



Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 20, 2011

Location: Pueblo Room, Clark County Government Center
500 S. Grand Central Parkway
Las Vegas, Nevada

Time: 6:00 pm

Board Members Present: Paul Dixon, Chair Tracy Truman, Vice Chair John Sullivan
Brian Patterson Michael J. 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: September 13, 2011

1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Paul Dixon.
- Roll call of Board Members was performed by Stacy Matthews. Two Board members were absent. A quorum was present.

2. Approval of Minutes of August 9th, 2011 CCABMW Meeting- Action

- The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on August 9th, 2011 were approved unanimously.

3. Approval of Agenda for Tuesday September 20th, 2011– Action

- A motion was made and seconded to accept the Meeting Agenda as written. Motion passed unanimously.

4. CAB Member Items/Announcements/Correspondence

- Chairman Paul Dixon noted that Wildlife Commission Chairman McBeath has sent letters to Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto requesting that requests from former

Chairman Scott Raine be withdrawn. One dealt with sale of Heritage Bighorn tags, the other dealt with the definition of a Conservationist as qualification for membership on the Wildlife Commission.

- Chairman Paul Dixon noted that he had received a copy of a report on Deer Depression and some of the factors that impact deer populations.
- Hearing no more input from Board Members, this item was closed by Chairman Paul Dixon.

5. Public Comment

- Chairman Paul Dixon opened the floor to public comment on any item not listed in tonight's agenda.
- With no requests for Public Comment, Chairman Paul Dixon closed this item.

6. Action Items

A. Discuss & make recommendations regarding the following Action Items from the Board of Wildlife Commissioners Agenda September 23rd and 24th, 2011 and items brought forth to the Clark CABMW from the public for discussion.

1) Commission agenda item #6: Senate Bill (SB) 226 Nevada Trapping Regulations for Clark and Washoe Counties. Discuss and make a recommendations regarding SB226 governing the trapping of furbearing mammals in residential areas of a county whose population is 100,000 or more. (*For possible action*)

- Chairman Paul Dixon opened the floor to public comment on this item.
- Dave Stowater, Nevada Trappers Association, indicated that in discussions with other members of the Association, most are very confused as to what areas are affected by the new regulations. He would like to see maps that define existing areas and impacted areas to better understand what is being proposed.
- Gina Greisen, Nevada Voters for Animals, stated that her organization is a coalition of groups concerned with the rights of animals. She added that her organization wants to work with the CAB and the Commission and would like to be part of the process of defining regulations, etc. She then read into the record, a letter to Chairman Paul Dixon from Karen Layne, President, Las Vegas Valley Humane Society, requesting that should a committee be established to review and make recommendations to the CAB and Commission regarding trapping and SB226, that the committee includes non-trappers and non-NDOW employees in its membership.
- Cindy Alexander asked Gina Greisen to name the groups included in the Nevada Voters for Animals coalition.
- Moe Kassraia stated that he represents People Against Cruelty To Animals (PACTA) as part of the coalition.
- Gina Greisen noted that other groups include the Las Vegas Valley Humane Society and Nevada Voters for Animals.
- Commission Chairman McBeath noted that NDOW Director Ken Mayer is putting together a process to develop new trapping regulations. NDOW Staff will allow input from the South and North, and will ultimately come forward with proposed regulations.

- Ryan Anderson voiced his view that shared land use is factored into any regulation developed.
- Chairman Paul Dixon applauded Commission Chairman McBeath for instituting a new process for developing regulations by publishing a rough framework that allows discussion and then having the regulation evolve from there. In response to a question from Chairman Paul Dixon, Commission Chairman McBeath stated that his goal is to have an approved regulation by the end of May, 2012.
- Paul Harris commented that he thought this is a great process instituted by Commission Chairman McBeath. He further endorsed Mr. Stowater's request for maps showing areas where trapping was not allowed, etc.
- John Sullivan discussed the evolution of SB226 and applauded the Legislative committee for sending the issue to NDOW and the Commission where the matter can receive proper analysis and action.
- Mike Reese agreed with John Sullivan and endorsed shared land use. He recommended that as a starting point, some of the regulation on firearms may serve as a template for trapping regulations.
- Vice Chair Tracy Truman noted that the Nevada Trappers Association had worked with Trail Safe to develop a reasonable proposal for trapping regulations that spun out of control in the Legislature. He believes that as traps and guns are drastically different, and that "no shooting zones" should not be a factor in defining trapping areas.
- Commission Chairman McBeath noted that most of the public lands in Nevada are managed by BLM or other federal agencies.
- A motion was made and seconded to recommend support of the proposed NDOW public meeting in the North and the South with proposed regulation from NDOW coming back to the Commission for further public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

