



Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 1, 2011
Location: Meeting Room: Nevada Department of Wildlife
4747 Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89107
Time: 6:00pm
Board Members Present: Paul Dixon, Chair (via conference call)
Tracy Truman, Vice Chair Paul Harris
Brian Patterson Gary Pratt
John Michael Reese John Sullivan

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: September 9, 2010

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1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Vice Chairman Tracy Truman. Chairman Paul Dixon was in attendance via teleconference.
- Roll call of Board Members was performed by Stacy Matthews. A quorum was present.
- Vice Chairman Tracy Truman introduced Brian Patterson as the new member of the Board replacing Jeff Hutchinson. Brian attended the last meeting and has since been sworn-in as a Board member and thus will be voting on issues at this meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes of November 30, 2010 CCABMW Meeting- Action

- A. The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on November 30th 2010 were approved as written. Paul Dixon abstained.

3. Approval of Agenda for Tuesday, September 14, 2010- Action

- The Agenda for this meeting was approved as written.

4. Public Comment

- With no further Public Comment, Vice Chairman Truman closed Public Comment.

5. Informational – Committee and Member Updates

A. Review of December Wildlife Commission Meeting Actions- (Tracy Truman)

Commission draft minutes additional items for discussion. Discussion regarding the Board of Wildlife Commissioners Draft Minutes December 3rd and 4th, 2010.

- i. Trail Safe proposal – **failed**
 - ii. Guided hunt regulation change – **failed. Recommendation is to move draw to general draw and allow guided hunters to apply for PIW tags.**
 - iii. Black bear season proposal - **passed** (McBeath radio interview update)
 - iv. Changes to Heritage language tabled and sent back to policy committee for more input from public and CAB's
 - v. Wolves delisting -**passed**
 - vi. Controversial Mule Deer Report tabled and sent back to CAB's for comment
- Vice Chair Truman read through the list above and asked for comment. Hearing none, Informational Updates was closed.

B. Ken Meyer re-appointed as acting director (Michael McBeath)

6. Action Items

A. Discuss & make recommendations regarding the following Action Items from the Board of Wildlife Commissioners Agenda February 4th and 5th, 2011.

- 1) **CABMW awards (NEW idea!):** It has been suggested by the Elko CABMW that collectively once a year the combined CABMW would recognize the State Wildlife Commissioner that has most helped wildlife, habitat and the CAB's over the last year. In addition, the CABMW would also nominate and award an outstanding NDOW employee. This idea is just in the creative thinking processes. Need to determine:
 - a. Ideas as to what qualifications we can set for this award.
 - b. Timing of award (commission meeting in May of each year?)
 - c. CABMW put forward a nominee by each April commission meeting.
 - d. A small committee of CAB members would review and set forward a recommendation to each CAB for a vote prior to the State May meeting.
- 2) **Special Award Recommendation for Outstanding Nevada Department of Wildlife Employee - ACTION ITEM** Discussion and possible action, establishing and outlining the qualifications for a special award, which would recognize NDOW employees for their outstanding contributions and service to County Advisory Boards each year.
- 3) **Special Award Recommendation for Outstanding Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioner - ACTION ITEM** Discussion and possible action, establishing and outlining the qualifications for a special award, which would recognize a Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioner for their outstanding contributions and service to County Advisory Boards each year.
 - Vice Chair Truman introduced this topic. Paul Harris endorsed it as a good idea.
 - Vice Chair Truman proposed that each CAB appoint one member to a committee assigned to develop the criteria and guidelines for these awards.
 - Motion was made and seconded to recommend that each CAB assign one member to a committee to give more precise recommendations for awards for the Outstanding State Wildlife Commissioner and the Outstanding Nevada Department of Wildlife employee.

