

**Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Meeting Approved Minutes**

**Meeting Location:**

Clark County Government Center  
Commission Chambers  
500 S. Grand Central Parkway  
Las Vegas, NV 89155

**Video Streaming and Teleconferencing available at:**

Nevada Department of Wildlife  
Western Region Office  
1100 Valley Road  
Reno, NV 89512

Public comment will be taken on every action item after discussion but before action on each item and is limited to three minutes per person. The chairman, in his discretion, may allow persons representing groups to speak for six minutes. Persons may not allocate unused time to other speakers. Persons are invited to submit written comments on items or attend and make comment during the meeting and are asked to complete a speaker card and present it to the Recording Secretary. To ensure the public has notice of all matters the Commission will consider, Commissioners may choose not to respond to public comments in order to avoid the appearance of deliberation on topics not listed for action on the agenda.

Forum restrictions and orderly business: The viewpoint of a speaker will not be restricted, but reasonable restrictions may be imposed upon the time, place and manner of speech. Irrelevant and unduly repetitious statements and personal attacks that antagonize or incite others are examples of public comment that may be reasonably limited.

Please provide the Board of Wildlife Commissioners ("Commission") with the complete electronic or written copies of testimony and visual presentations to include as exhibits with the minutes. Minutes of the meeting will be produced in summary format.

**NOTE:** County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Members and public comment allowed on each action item and regulation workshop items and at the end of the meeting.

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners present for the two-day meeting:

Chairman Brad Johnston	Madam Vice Chairwoman Tiffany East
Commissioner Jon AlMBERG	Commissioner Tom Barnes
Commissioner Tommy Caviglia	Commissioner Casey Kiel
Commissioner David McNinch	Commissioner Paul E. Valentine
Commissioner Kerstan Hubbs	

Secretary Tony Wasley	Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett
Recording Secretary Brandy Arroyo	

Nevada Department of Wildlife personnel in attendance for the two-day meeting:

Deputy Director Liz O'Brien	
Administrative Assistant III Megan Manfredi	Management Analyst Kailey Taylor
Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling	Conservation Education Division Administrator Chris Vasey
Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne	Diversity Division Administrator Jen Newmark
Fisheries Division Administrator Jon Sjöberg	Game Warden Captain Michael Maynard
Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kim Munoz	
Conservation Educator C. Doug Nielsen	Conservation Educator Martin Olson
Conservation Educator Holly Brisendine	Conservation Educator Jess Brooks
Conservation Educator Abbey Czarnecki	Wildlife Staff Biologist Steve Kimble
Game Warden Christopher A. Walther	Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox
Wildlife Health Specialist Dr. Peregrine Wolff	Wildlife Staff Biologist Tom Donham
Wildlife Staff Biologist Joe Bennett	Wildlife Staff Biologist Pat Cummings

Public in Attendance in Las Vegas for the two-day meeting:

Leland Brown Non-Lead Hunting Educator	Brett K. Jefferson
Chris Parish of Director of Conservation of the Peregrine Fund	
Gil Yanick, Carson CABMW	Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW
Mike Reese, Clark CABMW	John Hiatt, Clark CABMW
Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt CABMW	Cory Lytle, Lincoln CABMW
Robert Jacobson, Lyon CABMW	Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW
Chrissy Pope, Nye CABMW	Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW
Steve Marquez, White Pine CABMW	
Alan Arroyo, self	Sonja Almberg, self
Marlene Bunch, self	Fred Voltz, self
Jana Wright, self	Chad Thomas, Institute for Wildlife Studies
Kelly Douglas, Colorado State University	Michael Findley, National Shooting Sports Foundation
Stephanie Myers, self	Micki Jefferson, self

Public in Attendance in Reno for the two-day meeting:

Jim Cooney, Elko CABMW	Steven Robinson, Washoe CABMW
Caron Taylor, self	Joel Blakeslee, self
Mel Belding, self	Rex Flowers, self

Friday, September 20, 2019 – 8:30 a.m.

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call of Commission Members and County Advisory Board Members to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) – Chairman Johnston

Chairman Johnston called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll call was conducted, and the Commissioners present were: Chairman Johnston, Madam Vice Chairwoman East, Commissioners Almberg, Barnes, Caviglia, East, Kiel, McNinch, and Valentine. Commissioner Hubbs was absent.

CABMW members present: Gil Yanick, Carson CABMW; Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW; Mike Reese, Clark CABMW; John Hiatt, Clark CABMW; Jim Cooney, Elko CABMW; Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt CABMW; Cory Lytle, Lincoln CABMW; Robert Jacobson, Lyon CABMW; Glenn Bunch, CABMW; Chrissy Pope, Nye CABMW; Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW; Steven Robinson, Washoe CABMW; Steve Marquez, White Pine CABMW.

2. Approval of Agenda – Chairman Johnston – For Possible Action  
The Commission will review the agenda and may take action to approve the agenda. The Commission may remove items from the agenda, continue items for consideration or take items out of order.

Chairman Johnston stated that agenda item #12 will be at the call of the Chairman when the recipient of the award is present; and that Mr. Ledet, the Petitioner for agenda item #14, contacted the Department to request that the petition be moved to the next meeting in Las Vegas.

No public comment in Reno.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED WITH AGENDA ITEM #12 TO BE AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIRMAN, AND THAT AGENDA ITEM #14 BE REMOVED AT THE REQUEST OF THE PETITIONER. VICE CHAIRMAN EAST SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0. COMMISSIONER HUBBS WAS ABSENT.**

3.\* Approval of Minutes – Chairman Johnston – For Possible Action  
Commission minutes from the August 9 and 10, 2019 meeting.

Commissioner Kiel stated that on page 8, a comment is reflected to by him, but it was actually made by Commissioner Caviglia.

Commissioner Barnes stated that since he was not at the August 2019 Commission meeting, he will abstain from voting on the minutes.

Commissioner McNinch stated that on page 6, in lieu of a statement, he had made an inquiry of Chief Game Warden Tyler Turnipseed whether an individual can lose their hunting license for life if twelve (12) demerits are accumulated; and on page 4, Commissioner McNinch provided that New Mexico's Commission is now in place since his update to the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) 2019 Annual Conference in August 2019.

Game Warden Captain Michael Maynard stated that if an individual accumulates twelve (12) demerits, this does not mean they lose their hunting license for life. He further provided that there is a period and ten (10) years for the cap depending on the offense, and that the court can impose their own sanctions.

No public comment in Reno.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

**MADAM VICE CHAIRWOMAN EAST MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES WITH THE COMMENTS REFLECTED. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0. COMMISSIONER BARNES ABSTAINED FROM VOTING AND COMMISSIONER HUBBS WAS ABSENT.**

4. Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence – Chairman Johnston –  
Informational

Commissioners may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action may be scheduled on a future Commission agenda. The Commission will review and may discuss correspondence sent or received by the Commission since the last regular meeting and may provide copies for the exhibit file (Commissioners may provide hard copies of their correspondence for the written record). Correspondence sent or received by Secretary Wasley may also be discussed.

Chairman Johnston stated that since there is a lengthy agenda, the Commission will have lunch brought in to allow for a shorter lunch break. He further stated that he has received correspondence regarding the shed antler regulation but that he will wait until that agenda item to mention it.

Secretary Wasley stated that he also received correspondence regarding the shed antler regulation; and that he received correspondence that has not been shared with the Commission from an Oklahoma citizen who was convicted in Colorado for a hunting violation which resulted in his hunting/fishing license being suspended for 25 years; he is asking that Nevada restore his fishing license.

Secretary Wasley provided Game Warden Christopher A. Walther's background with the Department and presented him with the Boating Officer of the Year Award.

Secretary Wasley presented the 30-year tenure award to Habitat Staff Biologist Brad Hardenbrook and provided his background with the Department.

Secretary Wasley acknowledged Wildlife Game Biologist Steve Kimble for his 15-year service with the Department.

Secretary Wasley thanked the Commission for their support and participation in attending the ribbon cutting ceremony of the new building in Las Vegas.

Secretary Wasley presented the Ted Frantz award to Conservation Educator Martin Olson and provided his background with the Department.

Conservation Educator Martin Olson thanked the Department for the award and the kind words.

Chairman Johnston thanked and congratulated Conservation Educator Martin Olson, Habitat Staff Biologist Brad Hardenbrook and Game Warden Christopher A. Walther for their service and hard work and commitment to the Department.

5. County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Member Items – Informational  
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.

No CABMW comment in Reno.

CABMW comment in Las Vegas:

Paul Dixon, representing Clark CABMW, stated that their Member of the Public position will be open soon and will be advertised to the public.

6. Commission Regulations – For Possible Action/Adoption – Public Comment Allowed

- A.\* Commission Regulation 18 – 01, Amendment #3, Fishing Seasons and Regulations for the Two-Year Period March 1, 2018 through February 29, 2020 – Fisheries Division Administrator Jon Sjöberg – For Possible Action  
The Commission will consider amending CR 18-01 to change the ending date of this regulation from February 29, 2020 to December 31, 2019.

