

**Legislative Committee meeting of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners
Reno, Nevada January 14, 2009**

Item 1- Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chairman Gerald Lent 4:06 PM.

Committee Members in attendance: Chairman Gerald Lent, Commissioner Tom Cavin, and Daryl Capurro.

Public in attendance:

Rex Flowers, Washoe CABMW

Commissioner David McNinch, Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners

Judi Caron

Dianna Belding

Mel Belding

John Capurro

Jim Ornellas

Marshall Goldy

Dan Heinz

Tina Nappe

Chris MacKenzie, Former Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners

George Corner, Elko Nevada Outfitters and Guides Association

Others in attendance: Director Ken Mayer, Steve Siegel, Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici, Administrative Services Officer III Dave Prather. Commissioner Ron Lurie on the telephone.

Because this is the first meeting of the committee there are no minutes to approve.

Disclosures included:

Chairman Lent had previous discussions with Rob Buonamici, Chief of Law Enforcement, NDOW Director, NDOW staff and Assemblyman Claborn regarding issues relating to the agenda. Commissioner Cavin met with NDOW staff and NDOW Chief of Game regarding Assemblyman Claborn's proposed bill. Daryl Capurro met with Rob Buonamici, Chief of Law Enforcement, Kenneth Mayer, NDOW Director regarding issues facing the Department.

Item 2- Member Items

Items to add to the Discussion

From Mr. Capurro- Summit Lake Permitting Issue.

From Chairman Lent- identification of an item for the next agenda recommending a change to NRS 502.253 to eliminate the words "for a game tag". This issue is in regards to potential lost revenue from applications for bonus points.

Item 3- Public Comment Period

No Public Comment on items off the agenda.

Item 4- Legislative Committee Charter

Chairman Lent announced a change in the Charter to add Mr. Daryl Capurro. He identified his right as Chairman to add individuals to the Committee appointed by him.

Public Questions- Why go outside of the Commission for Committee members? Why assign someone to the Committee before changing the Charter? Which Chairman, of the Board or the Committee?

Chairman Lent responded- Because the charter was not binding and because he was the Chairman of the Commission he has the ability to appoint members to the Committee.

Motion by Commissioner Cavin to allow Mr. Daryl Capurro to sit on the Committee until such time that the Commission deems otherwise. Seconded by Commissioner Lent and approved unanimously.

Note: Chairman Lent will be providing language (to the February Commission Meeting) to change the charter to allow for the appointment of lay individuals.

Item 5A- Assembly Bill 77

The wording of the proposed Bill was read into the record by Commissioner Lent. Rob Buonamici- Chief of Law Enforcement discussed 3 parts to the bill.

- 1- The need for interstate cooperation in pursuing poachers.
- 2- Wanton waste- a civil penalty has been added, discussed the definition of wanton waste and intent, wording can be placed into the regulation or into the legislation.
- 3- Civil penalty based upon trophy quality and should act as a deterrent, dollars will go into operation game thief account.
- 4- There was discussion regarding lower of the minimum penalty.

Public Comment

George Corner- Elko, NV representing the Nevada Outfitters and Guides- in support of the proposed bill, agrees with lowering of the minimum penalty but supports the maximum.

John Capurro- represents himself and Tim Humes- had a concern about the definition of wanton waste. The bill lacks a definition of edible meat, wants to know what the specific requirement is to stay within the law. Read a letter from Tim Hume- (attached). Provided written testimony including proposed language (attached).

Committee Discussion

Commissioner Lent requested Rob Buonamici to review John Capurro's comments and develop some language. Commissioner Cavin motioned: In regards to AB77 concerns he requests NDOW staff to look at the proposed bill language, to reduce the minimum penalty, to focus the intent, add language regarding wanton waste and to define edible meat and return to the Committee. Seconded by Mr. Capurro. Unanimous vote in favor.

Item 5b – Potential Bill Draft Request

Issue regarding a request for legislation on the release of tag draw information within 48 hours to applicants. There was discussion about whether state legislation was the correct application or if changes should be provided to the regulations. It was mentioned that regulations are quicker and easier to change than laws.

Chairman Lent mentioned that the issue of providing tag draw information was discussed at length with Director Mayer and that he was to be commended for his response to the issue. Director Mayer acknowledged that this measure was planned for action for the next tag draw, but that the actual tags would not be available within 48 hours after the draw, due to printing restrictions. A motion was made by Mr. Capurro to bring to the Commission language for a temporary requirement of providing tag draw information to applicants, with re-adoption to permanence following the 2009 Legislative Session. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Item 5c-Proposed Bill Draft Request (BDR) prepared by Assemblyman Claborn regarding Mountain Lion hunting

Chairman Lent discussed items of the proposed bill including payment to hunters of \$500 for the hide and skull to be turned into NDOW for scientific purposes.

Mr. Capurro proposed issuance of an unlimited number of tags as opposed to the two now offered. Commissioner Cavin discussed removal of the hide sale process but supported turning it in to the Department for scientific purposes.

Additional discussion included the issues of getting cats from out of state, that non-target cats would be taken, the complexity of having NDOW staff handling the hides and payment. A question was raised if the process could be handled through the Commission.

Public Comment

Mr. George Corner- representing Nevada Outfitters and Guides- raised a concern regarding involvement from the Humane Society and their impact on predator control in general. His impression was that mountain lion numbers were down.

Mr. Mel Belding- representing himself- Coyotes were the issue on Hart Mountain, disagrees with Mr. Corner in regards to Lion numbers, provided anecdotal information to indicate that Lion numbers were up, and is against more regulations.

Mr. Dan Heinz- representing himself, is against blanket predator control but is in favor of targeted control, had an issue with the results of the Sheldon study.

Mr. Chris McKenzie- representing himself- expressed concern about the predator account dollars all going to mule deer support, the money should be spread among all game species.

Mr. Mel Belding- representing himself- discussed that there were more fawns recruited where predator control occurred, that antelope numbers were good but were not at the levels they could be.

Committee Discussion

Mr. Capurro wants to support Assemblyman Claborn but had nothing specific to suggest. Commissioner Cavin suggested to increase the limit on mountain lion tags issued, continue to utilize targeted control of lions, to pursue the potential collection of dollars for the predator account from the bonus point applications and to spend predator account dollars by species to include protection for sheep.

Mr. Capurro motioned to have NDOW Staff come to the Committee with a recommendation of wording to incorporate the issues raised by Commissioner Cavin, for inclusion to the Claborn Bill with language regarding the predator control program. Seconded by Commissioner Cavin, unanimously approved.

Other Member Items for Discussion

Summit Lake- This item will be brought to the Commission.

Look at how shed hunting is managed.

Look at areas with low trophy animals and better allocate tags to prevent draining of trophy animals from any specific area.

Item 6

Future Committee Meeting

No future meeting date was set but would be done so at the discretion of Chairman Lent with proper noticing in compliance with the open meeting law.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 PM.