

Draft Minutes
Notice of a Joint Meeting of the
Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Meeting and California Fish and Game
Commission
at
North Tahoe Conference Center
8318 North Lake Blvd., Kings Beach, California

Friday, September 5, 2008 – 8:30 a.m.

The Nevada and California Commissions will meet in joint session on Friday, Sept. 5, 2008. All agenda items, reports, and discussions will be informational only and no action will be taken by either Commission at this meeting.

- Call to Order – Chairmen
- 1 Agency Overviews - California Department of Fish and Game and Nevada Department of Wildlife - Agency Directors will provide an overview of their respective agency.
- 2 Tahoe Bear Management - California Department of Fish and Game and Nevada Department of Wildlife - A report will be presented on the status of the interstate bear population, current management practices and plans.
- 3 Interstate Mule Deer Management – California Department of Fish and Game and Nevada Department of Wildlife - A report on the status of the various interstate herds, current management practices, and management plans.
- 4 Alien Species Issues and Management - California Department of Fish and Game and Nevada Department of Wildlife - A report will be presented on the status of alien species issues and management (Quagga mussel, New Zealand mud snail, and Barramundi).
- 5 Sage Grouse Management – California Department of Fish and Game and Nevada Department of Wildlife - A report will be presented on the status of sage grouse management in Nevada and California, petitions for listing under the Endangered Species Act, and the various conservation planning efforts initiated for populations inhabiting California/Nevada state line areas.
- 6 Law Enforcement Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Shared Jurisdiction - California Department of Fish and Game and Nevada Department of Wildlife
A report will be presented on the status of the Law Enforcement Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on shared Law Enforcement jurisdiction.
- 7 Emerging Issues/ Lessons Learned; IE Lake Davis Northern Pike Eradication, Aleutian Goose Recovery Program, etc. - California Department of Fish and Game and Nevada Department of Wildlife - A report will be presented on the emerging issues affecting California and Nevada.
- 8 Nevada Hunter Safety Requirements and Effect on California Hunters - California Department of Fish and Game and Nevada Department of Wildlife - A report will be presented on the status of hunter education programs and requirements for each state.

Adjournment of Joint Meeting

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Meeting
Nevada Department of Wildlife Headquarters
1100 Valley Road
Reno, NV 89512

Saturday, September 6, 2008 – 8:30 a.m.

- Call to Order, Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, and Introduction and Roll Call of County Advisory Board Members to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) – Chairmen
 - Commissioner Appreciation – Director Ken Mayer
 - Approval of Agenda – Action
The Commission will review the agenda and may remove items from consideration or adjust their order of presentation.
 - Member Items
Commissioners may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action will be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.
 - County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Member Items
CABMW members may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action will be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.
 - Public Comment Period
Persons wishing to speak on items not on the agenda should complete a speaker's card and present it to the recording secretary. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action will be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.
- 1 Correspondence – Chairman – Informational
The Commission will review and may discuss written items sent or received by the Commission since the last regular meeting and provide copies for the exhibit file.
 - 2 2009 Commission Meeting Schedule – Commission Secretary Ken Mayer – Action
In accordance with NRS 501.177 and Commission Policy #1 the Commission will be asked to approve a schedule of meetings and locations for 2009.
 - 3 Reports – Informational
 - A Department Budget – Administrative Services Officer III Dave Prather
 - B Department Activities Report – Director Ken Mayer
 - C Premature Release of 2008 Draw Results – Director Mayer
 - D Litigation Report – Deputy Attorney General Nhu Nguyen
 - E Clark County Shooting Park – Commissioner Lurie
 - F Wildlife Heritage Projects – Budget Analyst II Gabe Pincolini
 - G Oxbow Nature Study Area Update – Staff Conservation Educator Kim Toulouse
 - H Goose Creek Depredation Hunt – Supervising Game Biologist Larry Gilbertson

- 4 Future Commission Meeting – Director Ken Mayer - Action
The next Commission meeting is scheduled for November 14 and 15, 2008, in Las Vegas, and the Commission will review potential agenda items for that meeting and will set the start time of the November meeting and the chairman may adjust committee assignments or create new ones.

