

APPROVED March 24 and 25, 2017 Meeting Minutes
Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Meeting

Clark County Shooting Complex
11357 N. Decatur Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89131

Public comment will be taken on every action item and regulation workshop item after discussion but before action on each item, and at the end of each day's meeting. Public comment 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.

Members Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners in attendance during the two day meeting:

Chairman Grant Wallace	Vice Chairman Brad Johnston	Commissioner Jon Almberg
Commissioner Tom Barnes	Commissioner Jeremy Drew	Commissioner Kerstan Hubbs
Commissioner David McNinch	Commissioner Paul Valentine	Commissioner Bill Young-Absent March 24, 2017

Secretary Tony Wasley

Deputy Attorney General Bryan Stockton

Recording Secretary Suzanne Scourby

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

Deputy Director Jack Robb	Deputy Director Liz O'Brien
Chief Game Warden Tyler Turnipseed	Conservation Educator Administrator Chris Vasey
Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling	Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne
Staff Game Warden Mike Maynard	Administrative Assistant 3 Cassandra Grieve
Fisheries Division Administrator Jon Sjöberg	Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme

Persons in attendance during the two day meeting:

Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW	Fred Voltz, Recreationist
Stephanie Myers, self	Gil Yanuck, Carson CABMW
Mike Reese, Clark CABMW	Chad Foster, Douglas CABMW
Robert Gaudet, Nevada Wildlife Federation	Jana Wright, self
Don Sefton, Systems Consultants	Monty Martin, Systems Consultants
Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW	Steve Marquez, White Pine CABMW
Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt CABMW	

Friday, March 24, 2017 – 10 a.m.

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

Chairman Wallace called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. Roll call of Commissioners present: Chairman Wallace, Vice Chairman Johnston, and Commissioners Almberg, Barnes, Drew, McNinch, and Valentine. Commissioners Hubbs absent at roll call; she arrived at 11:02 a.m. Commissioner Young absent March 24, 2017.

CABMW Members present at roll call: Mike Reese, Clark; Glenn Bunch, Mineral; Gil Yanuck, Carson; Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt; and Cory Lytle, Lincoln.

- 2 Approval of Agenda – Chairman Wallace – 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.

COMMISSIONER VALENTINE MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BARNES. MOTION PASSED 7 - 0. COMMISSIONERS HUBBS AND YOUNG ABSENT.

- 3 Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence – Chairman Wallace – 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.

Commissioner McNinch said at the last Commission meeting he made a comment on Arizona and Colorado’s public outreach programs. He said his comments were perceived by some as contrary to positions taken by sportsmen at the Nevada legislature of education council efforts. Commissioner McNinch said he wanted to put on the record that his intent was not to be adversarial or block attempts of that effort moving forward in Nevada. His comments were not intended to distract from that effort.

Secretary Wasley said as discussed at previous meeting, he and Chairman Wallace have co-drafted a letter to encourage CABMW member participation and to recognize CABMW members who participate regularly. The letter will be sent after this meeting. The letter will thank members for their willingness to volunteer and remind members of their CABMW duties. He wanted to advise everyone that the letter is being sent to improve member participation. Secretary Wasley also said today’s meeting site is being vetted as a potential location to install videoconferencing equipment.

Conservation Educator Martin Olson provided background on the Clark County Shooting Park. Phase 1 has been almost completed, with two phases to follow. The range developed through NDOW’s Hunter Education program offers hunter education classes, shooting classes from beginner to advanced, and different weaponry. The venue is also used for Boy Scout Projects.

- 4 CABMW Member Items –

Mike Reese, Clark CABMW, said he Commissioner Valentine both served on the committee to design the Clark County Shooting Park. Mr. Reese described school events held at the shooting range and said he is also volunteers and teaches through the school.

Gil Yanuck, Carson CABMW, said he is available for any questions on CABMW budgets.

- 5 Approval of Minutes – Chairman Wallace – For Possible Action
Commission minutes may be approved from the Feb. 10 and 11, 2017, meeting.

Action on the February minutes will be taken at a later meeting to allow the Commission time to read the minutes. Two corrections noted: Page 50 and page 57.

- 6 California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges Request for Up to 20 Wild-trapped Greater Sage Grouse Per Year for Up to Three Years for Translocation

to the Clear Lake National Wildlife Refuge in California – Game Division Administrator Brian F. Wakeling – For Possible Action

The Department received a request from the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges and the California Department of Wildlife to capture and translocate up to 20 greater sage-grouse per year for up to three years for translocation to the Clear Lake National Wildlife Refuge. The Department is proceeding to fulfill the request and seeks the support of the Commission. The Commission may vote to support the Department's actions.

Biologist Scott Gardner from California Department of Fish and Wildlife provided background on the request to move birds into Mono County. Mr. Gardner said the need for population augmentation has been due to contraction of range due to wildfires, although birds have rebounded somewhat. He said the population has not been hunted since 2012; at one point there was only one lek with five male birds; major threat is habitat loss with large scale juniper invasion; and threat now is small population size. Healthy sage-grouse pockets in the area, and Phase 1 juniper which allows opportunity for restoration. Habitat restorations are important and have been working with partners to restore lands. Sage-grouse Initiative projects implemented on public and private lands has been significant. Mr. Gardner thanked the Commission and NDOW for their partnership. With due respect to California, leadership on sage-grouse issues has come from Nevada.

Public Comment –

Chad Foster, Douglas CABMW, asked if there would be predator control in advance of the translocation to insure survivability of the birds.

Mike Reese from Clark CABMW said his members had the same question. One member not in support of request to translocate as the California Commission has no sportsmen on their board.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR UP TO 20 WILD-TRAPPED GREATER SAGE-GROUSE PER YEAR FOR UP TO THREE YEARS FOR TRANSLOCATION TO THE CLEAR LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE IN CALIFORNIA. COMMISSIONER DREW SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 7 – 0. COMMISSIONERS HUBBS AND YOUNG ABSENT.

