



# Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

## MEETING MINUTES

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Date: March 20, 2012  
Location: Las Vegas- NDOW offices  
4747 Vegas Dr.  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89108

Time: 5:30 pm

Board Members Present: Paul Dixon, Chair      John Sullivan      Ryan Anderson  
Michael J. Reese      Mike Pergola

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: March 13, 2012

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### 1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Chairman Paul Dixon.
- Roll call of Board Members was performed by Chairman Paul Dixon. With two members absent, quorum was present.

### 2. Welcome Clark CABMW member Mike Pergola

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced the newest member of the Board, Mike Pergola.
- Mike Pergola introduced himself and summarized his background.

### 3. Approval of Minutes of January 31, 2012 CCABMW Meeting - Action

- The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on January 31, 2012 were approved unanimously.

### 4. Approval of Agenda for March 20, 2012– Action

- A motion was made and seconded to accept the Meeting Agenda as written with the addition of a planned 10 minute intermission between Agenda Items 8C and 8D. Motion passed unanimously.

## **5. CAB Member Items/Announcements/Correspondence**

- Mike Reese noted for the attendees that for the first time, the Nevada State Trap Shoot will be held Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> at the Clark County Shooting Park.
- Chairman Paul Dixon offered that he has been working with Stan Hardy to assist Stan in initiating several habitat improvement projects for the Overton Wildlife Area.
- Hearing no more input from Board Members, this item was closed by Chairman Paul Dixon.

## **6. Election of Vice-Chairman:**

- As two Board members and potential nominees were absent, a motion was made and seconded to table this item until the next CCABMW meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

## **7. Public Comment**

- Chairman Paul Dixon opened the floor to public comment on any item not listed in tonight's agenda.
- Don Molde addressed the Board regarding jurisdiction over traps found on Federal Lands in the Mt. Charleston area. NDOW has stated that this was not a violation of Nevada Trapping Regulations and that BLM or other Federal agencies have jurisdiction.
- Chairman Paul Dixon responded that the jurisdiction boundaries in the area in question are somewhat unclear.
- Commission Chairman McBeath added that NDOW does defer to cooperating agencies in cases like this.
- John Sullivan noted that the NDOW website contains a list of areas closed to trapping. The area in question is not on that list.
- Gina Greisen addressed John Sullivan asking if based on his previous comments, is he admitting that traps found in the Red Rock National Conservation Area were illegal. The question and back and forth dialogue resulted in a motion to limit Public Comment to comments and not interrogation. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- Commission Chairman McBeath added that per the Nevada State Attorney General, Public Comment at the Wildlife Commission Meetings, and by extension, the CCABMW meetings, is to be simply a comment. The Commission/CAB need only acknowledge the comment, and if desired or warranted, make note to add the topic to the Agenda of a future meeting.
- Ron Raynor voiced his recommendation for some means to make the public aware that there is active trapping in a specific area.

- Jana Wright, Assistant to Clark County Commissioner Chris Giunchigliani, asked the CCABMW to ask the Wildlife Commission to add an agenda item to seek clarification of areas in Clark County closed to trapping.
- Hearing no further requests to provide comments, Chairman Paul Dixon closed public comment.

**8. Discuss & make recommendations regarding the following Action Items from the Board of Wildlife Commissioners Agenda March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and items brought forth by the Clark CCABMW and public for discussion.** CCABMW agenda & support materials are available upon request to Stacy Matthews (702) 455-2705 or [smatthews@co.clark.nv.us](mailto:smatthews@co.clark.nv.us). The final Commission agenda & support materials are available at [www.ndow.org/learn/com/mtg/support/agenda.pdf](http://www.ndow.org/learn/com/mtg/support/agenda.pdf).

**A. Overton Wildlife Management Area Interpretive Center - (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)** -- A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners on the Overton Interpretive Center.

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this item and asked Clint Bentley to provide more details.
- Clint Bentley noted that an Interpretive Center for the Overton Wildlife Management Area was first discussed and sized in 2002 at \$200K-\$300K. However, when the final submission was made that addressed demands from several groups, the Center was sized at \$8M. Clint is requesting that the original plans be resurrected and pushed forward to provide a Center for education and information sharing regarding wildlife in Clark County.
- Mike Reese thanked Clint for his work on this project, and stated that he would like to get this item on the Clark County Commission agenda to see if any SNPLMA funding could be made available.
- Doug Nielsen, member of the original design team, noted that while the planned cost of the Center itself was modest, additional requirements (e.g., turn lanes, lights and signals, land preparation, improvements to water system in southern Moapa Valley, etc.) were responsible for causing the cost to skyrocket.
- Mike Reese explained SNPLMA funds and grants.
- Motion was made and seconded to forward the original design from Clint Bentley to the Commission, work with interested parties to secure funding, and retain this item on the next three CCABMW meetings to obtain updates. Motion passed unanimously.