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners present for two day meeting:

Chairman Gerald Lent	Vice Chairman Ron Lurie	Commissioner Tom Cavin
Commissioner McBeath	Commissioner McNinch	Commissioner Mori
(present Saturday)	Commissioner Raine	Commissioner Swanson

*Commissioner McBeath – Excused Absence for Friday and Commissioner Wallace – Excused Absence for Both Days

Commissioners from California

Mr. Richard B. Rogers, President	Cindy Gustafson, Vice President	Mr. Jim Kellogg, Member
Mr. Michael Sutton, Member	Mr. Daniel W. Richards, Member	

Director Kenneth E. Mayer
Nhu Nguyen, Deputy Attorney General

Suzanne Scourby, Recording Secretary

Nevada Department of Wildlife personnel present:

Acting Game Division Chief Mike Dobel	Big Game Biologist Carl Lackey
Big Game Biologist Kevin Lansford	Conservation Educator John McKay
Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici	Eastern Region Big Game Biologist Larry Gilbertson
Chief of Conservation Education Kelly Clark	Chief of Operations Bob Haughian

Others in Attendance:

Gil Yanuck, Carson CABMW	Don Koch, Director of California Dept. of Fish and Game
Don Sefton, SCI	John Carlson, Exec. Director CA Fish & Game Commission
Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt CABMW	Jason Holley, California Dept. of Fish and Game
William Miller, White Pine CABMW	Craig Stowers, California Dept. of Fish and Game
Giovanni Giordano, Humboldt CABMW	Neil Manji, CA Fisheries Branch Chief, CA F & G
Jack Robb	Scott Gardner, Upland Game Section CA F & G
Jim Jeffress	Dan Yparraguire, Waterfowl Section CA F & G
Capt. Roy Griffith, Law Enforcement CA F & G	Dennis Wilson
Brandon Fordin, Elko CABMW	Jim Jenne, Lyon CABMW
Jim Ornellas	Matt Goldy
Doug Busselman, Nevada Farm Bureau	Don Sefton, Systems Consultants
Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW	Paul Weakland

*Note: Friday's meeting was videotaped and is available for viewing on the Department of California Fish and Game website at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/>.

Friday, Sept. 5, 2008 – 8:30 a.m.

Chairman Rogers of the California Fish and Game Commission welcomed the attendees to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. and introduced the Commissioners from California and staff from California's Department of Fish and Game.

Chairman Lent of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' introduced the Nevada Commission and Director Mayer.

Executive Director John Carlson said California has one carryover item for California Fish and Game which was concluded by California's Deputy Attorney General.

- 1 Agency Overviews – Director Mayer provided a power point presentation of an overview of Nevada Department of Wildlife. Director Mayer said In 1877 Nevada Fish and Game started and the same items such as the Migratory Bird Act affect Nevada as California. Nevada has 17 County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife and they are funded by the Department through the Wildlife Commission and board members come to meetings to vet their opinions. More recent history has the Fish and Game becoming the Department of Fish and Game in 1979 and then becoming the Nevada Department of Wildlife to reflect all responsibilities for all wildlife. Nevada's wildlife resources encompasses 355 species of birds, 125 species of mammals, 91 fishes, 50 species of reptiles, 15 amphibians. Nevada has 87 percent of its state under federal ownership and management. Only sell about 20,000 deer tags statewide. The estimated value of wildlife to Nevada's economy is \$682,723,734. He reviewed the agency's mission statement, provided agency program profile and organization. Nevada is a line staff organization and from a funding perspective 97 percent of funding is from sportsmen and other sources, and only 3 percent from the State's General Fund. Unlike California boating is part of the Nevada Department of Wildlife, and there is legislation afoot to possibly have the Department register off-highway vehicles. California is the nonresident constituent base for Nevada. Continuing initiatives are Wildlife Heritage Trust Fund Program, active big game trapping and transplanting program, hatchery refurbishment bond, on line licensing, lapsed hunter and angler outreach, greater sage grouse conservation federal grant funds and state general funds, wildlife diversity implements Wildlife Action Plan, funded through federal grant funds and state general fund, boating education boat registration fees and motorboat fuel taxes. Agency responsibilities continue to grow in regard to wildfire restoration, urbanization, energy development.