2) Commission agenda item #12: Commission General Regulation Number 393 – R002-11 - Bear Hunt. Review, discuss and recommend to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners that they approve, deny or otherwise modify changes the temporary bear hunt regulation which expires Nov. 1, 2011, as well as the permanent bear hunt regulations and issues relating to revising provisions governing the establishment of a black bear hunt, eligibility, waiting period requirements, bonus point program, use of dogs, killing of sows and sows with cubs, weapons restrictions, tag fees and other matters related thereto. *(For possible action)*

- Chairman Paul Dixon summarized this item. He stated that the Commission may act to make the temporary regulation permanent as well as other actions, and he referenced a printout of a spreadsheet summarizing the 194 emails he received regarding this item. He noted that of the 194 emails, about 76% were essentially a form letter stating that the sender was opposed to the bear hunt with no specific detailed reason. Some emails originated in other states and other countries. Of the 24% that listed reasons for opposition to the bear hunt, some used statistics to show general opposition in the population, over 90 emails felt that bear hunting was cruel and inhumane. Several emails dealt with issues, in his opinion, that

warranted discussion, such as bow hunting, hunting with dogs, public safety and tourism, or emails questioning the science used to estimate bear populations, etc.

- Chairman Paul Dixon opened the floor to public comment.
- Ryan Anderson offered his recommendation that factual data and science should be the basis for any decisions made on this issue, not solely on emotion.
- Moe Kassraia, PACTA, countered that the public should be heard even if it is emotion based. He questioned whether the hunt was needed at all.
- Chairman Paul Dixon responded that while there may be organizations with lots of members that oppose the bear hunt, no one is contributing money needed to manage the black bear population in Nevada or to provide education or other resources for those that live in areas bothered by bears. A limited hunt will result in federal funds to be used for habitat and education purposes. Money not available elsewhere.
- Moe Kassraia asked what the bear population is in Nevada.
- Chairman Paul Dixon quoted numbers he had read from several sources that the bear population in Nevada was estimated to be 300-400 bears. Many of the bears in Nevada migrated from California where their population is estimated to be 17000. Bears will move when pressured by population growth, hunting pressure, land development, etc. He feels confident that over time, the bear population in Nevada will grow. A limited hunt that results in 20 bears taken can result in \$500K or more for management and education.
- Clint Bentley stated that the bear hunt regulation needs to be made permanent, and that is all that should be discussed at this meeting. Other aspects of the regulation (e.g., dogs, bows, seasons, quotas, etc.) can be addressed at a later date.
- Vice Chair Tracy Truman noted that by law as stated in the NRS, the Commission is required to establish policies and regulation based solely on scientific data.
- Darcy Grizzle asked who provided the scientific data for the bear hunt.
- Vice Chair Tracy Truman answered that the data came primarily from NDOW and from surrounding states.
- Chairman Paul Dixon added that the NDOW biologists rely on research papers from colleges and universities like UNR. One such paper was the Doctoral Thesis of Jon Beckmann on nuisance bears. They also are required to stay current with literature in their particular field. Nevada has been cited as a leader in wildlife conservation.
- Commission Chairman McBeath noted that the population figures were developed from data from Carl Lackey, Jon Beckmann, and Dr. Sedinger at UNR.
- Chairman Paul Dixon stated that Kathryn Bricker of No Bear Hunt Nevada has a vast amount of literature regarding bears in Nevada, and to his knowledge, all that literature was reviewed and cited in developing the data.
- Gina Greisen stated that she was incensed that Nevada residents and tax payers who are opposed to the hunt are being ignored because they lack scientific justification for their opposition. She further brought into question the validity and veracity of Carl Lackey's population figures, stating that by his own admission to her, he worked for the hunters. She pointed out that a report conflicting with data from Carl Lackey presented by another biologist at one of the Commission meetings was discounted by Commissioners and the findings in the report deemed as incorrect. She further contended that people from other states visit the Tahoe

Basin and would shoot wildlife with cameras rather than guns, so their input should be taken into account as well. In conclusion Gina asked the CCABMW to recommend that the Commission not make the bear hunt permanent at this time and allow more time for better scientific data to come forward before acting.