**B. Fisheries Division on the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program – (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)** -- A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners on the AIS program.

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this item and summarized input received from Mark Warren, NDOW Chief of Fisheries regarding invasive species in Lake Mead:
  - a. A Clean and Drain program for boaters in Lake Mead is being established.
  - b. A new Sticker Program is proposed for motorized and non-motorized boats.
  - c. The Commission plans to institute a Regulation at their June meeting to define the rules and penalties for the Sticker Program.

- Mike Pergola noted that the quagga mussels are prolific in Lake Mead and if left unchecked may lead to loss of all fish in the lake. There is currently no easy way to eliminate the mussels.
- Chairman Paul Dixon stated that there is no action to be taken on this topic at this meeting.
- Wesley Snider asked if there was any truth to the rumor that NDOW planned to introduce red eared sunfish in Lake Mead to address the mussel problem.
- Mike Pergola stated that he had heard the rumor also, but feels that the sunfish will not survive and simply become food for the striped bass in the lake.
- Gene Raynor offered additional information on the red eared sunfish.
- Chairman Paul Dixon made a motion to table this topic until next meeting. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**C. Trapping Regulation Committee Report and Regulation– (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION) -- A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify the substance of the committee meeting held February 21, 2012, in Reno. The Commission will consider and may take action to amend and/or approve draft amendments to the trapping regulations as recommended by the committee for submittal to Legislative Counsel Bureau to begin the adoption process pursuant to NRS Chapter 223B.**

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic and asked that the Board consider two motions, one related to the proposed draft amendments to the Trapping Regulations, and the other to address input obtained through public comment on this topic.
- John Sullivan questioned the legality of two motions with respect to the Open Meeting Law.
- Chairman Paul Dixon answered that he had discussed this with the Clark County Deputy District Attorney, Catherine Jorgenson, and she had advised having a second motion to capture public comment.
- Chairman Paul Dixon asked the Board for comments on the distance a trap must be from a residence. Current regulation is 200 feet. Proposed change is 1000 feet. Others are asking for ½ mile or one mile.
- Ryan Anderson voiced his opinion that 1000 yards, ½ mile, and one mile distances are too difficult to regulate and not good use of NDOW officer's time. He believes that given the "voice control" law, anything longer than 1000 feet is beyond voice control. He further urged that this question be answered once and for all so the CAB can get on with other matters.
- Mike Pergola offered only that he feels traps should have some identifying tag or a sign posted.
- Mike Reese read into the record a letter he drafted and sent to the Wildlife Commission regarding SB226. In it he urged the Commission to adopt 1000 feet as the distance for traps from a residence.
- John Sullivan voiced his feelings on this issue. He sees no need to change the current regulation of 200 feet from a highway. If a change is necessary, he would support setting the required distance at 1000 feet.

- Chairman Paul Dixon echoed some of the comments from other Board members with regard to safety of children, voice control of dogs, issues with enforcement of regulated distance, etc. He is in favor of enforceable regulations that provide safety.
- Chairman Paul Dixon opened the floor for Public Comment on this matter.
- Craig Wright offered from his experience that unless traps are being used for predator control, they should be well away from houses. He feels that ½ mile is the minimum.
- Jean Perry-Jones presented four recommendations from the Mt. Charleston Town Advisory Board and the Spring Valley Town Advisory Board:
  - a. No trapping within one mile of any residence, road, trail, etc.
  - b. All traps identified as to the owner of the trap.
  - c. All traps inspected every 24 hours.
  - d. Signs posted when trapping is taking place.
- Jana Wright read into record a letter from Clark County Commissioner Chris Giunchigliani to the CCABMW requesting changes to the trapping regulations limiting the distance to 1000 yards, have traps identified and checked every 24 hours, and ask the commission to make trapping illegal in all conservation areas.
- Rick Bovi stated that as a trapper, 100 feet is feasible, any more would make it difficult to impossible.
- Robert Le Pone, a biologist by training, stated that he feels that 1000 feet from a residence would be adequate as dogs will rarely go that far from a residence unless they are chasing something.
- Jason Peterson noted that the State of Utah extended their trapping distance and is now having to pay bounty for coyotes that have taken up residence within the no-trapping areas. He advised that getting a regulation changed is much easier than getting changes reversed.
- Gina Greisen noted what she felt was a hostile environment and thus she went on record in support of the recommendations from the Mt. Charleston Town Advisory Board and from County Commissioner Giunchigliani. She further requested that future Board meetings be held at the Government Center where there is adequate space for attendees and speakers.
- Richard Pabst stated that while there are those who are against hunting and trapping, the CAB, Commission, and NDOW are required to make decisions based on scientific input. The groups against hunting and trapping have not been able to present scientific information to support their feelings. The CAB, etc., should not act based on feelings.
- Don Molde stated that using enforcement as an argument for setting the trapping distance is wrong. Each and every trap need not be inspected for compliance since most of the licensed trappers will abide by the then current regulations.
- Joe Luby feels that there is no issue here since there are no statistics pointing to a problem and that discussing this is a bureaucratic waste of time. He further recommended that the CCABMW vote to say there is no problem and no need to change the regulations.