Director Don Koch of the California Fish and Game Department welcomed the Nevada Commissioners and staff. He provided a brief overview of California Fish and Game: Two agencies, California Fish and Game Commission promulgate regulations, and their role is policy guidance for California Fish and Game. He said the Department has a positive relationship with the Commission

and their critical role in the Department. Also have a Wildlife Conservation Board, with members appointed by the governor, and he is the governor appointee and Director of Finance, and Chairman of Commission. The Conservation Board is charged with acquiring lands for California Fish and Game Department, funding restoration and public access projects. The mission is to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife and native plant resources and the habitats upon which they depend for their ecological values and for their use and environment by the public. They have 2,400 employees, and he showed a chart of their organization. He explained the branches of California Fish and Game and that Director Mayer's last position was Director of the Scientific Branch. Resource Management has Fisheries Branch, Wildlife Branch, Water Branch, Habitat Conservation Branch, Biogeographical Data Branch are staff that use the latest technology to store data, and manipulate data for studies.

- 2 Tahoe Bear Management – NDOW Big Game Biologist Kevin Lansford said in 1982 California estimated the bear population at 10,000 – 15,000 and in 2002 25,000 to 30,000 in California. Population doing well in both states and urban problem concentrated in the Lake Tahoe Basin. There is a Memorandum of Agreement between the two states which was signed by both directors, agreeing to cooperate by sharing data, information, and cooperate with local governments as bear problems arose.

NDOW Big Game Biologist Carl Lackey provided a brief overview of Nevada black bear management and covering the last 12 to 15 years.

California biologist Jason Holley said the difference between Nevada and California is the population numbers and distribution as California bears are distributed statewide. Tahoe is a sink and bears come in and don't leave, there are 30,000 bears in California and an increase in human population to 10 million more people. He agreed with Mr. Lackey that bears are breaking in more houses which is possible due to better garbage ordinances and they are also using aggressive aversion tactics as well, although this year has not been as bad as last year. Mr. Holley showed a video and answered questions from Commissioners. Mr. Holley said they do public outreach and work with the Bear League and others.

- 3 Interstate Mule Deer Management – NDOW Acting Game Division Chief Mike Dobel and Craig Stowers from California Fish and Game Department made a joint presentation. Mr. Dobel said he started working in the 1980s with California Fish and game biologists on the interstate herd and he showed a power point presentation delineating the interstate deer herd dynamics. He said joint deer herd management began in the late 1940s. The main focus was the Lassen Washoe deer herds and was for informational exchange. Harvest levels in the Washoe-Lassen deer herd have declined 90 percent since the 1950s. The 2008 population estimate for all interstate herds is 15,000. A lot of movement across U.S. highway 395 and have worked with transportation officials to put in

structures to allow wildlife movement under the roadway and there are seven underpasses north of Reno allowing deer to cross.

Craig Stowers of California Fish and Game said he will talk about one specific item that we do and that is the annual joint meeting in April where the biologists hash out tag quotas. He said he started going to the meetings in 1992 and there is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and whereas the meetings were contentious, now the meetings are no longer antagonistic and the MOU pretty much lines out how the tag quotas are developed and has been boiled down to about a one-half day meeting. They reviewed the current and future management plans.

Mike Dobel said Nevada has undergone scrutiny and concern over Nevada's deer herd population and a Mule Deer Bulletin was developed and based on the bulletin two more management plans are underway.

- 4 Alien Species Issues and Management – California Fisheries Branch Chief Neil Manji and Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici of Nevada Department of Wildlife made a joint power point presentation on California alien species issues and management. Mr. Terry Foreman of California Fisheries Branch and he explained the zebra and quagga mussels, and it is known that it started in Nevada. He said the mussels are an egregious animal that comes in water systems and spreads readily on vessels, trailers, and water purveying systems. The quaggas cause environmental damage. Discovered in Lake Mead in 2007 and both states developed coordinated response, found subsequently at Lake Mohave, Havasu, and water delivery system, which means they are in Southern California. He said California has an outreach program and developed a campaign called “Don't Move a Mussel.”

Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici said it did start in Nevada, and we added quaggas to Nevada's restricted species list and allows officers to use probable cause to stop suspected vessels. Fisheries staff monitored waters where fish were planted from Lake Mead and paying attention to waters in northeastern Nevada in particular, Wild Horse Reservoir which drains into the Columbia River Basin. To date Nevada has been allocated zero dollars to deal with this and we are here to maximize safe boating and do boating enforcement and fishing opportunities and keeping invasive species such as quaggas out of non-infected waters such as Lake Tahoe. “Clean, Drain, and Dry” your boat, is the message Nevada is promoting and we need to clarify better for the public. He said we need to practice this with our own vessels as well, a website has been created to provide information. Monitoring program with permits and also have random inspection of vessels to get the message out that this is a serious issue. Checking with other states to see if they permit when moving large boats, monitoring fishing and boating events. The boat access program is within the Division of Law Enforcement and work with car washes to see if they can be certified to decontaminate boats and would be something that would be user

friendly and convenient. Chief Game Warden Buonamici said the focus is on Lake Tahoe but staff is monitoring quaggas statewide.