Fisheries Division Administrator Jon Sjöberg reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public. He also provide the benefits to the change in the regulation.

No public comment in Reno.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

**MADAM VICE CHAIRWOMAN EAST MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 18-01, AMENDMENT #3, FISHING SEASONS AND REGULATIONS FOR THE TWO-YEAR PERIOD MARCH 1, 2018 THROUGH FEBRUARY 29, 2020, AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 8-0. COMMISSIONER HUBBS WAS ABSENT.**

- B.\* Commission Regulation 20-01, Fishing Seasons and Regulations for the Two-Year Period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021 – Fisheries Division  
Administrator Jon Sjöberg – For Possible Action  
The Commission will establish fishing seasons, bag and possession limits for the period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021.

Fisheries Division Administrator Jon Sjöberg reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public. He provided the proposed changes by County.

No public comment in Reno.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 20-01, FISHING SEASONS AND REGULATIONS FOR THE TWO-YEAR PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021, AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER ALMBERG SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 8-0. COMMISSIONER HUBBS WAS ABSENT.**

7. Commission General Regulation Workshop – Public Comment Allowed

- A.\* Commission General Regulation 485, Tag Transfer, Deference and Return Program, LCB File No. R022-19 - Management Analyst Kailey Taylor – For Possible Action  
The Commission will hold a second workshop to consider a regulation relating to amending Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation would provide direction for allowing the transfer, deference or return of tags under certain extenuating circumstances after the passage of Assembly Bill 404 of the 80<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session. At the first workshop, the Commission directed the Department to return with guidelines on extenuating circumstances.

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor presented a PowerPoint on the Tag Return, Transfer, and Deference Program.

[http://www.ndow.org/Public\\_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019\\_Archive/](http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019_Archive/)

Chairman Johnston stated he does not believe that the presented timeline for transferring, deferring or returning a tag is the intent of the Legislature and suggested that there needs to be a broader time frame. He thinks that Assembly Bill 404 was intended to address tags after they were valid.

Madam Vice Chairwoman East concurred with Chairman Johnston and stated that the timing needs to be very specific.

Madam Vice Chairwoman East and Chairman Johnston inquired as to the tags that are returned 'for any reason', how many of those tags are reissued and how many of those people had multiple tags; and out of the approximate 1,000 tags that are returned each year, what does that equate to monetarily.

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor and Secretary Wasley stated that they can evaluate the questions that have been posed and bring it back to the Commission at the next meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding the potential extenuating circumstances and when they occur in relation to when the hunt begins; and that the burden of proof is on the hunter to substantiate that

the tag was not used, and that the extenuating circumstance occurred before legal shooting hours begins; that the Commission needs to look at the timing of when the extenuating circumstance occurs along with the timing of when the hunter notifies the Department of the circumstance; and that the rules and the timelines will need to be clear and concise to prevent any confusion.

Public comment in Reno:

Mel Belding, private citizen, stated that for this regulation the Commission should also discuss what may happen to a herd of animals instead of what may happen to the hunter.

Rex Flowers, private citizen, stated that in section 3, paragraph 2, sentence A, it comments on the death of a family member of the holder, and he thinks family member should be within the first degree of consanguinity or affinity in this regulation. In section B, he states that the same thing is referenced with a family member with a disability or an illness, and he believes should be within the first degree of consanguinity or affinity. He stated that the event that causes the hunter to not participate in the hunt should occur before the beginning of the season and be initially reported to the Department within the first five days of the season. In section 6, paragraph 6, he quotes that the applicant that is successful in obtaining a tag for a species and transfers the tag will lose their bonus points; he believes that the recipient should also lose their bonus points. In section 3, paragraph 3, if the holder of the transferred tag be treated as if they had drawn and go through the applicable waiting period, then so should the recipient also have to go into the waiting period.

Public comment in Las Vegas:

Paul Dixon, representing Clark CABMW, stated their CABMW agrees that both the transferor and the transferee should lose their bonus points and both should be put into the same waiting period; which if both people lose their points in the transfer, it could stop an individual from applying every year and transferring their tag due to a circumstance. He suggested that an extenuating circumstance must keep the hunter away from the field for the duration of the entire hunting season, and not just a partial amount of time during the season; this puts a greater burden of proof on the recipient; and that the extenuating circumstances can be written in a simple format for the first year, then the Commission can review the submitted circumstances the following year to evaluate the information going forward to make any necessary changes.

John Hiatt, representing Clark CABMW, concurred that it is difficult to write all-inclusive legislation; but the Commission has two choices in this matter. They can write exhaustive descriptions of everything or they could write a set of broad guidelines and leave certain items to the discretion of the Department.

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor addressed comments made by the public. Regarding Mel Belding's comment, she stated that Assembly Bill (AB) 404 as it is written, does not allow the Commission to address the animal disease or die off issue and that the bill only addresses the hunter. For this detail to be changed, the Department would need to take the bill back to the Legislature. Regarding Rex Flowers' comment about the definition of family, it is described in AB 404 as, "the spouse of the big game hunter, a person who is related to the big game hunter within the first degree of consanguinity, or a step-child of the big game hunter."

Commissioner AlMBERG inquired as to the challenges for the Department in moving the time frame to reallocate a tag, and what causes the Department to not be able to reissue a tag up to the last business day before the hunt season begins.

Secretary Wasley provided that the 2-week time frame was originally adopted under the Department's previous vendor. He is certain that there have been improvements in the new system

with the potential to reissue those tags. The challenge has to do with notifying the recipient of an alternate tag that may require some scouting. One idea that the Department has considered and observed in other states, is to set up a system where the unused tags become available on a first come, first serve basis.

Discussion ensued regarding the deference of the tag; whether it takes away from someone else the following year; that most hunters will likely transfer or defer their tag instead of returning the tag for restoration of bonus points.

Discussion further ensued regarding setting a time frame that is near the beginning of the season; setting a time frame of when the extenuating circumstances must occur to be eligible; the time frame of when the person must return the tag to the Department.

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor stated in response to Chairman Johnston's inquiry, that the Legislative Counsel Bureau stated that the Department does not have the authority to transfer a tag upon the death of a tag holder, unless it is clearly stated in the deceased person's will.

Commissioner Caviglia stated that his concern is about opening the Department up to liability if one circumstance is approved and other circumstances are not approved.

Chairman Johnston stated that what he is hearing, the Commission needs to write a regulation that speaks to the holder's inability to use the tag; the time frame in which the holder reports the circumstance to the Department; and that the tag holder must substantiate a reason why they did not use the tag.

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor showed the current tag return form on a PowerPoint slide; she stated that information was added to include example documents that the tag holder must provide for their burden of proof, such as an insurance claim or medical bill; and that the tag holder would also need to provide an explanation in writing as to the circumstance that warranted the need to return a tag.

Discussion ensued regarding the difference between whether a tag holder "punched" or "used" their tag; that some clarity should be added by defining "used" in the Nevada Revised Statutes in terms of hunting and what constitutes "use" of the tag and it's intent is to actively pursue animals with the intent to harvest them.

Chairman Johnston suggested that he agrees that the transferee should also lose their bonus points which would alleviate concerns over improper transfers; Commissioner McNinch concurred and stated that he would like to see the transferee to go through the same waiting period as the transferor.

Discussion ensued between Chairman Johnston and Commissioners Valentine and Alberg regarding how they feel about removing deferment out of the regulation completely; what kind of problems that could bring for the Department; and does the Department hold the tag during the next quota setting.

Secretary Wasley stated that there are individuals who defer their tags for military purposes and it has not been a problem for the Department.

Commissioner East reminded the Commission that AB 404 came out of a different bill and the original intent of the bill was to transfer a tag to a youth and not to define extenuating circumstances.

Commissioner McNinch stated that the Commission needs to provide guidance to the Department so that information can be brought back to the Commission at a later date for discussion.

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor provided reasons for a return in the “any other reason” category to the Commission. She further suggested that the Commission could set up a committee to discuss this further; and noted that she has obtained a lot of information based on the current discussions and could revise the language to address the hunters inability to use the tag; the time period it would need to be returned to the Department; and attempt to define “use”. She further stated that she could address whether to keep the deferral in the regulation but reminded the Commission that it is up to them if they want to keep the deferral in the regulation.

Chairman Johnston suggested that the Department draft language based on the discussions and bring it back to the Commission for another workshop. There will be no action taken today.

- B.\* Commission General Regulation 486, Veteran and Active Military Waterfowl Season, LCB File No. R027-19 – Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling – For Possible Action

The Commission will hold a workshop to consider a regulation relating to amending Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). Federal statute was adopted in 2019 enabling a veterans and active military waterfowl hunting season. Federal frameworks would allow for veterans and active military to exclusively hunt waterfowl for a period of two days within the existing season. If adopted, this regulation would allow the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to establish such a season.

Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department’s website for the public.

