Management Subcommittee – Chris Hampson – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), noted that one Coyote had been taken from Unit 014 in mid-March and that four (4) Mountain Lions had been removed since July 2009 in Unit 022.

Member Copeland commented that the Wildlife Damage Management Subcommittee had held two meetings in which Wildlife Services provided information about on-going projects and Raven predator issues at Overton Wildlife Management area's Wild Turkey nesting sites.

6. BOARD MEMBER MEETING ASSIGNMENT – *A discussion and selection of member(s) to attend the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meetings on: 1) May 14 and 15, 2010, meetings in Reno, Nevada; and 2) June 25 and 26, 2010, meetings in Ely, Nevada.*

Member Copeland will attend the May 14 and 15, 2010, meetings in Reno.

Chair Smith will attend the June 25 and 26, 2010, meetings in Ely, Nevada.

7. COMMISSION POLICY NO. 50 – DUCK STAMP PROCEDURE – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed recommendations and changes from NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) staff, including deletion of the stamp printing sections on the last two pages and update the purpose in order to coincide with the new Duck Stamp regulation.*

Member Wilson noted his support for the revision as it provides a clearer process by removing language on printing.

Responding to Member Harwell's comment that he would like to see language included that allows the sportsman to secure the previous year's Duck Stamp, Member Wilson pointed out that would be addressed under a separate agenda item.

It was moved by Member Harwell, seconded by Member Flowers, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the revisions to Commission Policy 50, as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

8. RUBY PIPELINE VYA WORK CAMP AND NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) PARTICIPATION IN ROUTING OF PIPELINE – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to*

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approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed recommendations and changes from NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) staff on the Ruby Pipeline Project Proposal.

Chair Smith provided an outline of the agenda item and explained that there was little in the way of support material upon which the board could make any specific recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

Chris Hampson – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), commented that he had met with law enforcement agencies and others today (May 10, 2010) to review the roles and responsibilities of each agency during the construction project that is expected to take about ten (10) months. The crews will be bussed to the construction site and work six - twelve hour days, from 6:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. The use of a camp bus will reduce the overall vehicle impact during the construction. Mr. Hampson then noted that NDOW staff had been working with the Ruby Pipeline project since its inception and will continue to work with the developer as the project is constructed. Mr. Hampson emphasized that he could not address specific issues since he had not been actively involved in the process. However, the process has developed specific guidelines on revegetation of disturbed area with native grasses and shrubs which will be monitored by the Department and other agencies to assure that invasive weeds are abated and that restoration is done in a proper manner. Mr. Hampson noted that the pipeline will ultimately transport natural gas across the northern reaches of Washoe County.

Don Klebenow recalled his previous tenure as a Professor of Wildlife Management at UNR (University of Nevada, Reno) and that while his previous work with Sage Grouse in northern Washoe County was not in this specific area, that he believes there will be additional detrimental effects on the Sage Grouse populations. Since 1984 Mr. Klebenow's research has shown a significant loss of nesting habitat and the loss of two (2) of the four (4) site previously identified in earlier research.

There was no specific action taken on this item.

- 9. COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 375 – APPRENTICE LICENSE – LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) FILE NO. R019-10 – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify a proposed regulation relating to hunting; providing for the issuance of an apprentice hunting license; requiring a mentor hunter to complete a mentor hunter affidavit for each apprentice hunter he/she accompanies and directly supervises; restricting mentor hunters to accompanying and directly supervising one (1) apprentice hunter at a time; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.***

Chair Smith outlined the agenda item and hearing no public commented brought the matter back to the board for discussion and/or action.

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Member Wilson drew attention to Section 9 paragraph 3 and noted his concern about having only one mentor. Mr. Wilson noted that while he concurs with a mentor only having one apprentice at a time he believes that a second mentor, especially, in certain hunting scenarios such as Waterfowling or other fast moving species, that a second mentor might be appropriate. For example, if the mentor goes to retrieve a downed bird there would be an alternate to assist the apprentice assuring a safer hunt.

During the discussion it was suggested that there are times when a hunting dog is not present that a second set of eyes would be useful.

It was moved by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission General Regulation 375 – Apprentice License – LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) File No. R019-10 as presented with a modification to Section 9 Paragraph 3 to allow more than one (1) mentor to supervise an apprentice at the same time. The Motion carried: Members Flowers, Harwell and Wilson assenting; and Member Copeland and Chair Smith dissenting.