- 5 Sage Grouse Management – Director Ken Mayer provided background on the initial listing of sage grouse and that the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in conjunction with Nevada taking the lead pulled the data together to update the Conservation Assessment Chapter 6 and the July deadline was met and a 2 percent population decline. Also the state agencies as well as federal and told the technical folks they will make recommendation to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and by December the Service can decide individual populations or warranted. Two populations that stand out are the Mono Basin population and one in the Dakotas, and will the Service list them, Director Mayer said he cannot say, and probably no matter what the decision we will probably get sued.

Biologist Scott Gardner of California Fish and Game Upland Game Section said in 2000 Governor Guinn of Nevada started the process and he showed on a map the planning units that cross state lines. Mr. Gardner said fire is the greatest threat to cause catastrophic loss of sage grouse in California and Nevada. Process of shrubland restoration, and the easiest is removal of juniper and pinions. California received State Wildlife Grant and have matched that with state dollars legislative appropriation for nongame and conducting research and make sure no further losses of sage grouse.

Commissioner Raine asked what the economic effect would cost rural communities. He said he had heard it would be significant but no numbers.

Director Mayer said the costs would be significant.

- 6 Law Enforcement Memorandum of Understanding – Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici said legislation for Topaz and Tahoe and have legislation with Arizona that allows us jurisdiction within those states on the water and shore to conduct business. The issue they are trying to address is the state border with roads meandering within the two states and creates a haven for poachers who are meandering in and out of the state and that brings up other issues and incurs a civil liability. California and Nevada wardens have worked over 30 years to mark the state line and there are still some voids in it. The MOU would take effect upon passage by each state's legislature and possibly this next session in 2009 or 2011 in Nevada.
- 7 Emerging Issues/Lessons Learned: IE Lake Davis Northern Pike Eradication, Aleutian Goose Recovery Program – California Director Don Koch handled the Davis Lake power point and the success the agency had with the recent poisoning as opposed to the initial poisoning effort.

Waterfowl Biologist Dan Yparraguirre provided a power point on the Aleutian Canada Goose and how the species turned into a pest and handling the geese.

California Commission Chairman Rogers said there are other examples of lessons learned and some previous legislation was ignored until other administrations turn over. President Rogers said in California if you are not seen as an environmental steward of the land you will be in trouble.

- 8 Nevada Hunter Safety Requirements and Effect on California Hunters – NDOW Hunter Education Coordinator John McKay and Captain Roy Griffith from California Department of Fish and Game.

Mr. McKay provided a copy of the statute with the Nevada's hunter education requirements, and said to obtain a license hunters showed a copy of hunter education certificate, or you show a previous year's license as long as it bears evidence of hunter course completion. He said Nevada is experiencing a problem in that California licenses bear no proof of hunter education course completion. When Nevada Wildlife Data System is online the determination of the completion will be out of the hands of the license agents.

Captain Griffiths said they have been preparing for this, and Nevada will be just one more state calling to verify hunter education certificates. He will make the change a training point at future instructor training.

Public Comment –

Gil Yanuck, Carson CABMW, said he had two questions for this meeting: One is regarding mountain lions and the controversy in Nevada in managing deer herds and if there is information that could be passed on to Nevada as to how big of an effect mountain lion have on deer herds.

Director Don Koch said California's Prop. 117 prohibited the take of mountain lions and to reverse that would take a vote from the legislature which is unlikely. He said you look at population declines and the conversion of shrubs to nonnative, the lack of forage, and when populations are depressed. In California they are surveying and there is just not a lot for deer to eat; however, elk populations are increasing. He said California does not have a predator management plan.

Mr. Yanuck said his board had a member challenge that deer do not migrate and deer on Spooner Summit are from Douglas County not California.

Mr. Koch said he would have them contact Mr. Stowers. Mr. Koch said they radio collar deer and have volumes of information on deer migration. He said they can provide it and is contained in the deer plans.

Ann Bryant of the Bear League asked Commissioner Gustavaon to make her remarks and show a poster that has been developed to educate Tahoe visitors on not feeding bears. It is the 10th Anniversary of the Bear League.

