

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

MINUTES

Monday ~ August 9, 2010 ~ 6:30 p.m.
Nevada Department of Wildlife
Conference Room B
1100 Valley Road, Reno, Nevada

MEMBERS

Rex Flowers, Chair
Rick Smith, Vice-chair
John Reed, Secretary
Glen Copeland
Daryl Harwell

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 Daryl Harwell, Rex Flowers, John Reed and Rick Smith

ABSENT: None.

Chair Smith introduced John Reed and welcomed him to the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife.

3. APPROVAL OF JUNE 21, 2010, MINUTES

It was moved by Member Harwell, seconded by Member Reed, to approve the June 21, 2010, minutes, as submitted. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Harwell, Reed and Chair Smith assenting; and Member Copeland abstaining.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS – 1) Chair; 2) Vice-chair; and 3) Secretary.

Chair Smith commented that June 30, 2010, ended fiscal year 2009-2010 and that the board elects their slate of officers at that time. Chair Smith opened the meeting to nominations for the position of Chair.

Member Copeland nominated Rick Smith as Chair.

Chair Smith explained that while he appreciated the nomination he has served two (2) of his four (4) years as Chair. Mr. Smith respectfully declined the nomination and made the following nomination for the position of Chair.

Chair Smith nominated Rex Flowers to serve as Chair. Member Copeland seconded the nomination.

Member Flowers accepted the nomination.

* denotes NON action item

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The nomination to elect Rex Flowers as Chair of the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife carried: Members Copeland, Harwell, Reed and Chair Smith assenting; and Member Flowers abstaining.

Chair Smith opened nominations for the Vice-chair position.

Member Flowers nominated Rick Smith as Vice-chair. Member Harwell seconded the nomination.

Chair Smith accepted the nomination.

The nomination to elect Rick Smith as Vice-chair of the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife carried: Members Copeland, Flowers, Harwell and Reed assenting; and Chair Smith abstaining.

Chair Smith noted that the newest member of the board typically was elected as the Board's secretary

Chair Smith nominated John Reed as Secretary. Member Harwell seconded the nomination.

Member Reed accepted the nomination.

The nomination to elect John Reed as Secretary carried: Members Copeland, Flowers, Harwell and Chair Smith assenting; and Member Reed abstaining.

Chair Smith turned the meeting gavel to Chair Rex Flowers.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS *

Gerald Lent – Chair, Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission), commented that Scott Raines had been reappointed to the Commission, with Hal Shrum representing Clark County and Henry (Hank) Vogler filling the ranching position.

Mel Belding explained that he had been attending meetings since about the age of 13 and that Vice-chair Smith was one of the best Chairs that he had provided good and fair leadership and will be missed.

Scott Davy commented that as a hiker and dog owner he was surprised to find warning signs about trapping along Whites and Thomas Creeks. Mr. Davy explained that he did not understand how trapping could be allowed in a Fire Arms Restricted area. It is Mr. Davy's belief that there is little relevant economic influence from trapping.

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Marjorie Sill commented that she lived in Washoe County since 1959 and was concerned about child and pet safety if trapping is allowed in the congested areas. Unlike humans dogs have not learned to avoid hazards such as traps and she believes the petition to ban trapping in the congested areas of Washoe County should be approved.

Andra Murray outlined her concerns about reading that a cat had been caught in a explained that she had been born in the area and that she was appalled to read that a cat had been caught in a trap in an areas where children, pets and families recreate. While she is not against trapping per se she believes that trapping should be banned in public areas due to safety issues for children and families.

Bill Howard – Co-chair, Green Party of Nevada, read a prepared statement into the record (copy on file) and asked that the petition to ban trapping be approved.

6. **PRESENTATION ON NEVADA OPEN MEETING LAW *** – *An informational presentation and discussion of the Nevada Open Meeting Law as it applies to the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife.*

Continued to the September 16, 2010, meeting

6. **PETITION TO BAN TRAPPING IN THE ARMS CONGESTED AREAS OF WASHOE COUNTY** – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to approve, deny or otherwise modify a petition to ban trapping in the Arms Congested Areas of Washoe County.*

Chair Flowers opened the agenda item and read the petition (copy on file) into the record. Mr. Flowers stated that he had received written comments (copies on file) on the trapping petition from the following individuals: Sherri Lindloff; William K. McIntosh; D. J. Stevens; Judith Saum; Bev Colgan; Tom McCormack; Elaine Carrick; Geraldine Rueger; Chris Schwamberger; Billy Howard – Green Party of Nevada.