Public Comment in Reno:

Rex Flowers, private citizen, stated that he is a veteran, that he used to hunt ducks and has never had problems in the past; and that he does not see a need to take away from everyone just to benefit a few people; and provided information as to why he does not see this regulation as a necessity.

Public Comment in Las Vegas:

Paul Dixon, representing Clark CABMW, stated that the definition to “veteran” in Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 502 has a limited definition and that the Commission should look at it since it is so restricted. The Clark CABMW suggested that the last weekend of the waterfowl season be used as a veteran’s hunt or combine it with the youth hunt to put the veterans and the youth in the field at the same for a collaborative effort.

Chairman Johnston inquired if the Commission authorized the veteran waterfowl hunt for two days, would take away from the general waterfowl season.

Game Division Administrator Wakeling stated that would occur only in the liberal season and provided back up explanation.

Discussion ensued regarding what two days the Department suggests for the season structure in this regulation; that Nevada follows a liberal season; that enacting this regulation would take two days away from avid duck hunters; whether the Department was asked by veterans or active military for this regulation; and that the Department could not have this season structure in every zone.

Secretary Wasley responded that this proposed regulation is in response to Congressional action; that there was a national debate about the amount of detail in the federal regulation and ultimately it was decided that the authority would be provided to each state to bring a regulation like this to their Commissions. The Nevada Department of Wildlife was not approached by any specific veteran group for this, but the Department did not want to ignore it either.

Madam Vice Chairwoman East stated that she sees this as a nice benefit to the military, but she does not see that it is necessary.

Chairman Johnston stated that if this added two days to the season, then he would support it, but not if it takes away from other hunters. If the Commission leaves the hunt season as is, then all hunters get the maximum number of hunt days. And, if the Commission were to authorize the season, they do have to implement it, it is just there if they wanted to implement it in the future.

Secretary Wasley concurred; and stated that Department wants to be respectful of federal legislation providing the Department the authority to create something unique for veterans. For the Department to not acknowledge this new authority, could be perceived as a disservice to veterans.

Discussion ensued that the Commission could discuss this regulation again during the waterfowl season setting meeting, and if a need arises, then the Commission would review it then.

Secretary Wasley stated that this is a workshop for possible amendment to NAC that would create authority for a veteran specific hunting season so there would still need to be some action in the future if the Commission desires to create a veteran hunt.

Chairman Johnston inquired if the Commission can give direction to the Department to write the language for the regulation, then at the waterfowl season setting the Commission will decide whether or not to set aside the two days for the veteran and active military waterfowl season.

**CHAIRMAN JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE DEPARTMENT TO DRAFT THE REGULATION NEEDED TO ESTABLISH THE VETERAN AND ACTIVE MILITARY WATERFOWL SEASON; THEN THE COMMISSION WILL CONSIDER WHETHER TO ESTABLISH THE SEASON AT THE WATERFOWL SEASON SETTING. MADAM VICE CHAIRWOMAN EAST SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 8-0. COMMISSIONER HUBBS WAS ABSENT.**

Chairman Johnston recessed the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Chairman Johnston reconvened the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

C.\* Commission General Regulation 487, Use of Live Bait Fish and Tackle Restrictions, LCB File No. R060-19 - Fisheries Division Administrator Jon Sjöberg – For Possible Action

The Commission will hold a workshop to consider and recommend amendments to Chapter 503 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation is intended to update and simplify the use of bait and other fishing tackle in NDOW's Western Region and Southern Region.

Fisheries Division Administrator Jon Sjöberg reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public.

Commissioner Kiel stated that the Pershing CABMW did not go with the approved language in this regulation; that he has heard comments on section 2, where the live bait fish may only be used from which the water it was taken. It could be the vagueness in the language, but there seems to be an understanding that if anglers catch bait from the waters below the Rye Patch Dam, they cannot take it to Rye Patch Reservoir for fishing; he asked for clarification on this language.

Fisheries Division Administrator Sjöberg stated that the language regarding the use of live bait is strict, but with feedback from anglers the Department can work on the language to be broader. The Department's primary concern is inter-basin transfers than use within basins. He provided further information as the changes requested to the regulation.

Chairman Johnston inquired about different language that is used in the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 503 and NAC 504 versus NAC 503 and NAC 506, which is not being proposed to be amended; and asked if the same issues in the water was in both sections.

Fisheries Division Administrator Sjöberg responded that he is not aware of any desire by the CABMW's to change this language.

Chairman Johnston inquired whether the same permissible uses in the eastern region are in the western region for other forms of aquatic and animal life that is set forth in NAC 503 and NAC 504, subsection 3.

Fisheries Division Administrator Sjöberg stated yes because any restrictions are referenced to the individual regional sections through NAC 502 and NAC 503. If there is not an exception or restriction in the following sections, it would allow that.

Discussion ensued regarding the need for a more generic definition of aquatic life.

No public comment in Reno.

Joe Crim, representing Pershing CABMW, stated that their CABMW did not go along with the Departments recommendations on the live bait use because they were considering the water that comes out of Rye Patch Reservoir going down the Humboldt River into the rest of Pershing County as one water source. They were only considering the Humboldt River basin when their comments were made.

Tom Cassinelli, representing Humboldt CABMW, stated that their CABMW concurs with Pershing County.

Fisheries Division Administrator Sjöberg suggested that the Department can review the language and make further recommendations to the Commission for the next workshop and provided some examples to those recommendations.

Discussion ensued regarding the Department using the comments made at this meeting to review and revise the regulation for another workshop on Friday at the next Commission meeting and possibly have the adoption hearing on Saturday.

- D.\* Commission General Regulation 488, Landowner Compensation Tags, LCB File No. XXX – Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling – For Possible Action  
The Commission will hold a workshop to consider a regulation relating to amending Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation would provide direction for allocating landowner deer and antelope compensation tags if owner applicants cumulatively qualify for compensation tags in excess of the statutory limit.

Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public.

Discussion ensued that all committee members were on board with the recommendation made to the Commission.

No public comment in Reno.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

Chairman Johnston thanked the members of the committee for their work on this project. There was no action needed today and this will be placed on a future agenda for adoption.

- E.\* Commission General Regulation 489, Shed Antler Regulation, LCB File No. XXX – Game Warden Captain Mike Maynard – For Possible Action  
The Commission will hold a workshop to consider a regulation amending Chapter 503 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation would amend the current shed antler regulation to increase penalties, change season dates, and provide for an educational program for shed antler hunters.

Game Warden Captain Mike Maynard reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public.

Discussion ensued regarding the different violations that earn demerit points; accumulative point penalties and what other privileges are lost; that if an individual's privileges are revoked, they go into the interstate violators compact which affects them in other states.

Discussion further ensued regarding whether the shed antler education course would be required statewide; what defines a person that is shed hunting; and that the Commission will need to establish these guidelines and further define the language.

Madam Vice Chairwoman East stated that she has received about seven (7) emails regarding the shed antler issue with varying responses.

Discussion ensued that the age of the person taking the online course needs to be addressed; that the shed antler education course is a one-time class, but that could be changed by the Commission; and that the shed antler education course would allow the Department to track the level of interest and participation in shed antler hunting.

Public comment in Reno:

Rex Flowers, private citizen, commented that he could support the shed antler education course if it was voluntary. He suggested that this is potentially a way to make criminals of people who would not normally be a criminal; even though that is not the intent, that is the appearance. He asked that the regulation be rewritten to be specific to each county where there is a closed shed hunt, and that Washoe County not be affected. He stated that he is in favor of the closure dates suggested. Additionally, if Nevada is going to follow the footsteps of Utah, then Nevada needs to consider not having a closure period.

Jim Cooney, representing Elko CABMW, stated that they suggested the dates February 1 through March 31 for the closure dates; and they support the nine (9) demerit and the six (6) demerit penalties. He inquired if the Department has had discussions with either Idaho or Utah to coordinate closure dates.

Public comment in Las Vegas:

Cory Lytle, representing Lincoln CABMW, stated that he appreciates the conversation, the work done by the Department, and that he is thankful that the Commission is moving forward on this topic. He stated that many things are being questioned with this regulation and the Commission needs to continue to review it. He wanted to point out the specific questions that are being asked, which are: the full restriction, the online course, and that getting data from the online course is critical. He does agree with the educational component with the online course, especially for the kids who need to see it. The Lincoln CABMW supports the change from February 1 to April 15; and they agree with the six (6) demerit point restriction. He provided that the sheds are more valuable during their freshest point and the longer the shed is on the ground, the value goes down. He suggested to tie the restrictive season to the online shed course and an ancillary season that ends later in May or June, but during that optimal time, the individuals who shed hunt would need a hunting license and the season could be opened up with no restrictions.

Paul Dixon, representing Clark CABMW, thanked the Commission for the conversation on this topic. He stated that the season was initially set due to the activity of the sage grouse. The Clark CABMW based their decision on this information and he would like to hear more from the Department on why April 30 was chosen for the closing date instead of April 15 or March 31. The Clark CABMW is in support of an online course. He concurred with Cory Lytle's comments.