- 10. COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 378 - GUIDE LICENSE CHANGES - LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) FILE NO. R006-10 – A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify a regulation relating to wildlife; revising the date after NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) will not process an application for the issuance or renewal of a master guide license; amending certain examination dates for a master guide license; amending the requirements concerning the amount of insurance a master guide must carry; authorizing the NDOW to deny, revoke or suspend a guide's license for a conviction of a crime involving physical violence, theft or fraud; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.**

Chair Smith provided an overview of the agenda item and hearing no public comment brought the matter back to the board for discussion and action.

Member Flowers noted that the proposed amendment indicated that an application cannot be filed after August 30. However, the license examination must be passed before an application for a license can be filed. It is Mr. Flowers' belief that the application date needs to be somewhat later allowing time for the examination process to be completed as the licenses are not effective until January 1.

Member Wilson drew attention to Section 5 and the provisions to deny, revoke or suspend a license when a conviction of physical violence is on the applicant's record. Member Wilson commented that as an attorney, most of these causes that involved physical violence are domestic violence and other misdemeanor offence that he does not believe should have

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any bearing on licensure. Mr. Wilson stated that while he can support the proposal he cannot support the provision relating to physical violence without additional information from law enforcement.

It was moved by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Flowers, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission General Regulation 378 - Guide License Changes - LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) File No. R006-10 as submitted with the deletion in Section 5 of the inclusion of any misdemeanor crime involving physical violence, Member Wilson stated that he does not know of any gross misdemeanor that involved physical violence that falls within that definition. The motion carried unanimously.

- 11. COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 379 – JUNIOR HUNT ELIGIBILITY CHANGES - LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) FILE NO. R150-09 –** *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify a proposed regulation relating to Junior Hunts; expanding the period of eligibility for applicants for a Junior Hunt; revising provisions relating to the number of years for which an applicant may apply for a Junior Hunt; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.*

Chair Smith provided an outline of the agenda item to modify the period of eligibility and number of years an applicant for the Junior Hunt can apply.

Mel Belding commented that, in his opinion, the Junior Hunt program should be reevaluated in a manner that would allow young adults who have never hunted to participate. It is Mr. Belding's belief that increasing the age limit will result in higher recruitment.

Judi Caron commented that while she supports the Junior Hunt for youth, she believes that it may be time to transition the program to a novice level that allows somewhat older youths to participate.

Member Copeland explained that he too believes that it may be time to restructure the Junior Hunt.

Member Flowers noted that two of his grandchildren have participated in the program with another one currently involved and a fourth one coming of age. Of some concern is whether the allocated 3,000 tags will be sufficient if the program is expanded and age limits modified.

Chair Smith noted that all of his children had participated in the program and that his daughter had not received a tag in her first four years. Mr. Smith explained that he does not believe there will be any significant benefit by extending the eligibility and/or age

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limitation. Chair Smith believes the proposal should be denied as written with direction to staff to come back with a different program.

Member Harwell commented that his son participated in the Junior Hunt his first year and that he does not see why the age limitation should be changed.

It was moved by Member Harwell, seconded by Member Copeland, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioner deny Commission General Regulation 379 – Junior Hunt Eligibility Changes - LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) File No. R150-09, as written. The motion carried unanimously.

The board suggested that a future agenda item be developed to discuss a review of the Junior Hunt with the intent of perhaps redefining the Junior Hunt as a Novice Hunt in an effort to achieve greater hunter recruitment with the program.

- 12. COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 385 – EXPIRED DUCK STAMP PURCHASE – LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) FILE NO. R011-09 – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify a proposed regulation relating to state Duck Stamps; setting forth the price of unexpired state Duck Stamps; authorizing a person to obtain or purchase an expired state Duck Stamp under certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.***

Chair Smith provided an overview of the agenda item.

Member Harwell noted that the State of Maryland had developed a process by which an individual can order their federal stamp when applying for their State of Maryland stamp. Mr. Harwell provided a copy of the article for the record.

Chair Smith stated that he believes the State of Oregon offers a similar program.

Member Wilson suggested that the Duck Stamps be made available in Elko and Las Vegas (Nevada) as well as the Reno offices.