Trish Swain – TrailSafe, expressed her appreciation to the board and Joel Blakeslee – Nevada Trappers Association, and asked that the matter be continued as last minute revisions had been submitted too late for public and board review. Ms. Swain submitted a written copy of the revised petition (copy on file) and explained that there may be numerous instances of unintended trapping in the area. Ms. Swain also outlined her response to Mr. Blakeslee's concerns (copy on file)

Chris Schwamberger asked that the board approve the ban on trapping in the congested areas of Washoe County. And drew attention to a survey that indicated ±78-percent of the populations is opposed to trapping. Ms. Schwamberger commented that there are no statistics kept on the number of household pets that are caught in the various trapping devices and that non-targeted animals caught in traps are generally euthanized.

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Joel Blakeslee – Nevada Trappers Association, explained that the March 2010 incident involved a feral cat and that he believes that the issue was not within the purview of Washoe County, but rather NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife). Mr. Blakeslee further explained that the issue is not one of public safety and that he is not aware of any incident that involves an individual being caught in a trap. Mr. Blakeslee outlined areas of concern including the map of Fire Arms Restricted Areas of Washoe County. Mr. Blakeslee believes that the map should be limited to the 2002 map on the NDOW website and that any expansion of the congested areas should be brought back to the County Game Board(s) and Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners for acceptance. Mr. Blakeslee commented that perhaps the board should postpone consideration thus allowing additional time to resolve outstanding issues.

Elaine Carrick disclosed that she is a member of the Washoe County Animal Control Board and emphasized that she is speaking as a private citizen and that her positions may not be reflective of other Animal Control Board members. Ms. Carrick noted that as a realtor in the area she believes that individuals moving to the region are more interested in a safe community. Therefore, the photographs or newspaper articles about trapping within the congested areas of the region do not tend to encourage individuals to move to the area. Ms. Carrick asked that the board approve the petition to prohibit trapping in the Fire Arms Restricted Areas and create a better image for Washoe County.

Stewart White noted that he had resided in the area since 1955 and had purchased property along Rosewood Wash in the 1990's. Mr. White pointed out that he is in favor of the petition to band trapping and that he believes the boundaries of the no trapping area should change as the population and congestions continues to grow.

Robbin Palmer commented that many of those in attendance had not expected the matter to be continued and asked that those in the audience supportive of the trapping ban to please stand.

Chair Flowers reminded Ms. Palmer that all comments must be directed to the board not the audience.

Mitch Schneider – Manager Washoe County Animal Services, noted that many individuals consider pets to be part of their family and that trapping in congested areas is a public safety concern to most residents. Mr. Schneider commented that he was not present to comment on trapping as a sport or hobby, but rather to address the concerns of the community. Mr. Schneider noted that live cage type traps are used to capture feral cats and other animals that need to be relocated and is significantly different, in his opinion, than a leg or foot hold trap.

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Doris Weber commented that she could not understand how anyone would not want to ban trapping in congested areas if they have seen a photograph of an animal caught in a trap.

Scarlett Kingsley commented that one of her favorite things about Nevada was the limited distance to open and wilderness areas such as Tahoe, Donner and others areas where wildlife can be observed during hiking. Of particular concern is public safety and the potential harm not only pets but also children and unsuspecting adults by trapping. Ms. Kingsley asked that the ban on trapping be approved.

Mel Belding explained that as a lifelong resident he has spent a lot of times in the surrounding hills and that he has never heard of an Antelope being caught in a trap. Additionally, it is unlikely that Ms. Kingsley's father would ever be caught in a bear trap. Mr. Belding noted his concern about the capture and release of feral cats along the Truckee River and other bodies of water that is detrimental to wildlife and fisheries. Mr. Belding does not believe that feral cats should be released anywhere along the river by any agency.

Lang Milligan outlined photographic trips along the various canyons in the area and the experience with traps set along the various trails, including an instance where the trap had been removed but the rebar and chain had been left. During one expedition a German Shepard was caught in one of the traps thus requiring two individuals to open the trap and a third to try and assist the dog. The dog's leg was severely bruised and resulted in the members of the photographic expedition having to carry the dog out.