- David Stowater, as a trapper, spoke in favor of 1000 feet. He believes most trappers use good judgment when setting traps, and only set traps where people and pets will not be affected.
- Danielle Stowater, as a trapper, spoke against a mandatory 24 hour check, and noted that “tagged” traps don’t necessarily ensure compliance with distance requirements, as a third party could move a tagged trap in order to get the owner in trouble.
- Kes Anderson voiced his feelings that 1000 feet, as endorsed by the Trappers Association, is more than reasonable, but the real solution is to make the penalties for violations stiff enough to discourage violation.
- Gordon Warren, Director, Conservation Division of the Nevada Firearms Coalition, stated that since current BLM shooting regulations prohibit discharging a firearm within 1000 feet of a road, it makes no sense to have trapping prohibited within a mile of a road. His belief is that forcing ½ mile or more is the first move in trying to abolish trapping altogether as eventually all trappers will simply give it up due to the inconvenience.
- Wesley Snider added his opinions that if it’s not broken, don’t fix it.
- Tom Padden, from Mt. Charleston, reiterated the concerns of the residents of Mt. Charleston and the Spring Mountains. He personally knows of five incidents where pets were caught in traps, two of which amassed over \$1000 vet bills. His recommendation to the Board was to increase emphasis on public awareness that trapping is taking place in Clark County, and the regulations associated with it. Further, he endorsed the idea of signage when and where trapping was active.
- Board Member John Sullivan asked Mr. Padden about the apparent discrepancies in the various letters and statements from the Mt. Charleston and Spring Mountains Advisory Boards, noting that at first it was 1000 feet, then 1000 yards, and then one mile.
- Tom Padden replied that the mention of 1000 feet was in error and should have been 1000 yards. That was later changed to one mile to be in compliance with the regulations in Red Rock NRA.
- When asked by a Board member would it be helpful to hold a public meeting to demonstrate how to open a trap if a pet was trapped, Mr. Padden answered that any education would be helpful.
- Ron Raynor raised the point comparing the number of pets caught in traps versus the number of pets taken/killed by predators.
- Clint Bentley voiced his opinion that putting extra restrictions on trapping will result in the end of trapping and that is another step toward ending hunting. He feels 1000 feet is ridiculous, that 200 feet should be ample, but if the Legislature feel they need to show the Public that they are responsive to voter groups, then 500 feet should be more than enough.
- Paul Harris endorsed setting the limit at 1000 feet.
- Karen Layne, LVVHS, reminded attendees of the message of SB226 and hoped all interested parties could work together for a solution rather than fighting.
- Wilford Allen noted as a resident of a rural area, he has a right to trap coyotes or other predators that kill his chickens. He should also be allowed to hire a trapper to do it for him even though traps are set within 1000 feet of his residence.
- James Werner feels 1000 feet is more than enough; if a dog gets trapped, throw a blanket over his head and take the trap off; good trappers will be hurt by more regulations, bad trappers will continue unless penalties are increased; Mt Charleston are our only local

mountains without driving 200 miles which would make it impossible to check traps in 24 hours; and educating the public is a great idea.