Jon Hiatt, representing Clark CABMW, stated that the ending date of the season should be at least April 30. He stated that Colorado Parks and Wildlife published data evidence that human activity has an effect on the elk reproduction. That having the public in the field during the closure is also a disturbance to the animals.

Steve Marquez, representing White Pine CABMW, requested that the dates stay the same. Every surrounding state is January through April 30, and if Nevada is open a month earlier, then the shed antler hunters will come to Nevada first. They suggest a minimum hunting age of twelve years old like the hunting license; that the individual should obtain a permit to hunt the sheds so that it is tracked through Kalkomey and if points are accumulated, the permit could be revoked; that the online course should be required by all individuals in the entire state who want to hunt shed antlers and not limit it to certain counties; and lastly, the White Pine CABMW is requesting that the regulation stays the same as it is.

Game Division Administrator Wakeling provided information as to why the Department chose to keep the shed antler closure date of April 30.

Commissioner Caviglia stated that he grew up in White Pine County, was an avid shed hunter at an early age, and the average person cannot appreciate or comprehend the number of people who are in the field during the shed antler collection. He would like to see the closure start January 1 instead of February.

Commissioner AlMBERG stated there are now three different seasons with scouting, hunting and shed antler hunting and there are more people in the field than ever before providing pressure on the animals. He suggested that the shed antler hunt end date be on a weekend to not discriminate to the youth. He is also in support of the education course, which also allows the Department to get the message out there and change it over time as needed.

Chairman Johnston stated that regarding some of the correspondence he received, people are asking "why" the Commission is doing this. He provided that the Legislature said that the Commission "shall" address this issue. He stated he likes the idea of an education course and provided back up as to why; and that the course should be for someone who is twelve years old or older in specific counties. He stated that he would like to leave the dates as they are since he has not heard a compelling reason as to why they should be shortened. He is also inclined to have two separate demerits, such as six (6) demerits if the individual does not take the course and nine (9) demerits for ignoring the closure period; if they are going to ignore the law, it should have severe consequences.

Commissioner Barnes stated that he agrees with what Commissioner Caviglia, Commissioner AlMBERG and Chairman Johnston have stated. He commented that the Commission is not stopping the shed antler collection, there is just a restriction on the timing of when people can go into the field.

Commissioner McNinch concurs with what has been said; he would like more information as what has been discussed with Utah and Idaho regarding the seasons.

Madam Vice Chairwoman East stated that Commissioner Hubbs reminds the Commission all the time that the Commission's duty is to protect and conserve our habitat and wildlife. She agrees with what everyone has said; she supports leaving the dates to give the wildlife a chance to recover from winter, to breed and to follow their natural instinct.

Chairman Johnston began to make a motion and discussion ensued regarding setting the end date of the season.

Chairman Johnston withdrew his initial motion.

**CHAIRMAN JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE DEPARTMENT TO DRAFT THE SHED ANTLER REGULATION AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: THAT A SHED ANTLER EDUCATION COURSE BE REQUIRED FOR THOSE AGE 12 AND OLDER PARTICIPATING IN SHED ANTLER COLLECTION IN THOSE COUNTIES SPECIFIED IN NAC 503.172 PRIOR TO JUNE 30 IN ANY CALENDAR YEAR; THE DATES WILL REMAIN SAME FROM JANUARY 1 TO APRIL 30; THE DEMERIT SCHEDULE WILL BE SIX (6) DEMERIT POINTS IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS REQUIRED TO HAVE THE EDUCATION COURSE, BUT DID NOT TAKE IT AND NINE (9) DEMERIT POINTS IF YOU GATHER SHED ANTLERS DURING THE CLOSED PERIOD IN VIOLATION OF NAC 503.172; MADAM VICE CHAIRWOMAN EAST SECONDED.**

Chairman Johnston clarified his motion and the intent, which, if an individual is participating in the shed antler collection from May 1 to June 30, legally the individual must have the education course. After June 30 to December 31, the individual does not need the education course.

Game Warden Captain Maynard clarified that the intent is to have no regulation after June 30 until January 1.

**CHAIRMAN JOHNSTON AMENDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE DEPARTMENT TO DRAFT THE SHED ANTLER REGULATION AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: THAT AN ANNUAL SHED ANTLER EDUCATION COURSE WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THOSE AGE 12 AND OLDER PARTICIPATING IN SHED ANTLER COLLECTION FROM MAY 1 TO JUNE 30 IN THOSE COUNTIES SPECIFIED IN NAC 503.172 IN ANY CALENDAR YEAR; THERE WILL NO SHED ANTLER COLLECTION FROM JANUARY 1 TO APRIL 30 IN THE SPECIFIED COUNTIES; THE DEMERIT SCHEDULE WILL BE SIX (6) DEMERIT POINTS IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS REQUIRED TO HAVE THE EDUCATION COURSE, BUT DID NOT TAKE IT AND NINE (9) DEMERIT POINTS IF YOU GATHER SHED ANTLERS DURING THE CLOSED PERIOD IN VIOLATION OF NAC 503.172; MADAM VICE CHAIRWOMAN EAST SECONDED. MOTION CARRIES 8-0. COMMISSIONER HUBBS WAS ABSENT.**

Chairman Johnston recessed the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Chairman Johnston reconvened the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

8. Update on the Fallon Naval Range and Training Center and Nevada Test and Training Range – Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne – Informational  
The Department will provide an update regarding the legislative environmental impact statements status and timelines for Commission consideration of congressional correspondence relative to wildlife impacts.

Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne presented a PowerPoint for the update on the Fallon Naval Range and Training Center and Nevada Test and Training Range.

[http://www.ndow.org/Public\\_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019\\_Archive/](http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019_Archive/)

Discussion ensued regarding the congressional delegation looking for a win/win; they are also looking to see what the local government agencies have to say on the topic; that the Department will be submitting comments to the Environment Impact Statement; that there will be a follow up meeting with the Navy and the Department will know where their comments stand at the November Commission meeting.

Secretary Wasley stated that the Department will not hesitate to represent the Commission on this issue; the state of Nevada is strongly unified across the state on this issue with broad support; and that Senator Cortez-Masto has held several town meetings and offered opportunities for engagement. Secretary Wasley stated that he appreciates Commissioner McNinch's support of writing another letter.

Chairman Johnston asked that this item be put on the November agenda.

9. North American Non-lead Partnership – Leland Brown and Chris Parish – Informational  
Leland Brown and Chris Parish will provide information to the Commission regarding the creation of the North American Non-lead Partnership and innovative ways to protect our hunting and wildlife conservation heritage by addressing unintended impacts on wildlife lead exposure through hunting ammunition.

Leland Brown, Non-Lead Hunting Educator of the Oregon Zoo and Chris Parish, Director of Conservation of the Peregrine Fund, both presented a PowerPoint on the North American Non-Lead Partnership.

[http://www.ndow.org/Public\\_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019\\_Archive/](http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019_Archive/)

Commissioner Alberg inquired as to what the argument is for this change.

Chris Parish stated that most people shoot ammunition due to tradition and they do not like change.

Leland Brown suggested that the other issue is access to this ammunition, but in Oregon they are encouraging consumers to request the ammunition and the retailer to carry the ammunition for public purchase.

McNinch commented that he has seen Leland Brown and Chris Parish at the annual Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies conference and that he appreciates what they are doing with this product.

12. Wayne E. Kirch 2018 Award Presentation – Chairman Johnston  
Chairman Johnston will present the 2018 Wayne E. Kirch Award that acknowledges a deserving individual, nonprofit organization, outdoor sports club or business who have achieved significant results toward the conservation, management or enhancement of wildlife in the State of Nevada during the last calendar year.

For the 2018 Wayne E. Kirch Nevada Wildlife Conservation Award the Commission would like to honor Brett K. Jefferson. In 2018 Brett served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Wild Sheep Foundation and as the Immediate Past President of the Fraternity of Desert Bighorn. His leadership and ability to forge partnerships led to the construction of multiple water development projects through his partnerships with not only Wild Sheep Foundation, but Federation Desert Bighorn and NDOW.

His efforts in facilitating and coordinating important partnerships such as those previously mentioned above has led to tangible results. Although this award is for accomplishments in 2018, Brett has been a long-time advocate for wildlife conservation. He has organized the Nevada Bighorn Sheep Working Group meetings, serves as Legislative Affairs Chairman for both Wild Sheep Foundation and Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn, and helped to increase revenue streams to grow the Federation of Desert Bighorn Sheep Emergency Water Fund.

Brett is a proud native Nevadan and his work has stretched across all of the state, but Brett's dedication to sheep and wildlife conservation is far reaching. Not only has his work benefitted sheep populations in neighboring states, but he has also worked to reintroduce sheep into Mexico and bridge conservation connections in Canada and central Asia! He has truly dedicated his time, which is all donated by the way, to the WSF purpose 'Put and Keep Wild Sheep On The Mountain'.

Chairman Johnston presented the Commission's 2018 Wayne E. Kirch Conservation Award to Brett K. Jefferson.