Bob Ritter commented that he is opposed to the petition and that while the feral cat was trapped in an illegal trap the petition will not resolve the issues of feral cats. Of particular concern is the capture and relocation of feral cats in the area which may need to be addressed.

Judi Caron expressed her appreciation to Ms. Swain and Mr. Blakeslee for working together to find a compromise position. Ms. Caron believes that the remaining issues can be resolved with further negotiation.

Don Molde noted that Dick Randall had been a friend of his and that he had eventually went to work for the Defenders of Wildlife and had published photographs of the consequences of unintended trapping. Mr. Molde expressed his support for the petition.

Carol Hauck commented that he husband is a land surveyor and that she and her spouse hike a lot. Of particular concern is the allowance of trapping in Fire Arms Restricted areas and asked that the board approve the petition.

Bonnie Brown - Nevada Humane Society, commented that she and the Nevada Humane Society are in favor of the trapping ban and pointed out that the request is not to ban trapping statewide, which has occurred in the State of Arizona. Ms. Brown believes this is a

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viable compromise that prohibits trapping in the congested areas and that she believes that the map should be updated as the area continues to develop rather than having to bring the revised map back for public review.

Tom Smith explained that he opposes the petition as it is “too broad” in its prohibition of traps or poisons. For example, it is Mr. Smith’s belief that if the petition were approved that it would then become illegal to keep DECON® on hand to reduce the number of rodents and ban the use of body crushing mouse and rat traps as well. Additionally, the petition indicates there is no economic impact, he believes that is in error as such a prohibition will most likely increase enforcement costs.

Scott Davy commented that he is concerned that while he cannot fire even a BB gun in the Fire Arms Restricted areas, trapping can occur. Mr. Davy noted that he too believes that petition terminology needs to be clarified.

Diane Blankenburg - Nevada Human Society, concurred with other views on approval of the petition to address safety issues for children and pets. It is estimated that some 20-percent of all trapping is for unintended species. It is Ms. Blankenburg’s belief that it is even more tragic that banning is not prohibited in the congested areas of Washoe County.

Bill Chamberlain expressed his support for the petition and suggested that the petition should perhaps go further and require that owners of traps should have their identification attached to their traps so that the trap’s owner can be held responsible should a child or pet be injured.

Chair closed the public hearing and open to board discussion

Member Harwell noted that there had been an earlier petition or discussion about banning trapping within specific distance of public trails and that he has encountered issues with predators on his property in Hidden Valley where he raises Chukkar. Mr. Harwell noted that both Washoe County and the State receive revenues from trapping and licenses and that a fire arm can do damage elsewhere if discharged in a congested area.

Member Smith commented that, in his personal opinion, the petition is a reasonable request and that he is confident that TrailSafe and the Nevada Trappers Association can reach an agreement that satisfies most of their respective issues. Member Smith asked that an agreement be brought back to this board that can then be recommended to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

Member Copeland pointed out that Ms. Swain has indicated her desire to continue working with Mr. Blakeslee to resolve the remaining issues and concurred with member Smith that the matter be tabled until a full review of a final petition can be scheduled.

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Member Reed explained that he is impressed with the work done to date by Ms. Swain and Mr. Blakeslee as they work toward a compromise position. Mr. Reed noted that there are some property owners that tend to disagree with maps regardless of jurisdiction.

It was moved by Member Smith, seconded by member Harwell, to table the Petition to Ban Trapping in the Fire Arms Restricted Areas of Washoe County until the details of the petition are resolved. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting recessed at 7:41 p.m. and reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

Chair Flower stated that the original agenda that included the Open Meeting Law update would be followed and emphasizes that the only difference was the second agenda did not include the Open Meeting Law update.

7. COMMITTEE, MEMBER AND LIAISON UPDATES *

1). Correspondence (including sportsmen's concerns) and Announcements – Chair Flowers noted that correspondence had been received from Judi Caron (copy on file) concerning Commission (Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners) agenda item 11 Heritage Projects wherein she had requested that the matter be tabled until support information had been provided to the CAB's (County Advisory Board) for review and comment. Chair Flower also noted that Nevada Outfitter and Guide Association had submitted correspondence (copy on file) indicating their support for the modification to Commission General Regulation. Other

2). Overview of the June 25 and 26, 2010, Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meeting * – Member Smith provided an overview of the Commission (Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners) meeting noting that there had been significant discussion about wild horses. Mr. Smith explained that the Commission had approved most of the action items and asked for additional detail on the \$160,000.00 in salary expense for the Heritage project. Member Smith then explained that the Commission had approved the Lyon County budget request and heard updates on pending OML (Open Meeting Law) complaints and other legal issues from the Attorney General's representative. Member Smith submitted a copy of the report from the Sheldon Management Plan update (copy on file) and suggested that it be added to the September 16, 2010, meeting agenda for additional discussion.