There was some discussion about what, if any, additional expense might be incurred by the department and how that expense could be recouped.

It was moved by Member Harwell, seconded by Member Wilson, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission General Regulation 385 – Expired Duck Stamp Purchase – LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) File No. R011-09 and amend the language to allow Duck Stamps to be picked up at any Nevada Department of Wildlife Office. The motion carried unanimously.

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The meeting recessed at 7:39 p.m. and reconvene at 7:44 p.m. A quorum was established.

- 13. WASHOE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE 2010-2011 BUDGET** – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify the fiscal year 2010-2011 budget for the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife for travel and operating funding.*

Chair Smith summarized the budget submitted to NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) explained that if the budget, as recommended by NDOW, were approved there would be no additional funds in the event there is a special meeting. Mr. Smith then outlined his budget research over the past four (4) fiscal years. It is Chair Smith's recommendation that the budget submitted by the Washoe County board be approved as submitted as the reduced budget would most likely result in a budget deficit by the end of the fiscal year.

Judi Caron expressed her support for the budget submitted by Chair Smith.

Member Harwell noted that he has received many positive comments on the meeting minutes and detail provided to Washoe County. Mr. Harwell noted that the members of the Washoe County board have and continue to be active in various Subcommittees'. Member Harwell commented that it was easier to secure the necessary budget initially than to seek a budget augmentation later in the fiscal year.

Member Flowers noted that perhaps alternate means of transportation should be sought to reduce expense, such as car rental and ride-share with NDOW staff to other areas.

It was moved by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Copeland, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife budget as submitted in the amount of \$4,847.04 rather than the staff recommendation of \$3,725.50. The motion carried unanimously.

- 14. FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011 WILDLIFE HERITAGE PROJECTS** – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify recommendations proposed to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners for approval of projects submitted for funding in fiscal year 2010-2011.*

Chair Smith explained that he had attended the Heritage Subcommittee meeting and recalled Commission Chair Lent's suggestion to rank the projects in terms of priority and applicability to enhance Muledeer populations. Chair Smith pointed out that Governor Jim Gibbons' directive to NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) Director Ken Mayer had been to increase Muledeer populations in the State. Chair Smith suggested that the board review

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and strike those project proposals that are not inline with increasing or enhancing herd populations.

During the discussion it was pointed out that the NDOW proposal were already ranked in order of priority, whereas those submitted by outside entities were not. As the discussion continued, it was noted that staff could not provide the level of detail on the success rate of any previous Heritage Fund project. Other discussion pointed out that there are on-going predator control projects funded with the \$3.00 fee already paid by sportsmen. Discussion then suggested that 11-09 did not meet the goal of enhancing deer herd populations in the state and should therefore be stricken.

Discussion then suggested that Projects 11-01 and 11-02 be funded at 50-percent; 11-03, 11-04 and 11-05 funded in full; 11-06 at \$92,500.00; and 11-07 \$11,400.00.

Don Klebenow suggested that projects be documented so that the project can be evaluated to determine the level of benefit derived from the project.

Mel Belding noted his concern about 11-20, which he believes to be the same as submitted the previous year. Mr. Belding suggested that 11-01 be fully funded.

Chair Smith suggested that 11-09, 11-16, 11-17, 11-18, 11-19, 11-20, 11-21, 11-22, 11-23, 11-24 and 11-25 not be considered for funding with 11-01, 11-02 and 11-04 being the priority for funding. Additionally, Chair Smith believes that 11-16 with some modifications could be considered as a priority.

Discussion then suggested that 11-11 also be removed as the cost for the video production could be secured from various conservation groups in the state. As the discussion continued, it was pointed out that the department has significant investments in water rights and that certain ponds need to be leveled to enable the water to be spread over a larger surface areas.

It was moved by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners fully fund 11-01, as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Member Copeland, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners fully fund 11-02, as submitted. The motion carried: Members Copeland, Harwell, Wilson and Chair Smith assenting; and Member Flowers dissenting.

It was moved by Member Flower, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners fully fund 11-04, as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

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Discussion then turned to the unranked proposals submitted by outside agencies. During the discussion it was suggested by Judi Caron that some consideration be given to 11-15 that would fund a rehabilitation revegetation project in Lincoln County. As the discussion continued, it was pointed out by Member Flowers that it has been suggested that the NEPA (National Environmental Protection Act) process be funded by the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) and/or USFS (United States Forest Service). There was additional discussion about the use of the remaining Heritage funds and projects.