Brett K. Jefferson stated that this is an incredible honor, that he is fortunate to have had so many mentors along the way, he thanked the Department for all of the support he has received and thanked the Commission for the award.

10. Management Objectives used by the Department for Developing Hunt Quotas – Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling – Informational  
The Department will provide the Commission with a briefing on the specific management objectives employed to develop annual hunt quotas.

Chairman Johnston thanked the Department for the informational that was provided regarding the quota setting workshop at the last meeting. He stated that it set the stage for this topic.

Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling presented a PowerPoint regarding the Management Objectives for Big Game Quota Setting.

[http://www.ndow.org/Public\\_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019\\_Archive/](http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019_Archive/)

Discussion ensued between Madam Vice Chairwoman East and Game Division Administrator Wakeling regarding there being a number of species with a mandatory check such as the ram and mountain goat; that the Department checks the age and sex of the animal, look for disease by taking samples, inquire about how much time the hunter spent pursuing animal and the method of harvest; and that the Department works with a number of taxidermists and meat processors to collect samples and information.

Discussion ensued between Madam Vice Chairwoman East, Commissioner Alberg, Game Division Administrator Wakeling and Secretary Wasley regarding the collection of ram to ewe ratio data and that the Department manages conservatively to keep a healthy ram to ewe ratio; and that there are many factors to determine if there was a cumulative biological affect when comparing standard units to non-standard units.

Chairman Johnston thanked Game Division Administrator Wakeling and the Department for the presentation and for the time that went into the workshop that was presented at the last meeting.

Chairman Johnston recessed the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Chairman Johnston reconvened the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

11. Bighorn Sheep Ewe Hunting in Nevada – Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox – Informational  
The Department will provide a briefing on the background, development, need, and management objectives of bighorn sheep ewe hunts; current application and hunt metrics; and opportunities, constraints, and landscape risks to conducting translocations as an alternative to ewe hunts in meeting management objectives.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox and Wildlife Health Specialist Dr. Peregrine Wolff presented a PowerPoint on Nevada Bighorn Sheep Herd Management: What, When and Why for Continued Success.

[http://www.ndow.org/Public\\_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019\\_Archive/](http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019_Archive/)

Discussion ensued between Commissioner Alberg, Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox and Wildlife Health Specialist Dr. Peregrine Wolff regarding the Department having received sheep from all over

the United States, including British Columbia and that Mexico has plenty of sheep but the Department would consider it if we were asked to send the sheep south of the border.

Discussion ensued regarding the science regarding disease prevention; that the only science being done when they are adjacent to farm flocks and the main goal is to try make better domestic sheep; that they are trying to make domestic sheep mycoplasma and pneumonia free and pushing through legislation in Alaska because their entire doll population could be at risk; the domestic pork industry is trying to develop a vaccine for a closely related mycoplasma that effects pigs; that with a lot of money behind it, they have not had any success; that the vaccinations have not proven to be successful; but that separation of the animals can be successful.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox stated he has been talking with Nevada's regions about opportunities for translocation sites. There was a successful translocation last year with the California Bighorn Sheep. The biggest concern of over population is the desert herds but he is hopeful that there will a successful event. He has started discussing the possibility of using drop nets to capture the animals in the summer instead of in the fall because the sheep can adapt if they are moved sooner in the year. If the Department sees there are more opportunities for Desert Bighorn that does not have a disease risk and there is good habitat, then the Department might move in that direction, and are working towards more translocations instead of ewe hunts.

Discussion ensued between Commissioner Valentine and Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox regarding the translocation that is scheduled for this fall; that the Department is moving about 50 animals from the Stillwater East Range to Utah in the Mineral Mountains; that the sheep have more experience with that type of habitat and climate; and that this will be a new introduction to the habitat.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox stated that his counterpart in Utah stated that they have one more mountain range in the Mohave Desert that they would like to place sheep, and that this may be last opportunity to move sheep to Utah. Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox stated that does not know the details of a program to translocate sheep to the Frisco Mountains.

Discussion ensued between Madam Vice Chairwoman East and Wildlife Health Specialist Dr. Peregrine Wolff regarding the different strains and how do the biologists know that the strains cannot get along; that the disease does provide for mild to severe respiratory issues in domestic sheep and goats so the majority of the strains have been tested; that tests revealed multiple strains have been found in one animal; and Wildlife Health Specialist Dr. Peregrine Wolff provided more information regarding the strains and how they cross over to other herds.

Discussion further ensued regarding diseased sheep herds that interact with some sheep who do not contract the disease; that it does not make sense; and that it cannot be predicted if or when the disease will ever spread.

13. Nevada Department of Wildlife Project Updates – Secretary Tony Wasley

The Commission has requested that the Department provide regular project updates for ongoing projects and programs as appropriate based on geography and timing of meetings. These updates are intended to provide detail in addition to summaries provided as part of the regular Department report and are intended to inform the Commission and public as to the Department's ongoing duties and responsibilities.

Fisheries Biologist Brandon Senger presented a PowerPoint on Nevada's Smallest Fish and its Unique Habitat: Devils Hole Pupfish (*Cyprinodon diabolis*) and Devils Hole.

[http://www.ndow.org/Public\\_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019\\_Archive/](http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019_Archive/)

Commissioner McNinch stated that he appreciates the presentation. He inquired as to how many fish the Department has in the back up population, does the Devil's Hole Pupfish die annually and does the Department get two (2) reproductive events out of the fish.

Fisheries Biologist Brandon Senger responded that there are about 100 back up fish; that they do die annually, but the fish are a little longer lived than the wild population because they keep the water cooler along with better conditions so they have an 18 month life span instead of 12 months; and that the Devil's Hole Pupfish do three or four spawning events a year.

15. Public Comment Period

Persons wishing to speak are requested to complete a speaker's card and present it to the recording secretary. Public comment will be limited to three minutes. No action can be taken by the Commission at this time; any item requiring Commission action may be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.

No public comment in Reno.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

Chairman Johnston adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Saturday, September 21, 2019 – 8:30 a.m.

16. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call of Commission Members and County Advisory Board Members to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) – Chairman Johnston

Madam Vice Chairwoman East called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll call was conducted, and the Commissioners present were: Madam Vice Chairwoman East, Commissioners Almberg, Barnes, Caviglia, East, Hubbs, Kiel, and McNinch. Chairman Johnston and Commissioner Valentine were absent.

CABMW members present: Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW; Chrissy Pope, Nye CABMW; Gil Yanuck, Carson CABMW; Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt CABMW; Cory Lytle, Lincoln CABMW; Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW; Steve Marquez, White Pine CABMW; and Steve Robinson, Washoe CABMW.

17. Approval of Agenda – Vice Chairman East – For Possible Action

The Commission will review the agenda and may take action to approve the agenda. The Commission may remove items from the agenda, continue items for consideration or take items out of order.

Madam Vice Chairwoman East stated that there is no need to change the agenda for today.

18. Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence – Vice Chairman East– Informational  
Commissioners may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action may be scheduled on a future Commission agenda. The Commission will review and may discuss correspondence sent or received by the Commission since the last regular meeting and may provide copies for the exhibit file (Commissioners may provide hard copies of their correspondence for the written record). Correspondence sent or received by Secretary Wasley may also be discussed.

Madam Vice Chairwoman East stated that there is a coalition of conservationists, wildlife enthusiasts and wild horse activists who have come together to put on a forum called “Horse Rich and Dirt Poor: The challenge to healthy Nevada lands, wildlife and wild horses”, which will take place in Reno on Wednesday, October 23, 2019, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Nevada Museum of Art in the Sky Room. There is a panel that represents a wide range of conservationists and the forum will be moderated by Jeremy Drew, the former Chairman of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners. There is a flyer and a Facebook page if there is interest in the topic.

19. County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Member Items – Informational  
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.

CABMW comment in Las Vegas:

Gil Yanick, representing Carson CABMW, stated that at their last meeting, there was a tremendous amount of interest with regards to what is happening at the naval air station and what would happen in the future. The Carson CABMW is interested in getting ahead of the issue and suggested that the Department should look at herd management issues; maybe moving some of the game out of harm's way. He stated that he was impressed with Mr. Jenne's presentation and he will have that available at their next CABMW meeting for the public to view.

No CABMW comment in Reno.

20. Reports – Informational

- A. Conservation Partner Profile – Secretary Tony Wasley – Informational  
An overview of a key conservation partner program will be shared with the Commission.

Secretary Wasley introduced Cory Lytle of the Lincoln CABMW and representing Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited.

Cory Lytle representing Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited, provided information about their program and stated that they have a brochure available. He stated that they have an annual banquet and fundraiser where they reach a lot of people in the southern region of Nevada. Their objectives are to support scientific management of wildlife and habitat; inform and educate the public concerning conservation and management of wildlife and its habitat; protect, defend and preserve the lawful rights and privilege to pursue hunting, fishing, and trapping; and to encourage true responsible conservation as it relates to outdoor activities. They place a high priority on the “next generation” and want to involve kids to give them opportunities to hunt. For the betterment of wildlife and habitat, it is critical to foster a continuing appreciation and sense of stewardship for the outdoors. They have a maintenance project to clean out the pinyon junipers; private and public trainings;

water developments; education and promotional events for the youth; and multiple partnerships that are important to get everyone involved.