3). Update and status report on the Washoe County Predator Control Project and the Wildlife Damage Management Subcommittee * – There was no report.

8. BOARD MEMBER MEETING ASSIGNMENT – A discussion and selection of member(s) to attend the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meetings on: 1) August 13 and 14, 2010, meetings in Fallon, Nevada; and 2). September 24 and 25, 1020, Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Chair Flowers and/or Member Harwell will attend the August 13 and 14, 2010, meeting in Fallon, Nevada.

Chair Flowers will attend the September 24 and 25, 2010, meetings in Las Vegas, Nevada.

- 9. COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION NUMBER 389, LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) File No. R083-10 – A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commission to approve, deny or otherwise modify a regulation relating to wildlife; prohibiting a person from interfering with the use of a guzzler or other water development; providing an exception.**

Chair Flowers opened the agenda item and drew attention to the support materials noting that there is an exemption for NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), certain federal agencies or other authorized personnel in the performance of their official duties.

Hearing no public comments in favor of, or in opposition to the request, Chair Flowers closed the public hearing.

During the discussion it was noted that stock ponds are not considered natural basin and are generally on private property.

It was moved by Member Smith, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission General Regulation 389, Legislative Counsel Bureau File No. R083-10, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

- 10. COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION NUMBER 391, File No. Temporary – A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commission to approve, deny or otherwise modify a regulation relating to revising provisions governing eligibility for the main draw if the application applied for the Restricted Nonresident Deer tag draw.**

Chair Flowers opened the agenda item and outlined the proposed revision that would allow a non-resident who is not successful in the Restricted Non-resident draw to apply for the main draw. Member Flower recalled the earlier correspondence from Nevada Outfitter and Guide Association in support of the proposed modification.

Hearing no public comments in favor of, or in opposition to the request, Chair Flowers closed the public hearing.

Member Smith commented that there had been significant discussion about the proposed modification and that the primary concern had been about the allowance of a “second bite of the apple” if the modifications were approved. Member Smith explained that unused non-

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resident tags are then filled by residents and that unused resident tags can be filled by non-residents.

Member Copeland stated that he could not support the request to allow a second opportunity for non-residents.

Chair Flowers noted that he had voted against the modification previous and would not support the request at this time. It is Mr. Flowers' belief that the approval of this language would be unfair to those non-residents that cannot or chose not to apply in the Non-resident Restricted Hunt.

Responding to Member Reed's inquiry about the economic impact to guides and others, Chair Flowers explained that, in his opinion, the decline in revenues for both guides and local entities that support the guided hunts was due primarily to the current economic issues.

Member Smith outlined the arguments both pro and con on the proposal and explained that when he travels out of the area he depend on local merchants to fill food and other needs.

Member Reed explained that the primary issue is to protect residents first.

Chair Flowers commented that the Non-resident Restrict Hunt tags come for the 10-percent allotment so the modification, in his opinion, would not adversely affect residents.

Member Reed commented that the other part of the issue is one of perception that approval of the language would give non-residents a second chance that is not available to residents.

It was moved by Member Copeland, seconded by Member harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners deny the revision to Commissioner General Regulation 391` File Temporary. The motion carried: Members Copeland, Harwell, Reed and Chair Flowers assenting; and Member Smith dissenting.

- 11. COMMISSION REGULATION NUMBER 10-03, Waterfowl Seasons 2010-2011 – A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commission to approve, deny or otherwise modify hunting season dates and bag limits for Waterfowl, Snipe, Falconry Seasons for Migratory Game Birds, and a Youth Waterfowl Season for the 2010-2011 hunting season.**

Chair Flowers provided an overview of the agenda item.

Mike Dobel – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), noted that the proposal was drafted by Craig Mortimer before his retirement. Ms. Dobel noted that staff is taking comments from

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the CAB's (County Advisory Board) and other interested organizations and that it appears there is consensus to adopt the proposal within the federal framework.