Mr. Paul Weakland said he is not supportive of invasive aquatic species and inspection of vessels, there is a misinterpretation of data and punishing fisherman. Aquaculture is a grant sucking parasite.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Saturday, September 6, 2008 – 8:30 a.m.

Chairman Lent called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Roll Call of County Advisory board Members to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) –Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt; Brandon Fordin, Elko; Gil Yanuck, Carson; Bill Miller, White Pine; Jim Jenne, Lyon; and Glenn Bunch, Mineral.

Commissioner Appreciation – Director Mayer said the Department of Wildlife appreciates the dedication and commitment that outgoing Commissioners Robb and Jeffress gave to the agency and he presented each with a picture and plaque for service.

Former Commissioner Robb said being on the Commission meant a great deal to him: Getting together with mining interests and getting money for Director Mayer to go to Washington, D.C., for sage grouse; discussing elk issues with sportsmen in White Pine County; Lincoln County elk; going to Las Vegas Commission meeting early to see hatchery and figuring out water problems and piping problems; attending hunter education and safety dinners that recognized volunteers and their efforts; youth hunts and making sure that they get engaged to keep the pipeline of hunters going; wild horses and wildfire and the effect on mule deer; pinyon juniper encroachment; serving on the wildlife scholarship committee; wind energy and the effect on wildlife; water issues such as TCID breakage; and working on the Heritage Account to figure out how to fund as much as you can. The biggest concern is the number of hunters who apply and don't get tags, and the number of Las Vegans who are democrats. He said to the Commission that predator management must be defensible and must work, and he said the new Commission is looking at predator management as a silver bullet to solve the mule deer problem and it sounds like this is a mule deer Commission when it should be a Wildlife Commission.

Former Commissioner Jeffress thanked everyone at the Department and said that he appreciated how much Nevada gets done with a little money, and all that the Department accomplishes, the volunteer programs, the seven Divisions that comprise the department, and he thanked the Attorney General's office for their work keeping the Commission on track, thanked the Advisory Boards and how democratic the process is

and the participation from CABMWs is critical and paramount to getting work done and the personal involvement of the CABMWs on the issues.

Approval of Agenda –

COMMISSIONER LURIE MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. COMMISSIONER SWANSON SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Member Items –

Chairman Lent said the minutes from the August and September meetings will be on the November agenda for review and approval by the Commission.

Chairman Lent thanked all that participated and contributed to the cookout for the Nevada and California Commissions on Friday night. He also complimented staff on the coordination of the joint California/Nevada meeting and really appreciated that.

Commissioner Lurie said the meeting with California was helpful in understanding issues facing us that they already have handled, and we should not wait six years between joint meetings. He said the next Commission meeting is in Las Vegas and he would like a report on Overton Interpretive Center and the Lake Mead Hatchery.

Director Mayer said the feedback he heard from the California in regard to the joint meeting was that it was fantastic.

CABMW Member Items – None

Public Comment – None

1 Correspondence – Chairman Lent said he has no correspondence.

Director Mayer said he has none other than what was submitted in support material.

Commissioner McNinch said he had an email letter from Nevada Bighorns Unlimited stating that they will continue to work for conservation and an email supporting NDOW's proposed release plan for bighorn sheep.

Commissioner McBeath said he received emails stating that the Commission should concentrate on mule deer and predators.

Commissioner Cavin said he received the same emails as well.

2 2009 Commission Meeting Schedule – Commission Secretary Ken Mayer -
Action

Chairman Lent said he would suggest moving the November 2009 meeting to December.

Commissioner Mori agreed that December is easier for him

Commissioner Raine said there is less conflict with a December date.

Mr. Glenn Bunch said he has a conflict with the May dates.

Director Mayer and Chief of Conservation Education Kelly Clark and the Game Division all supported the May dates as proposed.

Chairman Lent said he would not want to jeopardize the process.

Commissioner Cavin said the dates would be difficult to change.

Commissioner McBeath asked Glenn Bunch if someone else could attend from Mineral CABMW.

Mr. Bunch said Mineral CABMW would probably not be represented at that meeting.

COMMISSIONER LURIE MOVED THAT THE 2009 CALENDAR BE APPROVED WITH CHANGE OF NOV. 6 AND 7 BE CHANGED TO DEC 4 AND 5, 2009. COMMISSIONER RAINE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3 Reports – Informational

A Department Budget - Administrative Services Officer II Dave Prather

Deputy Director Hunt said the Commission was provided with spreadsheets denoting the Department's budget and he reviewed the accounts.