Commissioner Hubbs inquired about Meadow Valley and where it is located.

Cory Lytle responded and explained that Meadow Valley starts in Lincoln County and drains down into the Muddy River.

Commissioner Barnes thanked Cory Lytle for his presentation.

Madam Vice Chairwoman East inquired when their annual banquet is held.

Cory Lytle stated that it is usually during the Commission Meeting that is held in March each year.

- B. Department Activity Report – Secretary Tony Wasley  
Director Wasley will provide a report on recent Department activities.

Secretary Wasley read from the Department Activity Report:

### **DIRECTOR'S OFFICE**

The Director's Office is pleased to announce the opening of the new Las Vegas Office after many months of hard work and persistence. We would like to thank the Southern Region staff for all of their work on preparing the building for opening despite crunched timelines, extreme heat, and little help from outside crews. Southern Region staff spent over a week painting, landscaping, and moving offices.

The Director attended a Fallon Naval Air Station (NAS) Withdrawal Stakeholder meeting along with other Department staff. Senator Cortez Masto encouraged the State to co-produce a unified position and present a document with all stakeholder stances. The Department participated in this preparation and a unified document has since been presented to be included in the National Defense Authorization Act.

Since the last Commission Meeting, the Director has had communications regarding a host of resource topics with Congresswoman Titus, Congressman Horsford's staff, Congressman Amodei and Senator Cortez Masto. Secretary Wasley stated that in the last twenty years the Department has not had the level of interest from both the congressional delegation, the state legislators, and engagement with the Governor's office as it does now. There is a strong interest in conservation and wildlife; some of it is around the military expansion, the horses and burros, fire and invasive species, and a lot of ongoing issues, and to have the level of interest by all of those parties is encouraging. He also met with the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) provost, executive vice president, and the Dean of the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources (CABNR) to highlight the significance of the relationship between the Department and the University and to make improvements on shared visions and goals and opportunities in the future.

House Resolution (HR) 3742, Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) currently has 118 co-sponsors. This House Resolution would provide \$1.4 billion in dedicated funding to state and tribal fish and wildlife agencies for conservation and monitoring at-risk species. Several sign-on letters have been developed to build support with the business and industry community, as well as the science and research community. House Natural Resource Committee members are being asked to cosponsor the bill and it is likely that the bill will have a committee hearing in the next few months. The Department is co-hosting a RAWA panel discussion at the upcoming joint Wildlife Society and American Fisheries Society annual conference. The goal of the panel discussion will be

to raise awareness of the legislation as well as a call to action. We are also developing ads, infographics and other supporting documentation to build local awareness and support.

The Department is still accepting applications for the position of Chief Game Warden. We hope to have this position filled in the near future.

The Department has hired Kim Munoz, the Division Administrator for the Data and Technology Services which was previously held by Chet Van Dellen. Kim Munoz comes to the Department from the Department of Transportation with an incredible skill set.

## **GAME**

The Game Division has requested input from the County Advisory Boards on waterfowl zone split designations. The Department intends to use the information in the recommendations at the March 2020 Commission meeting. The federal frameworks may be amended only once every five years, and the next waterfowl zone split will influence waterfowl seasons during 2021–2025.

The Game and Habitat Divisions participated in a workshop on migration corridors hosted by the Ruckelshaus Institute with the University of Wyoming. Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder provided a presentation on the state of science in Nevada. The daylong workshop encouraged communication among the Department and various wildlife conservation organizations.

The Department continues to work with the Department of Transportation (NDOT) to develop a wildlife coordination workshop for county and municipal planners. Migration corridor workshops have identified the need to share information on wildlife with other planners. Currently, the Department works well with NDOT and federal highways to incorporate movement considerations for wildlife including tortoises, bighorn sheep, mule deer, among others, but our ability to coordinate with development planners seems less effective. The workshop is designed to engage county and municipal planners to identify the types of information the Department can provide, such as factors that influence permeability and avoiding unwanted attractants. The Department hopes to learn how to effectively interface and the appropriate planning timeframe to enhance our coordination.

The Department is planning to maintain our enhanced Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) surveillance activities for the upcoming fall. Check stations and sample collection planning is well underway. Information has been sent to 1,427 Nevada residents that have drawn deer, elk, or moose tags in Utah, Montana, and Wyoming on the updated regulations on importing harvested animals from other states. We work with those states to obtain lists of Nevada residents that have tags in those states so that we can proactively notify those individuals before they would potentially bring infected material into Nevada. Colorado has regulations that preclude the ability to disclose information on their hunters. Arizona and Idaho continue to seek the ability to inform Nevada hunters with tags in their states.

The Game Division is actively updating the hunter information sheets that are posted on our website to provide hunters with timely information on species distribution and access in individual units.

The Game Division has been planning for upcoming pronghorn captures this fall. We have capture locations identified and radio collars ready for deployment and tentatively planning to begin captures on September 24, 2019. These captures will deploy radio collars associated with funding from migration corridors and seasonal range Secretarial Order 3362 from Fiscal Year 2019. The Department has prepared and submitted additional research projects associated with movement corridors for Fiscal Year 2020 as well.

## **HABITAT**

While this has been a rather light wildfire season there have been a few important fires including the Cherry and Corta fires in the Ruby Mountains that the Department will focus on seeding this fall. Fall 2019 rehabilitation actions will also be reseeding chemically fallowed treatments from the 2018 wildfire season. Other habitat treatments include the recent treatment of approximately 3,000 acres of conifer removal near Overland Pass in the Ruby Mountains and an additional 4,000 acres of removal underway in Baldwin Canyon on Mt. Grant. The chemical fallowing is a new technique post fire to extend the window of time of which the land can be treated.

The Technical Review Program has been actively providing input relative to actions proposed for public lands. Recently, we have been involved in multiple proactive projects that have the potential to improve habitat conditions for wildlife. These projects include: the BLM Riparian Protection and Enhancement Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA), which will provide programmatic coverage for management actions in riparian habitat within the Winnemucca District Office. Providing wildlife recommendations for development of a US FWS Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) for private lands in Northern Nevada and Input into the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Fuel Breaks across the Great Basin Regions. The programmatic approach is a larger scale approach that can be applied to the state with some jurisdictional boundaries and some are within BLM districts. The programmatic approach does not leave a footprint and is a much more efficient and effective way to deal with the NEPA analysis.

At their August 14, 2019 meeting, The White Pine County Commission voted to support the No Action Alternative regarding the White Pine County Silver State Trail EA and the BLM has again placed the Silver State Trail project on hold.

### **CONSERVATION EDUCATION**

The Department and NDOT were nationally recognized with the 2019 Environmental Excellence Award from the Federal Highway Administration to install nine wildlife safety crossings in northeastern Nevada. Promotion of the award included multiple social media days, a news segment on KOLO Channel 8 in Reno and a Nevada Wild podcast. There was an impressive 14-minute video that highlighted those efforts. With the permission of the Commission, Secretary Wasley would like to show the video at the next Commission meeting.

Staff developed RAWA ads for Reno Tahoe Magazine. The ads can be found in the Reno-Tahoe Magazine throughout the 2020 year and are designed following the Making it Last Toolkit, a national conservation outreach strategy designed by Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) to significantly increase awareness of its role in protecting and conserving wildlife among target audiences. The combination of RAWA and Making it Last combines a compelling image of a Nevada species, an interesting informational fact, and the RAWA hashtag #recoveringwildlife.

Staff worked with multiple agencies including US Forest Service, California State Parks, California Fish and Wildlife, Nevada State Parks and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency to launch a website dedicated to providing the public with tips on living, visiting and playing in bear country, including a tool that allows people to report bear sightings. The website [www.tahoebears.org](http://www.tahoebears.org) launch was picked up by multiple news stations.

A meeting was held with Conservation Education staff and the Backcountry Hunters and Angler's Coordinator for California and Nevada Chapter, Russell Kuhlman. Future events and partnerships were discussed such as expanding wild game cooking classes, a public landowner film festival, mentoring courses, hands-on courses, integrating Wild Harvest Initiative into outreach events, volunteering on upcoming Department projects, and more.

Staff worked on developing an agency presence on a Social Network called Nextdoor. This community-based platform would allow the Department's Urban Wildlife Coordinator and Public Information Officers to inform and educate residents in specific areas when public safety could be at risk, as well as inform the Department of ongoing incidents or concerns that residents are experiencing with wildlife. This may turn out to be a great method of communicating with our constituents on a more personalized level.