Tom Wilson - Nevada Water Fowl, explained that he had attended the summit and noted that the two primary topics had been the Youth Hunt. It was suggested that the Southern Youth Hunt occur during the two (2) days at the end of the regular hunt with northern Nevada youth taking the two (2) days prior to the season opening. Mr. Wilson commented that Nevada Water Fowl had not taken an official position and did not meet until Thursday, August 12, 2010. Their official recommendation will be taken directly to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

There was additional discussion about the opening date for the Youth Hunt. It was explained that the later opening for Southern Nevada would youth to hunt as the migration to the north begins in the early part of the year. Other discussion noted that majority of the migratory water fowl are located in the central portion of the state.

It was moved by Member Harwell, seconded by Member Smith, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation Number 10-03, Waterfowl Seasons 2010-2011, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

12. UPLAND GAME STAMP REQUEST – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify recommendations on ten (10) projects submitted for funding from upland game stamp funds. The projects total \$172,110.00 plus \$160,000.00 in associated salary.*

Chair Flowers provide an overview of the agenda item.

There was some discussion about various Dove species during which it was noted that the Asian Colored Dove is not a protected species. As the discussion continued, it was explained that the transplant of certain species into other locations is intended to diversity and enhance and reintroduce various bird species in traditional habitats. It was suggested that certain species and subspecies would not currently support a season due to low population count.

Daryl Capurro – Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission), explained that the Commission had specific questions on the \$160,000.00 salary request and had asked for more detailed information. In addition to salary detail the Commission is also seeking a more detailed accounting of each project's anticipated expenses. Although the information requested has not yet been distributed, if it is distributed by 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, August 10, 2010, the Commission may take action.

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There was some discussion about the difference in Northern and Southern Nevada Guzzler maintenance teams. It was explained that while Southern Nevada focuses on maintenance there is some new construction of the aging guzzler infrastructure, whereas in Northern Nevada the infrastructure is not as old as it dates back to the 1980's compared to the late 1950's and 1960's for Southern Nevada.

A motion by Member Harwell to accept the Upland Game Stamp request died due to lack of a second.

It was moved by Chair Flowers, seconded by Member Reed, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the Upland Game Stamp requests, as presented.

Member Smith offered the following amendment to the motion.

It was moved by Member Smith to amend the motion such that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioner approve the Upland Game Stamp and require a more detailed accounting of the \$160,000.00 salary expenditure including: 1) why the funds are being reallocated; 2) what the funds will fund; 3) what project the funds are being reallocated to; and 4) the reallocation of funding to be approved by the Commission.

Chair Flowers accepted the amendment to the motion. Member Reed amended the second.

During the ensuing discussion it was explained that any reallocation of funding would come back to the CAB's (County Advisory Board) for review and recommendation to the Commission. It was pointed out that the Commission held the final authority for project approval.

The motion carried unanimously.

- 13. 2010 AND 2011 HERITAGE PROJECTS: Request to Modify Predator Management Projects** – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify recommendations to modify 2010 Heritage Projects No. 10-23, No. 10-26, and No. 10-27; and 2011 Heritage Projects: No. 11-19 and No. 11-20.*

Chair Flowers summarized the agenda item and read correspondence from Judi Caron (copy on file) in to the record that expresses her concerns about the inability of the CAB's (County Advisory Board) to provide input and recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) without support materials.

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Judi Caron explained that she had contact NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) staff about support materials and her subsequent formal request that the Commission postpone action on the item until the CAB's have received and had time to make informed recommendations to the Commission.

Member Smith commented that he as the former Chair had also attempted to secure the necessary support materials and that it is his understanding that the proponents of the project in question had not agreed to the proposed changes.

Responding to Member Smith's inquiry about whether the Commission was aware of whether any of the issues had been resolved, Commissioner Daryl Capurro explained that he did not have any knowledge of what the recommendations entailed and that if the information is not received by 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, August 10, 2010, then the three (3) requirement cannot be met.

In response to member Smith's question as to whether the Commission would postpone action on the request until the support material had been received, reviewed and acted on by the CAB's, Commission Chair Gerald Lent stated that he could not speak for the Commission and that the matter would remain on the Commission agenda whether or not the support material was received by 9:00 a.m.

Chair Flowers pointed out that, in his opinion, the board could not make any recommendation to the Commission as there is no information upon which a decision or recommendation can be based.