- Shaun Deal advised people to research the area before buying or moving into the area to know what to expect. He feels it is ludicrous to have names and phone numbers on traps as motor vehicles do not have names and phone numbers.
- Ryan Werner has experience with dogs getting trapped and the only high vet bill he attributed to an unscrupulous veterinarian; feels that 1000 feet is excessive, but will comply if that is the new regulation; feels Red Rock and Lake Mead Recreation areas should be opened to trapping to reduce predators in those areas.
- Victoria Werner voiced concerns over the seemingly ongoing nature of this discussion; feels that since the trappers are required to maintain records on animals taken and where, that those arguing that pets are getting trapped should keep records also. She also noted that every year there is a Trapper Education Day on Mt. Charleston where everyone is invited.
- Stacia Newman, Vice President, Nevada Political Action for Animals, (also representing Compassion Charity of America), stated that their membership is in favor of a set-back distance of at least 1000 yards, and cited new promotional programs to draw additional tourists to Nevada to visit areas of the state other than the major tourist cities which would encourage visitors to enter areas where trapping may be in progress.
- Robert Werner feels 1000 yards is way too much and 1000 feet is too much, the regulation should stay as it is.
- Jeff Anderson, a part-time resident of Mt. Charleston, offered that the reports of dogs caught in traps mentioned earlier were not near any residences or roads. In his opinion, the residents of Mt. Charleston are “against everything”.
- Jared Ward, resident of Nye County but traps in Clark County since 1979, feels that 200 feet is too much if a trapper is asked to trap a predator attacking the resident’s chickens or pets.
- Brian Smith noted, as a dog trainer, that even with a high decibel whistle, a dog can only be controlled to 300 yards. Most people would have trouble controlling a dog at 300 feet.
- Having no more Public Comment, Chairman Paul Dixon opened the discussion with the Board. He further voiced his opinion that perhaps there needs to be separate regulations for the Red Rock and Mt. Charleston areas that the rest of Clark County.
- Mike Reese doesn’t necessarily agree that there should be parity with Federal regulations. He feels there is no need for change, but if it must be changed, he would go along with setting the distance at 500 feet.
- Ryan Anderson agreed with the idea of greater education. Based on input at this meeting, sees that the overwhelming majority expressed no need for change, but if change is necessary, no more than 1000 feet. Ryan would vote for no change or 500 feet.
- John Sullivan noted that there have been reports of bubonic plague in over 50% of red fox trapped on Mt. Charleston. Like other Board members, he would vote for no change or 500 feet.
- Chairman Paul Dixon stated that he had received numerous emails from various sportsmen’s organizations, all recommending no change or at most 1000 feet. Factoring in everything he heard at this meeting and input received elsewhere, he would vote for 1000 feet.

- Mike Pergola feels the stand-off should be a bit more than 200 feet.
- A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Wildlife Commission that no trap be allowed within 500 feet of a residence within the firearms restricted zone of Clark County with exceptions for private property, government trappers, licensed companies doing pest control, and for waterways.
- Motion passed by a vote of four in favor, one against. CDP is in favor of 1000 feet.

**D. Commission Regulation 12 - 01 Amendment #1 – 2012 Black Bear Season**

**Recommendation, Open Units - (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)** -- A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify the regulation relating to the 2012 black bear season for open unit designations and/or portions of those units with special designations.

- Chairman Paul Dixon asked if anyone in attendance had input regarding any option other than Option 1 (continuing the current season and unit designations). He then opened the floor to public input.
- Karen Layne spoke in favor of option 4 (remove the Tahoe area from the hunt).
- Don Molde also spoke in favor of option 4.
- Ryan Anderson read an article from the Review Journal from March 14, 2012, regarding a male black bear that was captured and euthanized following an incident where it ripped the siding off of a house in Incline Village.
- Joe Luby successfully shot a bear in last year's hunt, feels there is no reason to add restrictions to the hunt, and suggests adding Unit 203 into the hunt where ranchers and farmers would like to have bears removed.
- Bill Halvorsen added that there are already local regulations for the Tahoe area so additional regulations are not needed. Stay with Option 1.
- A motion was made and seconded to recommend support for Option 1 (no change). Motion passed unanimously.

**E. Duck Stamp Contest Sponsor – (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)** -- A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify their selection of a sponsor for the 2013 and 2014 duck stamp contests.

**F. Public Lands Committee Report – (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)** -- A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners on the Commission's Public Lands Committee meeting held in Reno.

**9. Authorize the Chairman to prepare and submit any recommendations from today's meeting to the Commission for its consideration at its March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 2012 meeting in Reno. (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)**

- A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Chairman to prepare and submit recommendations from this meeting to the Commission. Motion passed unanimously.

**10. The next Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting is scheduled for May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in Las Vegas, Nevada to support the scheduled Wildlife Commission meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> in Reno, Nevada.**

**11. Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 8:59 pm.