- Paul Harris asked Gina if she would still object to the hunt if that scientific data showed conclusively that the hunt was needed for managing bears. Her answer was yes.
- Jason Peterson agreed that citizens don't need a reason to be against the bear hunt, but all citizens have freedom to their opinion and those who want to hunt bear have as much right to their opinion.
- Pat Lester asked if the Board had already made up its mind regardless of the views stated in the "open discussion".
- Chairman Paul Dixon answered that the discussion has been going on for over a year. At this point in time, the Board has been asked to review the latest findings and input, and evaluate whether to recommend the temporary bear hunt are made permanent or not.
- Paul Harris noted that the Board is tasked with making recommendations to the Wildlife Commission. He pointed out that there were three Commissioners in attendance and they, as well as the Board members, are listening to everyone's comments. In the end, however, recommendations need to be made on scientific data.
- Erika Frances stated that as a citizen, she pays taxes. Doesn't any of that money go to wildlife management? What happens if the bears go extinct because of the hunt?
- Chairman Paul Dixon replied that less than 1% of the funding for NDOW comes from the public. The rest comes from fees paid by sportsmen.
- Paul Harris added that NDOW manage s all wildlife, not just game species.
- Erika Frances asked how we can be certain the hunters only kill a certain number of bears.
- Michael Maynard, NDOW, stated that while some animals are taken illegally, NDOW has the task of enforcing the hunt regulations established by the Commission. The black bear hunt is perhaps the most closely scrutinized hunt in the state of Nevada. The current tally is 8 bears taken (5 males, 3 females). Hunting is just one of the tools NDOW uses to manage the various wildlife populations in the State.
- Paul Harris added that for the bear hunt, only 20 tags were issued, so only 20 people could legally hunt bears. If they kill a bear, they have a limited amount of time to have that bear checked in with NDOW.
- Darcy Grizzle asked what happens if the bear is not checked-in.
- Chairman Paul Dixon and Paul Harris answered that if not checked-in in the allotted time, and then the bear is considered to have been taken illegally. Penalties for an illegal bear include: loss of hunting privileges, loss of voting rights, loss of vehicle, loss of firearm, fines, etc.
- Jason Peterson voiced his belief that the hunt is for management purposes as determined by the biologists who know best. If there is a population decrease one year, the biologists may determine that the quota should be zero for that year. Let the experts determine what needs to be done to maintain a healthy population.