Commissioner Capurro clarified that if the information was not in the Commissioners hands by 9:00 a.m. tomorrow (August 10, 2010) there is insufficient time to take the matter to the CAB's for input. Mr. Capurro stated that he could not answer Member Smith's question about whether or not the matter would be sent back to the CAB's for input.

Member Smith pointed out that the Commission could, at its discretion, table the matter and direct that the agenda item be taken to the CAB's for input.

Chair Flower reiterated that without support materials the only question that the board can ask is whether the Commission will send the matter back to the CAB's for input. The lack of support materials and information in a timely manner makes it impossible for the public to provide comment and CAB's to make informed recommendations to the Commission.

Member Smith concurred that the CAB could take action to make no specific recommendation to the Commission and ask that the matter come back to all CAB's for input.

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Chair Flowers asked that Member Harwell make that recommendation to the Commission on behalf of the Washoe County CAB.

It was moved by Member Harwell, seconded by Member Smith, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners table 2010 and 2011 Heritage Projects: Request to Modify Predator Management Projects until such time as all County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife have had an opportunity to review pertinent support materials and information to make an informed recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners at a future meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

- 14. MULE DEER RESTORATION COMMITTEE** – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Mule Deer Restoration Committee with background information and possible methods and procedures to achieve the goal of increased Mule Deer populations throughout the State of Nevada.*

Chair Flowers recalled that this agenda item had been added at the request of Cory Lytle who sits on the Muledeer Subcommittee.

Member Copeland recalled the previous Subcommittee of the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife who had recommended that this body support the NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) existing projects intended to improve Muledeer herd populations.

Member Smith commented that the primary issues being discussed by the Muledeer Subcommittee are predation, encroachment of Junipers and Pinion Pine, habitat loss due to urbanization and wild horse impacts on habitat and other resources. Mr. Smith recalled that former member Judi Caron had volunteered to serve on the Tri-County Wildlife Group.

Judi Caron stated that the Tri-County Wildlife Group would meet on Wednesday, August 11, 2010, at Spooner Lake to discuss target project(s) and area(s).

Chair Flowers commented that federal funding is being sought for fuel reduction projects, which benefits habitat by opening the canopy and allow the development of vegetation needed by wildlife.

Commissioner Capurro commented that the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) wild horse roundup was scheduled to start today (August 10, 2010) and suggested that an agenda item be added to discussion the gathering of wild horses.

- 15. 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*

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may be placed on a future agenda for discussion and possible action or recommendation of action to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

Member Harwell suggested a future agenda item to discuss the process for adding Scripps Wildlife Refuge as one of the areas in which Swans can be hunted.

Member Smith drew attention to the Sheldon Refuge Management Plan update (copy on file) and noted that there are three (3) possible scenarios: 1) take no action; 2) low intensity management plan; or 3) the preferred intensive management plan. The plan can also be found on the Sheldon's website: www.fws.gov/pacific/planning/main/docs/NV/docssheldon.htm

There was minor discussion about the timeline for Heritage Fund Projects. It was explained that the May meeting typically focuses on project that must be submitted to NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) in February/March time frame each year.

16. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS * – Selection of additional agenda item(s) for the Thursday, September 16, 2010, meeting.

The September 16, 2010, meeting agenda may include, but is not limited to: 1) **PRESENTATION ON NEVADA OPEN MEETING LAW *** – *An informational presentation and discussion of the Nevada Open Meeting Law as it applies to the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife.* Deputy District Attorney Terry Shea; 2) **TRI-COUNTY WILDLIFE GROUP REPORT *** – *An informational update on the recommendations and discussion from the August 11, 2010, meeting of the Tri-County Wildlife Group.* Chair Flowers and/or Judi Caron; 3) **2011 MEETING CALENDAR** – *A review, discussion and possible action to set meeting dates for 2011.* Chair Flowers; 4) **ADDITION OF SCRIPPS WILDLIFE REFUGE** – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife to begin the process to add the Scripps Wildlife Management Area to the list of options available in the State of Nevada for Swan seasons;* 5) **SHELDON REFUGE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE** – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners on the update of the Sheldon Refuge Management Plan;* 6) **MULEDEER HERD STATUS IN UNIT 015** – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners on the status of the Muledeer herd status in Unit 015.* Chris Hampson.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Flower adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

AS APPROVED BY THE WASHOE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE IN SESSION ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2010.

* denotes NON action item