7 Legislative Committee Report – Commissioner and Committee Chairman Drew – For Possible Action

A report will be presented on the committee's recent meetings. The Commission may review bills of interest, consider legislative committee recommendations and may take official positions on those bills. The Commission may also choose to develop platforms on bills by supporting or opposing general concepts contained within bills rather than specific language. The Commission will consider and may approve a spokesperson(s) who will relay Commission positions and platforms to the Legislature. (Support materials are as of the Legislative Committee meeting held on Feb. 22, 2017. These materials may be updated at the Commission meeting based on the outcome of the March 15, 2017, committee meeting. Bill and BDR language may be viewed online at: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/79th2017>)

Commissioner Drew began with review of legislative schedule (exhibit file). He explained that he states he is neutral on bills because the Commission has not yet approved a platform. A

deadline just passed for bill introduction and hundreds of bills dropped. The session is one-third done. A significant bill deadline passed on March 24 and many bills introduced. He relayed how he conveys the Commission's position as its spokesperson on legislation: If Commission adopted a formal position or platform he will relay the position in person or through an email which has seemed to work well. Commissioner Drew said he is often asked why he testifies "neutral" on a bill; until this Commission adopts a position as a body, he will continue to do that. Under the "neutral" position he will provide input if the Commission's Legislative Committee has discussed the bill or he will provide input as "Commission's designated spokesperson" if he sees a need for background or a concern from the Commission. He said bills are coming out fast, right up to the deadline, and frequently he has been asked why the "neutral" position and that is why. Unless the Commission takes issue with that approach, he will continue to do so. Commissioner Drew reviewed the bills that the Commission adopted a position.

Senate Bill (SB) 74 is a "Large Act Relating to Water." Provision included for exemption for collection of rain water in wildlife water guzzlers from needing a "water right." The committee recommended a position of support, adopted by the Commission, that water developments do not need a water right. SB 74 has had a hearing and bill was passed out of committee with copious amendments relating to guzzlers such as guzzler cannot have more than a 20,000 gallon capacity; catchment size must be less than one acre; no more than one-quarter mile of piping; and language added that federal agencies with wildlife authority, installing guzzlers. There was concern from committee. Ultimately wording changed to read "any wildlife guzzler approved by the Department." There will be different language in SB 74 when printed, and this bill is linked to Assembly Bill (AB) 138. The Commission may need to update platform or reiterate platform that Commission supports that water developments do not need a water right if developed by, or in consultation with NDOW.

Secretary Wasley said he attended the hearing providing agency comment. He was surprised by amendment providing NDOW approval authority. And as to needing the authority, there are situations we want to try to avoid, such as guzzlers on federally administered land or private land that could affect the distribution of wildlife in such a way as to create conflicts. The language that included "in consultation and approval by NDOW" provides comfort if someone put water in an area that subjects wildlife to conflict such as crossing a road to get to guzzler. The approval would be determined by State Engineer who would determine if any conflict with existing water rights. Secretary Wasley does not view the bill as being overly cumbersome or having a fiscal cost to comply.

Commissioner Drew mentioned private landowners have used catchment basins as "guzzler" to capture water and he sees no problem with that.

Commissioner Almberg asked if the capacity cap will affect future guzzlers and those that exist.

Secretary Wasley said original amendment listed the capacity at 5,000 and NDOW worked with bill sponsor to go to 20,000 gallon cap which accommodates NDOW's largest capacity guzzler. There is intent to exempt slick rock guzzlers from surface restriction.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED FOR COMMISSION TO ADOPT PLATFORM SUPPORTING THAT GUZZLERS HAVE NO NEED OF WATER RIGHT ON EITHER PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LANDS SO LONG AS GUZZLER APPROVED AND DEVELOPED BY NDOW.

COMMISSIONER VALENTINE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 7 – 0. COMMISSIONERS HUBBS AND YOUNG ABSENT.

Senate Bill 75 Reporting/Posting of Commission Regulations

Commissioner Drew said hearing held and Commission platform supported confidentiality of reporting parties for nuisance wildlife claim, and silent on posting of regulations in newspapers. Recommend no action at this time.

License Simplification

Commissioner Drew said the Commission has a general platform in support of concept of license simplification process. BDR exists but no language or bill yet, no need for review today. Commissioner Drew reviewed committee recommendations: Many water bills reviewed and unless they specifically affect wildlife, there are no recommended positions.

Senate Bill 116 Act Relating to Trespass

Commissioner Drew said support simplification and consistent fence markings as long as line of sight maintained. Commission platform stands, recommend Commission adopt committee recommendation.

Commissioner Hubbs arrived at 11:02 a.m.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF PLATFORM RECOMMENDED BY COMMITTEE ON SB 116. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO ADOPT. MOTION PASSED 8 – 0. COMMISSIONER YOUNG ABSENT.

Senate Bill 197 Act Relating to Lake Tahoe Basin Extending the Time Period for Issuance of Bonds for Environmental Improvement Projects in Lake Tahoe Basin and Senate Bill 198 Act Relating to State Financial Administration Extending the Deadline for Issuance of Certain Obligation Bonds to Preserve, Protect and Obtain Benefits ...to State

Commissioner Drew said both benefit to wildlife and NDOW, committee recommendation is to extend issuance of bonds under those programs until 2030.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO SUPPORT COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDED POSITION ON BOTH SB 197 AND SB 198. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED 8 – 0. COMMISSIONER YOUNG ABSENT.

Public Comment –

Gil Yanuck, Carson CABMW, said Carson CABMW supported both bills.

Senate Bill 221 Create Nevada Public Education Council within NDOW

Commissioner Drew said the committee recommendation was to support general concepts contained in SB 221, including creation and activities of the Wildlife Public Education Council as well as the use of Heritage funds as proposed and proportion changes. Support use of Heritage funds for the council for a four-year period as outlined in the bill. He provided further background on the bill. Commissioner Drew said for the record he received correspondence from previous Commissioner Chad Bliss, and he had concerns with using money out of the Heritage Account for anything other than on-the-ground projects.

Commissioner Barnes said he heard and agrees with a former Commissioner who believes that all the Heritage funds should be spent on-the-ground for habitat improvement.

Commissioner Valentine said he spoke to former Commissioner Bliss who was adamant that Heritage funds should not be used for funding this program. Commissioner Valentine said he agreed with Commissioner Bliss and believes that is major reason for the bill's failure in last session. Also issue with expending 100 percent from Heritage funds and that concerns him.

Commissioner Drew said he was asked by a senator if enough money for wildlife if done, and his answer was no. Commissioner Drew said value of program makes public have background and education for wildlife which will broaden base of support. That is the reason he is supportive of the effort as does not support \$8 million sitting in account; however, he has a concern with separate council which would cost the Department dollars.

Chairman Wallace supports test drive of \$2 million from the \$8 million. He said if it doesn't work we still have \$6 million and earning low amounts of interest. That is his position.