- John Sullivan addressed comments casting doubt on the scientific methods used to determine best approaches to managing a species. He has had a lot of experience with the Big Horn Sheep programs in Southern Nevada, and the biologists in the Sheep programs are conservative, if nothing else. In his opinion, if NDOW is managing the bear population the way they manage the Big Horn Sheep, he feels the science is solid and the program is in good hands.
- Cindy Alexander stated that from everything Chairman Paul Dixon has said, nothing has changed since the temporary regulation was approved, so it should be made permanent. It will generate additional funding. The quota can be zero or 200 and adjusted every year. How the hunt is held, what's legal, etc., can change every year. What Jason Patterson and Mike Reese stated is 100% true. This hunt should be made permanent so the bear population can be managed effectively.
- Moe Kassraia asked Chairman Paul Dixon given his reaction to the 194 emails he received, what his reaction would be to 100,000 emails.
- Chairman Paul Dixon responded that in categorizing the emails he had no intention of trivializing the content. He agreed with Gina Greisen that it is perfectly valid to be against something without a concrete reason. The Black Bear is the only game animal other than wolves that is not managed by NDOW. Without management there is no way to monitor the growth or decline of the population.
- Gina Greisen responded that she agrees with the need for management based on science, but she maintains that the bear hunt was not instituted because management was needed, but because sportsmen wanted to hunt bears. She urges the Board and Commission to table this until addition science is available for review. If at that point it is deemed necessary for proper management of bears to have a hunt, then that would be justified.
- Kensen Lee pointed out that he was a member of the CCABMW from 1998 to 2003, and in that period, the Washoe County CAB requested a bear hunt. The Commission reviewed it and determined that there was not enough solid data to base a decision on, so the request was rejected. Later Washoe County requested 10 tags, but the data wasn't conclusive. Kensen believes that in spite of the criticism Carl Lackey has received, his data is solid, and the people he reports to are highly educated biologists who put their trust in Carl's recommendations. Kensen feels strongly that this hunt is a good thing and should move forward to permanent status.
- Chairman Paul Dixon read a letter from Karen Layne, President, Las Vegas Valley Humane Society, stating that the LVVHS has been and still is opposed to the bear hunt, that the bears are a resource of Nevada not a resource of the hunters of Nevada, and that the reason the Commission established the bear hunt was because the Commission could do it.
- Chairman Paul Dixon closed public comment and solicited comments from the Board members.
- John Sullivan stated he recommends making the bear hunt permanent.
- Paul Harris pointed out that black bears are managed in every western state. Each state has a bear hunt. He added that Carl Lackey has been for years trapping problem bears feeding on garbage, and relocating them to areas away from human populations. Bear population in those areas are continuing to grow. Paul feels that

having a permanent bear hunt will allow the bears to thrive in Nevada and expand their range.

- Chairman Paul Dixon stated that it is essential to have a permanent bear hunt to allow management of the bears for future generations. To date there has been no counter proposal to fund management and education regarding bears. The only viable solution is a permanent bear hunt.
- Motion was made and seconded to recommend the Commission adopt a permanent regulation to manage black bears using current sound scientific data revisited year to year using hunting as a management tool. Motion passed unanimously.

3) Commission agenda item #13: Commission Regulation Fishing Seasons and Bag Limits 11 - 12. Review, discuss and recommend to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners that they approve, deny or otherwise modify fishing seasons, bag and possession limits for the period of March 1, 2012, to February 28, 2014. *(For possible action)*

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic and opened the floor for public comment. Hearing none, he asked the Board Members for comment.
- John Sullivan asked if any of the NDOW attendees could summarize the fishing regulation changes for the Board.
- Jon Sjoberg, NDOW Supervisory Fisheries Biologist, stated that there are no proposed changes for Clark County or Lincoln County, no major changes to the general regulations; most of the changes are for Northern Nevada. In Nye County, there is a change to implement a trophy bass regulation for Dacey Reservoir, and a regulation for the Beatty Urban Pond. Jon also answered questions regarding specific lakes and reservoirs.
- A motion was made and seconded to recommend that the Commission adopt the proposed regulation changes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

4) Commission agenda item #14: Commission Policy #51: Commission Lifetime Commitment to Wildlife Award. Review, discuss and recommend to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners that they approve, deny or otherwise modify changes to Commission Policy #51, including considering whether to retain the “Commission Lifetime Commitment to Wildlife Award” as currently set forth in Policy 51 or to reinstate the “Wayne E. Kirch Nevada Wildlife Conservation Award” of the former version of Policy 51 (August 8, 2003 version). *(For possible action)*

- Chairman Paul Dixon summarized the alternatives in the proposed regulation changes. He then opened the floor for public comment.
- Clint Bentley strongly recommended changing Policy 51 back to the August 8, 2003 version.
- Mike Reese agreed whole heartedly.
- Motion was made and seconded to recommend reinstatement of the August 8, 2003 version of Policy 51. Motion passed unanimously.
- Chairman Paul Dixon then asked what recommendations the Board should make regarding the “Commission Lifetime Commitment to Wildlife Award”.