- Motion passed unanimously.
- 4) **Agenda item #8A: Big Game Division Computer Model and Recommendation Process – Chairman Raine – Action** The Commission may discuss and request information concerning the Department’s computer model and recommendation process.
- Vice Chair Truman asked Chairman Dixon if he had any background on this item.
 - CDIX stated that not much detail is known. His understanding is the Chairman Raine is challenging the computer model used by NDOW for determining hunts and tag levels to ensure it is consistent with models used by other western states.
 - Steve Kimble (NDOW) offered that it is expected that Mike Cox from NDOW will present a detailed view of the models being used and methods used to maintain and update the models year to year.
 - Commissioner McBeath noted that a Heritage project was approved and funded last year to review the wildlife management models used. He feels that although a majority of the Board of Commissioners have suspicions regarding the NDOW models, it is probably just conspiracy theory.
 - Clint Bentley asked Commissioner McBeath if the project he mentioned had been completed and if a report was available. If the project is still ongoing, then this matter should not be before the Commission at this time.
 - Commissioner McBeath stated that the project is not completed and he further stated that at the last Commission meeting, he challenged the two PhDs funded for the project as they have no experience in this area and thus seemed unqualified to carry out the project.
 - Vice Chair Truman asked the NDOW attendees if the process for modeling had changed.
 - Pat Cunningham (NDOW) said that the process had changed over 10 years ago. The models used in Nevada are similar to those used in some other western states. Pat went on to explain how data entered into the model is obtained and validated. He discussed use of aerial surveys, mathematical methods, etc.
 - Vice Chair Truman asked what checks and balances are in place.
 - Commissioner McBeath noted that in some cases, the members of CABs provided input on validity of numbers.
 - Pat Cummings stated that there are a number of internal checks built into the processes that help ensure validity.
 - Cindy MacDonald asked what the reasons were the model process was changed.
 - Mike Scott (NDOW) answered that the prior model was extremely complex and overly cumbersome to work with.
 - Chairman Dixon made a motion that the CCABMW support the use of the current NDOW models and recommendations without change. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- 5) **Agenda item #9A: Wildlife Damage Management Fiscal Year 2011 Plan – Chairman Raine – 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.
- Vice Chair Truman asked Chairman Dixon if he had any comment on this item.
 - Chairman Dixon in reviewing this item questioned the need for a full-time wildlife employee to monitor mountain lions, coyotes and bobcats in the Delamar Mountains.

- Commissioner McBeath noted that there was an effort to have a dedicated lion hunter in the area to address in a more timely manner mountain lion issues with herd movement.
- Jennifer McCarty asked how many sheep would one lion kill. The answer: one or many. The flight instinct in sheep can prompt the lion to kill more. A lion only eats fresh meat, so at least one whenever it is hungry. Wild sheep will disperse limiting kills, domestic sheep will “herd-up”.
- Commissioner McBeath added that US Wildlife Services is part of the Agriculture Department and their emphasis is livestock. He expects that this item will result in a project to enable NDOW to contract with US Wildlife Services.
- Terry Price asked if it is possible to have an independent contractor on call to address lion issues. Commissioner McBeath answered that there are a number of issues that would arise that would make such an arrangement nearly impossible.
- Karen Layne (LV Valley Humane Society) asked if having a full-time lion hunter is a ‘back-door’ equivalent of declassifying mountain lions so they can be hunted at any time.
- Vice Chair Truman responded that this is an attempt to remove problem lions in a specific range and not wipe the species out. US Wildlife Services has the authority to harvest mountain lions any time anywhere.
- Jennifer McCarty asked if the goal is to increase herd populations for sport hunting, what is the ratio of kills by hunters vs. predators.
- Vice Chair Truman stated that the answer is outside the scope of the agenda item.
- Chairman Dixon asked about Project 21 – Raven control in Overton. He feels the \$2K requested is too low for the project to be effective.
- Motion was made and seconded to support all projects as proposed except for Project 21 (not enough funds requested to address skunk, raccoon and coyote predation on turkeys) and Project 6A (request an evaluation midway through the year to determine whether goals are being reached).
- Motion passed unanimously.

6) Agenda item #11: Clark County Road Access – Commissioner Shrum, Chief of Habitat Elmer Bull and Bureau of Land Management Representative (BLM) TBD – Action The Commission will hear a report on the Bureau of Land Management’s designated routes, restricted grazing and desert tortoise management in Clark County and may draft letters, resolutions and or policy, concerning any or all of these items.

- Vice Chair Truman summarized this item.
- Commissioner McBeath noted that BLM is revising their Resource Management Plan for parts of Clark County and is proposing a National Conservation Area (NCA). These will include decisions on road access in the area.
- Mike Reese stated that the NCA cannot be created without action by the Legislature. He met with BLM Director Abbey to discuss implications. He was told there would be no road closures. Access is required for guzzler maintenance, herd counts, etc.
- Kathy Valente asked if the guzzlers were ever provided for horses.