Commissioner Johnston said he supports the public education council. The money will come from somewhere, and does not see any appropriation from the state's General Fund. He is on board using Heritage for long-term view of doing something for wildlife. The principal is earning nothing and this could be a better return of the money.

Commissioner McNinch appreciated the bill sponsors moderating the bill since last session. Completely understands concerns with Heritage funds. Bill represents a step forward to give the public a better understanding of conservation.

Public Comment SB 221–

Mike Reese, said they had four votes against SB 221 and two votes in favor. He said outside of this room the public does not know about \$2 million over past four years used for raven control. Take the comparison as to what we got out of it, is studies and lethal control. If sportsmen want to use money for boots on ground there should be a change of percentages going toward principal. He believes the \$2 million over four year period to put something out there is a good way to spend. He wants messaging to explain what sportsmen have contributed and wildlife opportunities in Nevada. That would be good return on investment.

Commissioner Drew asked Mr. Reese what Clark CABMW's position was.

Mr. Reese answered that their position was opposed. The reason for the opposition by four members was that they wanted or under belief that the council would be part of NDOW and want private council.

Chad Foster, Douglas CABMW, said they voted to support SB 221 as board saw education of the public as a means to sway them to be pro-wildlife and to view sportsmen activities positively.

Gil Yanuck speaking for himself, said he testified last week. Agreed with Mr. Reese and others, that current NDOW messaging is focused at sportsmen. Need to broaden that. Get professional help to provide information designed for public to understand wildlife and understand the challenges the Department faces in protecting wildlife.

Jana Wright said she testified as opposed to SB 221 because NDOW has Conservation Education Division with 19 positions. NDOW doesn't need another council or layer. If you want to redirect Heritage money give it to NDOW for education campaign to promote hunting and fishing. Kept hearing this is a "fishing and hunting bill," but Section 5 has implication that trapping would be included. This bill is not needed it is just a tie in to SJR 11 to amend the constitution to make hunting, fishing, and trapping, as a constitutional right.

Commissioner Drew said he does not see this bill as usurping Conservation Education's role, he sees this as working in concert with NDOW on public outreach. In regard to tie in to SJR 1 that if tied to SJR 11 the bill will fail. Thinks the tie is more in line with Blue Ribbon Panel and broader appreciation of wildlife.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO SUPPORT THE RECOMMENDED PLATFORM OF THE COMMITTEE ON SB 221. COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON SECONDED THE MOTION.

Discussion of the bill continued 11:34 a.m. through 11:40 a.m.

Commissioner Barnes said he will be opposed to SB 221 because he believes the money should be spent on the ground for habitat improvement.

Commissioner Valentine supports SB 221. Commissioner AlMBERG agreed with Commissioner Valentine.

Commissioner Johnston understands people stating they want the money spent on the ground, but the legislature has no appetite to change the account. Goes back to original intent of account which is to benefit wildlife, and believes SB 221 does that.

COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION: CHAIRMAN WALLACE, JOHNSTON, ALMBERG, DREW, HUBBS, MCNINCH, AND VALENTINE. OPPOSED COMMISSIONER BARNES. ABSENT COMMISSIONER YOUNG.

SJR 11 – Proposal to Amend the Nevada Constitution to Preserve the Right to Hunt, Fish and Trap in the State

Commissioner Drew said last session this passed, and before it can go to the public on the ballot, the bill must pass through this session in exact form. In 2015 the Commission expressed concerns on original language as it being broad and unclear in terms of how Commission regulations would be incorporated into interpretation of SJR 11, language changed making clear the Commission has authority to regulate wildlife and other matters in the state. Committee recommendation is to support as proposed.

Public Comment SJR 11 -

Mike Reese said Clark CABMW supported SJR 11 in a 5 – 1 vote. Dissenting opinion felt that if part of constitution the matter will be challenged in court. Courts are unpredictable and not a wise path.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner McNinch says a vote in favor may be seen as support of trapping. He will be voting against as not sure constitutional amendment is the place to make this statement.

Commissioner Hubbs said she thinks this is extreme to think it is a constitutional right to hunt, fish, and trap. Believes that is a benefit and is a recreational resource we are afforded and there may be a time and place where it is not a right. She will not support platform today.

Commissioner Drew said if he felt this would circumvent all game regulations he would not support it either. Believes the language as amended last session has cleaned that up, again, if resolution were to pass it must still go to public ballot vote in 2018. Question to ask the voters.

COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR OF MOTION: CHAIRMAN WALLACE, JOHNSTON, ALMBERG, BARNES, DREW, AND VALENTINE. COMMISSIONER HUBBS AND MCNINCH OPPOSED. VOTE ON MOTION 6 - 2. COMMISSIONER YOUNG ABSENT.

SJR 7 – Public Lands

Commissioner Drew said committee recommendation was to oppose and forward letter to Congressman Amodei.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION AS PROPOSED, CLARIFYING THAT COMMISSION OPPOSED TO RESOLUTION. COMMISSIONER HUBBS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED 8 – 0. COMMISSIONER YOUNG ABSENT.

AB 29 – OHV Commission Placement within DCNR

Commissioner Drew said no hearing to date of AB 29.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION ON AB 29. COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER YOUNG ABSENT.

AB 101 Predator Control

Commissioner Drew said AB 101 has been heard and amended. (11:57 a.m.) Commissioner Drew provided background and said committee recommendation is opposed.

AB 101 Public Comment -

Mike Reese, Clark CABMW, said Clark CABMW was opposed in a 5 – 1 vote as written. Recommend Wildlife Commission eliminate \$3 fee entirely. He was dissenting vote because he wanted to keep predator fee to use funds for sensitive species such as sage-grouse.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION, WITH FOLLOWING CHANGE TO LANGUAGE ON SHEET: STRIKE THE LAST FOUR WORDS IN LAST LINE TO NOW READ “ANNUAL PROGRAMS DEVELOPED UNDER COMMISSION GUIDANCE.” CHAIRMAN WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Hubbs will not support Commission platform due to the many public comments received on \$3 fee who are opposed. She prefers scientific management application that is more flexible than the black and white prescription we have where we have to do something with that money. Something more flexible, manageable and less offensive to the public would be better. It does not make sense to public to have to meet quota arbitrarily picked by some legislative prescription.

COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR: CHAIRMAN WALLACE, JOHNSTON, DREW, ALMBERG, BARNES, AND VALENTINE. MOTION PASSED 6 – 2. COMMISSIONERS HUBBS AND MCNINCH OPPOSED. COMMISSIONER YOUNG ABSENT.

AB 187 - Changes membership of Commission

Public Comment – None

Commissioner Johnston said he is opposed as Nevada has Tourism Commission and the ecotourism charge should reside with that agency. Does not support change to Commission membership. Composition of Commission works well and does not want it changed.

Commissioner Hubbs said language crafted in a manner she does not support. She does support ecotourism. Sees benefit in activity

Commissioner McNinch offended by concept of being slighted and the need to change membership of Commission.

Commissioner Drew proposed to adopt position specific to AB 187 as opposed and adopt broader platform to oppose any change to NBWC. He believes in people on this board. He has been accused of not listening to different people, and would state for the record he does not ignore input from anyone. Ignoring and disagreeing are worlds apart.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED THAT THE COMMISSION ADOPT A POSITION ON AB 187 IN OPPOSITION DUE TO THE CONCERN OF DEFINITION OF ECOTOURIST AND ALSO BROADER PLATFORM TO OPPOSE ANY CHANGE TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS. COMMISSIONER BARNES SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED 8 – 0. COMMISSIONER YOUNG ABSENT. (12:10 p.m.)

AB 238 – Exotic animals

Commissioner Drew attended hearing exotic animals. Only concern is if overlap of laws that may affect wildlife.

Chief Warden Turnipseed said NDOW testified neutral. NDOW on board philosophically that we don't believe necessary to own exotic animals. NDOW is concerned with overlaps too.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION ON AB 238. COMMISSIONER ALMBERG SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED 8 – 0. COMMISSIONER YOUNG ABSENT.

Commissioner Drew reviewed new bills introduced affecting wildlife: SB 263 proposing new Master Guide board; two bills affecting trapping; SB 370 transport of game; AB 330 taxidermists; AB 332 proposing licensing review panel, and another unintelligible due to microphone issues. (12:17 p.m.)

- 8 Wildlife Damage Management Committee Report and Fiscal Year 2018 Draft Predation Management Plan – Commissioner and Committee Chairman Johnston and Wildlife Staff Biologist Pat Jackson – For Possible Action
The Commission will hear a report from the Wildlife Damage Management Committee (WDMC) chairman regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2018 Predator Management Plan, and the Commission may take action to provide recommendations for modification of the draft for the May Commission meeting.

Division Administrator Wakeling and Commissioner Johnston presented the item. Division Administrator Wakeling said the WDMC met yesterday where plan revisions were proposed. Additional specificity on anticipated results was provided on baseline information. Two Predator, Animal and Rodent Committee (PARC) meetings' input was discussed. PARC written recommendations were provided to the committee yesterday.

Commissioner and Committee Chairman Johnston said PARC had several recommendations not accepted by the committee: Add coyote to mountain lion in Project 22-01, not accepted as NDOW biologist input said coyote predation on bighorn sheep population is not an issue. Currently the project focuses on mountain lion removal. If there is a change there are funds available from Project 38 which is a statewide program. Committee did not accept PARC recommendation to defund and suspend Project 22-074, bighorn sheep collaring population in 074. Purpose of monitoring is to be able to react to predation if it happens. PARC wanted increase in funding for Projects 37 and 38 by \$50,000, and the Committee agreed with that. The Committee members passed a motion to recommend to the Commission that it approve the FY 2018 Predator Plan with the understanding that the final plan will have additional information added by the Department with recommendation to increase funding for Project 37 from \$125,000 to \$175,000, and Project 38 as well – from \$125,000 to \$175,000. Project 38 the baseline data table or guidelines set forth in Table 3 would be added to Project 38. Additional baseline data will be added to Project 40 such as the target goal for fawn/doe ratio. Commissioner Johnston said the Committee moved forward in giving the baseline data the targets and measurable goals, and took into account PARC recommendations.

Commissioner Drew said his question of why there is no comment in previous fiscal years and understands we have not had all the reports from last year. A recommendation would be that the 2016 report be posted as support material for the public. He would like to know from the report how many collars are on black bears, mountain lions, and deer by wildlife management unit (Project 32). He said that would be a future project update.

Commissioner Johnston said the committee received the PARC comments dated March 23, 2017, yesterday at the meeting.

Public Comment –

Fred Voltz said these same comments were made at last night's Wildlife Damage Management Committee meeting about concerns with the lack of adequate metrics and reporting for the lethal predator projects. More specifically, we see no reporting of dead body counts for targeted species. There are no subsequent predator population numbers in the targeted project areas after one year, two years and possibly longer to determine the effectiveness of the expenditures. We also see no estimated and actual costs per dead predator based on the targeted and actual deaths. Contrary to Commission Johnston's statements about the impossibility of gathering timely statistics of interim performance, this information is critical toward deciding whether public money is being properly spent on projects that actually accomplish their stated objectives. Measuring the guesstimated populations of species Commission licensees seek to kill at some unspecified, future point does not directly connect back to the number of predators killed or the dollars spent to kill them. Other facts can impact such populations, i.e., elevated reproduction and heavy precipitation levels created more forage.

Mike Reese, Clark CABMW, said his board voted 6 – 0 to oppose the plan because no comments or results from previous years. Their belief was if you are going to take the time to write a cell in your spreadsheet and label the cell "comments" and take time to write "none." They have been asking for that and still see no cooperation with getting results, yet CABMWs are to vote on project going in the future not knowing what happened in the past. It is imperative to get cohesive back up. Average person can't tell from the website. Another comment was no demonstrable results to show value of proposed projects. There is no cost breakdown for proposed expenditures. Project 21-02 is incomprehensible in what it is trying to accomplish.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO ADOPT RECOMMENDATION OF WDMC THAT FINAL DRAFT FISCAL YEAR 2018 PREDATOR PLAN INCREASE THE BUDGET FOR PROJECT 37 BE INCREASED TO \$175,000. INCREASE THE BUDGET FOR PROJECT 38 TO \$175,000. THE TABLE (3) REFERENCING PROJECT 38 BE INCLUDED, BASELINE DATA AND TARGET GOAL FOR PROJECT 40 IN AREA 14 BE INCLUDED. INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM PRIOR YEARS IN 2016 REPORT TO THE EXTENT OF INFORMATION IN THE 2017 PREDATOR MANAGEMENT PLAN BE INCLUDED IN THOSE PROJECTS TO SHOW WHAT HAS OCCURRED IN TERMS OF ACTIVITY AND RESULTS, WHATEVER DATA AVAILABLE IN ONE PLACE. IN ANTICIPATION OF THE MAY MEETING WE HAVE THE PARC COMMENTS POSTED AS PART OF SUPPORT MATERIAL AS WELL AS 2016 REPORT AND TO THE EXTENT THE 2017 REPORT IS IN DRAFT FORM BE POSTED AS WELL. COMMISSIONER DREW SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 8 – 0. COMMISSIONER YOUNG ABSENT.