Commissioner Lurie said the report is a step in the right direction as to what the Commission has been asking for, and perhaps a Finance Committee may be formed.

Gil Yanuck, Carson CABMW, asked if the agency had seen the money that was augmented to their budget in May, and Mr. Prather said he was not sure and he asked if that could be checked on.

Commissioner Cavin said that pie charts to show the accounts would be helpful.

- B Department Activities Report – Director Ken Mayer said he had nothing further to add to the report.
- C Premature Release of 2008 Draw Results – Director Mayer said this exercise produced more fruit as to where the hiccup was. The report was sent to the CABMW members, and there were eight recommendations and personnel actions will not be disclosed. He said based on the review by the Department and Systems Consultants Inc. (SCI) that although the results were released early the draw was not compromised. He reviewed the eight recommendations as contained in the report. He said the immediate end action has been that the number of NDOW employees with access to the results was cut, and a positive result may be that draw results are released earlier.

Commissioner McBeath said he is impressed with the responsibility the Department took in investigating this incident.

Commissioner Raine said he was worried about the integrity of the Department when this first occurred and was worried even a month ago, and is now finding that his worries were based on previous incidents. He is exceedingly pleased with the leadership of the Department and what could have been a nasty scandal being turned into something positive such as possible earlier release of draw results. The process has been transparent and honest and he is not worried now.

Chairman Lent said he would compliment the director on his proactive actions handling this situation and he thanked Director Mayer, SCI and staff who helped put the final report together and we will have an awesome system by the end of the process. Chairman Lent thanked everyone involved especially Don Sefton of Systems Consultants, Inc. He said he looks forward to the day when we have terminals at the offices for sportsmen to check the results and the day is coming where it will all be online when the application numbers are in the high 90 percentile of online applications.

Director Mayer thanked Mr. Sefton and Chief of Operations Bob Haughian for their due diligence in compiling the report and Chief Game Warden Buonamici for traveling throughout the state and investigating the incident. He said some of the folks were new and just being honest is the best policy.

Public Comment –

Gil Yanuck, Carson CABMW, speaking for himself said he likes the idea of getting notice in 48 hours and they will forget about the caveat that there is a disclaimer and we may get inundated with folks who were told that they were drawn. He said he loves the idea and commended the director and staff as a step in the right direction.

Don Sefton of SCI said regarding credit card transactions, that there are varying problems with approvals of credit cards.

Commissioner Cavin said he would like to echo other thoughts of Commissioners for being upfront and getting the information out. He said he lost sleep over worrying about it and to handle it so transparently and be upfront for a state agency is very positive, and it does have a huge silver lining, and everyone realizes that and are streamlining processes. It started out bad and is going to come out good.

Commissioner Swanson said the initial estimate is a one-time charge, and if there was a surplus year he would support the costs but \$14,000 is a lot of money. He said the agency should be careful if it is prudent to spend the \$14,000 on the programming changes.

Mr. Sefton said he would anticipate that the shorter turn around time would increase the processing cost by 5 cents because of increased calls at a time when they are busy.

Director Mayer said the agency will be prudent and frugal.

Commissioner Lurie asked when a final report with the recommendations is to be expected.

Chief of Operations Bob Haughian said an internal working group will be getting underway and corrections will be implemented before the next draw.

- D Litigation Report – Deputy Attorney General Nhu Nguyen said there are no new developments since the last meeting.

Commissioner McBeath asked if any update on the Hage case or if an appeal filed.

DAG Nguyen said she had not heard any news and will check and if so will send an email to the Commission with the update.

- E Clark County Shooting Park – Commissioner Lurie said they met and that some nearby residents to the park are opposed to the construction and are filing an injunction; however, they are moving dirt and construction is out to bid. The Commission plans to tour the facility at the November meeting.

- F Wildlife Heritage Projects – Budget Analyst II Gabe Pincolini
Budget Analyst II Gabe Pincolini reviewed the projects and reports as denoted in support material and answered questions from the Commission.