- Mike Reese responded that horses are not considered wildlife. Guzzlers are not built for livestock. Ranchers are responsible for providing water for their livestock.
 - Motion was made and seconded that no existing roads be closed and no existing guzzlers be abandoned in the affected area.
 - Motion passed unanimously.
- 7) **Agenda item #12: Commission Regulation 11- 07, Black Bear Hunt – Chief of Game Larry Gilbertson and Big Game Biologist Carl Lackey – Action** The Commission will consider adoption of recommendations to the 2011 - 2012 black bear hunt seasons, dates and quotas, including limits, hunting hours, special hunt eligibility, animal gender, and physical characteristics, and legal weapon requirements and manner of hunting.
- Vice Chair Truman reviewed background of this item. A Black Bear hunt has been approved. Next step is to establish seasons, dates, quotas, etc.
 - Commissioner McBeath stated that the Commission originally was discussing a Spring hunt and a Summer Bow hunt. Those have been dropped. The only hunt now is the fall rifle hunt. NDOW has set the quota at 45 bears. Commissioner McBeath will request that the quota be set to 23 instead, so Carl Lackey can monitor and assess the impact of the hunt on the bear population. He added that the conservative number for the Nevada bear population is at 200-300, but the California Department of Wildlife estimates that the bear population in the Sierras at around 15,000. What we have in Nevada will fluctuate as bears cross over between Nevada and California.
 - Cindy MacDonald wondered if population models, etc., are subject to regulations in Nevada to ensure accuracy and validity. What checks and balances are in place in Nevada relative to these models.
 - Pat Cummings responded that models and reports are published in appropriate journals and peer review will directly affect the accuracy of these models.
 - Karen Layne stated that she understood the quotas to be 45 tags issued but the hunt would end when 20 bears or 6 sows were taken.
 - Pat Cummings confirmed her point. 45 tags would be issued with an expected success rate of 40%, or 20 bears. The 40% rate was based on similar hunts in neighboring states, like Utah.
 - Karen Layne supports the movement in Northern Nevada to table this for now until more information can be gathered on bears and the bear population. Also where did the hunt hours come from and don't bears hibernate in December?
 - Chairman Dixon stated that Carl Lackey has worked extensively with the California Department of Wildlife and has recommended hunts based on what California has learned. Bears that forage in the wild tend to hibernate beginning in October or November. Bears that have learned food can be found in more populated areas don't tend to hibernate since food is available year round.
 - Vice Chair Truman added that hibernation is also affected by the elevation. Bears at higher elevation will hibernate earlier than those at lower elevation.
 - Rhea Little asked if population models take poachers into account.
 - Brian Patterson answered that the models do account for poachers.

- Carl Rhoda asked about sows with cubs since sows keep their cubs for 2 years. What is to keep a hunter from leaving cubs orphaned?
 - Paul Harris noted that the quotas prohibit taking sows with cubs.
 - Heather Lunsford (No Bear Hunt Nevada) questioned Carl Lackey's bias toward bear hunts.
 - Commissioner McBeath stated that Carl Lackey is the ultimate professional who has dedicated his life to bears.
 - Kathie McCarthy asked how a hunter is supposed to know if a sow has cubs.
 - Commissioner McBeath stated that the Spring hunt was dropped to minimize the chances that a sow would be foraging without her cubs.
 - Paul Harris added that when a bear is checked-in at a NDOW station, the inspector can determine if the sow is lactating.
 - Gina Greisen (NV Voters for Animals) asked that the Board recommend tabling the bear hunt as noted by Karen Layne.
 - Vice Chair Truman repeated that the bear hunt has been approved. This agenda item only covers regulations for the hunt. Tabling the hunt is beyond the scope of this item.
 - David Curtis feels rifles allow the hunter to be a distance from the animal and would prefer requiring the hunter to be in closer proximity to the animal to enable sex identification and existence of cubs.
 - Gary Pratt stated that he used high power optics to study the animal before pulling the trigger. Rifles are preferred weapon to ensure humane kill.
 - Commissioner McBeath noted that the Commissioners want the hunt to be rifle or muzzle loader only. No archery.
 - Motion was made and seconded to recommend the Commission adopt the bear hunt as written with the provision that the legal weapon be limited to rifle and muzzle loader. Motion passed unanimously.
- 8) Agenda item #13: Administrative Procedures, Regulations and Policy (APRC) Committee Report and Recommendations – Commissioner Lent – Action** The Commission will be asked to take action on the APRC Committee's recommendations for changes to Heritage Project applications.
- Motion was made and seconded to table his item based on input received. Motion passed unanimously.
- 9) Agenda item #14: Report from Feral Horse Committee, Horse Monument and Letters and/or Resolutions – Mike Stremler, chairman - Action**
- a. **14A:** 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
 - b. **14B:** The Commission will discuss the Pickens Horse Monument in Eastern Nevada, may provide guidance to the Department on the matter and may approve, modify, create, or deny a resolution and/or letter – Chairman Raine – Action
- Vice Chair Truman read the issue summary.