Responding to an inquiry from Member Copeland about Unit 035, Mike Cox – NDOW, explained that Wildlife Services had been asked to conduct an assessment of the area before fifteen (15) California Bighorn Sheep were released in the Jackson's. Mr. Cox explained that their report indicated that they did not find anything and had done a second assessment.

Mike Dobel – Supervising Biologist, noted that both Wildlife Services and an independent contractor were being used in Unit 031 and had been asked to provide assistance in Unit 035 as well. Mr. Dobel noted that there was no indication of any predator issues and that no Muledeer were identified in the area. Therefore, a decision was made to concentrate resources in areas having significant herd populations. Mr. Dobel suggested that funding be provided for 11-06 that will perhaps benefit deer herds.

During the discussion it was pointed out that 11-13 would receive nearly 75-percent of the total funding from outside sources and that if \$93,000.00 were provided for 11-06 that the total funding would reach \pm \$1-million.

It was moved by Member Copeland, seconded by Chair Smith, to not support 11-13.

Member Wilson stated he could not support such a motion and suggested that if additional monies are available that the board may wish to reconsider whether or not to fund 11-13.

The motion failed: Member Copeland and Chair Smith assenting; and Members Flowers, Harwell and Wilson dissenting.

It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners fund 11-06 in the amount of \$100,000.00, as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

There was some discussion about funding some portion of 11-21, 11-22, 11-23, 11-24 and/or 11-25. During the discussion Mr. Belding pointed out that 11-25 is one of the larger guzzler projects and that it is critical that it be rebuilt to serve the wildlife populations in that area.

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It was moved by Member Copeland, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners fund 11-25 in the amount of \$38,130.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion then focused on 11-07. During the discussion it was questioned how much data could be collected with the limited number of collars (eight) being requested. As the discussion continued, it was explained that the intent is to collar at least five (5) Mountain Lions leaving three (3) of the tracking collars in reserve and that the data obtained from the tracking used in conjunction with tissue samples would provide a better understanding of the migration and diet of the Mountain Lions.

It was moved by Chair Smith, seconded by Member Copeland, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners fund 11-07 in the amount of \$26,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Member Copeland, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners fully fund 11-08, as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Flowers, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners allocate the remaining \$3,770.00 among and between 11-21, 11-22, 11-23 and 11-24. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting recessed at 8:55 p.m. and reconvened at 9:00 p.m.

15. **COMMISSION REGULATION 09-01 AMENDMENT NO. 2** – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify corrections to Commission Regulation 09-01 Amendment No. 1 to include Fallon Naval Air Station and Nevada Test Site and Training Range restrictions, which were omitted in Commission Regulation 09-01 Amendment No. 1.*

It was moved by Member Copeland, seconded by Member Wilson, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 09-01 Amendment No. 2 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

16. **COMMISSION REGULATION 10-02 – BIG GAME QUOTAS 2010** – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify regulations for the numbers of tags to be issued for Mule Deer, Pronghorn Antelope, Elk, Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goats for 2010 – 2011.*

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Mike Dobel - Supervising Biologist, provided an overview of the reports, tables and work done over the past several weeks noting that there is a move to transition from printed to electronic information.

Judi Caron asked that there be some consideration of making the information available in book form for purchase.

Mr. Dobel then outlined the statewide estimates and fawn recruitments that have in some instances led to a higher number of tags.

Chair Smith commented that the board would consider each species and open each section to public comment.

ANTELOPE – Hunts 2151, 2171, 2161, 2181, 2251, and 2261

It was explained that the Muzzleloader Hunt 2171 demand/success ratio had been estimated in 2009 resulting in the loss of one (1) tag for 2010.

It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve staff recommendations in Hunts 2151, 2171, 2161, 2181, 2251, and 2261, as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

ELK – Hunts 4102, 4151, 4156, 4161, 4181, 4176, 4111, 4251, 4256 and 4261

Mr. Dobel outlined the survey results noting that some areas are estimated at a \pm 13-percent population increase resulting in populations meeting or in some instances exceeding mandated herd population caps. The result of the increased populations is reflected in the tag allocation recommendations.