Administrator Wakeling said as per the request for a Project 32 update, the WDMC had recommended that the Commission be updated on a project. Dr. Pete Coates of USGS is present today to provide the Commission an update on an ongoing project. Dr. Coates provided a PowerPoint presentation on results from Project 21 and 41. (12:58 p.m. through 1:26 p.m. exhibit file, website, and video). Dr. Coates' presentation showed the impact of ravens on natural resources and on sage-grouse. Dr. Coates said science can guide adaptive management and this is a process that is being worked on by the Sagebrush Ecosystem

Technical Team and NDOW where science can infuse into that adaptive process to make management decisions.

Secretary Wasley said the Mr. Coates presentation was a great example of how to spend the \$3 fee. The value in spending the \$3 fee so subsequent projects can be put together.

9 Nevada Land Legislation

- A Nevada Lands Act – Commissioners Drew and Johnston – For Possible Action
At the February Commission meeting the Commission designated Commissioners Drew and Johnston to draft a letter on the development of new federal legislation related to SJR 1. The Commission may take action to approve the draft letter to send.

Commissioner Drew said two edits to letter: Add website link to page 1, and on page 2 there is an extra “and” on the top list. Essentially the Commission’s and public concerns at the February meeting were incorporated to provide input on to Congressman Amodei.

Public Comment -

Gil Yanuck, Carson CABMW, CABMW concerned that land would be controlled for hunting or historical preservation if sold off.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE DRAFT CORRESPONDENCE TO CONGRESSMAN AMODEI WITH TWO CHANGES: ADD WEBPAGE LINK AND REMOVE EXTRA “AND” ON PAGE 2. COMMISSIONER HUBBS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 8 – 0. COMMISSIONER YOUNG ABSENT.

- B Washoe County Lands Bill – Commissioners Drew and McNinch – For Possible Action
At the November Commission meeting the Commission designated Commissioner Drew to work with NDOW to draft a letter stating the Commission’s concerns on the proposed Washoe County Lands Bill.

Commissioner Drew said as in the previous letter he included the issues and concerns from previous meeting. Commissioner Drew said he did receive a public comment to paragraph 1 where public transfers to cities of Reno, Sparks and Washoe County. There is a valid concern with transfer of those lands from fishing and angling standpoint and general public access. He reviewed the maps and saw the lands touch the river corridor. He suggested adding public access concern on lower Truckee River. He read the minutes of Washoe CABMW and it sounded like Washoe CABMW was in support of the letter. They had a County Commissioner attend their meeting who indicated a bill may come forward without component 2 in regard to addressing Wilderness Study Areas or designating new Wilderness Area. He will suggest that we leave that input in the bill.

Commissioner Hubbs asked that management tools for wildlife management in Wilderness Areas be included.

Commissioner Drew attended meeting recently with state director of BLM and said provisions to access Wilderness to conduct wildlife management vary amongst BLM managers. He noted one grammatical change to letter.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE DRAFT LETTER TO COUNTY MANAGER JOHN SLAUGHTER OF WASHOE COUNTY NEVADA, AND CC THE CONGRESSIONAL

DELEGATION IN REGARD TO INPUT ON WASHOE COUNTY LANDS BILL WITH TWO REVISIONS: ONE THAT IN PARAGRAPH #2 UNDER COMPONENT #1 WE IDENTIFY OUR CONCERN WITH MAINTAINING PUBLIC ACCESS TO LOWER TRUCKEE RIVER AND ON PAGE 3, SECOND TO LAST PARAGRAPH DROP THE “S” ON “INSURES.” COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 8 – 0. COMMISSIONER YOUNG ABSENT.

10 Reports – Informational

A Department Activity Report – Secretary Wasley
A report will be provided on Nevada Department of Wildlife activities.

Secretary Wasley reported as previously noted to the Commission in February, a video recording of an apparent wolf was taken near Fox Mountain in northwestern Nevada during November 2016. Investigations following the sighting located two potential scats from the animal, which were sent to the University of Idaho for genetic analyses to determine definitively if the animal was a wolf. The animal was confirmed to be a male offspring of the Shasta Pack that generally occupies northern California. Currently, the Shasta Pack is missing from California, but there is no evidence that the animals are within Nevada. The single wolf was probably a dispersing young male, but there is no evidence that he remained within Nevada following the single sighting.

Seventeen wild turkeys were captured by the Colville Confederated Tribes in Washington and released in Iowa Canyon in the northern Toiyabe Range in Lander County during mid-February. The Colville Tribe continues to attempt to capture additional turkeys, but intends to provide up to 100 turkeys through next winter.

Pronghorn translocations to the Colville Confederated Tribes were postponed because optimal trapping conditions were unavailable during the current year. Last year, the Department provided 50 pronghorn to the Colville Tribe after the Commission granted permission to relocate up to 100 animals in this effort. The Department is likely to recommend another effort at translocating an additional 50 pronghorn during next winter, but will provide the Commission with a formal request prior to any additional action.

Eighty-eight mountain quail were released in the Fish Creek Mountains of Lander County on March 14, 2017. This represented the initial release of mountain quail into this mountain range and will be followed by another release of up to 100 birds in 2018. Eastern Region biologists traveled to Roseburg, Ore., to pick up 100 wild-trapped mountain quail provided by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, which were then held at the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area in holding pens until conditions were more favorable for release in the Fish Creek Mountains.

Big game captures associated with State Route 160 crossings captures were completed on March 19, 2017. This is the second of a three-year plan to examine preferred crossing locations to increase human safety and reduce wildlife collisions on roadways. Radio collars were deployed on two elk (males) and eight deer (five males, three females). The Department is assisting with detecting effects of helicopter landings during captures and will provide landing and capture locations to the US Forest Service for monitoring.

The Game Division summarized big game hunt results, season tables and timelines, hunt advisories, season overlaps, and coordinated with the webmaster to upload these files and

information on our hunting resources section of the Department's website in preparation for the big game application process.