- Jason Peterson recommended that the award be kept to recognize individuals that have shown long-term commitment to wildlife conservation.
- Chairman Paul Dixon asked the attending Commissioners if this was an annual award or given when warranted. It is an annual award.
- Motion was made and seconded to send the existing “Commission Lifetime Commitment to Wildlife Award” back to the Commission for evaluation and retention. Motion passed unanimously.

5) Commission agenda item #15: Commission Policy #28, Mule Deer Management Guidelines. Review, discuss and recommend to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners that they retain Policy 28 as is, immediately modify all or part of Policy 28, suspend Policy 28 pending final action on revisions, or eliminate Policy 28 in its entirety. *(For possible action)*

- Chairman Paul Dixon summarized the background for this item, and stated his opposition to leaving Policy #28 as it is written.
- Mike Reese voiced his hope that Commission Chairman McBeath would convene a committee to review the current regulation and propose changes to address concerns.
- Clint Bentley noted that when developed, sportsmen were not listened to, and while we need a mule deer policy, this version needs to be taken off the books.
- Commission Chairman McBeath stated that his current plan is to combine some existing committees (e.g., feral horse, mule deer, etc.) to form an Open Lands committee that will address such topics as the Mule Deer Policy.
- Motion was made and seconded to recommend the current Policy #28 be abolished and a new Mule Deer Policy be developed. Motion passed unanimously.

6) Commission agenda item #16: NDOW Comment on the Future Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge. Review, discuss and recommend to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners modifications to the DEIS for the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge. *(For possible action)*

- Chairman Paul Dixon summarized this item stating that NDOW had done a fairly comprehensive analysis of the DEIS and provided extensive comments. He further stated that he fully supports the letter sent by NDOW.
- Mike Reese asked Commission Chairman McBeath if NDOW has a team responsible for analyzing and responding to EIS’s. Commission Chairman McBeath said that they do.
- Michael Maynard, NDOW, offered that the Habitat Division of NDOW is responsible for reviewing and EIS and preparing responses.
- Motion was made and seconded to recommend that the Commission support NDOW’s changes to the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s EIS. Motion passed unanimously.

7) Commission agenda item #17: NDOW Comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA)

Groundwater Development and Conveyance Project. Review, discuss and recommend to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners modifications to an update on the SNWA Groundwater Development and Conveyance Project and the potential impact to wildlife water resources in the vicinity of the Project. (*For possible action*)

- Chairman Paul Dixon summarized this item.
- Jon Sjoberg, NDOW, explained the role NDOW, as a cooperating agency, played in the development of the DEIS. NDOW's focus was primarily on the wildlife sections. NDOW will be providing comments on the Public Draft to BLM by October 11, 2011. NDOW will continue to work with BLM to address all comments on the Public Draft and produce the Final EIS that will go out for a Record of Decision sometime in 2012.
- Chairman Paul Dixon asked what impact the proposed water withdrawal would have on area springs, etc.
- Jon answered that this EIS does not address the water usage at all; it only has to do with building a right-of-way. Water issues are being addressed in a series of meeting with the State Water Engineer.
- Motion was made and seconded to recommend support of NDOW's continued involvement in the EIS review and finalization and request a report on the preferred alternatives at the December 2011 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

8) Commission agenda item #14: Commission Regulation 07-07 amendment #8, 2011-2012 - Regulation to change Open hunt days at Key-Pittman WMA.

Review, discuss and recommend to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners that they approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed changes to Commission Regulation 07-07 amendment #8. (*For possible action*)

- Chairman Paul Dixon summarized this item.
- Motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of the proposed changes. Motion passed unanimously.

9) Dove Hunting Lottery - Review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners regarding the Dove Hunting Lottery in Clark County. (*For possible action*)

- Chairman Paul Dixon summarized this item.
- Motion was made and seconded to move this item to the next CCABMW meeting. Motion passes unanimously.

8. Authorize the Chairman to prepare and submit the recommendations from today's meeting to the Commission for its consideration at its September 23rd and 24th 2011 meeting in Reno. (*For possible action*)

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

9. Next scheduled meetings of the Board and Commission.

The next Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting is scheduled for November 29th, 2011 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

10. Adjournment

- Motion made to adjourn. Motion seconded.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.