- Carmen Rhoda asked for clarification of **14A**.
- Vice Chair Truman answered that the Commission will review and approve a letter from the State Water Engineer stating that the water in Nevada is for wildlife and not for feral (wild) horses.
- Commissioner McBeath corrected the statement to be: the Commission is drafting a letter to the State Water Engineer stating that Nevada's water should be for wildlife and not horses. The Engineer would then take that to the federal authorities.
- Kathie Barron asked if the CCABMW has the power to see that water is made available to the wild horses. Vice Chair Truman answered that the CAB can only make recommendations to the Commission on items that Commission is addressing.
- Carrie Tash asked if we all weren't entitled to water.
- Rhea Little asked if the proposed letter would address water rights throughout the state or is it intended to be for just a portion of the state.
- Vice Chair Truman responded that the State Water Engineer will be concerned with the entire state of Nevada.
- Paul Harris clarified that the letter is asking that water rights currently allocated for wildlife not be diverted to wild horses.
- Garnet Pasquale criticized the CCABMW for not understanding the content of the letter. She stated that the Commission wants the State Engineer to write a letter to the BLM ordering that no water designated for wild life, mostly big game, be given to the wild horses.
- Commissioner Howell noted that in the 1971 Act, the BLM decided that feral horses were not to be considered livestock and they were not to be considered wildlife. According to the State of Nevada water laws, water is only to be provided for livestock and wildlife. Since by Federal law, horses are neither, then horses are not entitled to water.
- Rick Tash asked if wild horses could be declared as wildlife. He feels that would help solve the problem.
- Arlene Guane (wildlife photographer) proposed that the letter be tabled and new focus on promoting tourism for viewing the wild horses be proposed.
- Carmen Rhoda asked who the Commission is. She further went on record stating that she is against withholding water from horses.
- Commissioner McBeath provided further background on the wild horse issue. He is against the letter.
- Cindy MacDonald asked which letter the CCABMW is voting on stating that to her knowledge, the letter had been revised on January 31. Further, the NRS definition of wildlife states "any mammal" which would include horses. She added that NDOW protested the drilling of a well by BLM in the Red Rock Herd Management Area, and the State Water Engineer already ruled on that.
- Jennifer McCarty gave a very impassioned plea for the freedom and preservation of Nevada's wild horses with specific requests to Commissioner McBeath to "see both sides" of the issue.
- Commissioner McBeath responded that he has a long history with horses. He loves horses. But the problem is the balance of resources. He recommended to the CCABMW that the letter not be approved.

- Vice Chair Truman closed public comment.
- Mike Reese noted that he has observed herds of wild horses bullying deer and elk keeping them away from the watering holes. The horses have trampled springs.
- Motion was made and seconded to recommend that the Commission delay action on item 14A until further review can be completed. Motion passed with a vote of 5-2. Mike Reese and John Sullivan opposed.
- On # 14B, Commissioner Howell noted that Assistant Director Haskins drafted a letter that was modified by Commissioner Raine to be sent to Secretary Salazar that Pickins should not be allowed to establish a horse sanctuary in Northern Nevada. Letter was sent January 19th.
- Motion was made and seconded that since a letter had already been sent, this matter is mute, thus no action will be taken. Motion passed unanimously.

10) Agenda item #19: CABMW Budget Adjustments Fiscal Year 2011 – Deputy Director Patrick Cates - Action The Commission will review CABMW budget status reports and may make adjustments to CABMW budgets for Fiscal Year 2011.

- No discussion or action taken

11) Agenda item #20: Management Bull Elk Hunt and Seasons – Action – Chairman Raine The Department will provide a report and recommendations to the Commission on “management bull elk seasons” as described in a report from Cory Lytle of the Lincoln CABMW, and the Commission will discuss options for possible development of regulation changes for “management bull” elk seasons: Options to set all cow elk seasons after the bull seasons; convert all muzzleloader bull seasons into “management bull seasons”; convert all archery bull seasons to “management bull seasons”; create new any legal weapon “management bull seasons”; and no management bull seasons.

- No discussion or action taken

12) Agenda item #21: Nevada Waterfowl Hunt Zone and Swan Hunt Area Changes – Game Division Staff Biologist Russell Woolstenhulme – Action The Commission will hear options for the addition of a new waterfowl hunt zone for Nevada and an expanded hunt area for tundra swan. The Commission may accept these changes and initiate action by the Department to pursue these changes with the Pacific Flyway Council.