Staff and regional personnel held a meeting with private landowners in the Orovada-Quinn River Valley area on Feb. 23, 2017 to discuss potential projects to benefit upland game species, particularly quail and pheasants. The meeting went well and several landowners were interested in developing projects on their property including plantings for cover and water developments.

During the past five months, Wildlife Health staff provided veterinary support for the Department and collaborating researchers, including disease surveillance, during the captures of 359 big game species including bighorn sheep, mountain goats, mule deer and elk.

Wildlife Health staff continue to monitor disease surveillance for Chronic Wasting Disease in hunter harvested mule deer and elk heads. To date, CWD has yet to be detected within Nevada.

The Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program will be adding two new roadside inspection stations this summer to better identify watercraft that might be infested with invasive species and provide outreach to boaters. These stations should also reduce inconvenience to boaters when they reach destination waters in eastern and northern Nevada. We anticipate having a station in Alamo on US 93 in Lincoln County, and a second station on the Mountain City Highway north of Elko that will be much more convenient than the previous station in Elko proper.

An (over) abundance of water this spring means that most lakes and reservoirs in northern and central Nevada will be at or near capacity for the first time in years, including Tahoe, Lahontan, Chimney, Washoe Lake, Wildhorse and maybe even Rye Patch. Even Walker Lake has come up 1.5 feet (as of early March) but it's still likely 25' below the level when we could probably stock trout again.

Fisheries and Con Ed staff held a Sparks Marina media stocking event where we stocked 5,000 trout (rainbows and browns) in early March. Media turnout was good with all the local media channels in attendance. We usually do a spring stocking media event on the Truckee River but because flows are so high this spring, we may not be able to stock the Truckee until summer.

The Habitat Division recently hosted kick-off workshops for a Habitat Restoration and Rehabilitation Strategic Framework and GIS tool. This effort will help NDOW prioritize and portray wildlife driven habitat values to the public and project partners. Presenting clear and transparent priorities to ensure NDOW and our partners' priorities align and or consider other conservation efforts.

Truckee Carson Irrigation District (TCID) has been continuing with the precautionary drawdown of Lahontan Reservoir by utilizing irrigation canals to fill downstream reservoirs and wetlands such as Stillwater NWR and the Carson Lake since the middle of February. Additionally, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and TCID are in the finishing stages of completing a new "water waste way" just below Lahontan Reservoir that will have the capability of discharging an additional 1,000 cfs through Sheckler Reservoir into the Carson Lake Wetlands. It is expected that TCID will release around 150,000 to 200,000 acre-feet of water during the precautionary drawdown period using the new waste way and existing irrigation canals to minimize residential flooding around Fallon. Nevada Department of Transportation had to close U.S. Highway 95 south of

Fallon for eight days earlier this month to install additional drainage culverts to protect the highway and pass water into Carson Lake.

Similar events are also taking place along the Walker River system. Topaz and Bridgeport Reservoirs are currently being maintained at about 70% storage capacity to allow for future runoff management. The Mason Valley WMA experienced moderate flooding in the fields and ditches in mid-February along the Walker River below the Yerington Weir when flows exceeded 1,400 cfs. WMA Crews are still assessing the damage but flows in the range of 2,500 cfs may be headed our way in the next few weeks which will likely result in more severe damage.

A record amount of Wildlife Heritage Program funding will be available for FY18 Heritage projects: \$785,913.92. In response to its annual request for Heritage project proposals, NDOW has received fifteen proposals requesting over \$800,000 of this funding. The Wildlife Heritage Committee and Wildlife Commission will review these proposals this spring and finalize which projects receive funding at their June Commission meeting.

In addition to the Heritage Program, the Habitat Division continues to manage the habitat conservation fee, upland game bird stamp, Question 1 (Q1) and duck stamp programs. A wide range of beneficial wildlife habitat restoration and monitoring projects continue to be conducted and completed under these programs. A new round of Q1 funding totaling almost \$1 million dollars will soon be available for NDOW project work.

To assist in the special reserve accounts project application and management a new Habitat Division Projects Database has been launched. This tool will provide a conduit to submit, manage, track and report on-the-ground project work generated thru the special stamps and fee funding programs.

The northern water development crew kicked off its build season on March 18 with a rebuild project at the Santa Fe Guzzler in the Gabbs Valley range. Additionally, the Southern Region is in full swing on their construction season and both crews will be actively working on volunteer projects through June.

The first sentence was handed down in a series of court cases resulting from a November 2015 elk poaching incident in far Northeast Nevada. Steven Frank Bennett was sentenced in Box Elder County, Utah, in a plea agreement on March 3 for two Class A misdemeanors for killing two mature bull elk in wrong units. Bennett, age 64, will pay fines in excess of \$16,000 and will likely lose his hunting privileges for 20 years. Bennett also received 18 months' probation and 40 hours of community service. This sentence is the result of a multi-year investigation initiated by Nevada Game Wardens and in cooperation with officers from Utah Division of Wildlife. The case has netted several other suspects who are awaiting court proceedings in Nevada and has spawned several other related investigations.

Diversity biologists are continuing to monitor and survey bat hibernacula for both winter use as well as surveillance for white nose syndrome. Over 40 mines were surveyed in the Virgin Mountains and Gold Butte areas, 14 mines in El Dorado County and over 90 mines in various locations in the western and eastern region. At several sites, bats are being swabbed for disease detection and we continue to collect environmental data at select sites throughout the state.

Nest monitoring of Golden Eagles has begun in Dry Lake and Spring Valleys. A total of 10 eagles are currently being tracked with satellite transmitters. Eagles have been confirmed at 14

territories in the Dry Lake Valley study site and we have verified breeding attempts in six territories. In addition to Golden Eagles, we are monitoring Peregrine Falcon breeding with 27 sites assessed in the last few months. In the Western Region, staff participated in the annual overwintering Bald Eagle survey at Sand Harbor at Lake Tahoe. In addition, we are actively monitoring the Bald Eagle nest in Washoe Valley and providing guidance to the Nevada Division of Forestry on avoidance measures for fuel reduction work.

The GIS group has been working on various efforts for the Department including the wildlife health and capture database development, winter raptor survey data entry tools, upland game and waterfowl harvest questionnaire development, Rose Guano cave bat data entry, and Wildlife Management Areas mapping for pond maintenance. Several GIS story maps are being developed including one for Columbia spotted frogs and one for bighorn sheep.