Mike Cox – biologist, explained that there were some errors in the table and suggested that the tag allocations be revised as follows: Hunt 4151 Unit 072, 074 Late be changed to read eighty-two (82); Unit 091b to read three (3); Hunt 4161 Unit 072, 074 be changed to read eighteen (18); Hunt 4181 Unit 072 Early change to read eighty (80), Unit 074 Early changed to twenty-one (21); Hunt 4176 Unit 072 to read twenty-three (23); and Hunt 4111 changed to read nineteen (19). Mr. Cox then explained that Nevada and Utah share Unit 091 and that the State of Utah does not have a PIW (Partners in Wildlife) type of hunt. Therefore the tag allocation in that particular Unit was reduced by one (1) tag in response to their concerns.

It was moved by Member Copeland, seconded by Member Wilson, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioner approve Hunts 4102, 4151, 4156, 4161, 4181, 4176, 4111, 4251, 4256 and 4261 with the following modifications: Hunt 4151

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Unit 072, 074 late be changed to read eighty-two (82); Unit 091b to read three (3); Hunt 4161 Unit 072, 074 be changed to read eighteen (18); Hunt 4181 Unit 072 Early change to read eighty (80), Unit 074 Early changed to twenty-one (21); Hunt 4176 Unit 072 to read twenty-three (23); and Hunt 4111 changed to read nineteen (19). The motion carried unanimously.

Nelson (Desert) Big Horn Sheep – Hunts 3151 and 3251

Mr. Dobel noted that a record number of tags had been issued in the previous year with an 89-percent hunter success rate. The most current surveys indicated that herd populations are increases thus resulting in a 15-percent increase in the number of tags.

Mr. Cox explained that the percent of non-resident tags is based on the statewide estimate and resulted in a total of twenty-one (21) tags in 2010. Mr. Cox pointed out the non-residents are limited to the Late Hunts.

It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Hunts 3151 and 3251, as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

California Bighorn Sheep – Hunts 8151 and 8251

Mr. Dobel noted that the herd population had increased and that the tag allocation had been increased as well.

It was moved by Member Harwell, seconded by Member Flowers, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Hunts 8151 and 8251, as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Rock Mountain Bighorn – Hunt 9151

Mr. Dobel explained that the disease outbreak in the Ruby's and Eat Humboldt's had resulted in what appears to be a sixty to eighty percent decrease in herd populations. Mr. Dobel noted that as recently as three (3) weeks ago Rocky Mountain Bighorns had been recovered. Mr. Dobel then explained that the tag allocations in those particular areas (Units 101 and 102) may be reduced to zero.

Mr. Cox noted that if the tag allocation is reduced to zero that hunter would have an opportunity to return they tag before July 1, 2010. It is, as yet, uncertain whether the season will be allowed to open in affected Units.

Gerald Lent – Chair Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners, commented that he believes hunters can return their tag by the July deadline and still receive a bonus point.

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Mr. Dobel then outlined the recent recovery of deceased animals that included rams, ewes and lambs.

Mr. Cox explained that a monitoring program has been implemented and will continue as biologists' research and study what may have caused the outbreak. Mr. Cox noted that the outstanding deferred tag would continue to be deferred if the season were ultimately closed. The deferment would continue until such time as the season is reopened, which could take several years. Mr. Cox explained that other western states are having similar herd die-offs. Mr. Cox noted that there is a conference in Oregon in June (2010) to discuss this and other matters and how to develop a collaborative process and communications to deal with the issues. Mr. Cox noted that surveys in other units had not indicated any decline in herd populations and that the outbreak of the disease may be limited to the Ruby's and the East Humboldts. An update will be brought back to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners and County Game Boards later this year (2010).

It was moved by Chair Smith, seconded by Member Wilson, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Hunt 9151, as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Mountain Goat – Hunt 7151 and 7251

Mr. Dobel commented that some Goat had also been lost to the same disease that is affecting the Rocky Mountain Sheep although not to the same extent. Mr. Dobel explained that the tag allocation had been reduced.

Mr. Cox explained that he does not believe that more than five (5) mortalities statewide had occurred.

It was moved by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Hunts 7151 and 7251, as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Mule Deer Resident Junior Hunt 1107

Mr. Dobel outlined the success rate of the previous season and noted the steady increase in the number of harvested bucks. Mr. Dobel then outlined the fawn to doe ratios that allows some slight tag allocation increases in certain areas.