Conservation Education staff has started piloting a new program in classrooms this fall called Know Your Nevada. The program is for fourth grade classrooms and consists of three lessons all focusing on different aspects of our living state symbols: where they are found in Nevada, their adaptations, and what conservation challenges these animals face and what's being done to combat those challenges. For this fall, we have over 50 classrooms participating and have a waitlist as well. Initial feedback from teachers on the program has been very positive. The program will be evaluated during the pilot year and improved upon for the next year. It has been reported in the past that certain Conservation Education staff received scholarships to attend education classes at Cornell on doing outreach; as we get exposed and trained, there are more education and outreach efforts are being built in to Nevada specific curriculum.

Conservation Education staff is implementing another year after a successful pilot year of a distance learning program called Nevada Knockout. The program is for all grade levels, and highlights wildlife that live in Nevada. This year a website was created specifically for educators to access all materials needed for the program. Last year several hundred students participated in this program, this year there are over 3,000 students participating.

### **DIVERSITY**

Fall shorebird surveys were conducted by the Fallon biologist in the Lahontan Valley during the last week of August where nearly 16,000 birds were counted. This is above the ten-year average of approximately 13,600 birds. The number of long-billed dowitchers was particularly high, almost double the ten-year average. The greatest concentration of shorebirds were found in the Big Water Unit at Carson Lake despite relatively low acres of surface water that was available in that area.

In August, Wildlife Diversity hosted a one-day training session in the Ruby Mountains to teach people how to accurately look for and find pika populations. Biologists from both the Department and the BLM attended.

In late August, the Desatoya mountain range was surveyed in historic areas of pika occupancy. Occupied sites were found along the crest of the Desatoya's, north of Desatoya Peak. Other potential habitat patches were observed but not surveyed due to time constraints. Lower elevational areas along Topia Creek and Long Canyon had one potential site but otherwise was unoccupied. This area needs to be surveyed much more thoroughly in the future but in general it seems that higher elevations are more suitable for pikas than lower elevations in this mountain range.

Several biologists participated in a multi-agency bat survey at Great Basin National Park. In addition to surveying, staff also participated in a week-long training on analyzing bat acoustic data. Bats can be very challenging to catch and sometimes a better understanding of bat use of an area can be found by recording their foraging vocalizations.

### **FISHERIES**

Several northern Nevada waters exhibited Hazardous Algae Blooms (HABs) this summer including Washoe Lake, Knott Creek, Onion and Squaw Creek Reservoirs. Only the Squaw Creek HAB was persistent and serious enough to require posting of hazardous conditions by the Nevada

Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP) and was still active in early September, but even mild blooms can be a health risk for pets in the water.

Fisheries biologists in the Eastern Region have completed two major restoration projects for recover of the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT). In late August approximately 37 miles of the North Fork Humboldt River and tributaries were treated to remove nonnative brook and rainbow trout restoring significant areas of LCT habitat. This was a difficult project because of the large number of beaver dams that hold nonnative trout and slow water flows. Over 60 staff from across Department divisions and other partner agencies assisted in the treatment. Staff also completed a treatment of Brown Creek in the South Fork Humboldt River basin in August restoring additional LCT habitat.

Eastern Region staff completed a fish salvage below South Fork Dam in conjunction with repair work to the dam outlet tubes in August. Over 1,000 pounds of channel catfish, wipers and smallmouth bass were captured and returned to the reservoir.

Two high mountain lakes in the Ruby Mountains, Lamoille and Hidden lakes, will be stocked with small LCT this fall using pack stock. These waters are only stocked occasionally because of the difficult access.

Western Region staff are continuing to work on improvements to the Marlette Lake spawning station near Lake Tahoe including replacement of the culvert allowing access from the lake to the station by Tahoe rainbow trout and LCT brood stock. Staff is also working with the US FWS to stock approximately 2,000 tagged LCT into Lake Tahoe as part of the Department's ongoing Lake Tahoe Tributary Study. This study will help evaluate the use of tributary streams and inform future recovery of LCT in the Lake Tahoe basin.

A project to improve fisheries habitat in North Pond and Bass Pond on Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is in progress and should be completed this fall, focused on control and reduction of emergent vegetation to improve angler access and habitat quality for warmwater fish species.

The American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society will be holding their joint national meeting in Reno at the end of September, with expected attendance of over 5,000 biologists and other professionals. Several staff from Fisheries Division will be giving presentations on Department activities at the conference.

Reports from the public were received last week about a fish kill of striped bass in the Colorado River near Laughlin. The exact cause is unknown and an investigation is ongoing, but it could be related to sudden changes in discharge water quality below Davis Dam.

### **DATA & TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**

We are pleased to announce the new Data and Technology Services Division Administrator has started with the Department and is continuing to work on Kalkomey improvements. It has been an all hands-on deck to building the skeleton to that system and now refining it with improvements. We look forward to her future reports on improvements on that system in the DATS Division.

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

A low security conservation prison camp near Pioche had an uprising injuring three corrections officers in the process. A southern region warden assisted Lincoln County with perimeter security while the situation was taken back under control.

Game wardens recovered a body and assisted National Park Service (NPS) in the investigation of a presumed suicide subject at Lake Mead. Game wardens also assisted in a drowning case at Placer Cove on Lake Mohave.

Eastern region game wardens are currently in the process of pleading and disposing of four major poaching cases from 2016-2018. Eastern region game wardens have also conducted two alpine patrols in the Ruby Mountains in the last two weeks to check backcountry hunters.

Richard Dougherty was arrested this August in Texas. He was charged in Elko County for a violation of killing and possession of a mule deer without a tag. The head will be sent to Nevada for the Operation Game Thief (OGT) trailer pending the outcome of the case. It is alleged that he shot a large 4x4 mule deer in unit 075. Another poaching case is currently being handled by the Elko County District Attorney's (DA)'s office. A poacher was charged for killing and possessing a trophy class 4x4 mule deer in area 081 without a permit. The subject allegedly covered it with an Idaho tag and transported it back to Idaho.

Game warden command staff have participated in meetings with the DA's Office of two northern Nevada counties concerning Senate Bill (SB) 316 and the implications for the enforcement and how it affects the current trespassing law. Senate Bill 316 was the bill that makes it unlawful for private landowners to block access to public lands. Subsequently game wardens have been communicating with several sportsmen and landowners to prevent conflicts on the new law. We are currently completing more research on what roads will be affected and this will be an ongoing process through the hunting season. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has reached out and offered to help put together several maps to answer questions in the field.

Game wardens participated in an Operation Game Thief unit watch near Midas in August 22-25, 2019 and conducted a saturation patrol from September 23-25, 2019. A staff game warden and reserve game wardens were also on hand.

The Department purchased twenty state line markers which will be used to replace some markers on the Idaho/Nevada and Utah/Nevada borders. They were placed in coordination with a state line patrol where Idaho and Utah open their archery season. These were placed while eight more were purchased to complete the major state line crossings at the Idaho border in Area 081.

Ely game wardens helped with a search and rescue effort in which a deceased subject was found in his camping trailer after nine days without communication. The man was 70 years of age. His dog was saved and returned to relatives.

Game wardens have assisted in four backcountry utility and vehicle accidents where two persons had injuries.

An investigation was started on a party of hunters that allegedly cut a rancher's fence and was hunting on his property. The rancher confronted an individual to collect his information. The individual allegedly made some incriminating statements to the rancher about hunting on private property without permission. The investigation is ongoing.

A southern region game warden assisted Lincoln County sheriff's office with a narcotics arrest that seized 57 grams of meth, one gram of heroin and a few Xanax.

An OUI Checkpoint was held at Cottonwood Cove on August 3 that resulted in 28 citations and one arrest which required a blood draw warrant for the subject.

Southern region game wardens investigated two different sites for reports of dead deer on Mount Charleston, it was determined that each was a mountain lion kill. A deer was also found dead that was determined to be a poaching incident which has an ongoing investigation.

Commissioner Hubbs stated that she has recently read that there has been a decrease of overall abundance of birds. Since being on the Commission, she has not seen an update on the status of migratory birds in Nevada and inquired if that information was tracked by the Department.

Secretary Wasley responded that there are several ongoing survey efforts where citizen scientists are involved. There are some species where there is a recognized conservation needs; and the Department may not have adequate amount of data, but that is what Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) is all about and it dedicates funds to keep common birds common. There may be decreases in Nevada that is consistent with the national trends, but the hope is that our habitat is sufficient and we can buffer some of those impacts or losses.

Wildlife Diversity Division Administrator Jen Newmark stated that the Department uses the long-term trends from the breeding bird surveys and the Christmas bird counts to help set priorities for the ten-year life span of the Wildlife Action Plan, but they also monitor it yearly. One example of a species is the Pinion Jay's; the Department knows that surveys are showing declines and therefore Department is developing projects to look at this. Wildlife Diversity does review the surveys to see what Nevada's common species are doing.

Commissioner Hubbs commented about Recovering America's Wildlife Act and inquired if the Department knows what our own state legislators are doing and what their position is in supporting this resolution.

Secretary Wasley stated that the Nevada state legislature passed a resolution in support of the act; and this board passed a resolution in support of the act; and the congressional delegation is verbally supportive with plans to sign on; and Congressman Amodei is an original co-sponsor in this Congress. He believes that the Department has significant support by the state legislature and by the congressional delegation in Washington, D.C. and that it is truly a bipartisan level of support.