In February, the Nevada National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) held its 7th annual state tournament in conjunction with the World Archery Festival in Las Vegas. This year, 631 archers from 31 different schools participated. Schools from around the state including Las Vegas, Lockwood, Carson City, Fallon and Reno traveled to, or competed virtually, in the tournament. This tournament is a qualifying event for Nevada youth to participate in the National and World NASP tournaments. Staff also conducted 3 National Archery in the Schools Program Basic Archery Instructor (BAI) trainings. Teachers from 11 schools were certified to teach the National Archery in the Schools Program. Also nine personnel from Nevada State Parks were certified as Basic Archery Instructors as State Parks plan to expand archery programs at their facilities in Nevada.

Archery Education staff conducted 13 archery clinics around the state this quarter. These included two Introductory to Archery Clinics for women, four Introductory to Archery clinics open to everyone, two Arrows Building Clinics, two Bow Tuning clinics, and two Explore Archery programs for kids and one USA Archery Level I & II. During these clinics several NDOW conservation education volunteers were trained to help archery staff expand these types of clinics.

The Elko Sportsmen's Expo was held March 4 and 5, 2017, and with the help of almost every NDOW Division, Conservation Education staff set up and ran the Youth Activity Room at the show as well as a booth with the Operation Game Thief trailer on the main showroom floor. Booths in the Youth Activity Room included archery, Laser Shot, Wildlife Skins, Skulls, Horns and Antlers, Fly Tying, T-shirt Decorating and Hedwig the owl. More than 500 children participated in the activities over the two days.

Conservation Education staff, along with Game staff, have also been working with Elko County, Northeastern Nevada Stewardship Group, Bureau of Land Management, and the Bristlecone Chapter of the Audubon in preparation for the Elko County Sage Grouse Experience to take place on April 29 in Ruby Valley.

In February staff members assisted on an orphaned bear cub release. An associated video was produced showing the rehabilitation efforts at Animal Ark and being released. Footage was sent to the media and posted on the NDOW social media outlets.

Staff presented a hands-on table at the Fernley Science Technology Engineering and Math Festival focused on the research Nevada Department of Wildlife conducts using radio/satellite collars. We had furs, skulls, collars, and posters and were slammed the entire four hours of the

event. This was a new program for us to present, and it was very successful with the range of ages that came through the event. This has since been adapted into a PowerPoint presentation for more formal programs. It is estimated that more than 700 people attended the event. Wildlife education staff will be speaking at Mineral County High School, Sparks Heritage Museum, the Elko Outdoor Expo, and the Future Farmers of America statewide natural resources competition

Southern Region Conservation Education personnel continue preparations for the Clark County Fair April 12-16. Planning also is underway for the 2017 Outdoor Education Instructor Academy at Echo Canyon State Park. That event will take place May 19 - 21.

The Southern Region Wildlife Education Coordinator conducted a Birds and Migration workshop at the Clark County Wetlands Park and guided a Wildlife Walk at the McCullough Hills Trailhead in Henderson.

An interpretive program conducted by the Southern Region Wildlife Education Coordinator at the Lake Mead National Recreation Area was attended by 70 children and 17.

B Public Works Contracts – Deputy Director Liz O'Brien
A report will be provided on public work contracts awarded by NDOW in the previous year.

Deputy Director Liz O'Brien said the report has been submitted in support material. Public Works contracts awarded from July 17, 2015 through Feb. 28, 2017. She said Public Works completed work on Valley Road necropsy lab and relocation of the Elko storage yard. The balance of the list are projects that are still in progress or at near completion, such as the Spring Creek Rearing Station, Gallagher wood stoves, well repairs and drilling at Key-Pittman and Mason Valley, and stairs at Mason Valley.

C Litigation Report – Deputy Attorney General Bryan Stockton

DAG Stockton said two updates: Walker River appeals will be heard during the week of Aug. 28 through Sept. 1, in Pasadena, California. Motion filed by DAG Ward was granted to dismiss Sooy appeal.

11 Nevada Department of Wildlife Project Updates – Secretary Wasley – Informational
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 additional detail in addition to the summaries provided as part of the regular Department Activity Report and are intended to educate the Commission and public as to the Department's ongoing duties and responsibilities.

Secretary Wasley said this is actually a two part item as it goes along with the field trip scheduled after public comment today. He said the field trip's purpose is to showcase cold blooded species found in the nearby desert. Biologist Jason Jones will be presenting the context of the field trip.

Biologist 4 Jason Barnes said he is the only reptile biologist for NDOW. He is assisted by many volunteers who assist him in his work. The main body of work done is using volunteer based tracking. Twenty Gila monsters are being tracked. Biologist Jones said in the western U.S. Nevada has the most hobby collection of reptiles due to Nevada regulations and the same for commercial collection of reptiles. He said Gila monsters across their range are poached as they

are highly coveted. Nevada is targeted by collectors due to the diversity of reptiles and a large number of species. (Presentation exhibit file)

12 Public Comment Period

Stephanie Myers, of Las Vegas, said as we know there are three options to testify at the Nevada Legislature – testify in favor, or against or neutral. What some people would like to know are the rules about testifying as neutral during Senate Natural Resources meeting. If someone wants to testify “for” or “against” a bill that is fine, but if you say you are testifying as neutral and then give strong arguments “for” or “against” that is patently dishonest. Wildlife Commissioners represent all of us as trustees for the public trust, and they are not appointed as advocates for Safari Club or any group. Perhaps the reason you can’t testify “for” or “against” is before the board has voted, but if you do provide testimony to the legislature, you are representing yourself as an individual and not as a Commission representative. To disguise testimony under the cloak of neutral on behalf of the Commission when it is not neutral should not be acceptable to any of us.

Friday, March 24, 2017 – Tour will begin at the Close of Agenda Item #12

Commission Tour – Informational

The Commission will tour an area in southern Nevada with wildlife significance. Informational presentations will be made at several sites but no action will be taken by the Commission. The public is invited to participate but will be required to provide their own transportation. The group will depart from the meeting location: Clark County Shooting Complex, 11357 N Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas.

The Commission was shown illegal pitfall traps located in the Amargosa Valley.

Meeting adjourned for tour at 2:40 p.m.

Saturday, March 25, 2017 - 8:30 a. m.