Chris Hampson explained that the Vya Pipeline project would have some effect on wildlife depending on the location of construction activity through out the summer and fall.

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There was significant discussion about the recommendations during which it was noted that while herd populations had declined since the 1980's there are still a significant number of four point and larger mature bucks present. Although fawn production is not as strong as was hoped, the 46-percent of statewide bucks indicates that staff is ultra-conservative in their recommendations. Discussion then turned to the demand/success ratio and number of allocated Junior Hunt tags sold. It was noted that 2,693 of the 2,700 tags allocation in 2009 had been sold. Other discussion noted that tags used in the Junior Hunt are taken from other weapons classes.

A motion by Member Copeland to limit the number of tags in Hunt 1107 to 2,693 died due to lack of a second.

It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Hunt 1107 as submitted. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Harwell, Wilson and Chair Smith assenting; and Member Copeland dissenting.

Mule Deer – Hunts 1331 1371 1341 1181 and 1190

Mr. Cox outlined the modifications needed to various hunts as follows: 1) Hunt 1341 Unit 071 - 079 Early to read one-hundred-sixty-nine (169); Unit 071 – 079 Late to read forty (40) and Hunt 1341 Unit 071 – 079 Early to read thirteen (13).

It was moved by Member Harwell, seconded by Member Wilson, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioner approve Muledeer Hunts 1331 1371 1341 1181 1101 1331 1371 and 1341 with revisions to; 1) Hunt 1341 Unit 071 - 079 Early to read one-hundred-sixty-nine (169); Unit 071 – 079 Late to read forty (40). The motion carried unanimously.

Landowner Compensation Tags – Hunts 1115, 1215, 2115 and 2215

Mr. Cox outlined the calculation formula used and explained that the formula included PIW (Partners in Wildlife) and Heritage tag allocations. Mr. Cox explained that the process is using the demand/success to the extent possible and that perhaps Policy 25 needs to be reviewed for possible update.

It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Hunts 1115, 1215, 2115 and 2215, as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

- 17. COMMISSION REGULATION 10-01 NO. 1 – A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or**

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otherwise modify the Heritage Committee's vendor recommendations for the 2011 Heritage tags.

Chair Smith provided an overview of the agenda item and outlined previous sale prices from the various vendors.

Members Harwell and Wilson stated they would abstain from discussion and action for the Pronghorn Antelope request as Nevada Waterfowl Association had submitted a request.

It was moved by Chair Smith, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve: Wild Turkey tags: 1) Safari Club International - Northern Nevada Chapter, one (1) tag; 2) Silver Sage one (1) tag; 3) Las Vegas Strutters two (2) tags; and 4) Safari Club International - Ruby Mountain Chapter one (1) tag. The motion carried unanimously.

There was some discussion about the Muledeer request during which it was noted that one from Wildlife Habitat applicant has a somewhat limited base. Other discussion suggested that perhaps the best vendors would be the Safari Club –International – Northern Nevada Chapter and Nevada Bighorns Unlimited – Reno Chapter.

It was moved by Member Copeland, seconded by Member Flowers, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve and award one (1) Muledeer Safari Club International – Northern Nevada Chapter. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve and award one (1) Muledeer tag to Nevada Bighorns Unlimited - Reno chapter. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Member Copeland, seconded by Member Flowers, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve and award one (1) Pronghorn Antelope tag to Pershing County Chukars Unlimited. The motion carried: Members Copeland, Flowers and Chair Smith assenting; and Members Harwell and Wilson recused.

It was moved by Chair Smith, seconded by Member Copeland, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve and award one (1) Pronghorn Antelope tag to the Nevada Waterfowl Association. The motion carried: Members Copeland and Chair Smith assenting; Member Flowers dissenting; and Members Harwell and Wilson recused.

It was moved by Member Harwell, seconded by Member Flowers, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve and award one (1) Rocky

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Mountain Elk tag to Nevada Bighorns Unlimited. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Harwell, Wilson and Chair Smith assenting; and Member Copeland dissenting.

It was moved by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve and award one (1) tag to Safari International – Northern Nevada Chapter. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve and award one (1) Nelson Bighorn Sheep tag to Nevada Bighorns Unlimited – Reno Chapter.