- G Oxbow Nature Study Area – Staff Conservation Educator Kim Toulouse
Staff Conservation Educator Kim Toulouse said they hope to incorporate the fire at Oxbow Nature Study Area and its effect into the curriculum and he presented a power point presentation (exhibit file).
- H Goose Creek Depredation Hunt – Supervising Game Biologist Larry Gilbertson
Mr. Gilbertson said there are three emergency elk hunts and he provided background: Lages hunt – We fenced on alfalfa field and had hoped to get the remaining few fields fenced but the ranch expanded the first field and we had to redo the fence. We noticed this year that some power companies have bought ranches in the area and we now have a lot of alfalfa fields that we did not have before and decided it is time to reduce or eliminate that group of elk. He said originally that group of elk came off the Schell Creek Range and they now have become a herd of valley elk. If the fields were against the mountain he would propose fencing, but because they are down in the valley they feel a hunt would be better. Mr. Gilbertson said it is a 16 day season, and we have two seasons, and hope to try to remove or at least knock the herd down and eventually eliminate it.

Commissioner Mori asked why not issue more tags.

Mr. Gilbertson said the Department experience is that if we gave out as many tags as elk, the folks with the tags usually come a day or so early and spook the elk out of there. What they are trying with the little hunts of 10 tags is that generally the success is better. He said relative to Goose Creek that there are four landowners on the very corner of Utah, Idaho and Nevada, and our Departments recently had an interagency coordination meeting with Idaho and they have had elk problems in their states, and when one state tries to handle the problem it just pushes the elk into the other states. He said they agreed that if one state had a problem we would try to all have a hunt at the same time.

Commissioner Swanson said for clarification that the issue is that these landowners are elk incentive tag participants and the Department is also going to issue depredation tags.

Mr. Gilbertson agreed that Commissioner Swanson is correct and further complications are that there was a fire in 2007 and one landowner is seeing elk on their native haymeadow field and that they are not allowed to use their BLM allotment due to the fire and that is tough on them. The other three are also getting incentive tags and elk are using private water and some tags are based on private parcels that have water rather than native hay meadows. One of the landowners who received two elk incentive tags decided that he and his son would use the tags this year and would prefer not to have a depredation elk hunt going on during their bull hunt. Since this landowner is also a nonresident they had to pay \$2,400 for the two elk tags for elk use on their property. So,

Department biologists are doing their best to coordinate with all four landowners at once.

Commissioner Swanson said he hopes we are accommodating the one landowner with the two tags. He also said that one of the landowners is also the landowner who would not allow NDOW on the property to assist the elk that were connected and ended up dying.

Mr. Gilbertson said next year should be better because the burn will be doing much better and the one landowner will be able to use his allotment for grazing again. He said in February the Department will be asking for changes to Units 070, 071, 079 up there to alleviate some of the problem with the cows. Mr. Gilbertson said the ranchers are very accommodating. He said they are trying to keep everybody happy.

Commissioner Mori said at the CABMW meeting that due to that fire, the livestock permittee had been excluded from his allotment for two years, and since they don't have livestock they aren't pumping water, which would have provided water and kept the elk from congregating. He said the population in the area is at the cap, and whatever is happening out there, it is telling us that we are right there on the number.

Commissioner McBeath asked if a cow hunt in 081 will help.

Mr. Gilbertson said he hopes that will work and may take a couple of years.

Commissioner Raine said it is commendable the amount of work being done to maintain balance in that area.

Bill Miller, White Pine CABMW, said they are doing a good job and the hunts are designed to disperse elk not remove them, and lot of elk will figure out that heat is on, and he hopes that the rancher could consider turning on the water to help disperse the elk.

4 Future Commission Meeting – Director Mayer - Action

Commissioner McNinch asked if there is a reason for moving the meeting.

Chairman Lent said that is a time when there is a hunting season and we are trying to put the meeting into non-hunting months.

Commissioner McNinch asked about the CABMWs and if this would affect them.

Gil Yanuck, Carson CAMBW, said they schedule their meeting a year out.

COMMISSIONER MORI MOVED TO CHANGE THE MEETING DATE FROM NOV. 14 AND 15 TO NOV. 21 AND 22. COMMISSIONER RAINE SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner McNinch said there has previously been controversy over changing the meeting dates as meeting arrangements are made far in advance.

Deputy Director Hunt said to accommodate the CABMW's, even though the meeting is adding an extra week between meetings, that Department staff would prepare the agenda, minutes, and support material, and mail it to CABMW members in the same time frame as if the meeting had not moved, so that they can still meet and not change their dates.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting Adjourned

Note: The minutes are a synopsis of the meeting. At the Department of Wildlife headquarters in Reno is a complete record of the meeting, including recordings; and all the exhibits received/referenced during the meeting. The record is available upon request for review.