- No discussion or action taken

13) Agenda item #22: Commission Regulation 11 – 03, Big Game Seasons 2011- 2012 – Big Game Biologists Mike Cox and Tony Wasley – Action The Commission will consider adoption of the 2011 and 2012 hunting seasons and dates for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat, including limits, hunting hours, special hunt eligibility, animal gender, physical characteristics and legal weapon requirements, hunt boundary restrictions, and legal weapon requirements,

emergency depredation hunt structure and statewide quotas, the 2011 – 2012 nonresident restricted deer tag quotas and seasons, and dates and times for indoctrination courses. Note: Support material will be sent under separate cover.

- Mike Reese reviewed the proposed season dates.
- Commissioner McBeath had questions for NDOW on some of the changes for Elk hunts.
- Motion was made and seconded to recommend accepting all seasons as proposed. Motion passed unanimously.

14) Agenda item #23: Commission Regulation 11 – 04, Big Game Season Application Eligibility, Deadline and Remaining Tag Regulations 2011 - 2012 – Program

Officer III Maureen Hullinger – Action The Commission will consider adoption of the 2011 - 2012 big game tag draw application eligibility, deadline and return card questionnaire information including Restricted Nonresident Guided Deer Hunt draw application deadline and return card questionnaire information.

- Motion was made and seconded to recommend approve the regulation as written. Motion passed unanimously.

15) Agenda item #24: Commission Regulation 11 – 05, Silver State Tag and Partnership in Wildlife Season and Quotas 2011 – Big Game Biologist Mike Cox and Program Officer III Maureen Hullinger – Action The Commission will

consider the adoption of the 2011 Silver State Tag and Partnership in Wildlife hunt species, seasons and quotas.

- Commissioner McBeath summarized this proposed regulation. The Silver State tag is the “poor man’s” tag.
- Clint Bentley stated that this is a fantastic program. He feels some tags should have been left in the Heritage Tag system.
- Motion was made and seconded to recommend the number of Silver State tags be set to 1 per species with the extras being put into the Heritage hunts. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion was made and seconded to return PIW tags to the 2010 numbers. Motion passed unanimously.

16) Agenda item #25: Commission Regulation 11 – 06, Heritage Tags, Silver State Tag and Partnership in Wildlife Season and Quotas 2012 - Program Officer III

Maureen Hullinger and Big Game Biologist Mike Cox – Action The Commission will consider the adoption of the 2012 Heritage Tag, Silver State Tag and Partnership in Wildlife hunt species, seasons and quotas.

- Motion was made and seconded to increase the Bighorn Sheep Heritage Tags to 2 leaving all others as proposed. Motion passed unanimously.

17) Agenda item #26: Commission Regulation 11- 08, Mountain Lion Seasons 2011-

2012 and 2012 - 2013 – Staff Biologist Russell Woolstenhulme – Action The Commission will consider adoption of recommendations to the 2011-2012 and 2012 – 2013 mountain lion seasons, dates, and harvest limits, including limits,

hunting hours, animal gender, physical characteristics, hunt boundary restrictions, legal weapon requirements and manner of hunting.

- No discussion or action taken

18) Agenda item #27: Findings of Mule Deer Restoration Committee - Chairman

Raine – Action The Commission will have a second discussion of the report from the Mule Deer Restoration Committee. The Commission will be asked to accept the findings of the Mule Deer Restoration Committee and adopt some or all of them as findings and recommendations of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

- No discussion or action taken

19) Agenda item #28: Commission Regulation 09 – 09, Amendment #1 – Fisheries

Biologist Jon Sjoberg – Action The Commission will consider closure of a water(s) within the Clark County Wetlands in Las Vegas Wash, Clark County and a name change for the Fuji Park Pond in Carson City to the Baily Fishing Pond.

- Fisheries Biologist Jon Sjoberg summarized the need for the amendment.
- Mike Reese asked if the Clark County Wetlands was posted.
- Gary Pratt asked if this applies to frogging as well. Would it be considered trespassing.
- Motion was made and seconded to approve the Amendment as written. Motion passed unanimously.

20) Agenda item #29: Additional Application Hunt System Report Format – Chief of Operations Bob Haughian - Action

The Commission may endorse or deny a request 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.

- No discussion or action taken

B. Authorize the Chairman to prepare and submit the recommendations from today’s meeting to the Commission for its consideration at its February 4th and 5th, 2011 meeting in Las Vegas.

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

7. 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.

B. Next scheduled meetings of the Board and Commission

The next Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting is scheduled for

March 8th at the Overton Community Center located at 320 N. Moapa Valley Blvd., Overton, Nevada. 89040.

8. Adjournment

- Motion made to adjourn. Motion seconded.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.