Member Flowers explained that he recommended that the Nelson Bighorn Sheep tag be awarded to the Wild Sheep Foundation with the California Bighorn Sheep tag being awarded to Nevada Bighorns Unlimited- Reno Chapter.

The motion failed by a unanimous vote of the members present.

It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Member Copeland, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioner approve and award: 1) one (1) The Nelson Bighorn Sheep tag to the Wild Sheep Foundation; and 2) one (1) California Bighorn Sheep tag to Nevada Bighorns Unlimited – Reno Chapter. The motion carried unanimously.

- 18. TRI-COUNTY MULEDEER WORKING GROUP** – *A review, discussion and possible action to appoint a member of the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife to the Tri-County Muledeer Working Group. The Tri-County Muledeer Working Group will meet on a monthly basis bringing recommendations to their respective board for discussion and direction. Rex Flowers*

Member Flowers outlined the reason for the agenda item and explained that the recommendations developed by the group would affect Muledeer and their habitat along the Nevada-California front.

Judi Caron volunteered to serve as the Washoe County liaison to the Tri-County Muledeer Working Group.

Chair Smith appointed Ms. Caron as the Washoe County liaison.

- 19. NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS APPOINTMENT RECOMMENDATION** – *A review, discussion and possible direction to the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife Chair (Rick Smith) to provide written correspondence to Nevada Governor Jim Gibbons recommending candidates to fill*

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vacant Nevada Board of Wildlife Commission seats for: 1) sportsman; 2) general public; and 3) ranching.

Chair Smith provided an overview of the request and recalled the correspondence from Governor Jim Gibbons, which he read into the record earlier. Mr. Smith noted that Kensen Leigh – Las Vegas (Nevada), had submitted a request to be appointed to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) as the general public representative. Chair Smith noted that while he is not personally well acquainted with Mr. Leigh that he has received several comments supporting his appointment.

Member Flowers commented that he had spoken with Mr. Leigh for some time and had another conversation with someone that has known Mr. Leigh for many years. Member Flowers stated he could support the appointment of Kensen Leigh to the Commission.

Judi Caron expressed her support of Kensen Leigh to the Commission and noted that there does not appear to be any representation on the Commission from eastern Nevada, which has somewhat different issues than other parts of the State of Nevada.

Member Copeland noted his concern about recommending appointment of unknown individuals to the Commission without first having had an opportunity to interview and better understand their position on various wildlife issues confronting the State. Mr. Copeland noted that former Washoe County Board Member Dave Stanley would, in his opinion, make a good Commission member with his knowledge of fish and waterfowl.

Member Flowers noted that Washoe County has the two positions allotted to the County filled and that Mr. Leigh would fill Clark County's maximum number of three (3) Commission members.

Chair Smith reiterated that the County Game Board may submit written nominations for Commission seats upon the request of the Governor or at any other time. Chair Smith pointed out that the vacant position can be filled from any part of the State except Washoe County which has both of its positions on the Commission filled.

Member Wilson outlined his concern that without personal interaction with Mr. Leigh that his qualifications may be unknown. Mr. Wilson noted that it would be difficult to determine whether any other person would be qualified, have an interest or time to serve on the Commission.

Member Flowers noted that he had similar concerns that were alleviated after his discussion with someone familiar with Mr. Leigh.

Chair Smith noted that he had asked the Governor (Jim Gibbons) to allow Washoe County additional time to make a recommendation since the Washoe County board did not meet

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until two days after the requested deadline. Chair Smith emphasized that while the Governor can make Commission appointment without any input or recommendation he had agreed to the additional time.

Member Wilson stated that based on the information and testimony provided at tonight's (May 10, 2010) meeting he can support Kensen Leigh as the Commission's general public representative.

Member Flowers noted that Ron Lurie had withdrawn his request to be considered for the position upon learning that Mr. Leigh had an interest in the poison.

It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that Governor Jim Gibbons appoint Kensen Leigh to serve as the representative of the general public on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Harwell, Wilson and Chair Smith assenting; and Member Copeland dissenting.

Chair Smith then asked whether the board and/or public wished to seek Governor Gibbons' reappointment of Pete Mori to the Commission representing ranching interests.

Ms. Caron expressed her support of Mr. Mori's reappointment noting that he brings harmony as well as ranching, public and sportsmen's issues to the Commission. Mr. Mori also does his research on Commission issues and is an asset to the Commission overall.