Commissioner Hubbs inquired about the Bureau of Land Management putting the Silver State Trail on hold and asked what the scope of "on hold" means.

Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne stated this has been the history of the project; the project will get pulled and there will be no action; then there will be a request by local government to evaluate it; then it goes back into the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process; and now the BLM has put it on hold again. He is not sure if there will be a future request to review it at this time.

Commissioner McNinch inquired as to how many times a burn area can be chemically fallowed.

Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne stated that chemically fallowing is something that can be done repeatedly on the same area, just not year after year. The chemical goes less than half an inch into the soil and it stops the germination of the seed, and it is a one-year treatment which stops all seed from breaking. There is another treatment that is forthcoming which gives a three-year coverage which the Department is trying in limited areas and it allows for adding drilled seed which goes deeper into the soil, and it has been very effective to allow the drilled species to come through the soil. He further provided that there are some real opportunities to help control fuels.

- C.\* Litigation Report – Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett  
A status report on litigation will be provided.

Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public. He provided an update on item #6, which is a predator management case, and that this case is now in discovery; he further provided an updated on item #7, that the trial date is getting moved from December 2019 to April 2020 to accommodate for a second round of depositions, which will go through November.

- D. Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration (WSFR) Program Report – Secretary Tony Wasley  
– Informational

Secretary Wasley presented a PowerPoint on the Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Program (WSFR).

[http://www.ndow.org/Public\\_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019\\_Archive/](http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019_Archive/)

Madam Vice Chairwoman East inquired if the Department gets any funding from the optic side.

Secretary Wasley stated that it has been considered a lot, but there is no mechanism to get the funding from outdoor equipment and provided further explanation.

Commissioner Kiel inquired about what happens if there is unused money in a given year and how is that reallocated back to the states.

Secretary Wasley stated that if there is unused money, the funds are reverted back into the account and a portion of those dollars go to the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) which is a beneficiary of those dollars and a portion may go to other conservation programs.

Commissioner Hubbs inquired about the excise tax on the purchase of ammunition and weapons and that it is more than the profit.

Secretary Wasley stated that the amount of the federal excise tax, in some instances, is a greater amount than the profit margin of the payers and must be considered as a cost of production.

21. Future Commission Meetings and Commission Committee Assignments – Secretary Tony Wasley and Chairman Johnston – For Possible Action

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for November 1 and 2, 2019, in Reno. The Commission will review and discuss potential agenda items for that meeting; the Commission may change the time and meeting location at this time. The chairman may designate and adjust committee assignments as necessary at this meeting.

Secretary Wasley stated that the next meeting will be on November 1 and 2, 2019 at the Washoe County Commission Chambers in Reno and the Department will stream on YouTube and teleconference to Las Vegas.

The Department will be looking for recommendations for the conservation partner spotlight agenda item, and the Commissioners are welcome to provide suggestions on who they would like to invite.

The proposed agenda items for the November meeting are as follows: Taking Raptors for Falconry Seasons and Quotas, which can be amended in odd years; the Noncommercial Collection Seasons and Limits for Live, Unprotected Reptiles and Amphibians, is amended in odd years; the third workshop on CGR 485 (Tag Transfer, Deference, and Return Program); a second workshop on

CGR 486 (Veteran and Active Military Waterfowl Season) and CGR 487 (Use of Live Bait Fish and Tackle Restrictions); and four possible adoptions for CGR 486 (Veteran and Active Military Waterfowl Season), for CGR 487 (Use of Live Bait Fish and Tackle Restrictions), for CGR 488 (Landowner Compensation Tags) and CGR 489 (Shed Antler Regulation); the reports that will be heard will be the Predation Management Status Report and the Wildlife Trust Fund Report; and as requested, an update on the Fallon Naval Range and Training Center and Nevada Test and Training Range; a video called "Reconnecting Wild" will be shown on wildlife overpasses in Nevada; and the CABMW Budget workshop luncheon will be held.

22. Public Comment Period

Persons wishing to speak are requested to complete a speaker's card and present it to the recording secretary. Public comment will be limited to three minutes. No action can be taken by the Commission at this time; any item requiring Commission action may be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.

Public comment in Reno:

Caron Tayloe, private citizen, thanked the Department for working on wildlife crossings to keep wildlife safe; and thanked Commissioner Hubbs for addressing the significant losses that have recently been publicized. She recognized California for bans on trapping and Arizona for bans on killing contests; and stated that these states are recognizing what true conservation is. In Nevada, there is still a 96-hour trap limit and stated that is not conservation, it is trapper convenience. Nevada has partnerships from other states and hopefully Nevada can take direction from these two states. She thanked the Commission for the opportunity for video streaming and for Katie Simper being present for the Commission meeting.

Public comment in Las Vegas:

Stephanie Myers, private citizen, provided her testimony which is as follows:

NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS  
PUBLIC COMMENT – 9/21/19

*Stephanie Myers - Las Vegas*

The California Legislature took an amazing and bold step at the beginning of this month.

The Wildlife Protection Act of 2019 was signed into law.

It prohibits trapping of native animals, including bobcats, gray foxes, coyotes, beavers, badgers and mink, plus the selling of their pelts.

It prohibits commercial or recreational trapping on both public and private lands.

Although commercial trapping was an early part of California's – and Nevada's – economy...

NOW – because of the small number of active trappers –CA determined that it could not afford to pay the full cost of implementing and regulating the trapping industry as required by law. Is managing the trapping industry in Nevada too costly? Should Nevada prioritize animal WATCHING over animal cruelty?

Under the new law, using traps in CA to catch rodents would still be permitted.

The practice of trapping – killing and skinning bobcats and other wildlife to supply fur markets in China and Russia – is a nonessential and cruel trade.

Trappers are anachronistic and their traps and snares subject wildlife to horrific suffering.

I would challenge the Nevada Wildlife Commission to consider this law for Nevada, before the people demand it.

Fred Voltz, private citizen, provided his testimony which is as follows:

A truly astounding development has been completely overlooked amidst the informational reports of the last two days.

Just over two weeks ago, the state of Arizona took the forward-thinking step of banning wildlife killing contests for cash and prizes.

New Mexico, California, Colorado, Maryland, and Vermont have all seen the wisdom of limiting wildlife killing contests on some basis.

However, Arizona has now approved the most comprehensive policy to address this long-festering and pointless carnage on a unanimous vote.

Nevada's approach toward wildlife killing contests remains mired in an archaic past, while both Governors Sisolak and Sandoval have attempted to join the 21<sup>st</sup> Century economy by incenting high-tech industries to locate here.

Despite the complete absence of any sound science to support wildlife killing contests, a majority of Nevada Wildlife Commissioners has twice refused to end or even diminish these regressive contests even after citizen petitions and extensive public testimony were presented.

The contests generate bad optics for a hunting community that faces declining demographics. The negative state image that such contests present parallels already-prohibited dogfighting and cockfighting.

It was stated by Commissioner East just yesterday that one of the Commission's tasks is "to protect and conserve the state's wildlife." But it is impossible to protect and conserve wildlife species, or the all-important inter-species food chain, by indiscriminately and massively destroying any species of wildlife.

The current Nevada Wildlife Commission and Department of Wildlife need to educate themselves on what a neighboring state has done to help its wildlife, then implement a similar plan, using Arizona's template, if it is genuinely concerned with helping our wildlife species, not just setting them up for death. Hopefully someone in both entities will demonstrate leadership and pursue this issue so Nevada can be a relevant participant in a 21<sup>st</sup> Century world rather than an irrelevant 19<sup>th</sup> Century one.

Madam Vice Chairwoman East recessed the meeting.

\*Support material provided and posted to the NDOW website, and updates to support material will be posted at [ndow.org](http://ndow.org). Support material for this meeting may be requested from Recording Secretary Brandy Arroyo at (775) 688-1599; supporting material for this meeting is available for the public at the Nevada Department of Wildlife, 6980 Sierra Center Parkway, Ste 120, Reno, NV, 89511. In accordance with NRS 241.020 this agenda closes three days prior to the meeting date and has been posted on the NDOW website at [NDOW.org](http://NDOW.org) and at the following Department of Wildlife offices: 1100 Valley Road, Reno, NV, 89512; 380 W. "B" Street, Fallon, NV, 89406; 815 E. Fourth Street, Winnemucca, NV 89445; 60 Youth Center, Elko, NV, 89801; 1218 N. Alpha Street, Ely, NV 89301; 3373 Pepper Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89120.

Notice to the Public: Nevada Department of Wildlife receives Federal Aid in Fish and/or Wildlife Restoration. The U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. Individuals with hearing impairment may contact the Department at 775-688-1500 via a text telephone (TTY) telecommunications device by first calling the State of Nevada Relay Operator at 1-800-326-6868. Disabled individuals in need of special services should contact the Department prior to the meeting at (775) 688-1599.