Mel Belding concurred with Mr. Caron's statements.

Member Flowers agreed.

Chair Smith concurred with Member Flowers and Ms. Caron's statements and noted that during his April 30, 2010, meeting in Elko with Governor Gibbons that Ken Wellington and others had supported the reappointment of Mr. Mori to the Commission.

It was moved by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Copeland, to recommend that Governor Jim Gibbons reappoint Pete Mori to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioner representing ranching. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Smith then noted that Scott Raines is also up for reappointment to the Commission. Chair Smith commented that while there is one potential candidate, there is no additional information or correspondence that provides and details on the potential candidate.

Mel Belding stated that he has found Mr. Raines to be controversial and contentious and unable to "get along" with Department (Nevada Department of Wildlife) personnel.

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Therefore, Mr. Belding does not believe that Mr. Raines should be reappointed to the Commission.

Member Flowers noted that he cannot support the reappointment of Mr. Raines as he tends to be unprepared and/or not knowledgeable of the issues with a tendency to lose focus and “go off on a tangent.” Mr. Flowers noted that Commissioner Raines had “flown off the handle” in Lovelock (Nevada) at the predator meeting.

Chair Smith commented that the matter had come up in the discussion with Governor Gibbons on April 30, 2010 and stated that he cannot support the reappointment of Mr. Raines to the Commission.

It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Chair Smith, to recommend that Governor Jim Gibbons not reappoint Scott Raines to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Smith noted that with both Clark and Washoe County having filled their allotted positions that the sportsman’s representative must come from another County. However, there is no specific information on Eddie Booth who was brought to his attention.

Ms. Caron commented that she met Eddie Booth through the Hunter Education Program and other project both in and outside of the Department. Ms. Caron believes he would be an asset to the Commission with his knowledge of the issues.

Mr. Belding noted that he had known Mr. Booth for several years and would support his appointment to the Commission.

Member Flowers noted that he had heard of, but had no personal knowledge of the Mr. Booth and suggested that Mr. Booth would perhaps represent a larger part of the State since he is from Humboldt County.

During the discussion it was explained that it was unknown if Mr. Booth had any support from sportsmen’s or other groups.

Member Copeland noted that he would have similar concerns about appointing someone unknown to him to the Commission.

Member Wilson suggested that perhaps the Governor could be asked to delay the appointment for the sportsmen’s position until after County Game Board has an opportunity to review available information on potential candidates.

Chair Smith commented that the position will be vacated as of July1, 2010, unless an appointment is made. Mr. Smith believes that Washoe County and other County Game

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Boards could develop a recommendation for the Governor's consideration before the upcoming June 2010 Commission meetings.

A motion by Member Flowers to direct that Chair Rick Smith ask Governor Jim Gibbons to [provide a list of potential candidate for he sportsmen's poison on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners died due to lack of a second.

A consensus was reached to ask Governor Gibbons to delay his appointment of a sportsmen's representative to the Commission.

20. MEMBER COMMENTS * – *Limited to emergent items not addressed elsewhere on the agenda. While the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife may not engage in discussion or take action on any item identified under this topic the matter may be placed on a future agenda for discussion and possible action or recommendation of action to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.*

Member Flowers noted that there had been three (3) meeting of the Muledeer Subcommittee and that a large number of issues were identified beyond that of predators. For example, discussion also noted issues associated with ground disturbance and other issues. The Muledeer Subcommittee has formed several focus groups that will look at issues such as livestock and land management agency polices.

Member Harwell commented that the Clark County Game Board is considering a request to the Commission (Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners) and asked whether there would be an interest in participating on such a group.

Member Flowers noted that Trail Safe and the Nevada Humane Society are working with Joel Blakeslee of the Trappers Association to identify a compromise position on a request to ban trapping in congested areas of Washoe County.

21. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS * – *Selection of additional agenda item(s) for the Thursday, June 17, 2010, meeting.*

The June 17, 2010, meeting agenda may include, but is not limited to: 1) Discussion and possible recommendation to change the existing Junior Hunt program to a Novice Hunt program; and 2) Recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners on a candidate for the position of sportsmen's representative by the Governor (Jim Gibbons).

22. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 11:19 p.m.

* denotes NON action item

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* denotes NON action item