- 13 Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call of Commission and County Advisory Board Members to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) – Chairman Wallace

Chairman Wallace called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Roll call of Commissioners: All Commissioners present at roll call except Commissioner Young – Commissioner Young arrived later at 8:50 a.m.

CABMW Roll Call: Glenn Bunch, Mineral; Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt; Gil Yanuck, Carson; Chad Foster, Douglas; and Steve Marquez, White Pine.

- 14 Approval of Agenda – Chairman Wallace – 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.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. COMMISSIONER HUBBS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 8 – 0. COMMISSIONER YOUNG ABSENT.

- 15 Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence – Chairman Wallace and Secretary Wasley – 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.

Commissioner Barnes said he has a comment relative to article published in Elko newspaper that was critical of the Wildlife Commission's season setting regarding Area 7 elk hunts. The article said the Commission ignored the Elko CABMW recommendations. Last night he looked at the recommendations and compared it to the minutes from the meeting, and the Commission did exactly what Elko had requested in their recommendations, except for one omission that was a cow hunt. Overall, the Commission followed the recommendations given to us. Yesterday he received an email from Chairman Bert Gurr stating he sent a letter to NDOW requesting an explanation why the Commission did not follow their recommendation.

Chairman Wallace and Commissioner McNinch both thanked the Department for the informative tour yesterday of pitfall traps and the presentation on reptile collection. Commissioner McNinch recognized Jason Barnes, Officer Boden, and the volunteer (Steve) who assisted him. He said action may need to be considered by the Commission to remedy the illegal take.

- 16 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.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, provided timeline document of issue in Eastern Region involving landowner incentive tags:

Ken Wellington contacted and lodged a complaint with Director Wasley on November 2015 following a denial of access from an incentive tag recipient.

- a. Ken Wellington was told by Director Wasley that the matter could be handled "in house."
- b. Wellington also contacted, then Wildlife Commission Chair Jeremy Drew and forwarded NAC statue that was in question, expressing concerns about a violation on NAC.
- c. No further communication occurred with Mr. Wellington about the concern raised
- 2) In June of 2016, Mr. Wellington informed, Clark CAB Chair Paul Dixon about the issue. At the June 2016 Commission meeting in Elko, Mr. Dixon, expressed concerns that the complaint lodged by Wellington, had not been properly addressed to both Jack Robb and Tony Wasley. Mr. Dixon was assured the matter was being handled and resolved.
- 3) In September of 2016, Wellington requested a list of incentive tag recipients.
 - a. The same recipient that had denied access had again received incentive Elk tags in violation on NAC.
 - 4) In November 2016, Wellington was again denied access from the same recipient. Wellington gave NDOW the two public land parcels within the recipients private land.
 - 5) This concern lead to a meeting with NDOW and Mr. Dixon (via phone) in November 2016. In the course of this meeting it was discovered that incentive tag agreements between the recipient and NDOW did not follow NAC, therefore the recipient could not be punished as set forward by Statute.
 - a. In this meeting, NDOW assured both Mr. Wellington and Mr. Dixon that the land owner recipient would be advised of the access issues, and a resolution would be obtained and communicated to the public before the 2017 tag application process.

- b. NDOW committed to put a note to future elk tag holders of the access points for the public lands thru the land owners property on the tag application form or in an attached file that the public could access.
- c. No further communication occurred with Mr. Wellington or Mr. Dixon about progress on the path forward discussed.
- 6) In February 2017 Mr. Wellington contacted NDOW to check the status of the landowner incentive tags. NDOW said the meetings with the landowner was scheduled in the next two to three weeks.

Commissioner Young arrived at 8:50 a.m.

- 17 Second Reading, Commission Policy 26A, Transparency – Division Administrator Brian F. Wakeling – For Possible Action
The Commission will conduct a second reading of Commission Policy 26A, Transparency, and may take action to suspend, amend or repeal. At the Feb. 11, 2017, meeting the Commission voted to suspend Policy 26A until such a time the Administrative Procedures, Regulations and Policy Committee (APRC) can revise and renumber the policy to be consistent with Nevada Revised Statutes and all wildlife data.

Division Administrator Wakeling presented the Policy and asked for any questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Hubbs asked if question if NDOW is trying to be transparent with what we are doing, the Department should not have to disclose the specific locations.

Administrator Wakeling said that is correct and the Department still has the opportunity and intent to be transparent. Any of the information is available to anyone through a public records request; however there are some pieces of information requested that will not be disclosed consistent with legislative changes to statute.

Commissioner Johnston said the policy could be modified with the change to all survey data being posted online.

Commissioner Hubbs agreed with Commissioner Johnston and said her recollection was to change the policy to comply with the new law and not suspend the policy. Commissioners McNinch, Hubbs and Johnston recollect that the policy should be reinstated.

Commissioner Hubbs asked if today's action should be to amend the policy instead of suspending the policy.

Commission discussion of next steps.

Secretary Wasley read the recommendation from the memo: The Department recommends that the Commission vote to affirm its prior vote to suspend Commission Policy 26A. Transparency, until such time as the APRC can revise and renumber the Policy to be consistent with NRS and the Commission repeals the existing Policy or adopts a replacement Policy.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO REAFFIRM THE VOTE TO SUSPEND POLICY 26 A, TRANSPARENCY, UNTIL SUCH TIME THE APRC CAN REVISE AND RENUMBER THE POLICY TO BE CONSISTENT WITH NRS AND THE COMMISSION REPEALS THE EXISTING POLICY OR ADOPTS A REPLACEMENT POLICY. MOTION SECONDED BY CHAIRMAN WALLACE.

COMMISSIONER DREW SAID HE WOULD ADD FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO REPLACE TERM “REPEAL” IN MOTION WITH “AMEND.” COMMISSIONER MCNINCH ACCEPTED THE CHANGE TO MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 18 Workshop Commission General Regulation – For Possible Action Public Comment Allowed: Persons Wishing to Provide Comment on Regulations are Requested to Complete a Green Regulation Speaker’s Card and Present it to the Recording Secretary
Commission General Regulation 466, Partnership in Wildlife (PIW) Drawing, Changes to Nonresident Restricted Deer Tag, and Changes to Big Game Return Card Questionnaire Deadline, LCB File No. R140-16 – Management Analyst III Maureen Hullinger – Workshop/Public Comment Allowed
The Commission will hold a workshop to consider a regulation relating to amending Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation defines the term “main drawing;” revises the order in which the Silver State Tag drawing, PIW drawing and main drawings for tags are conducted; authorizes an applicant for a nonresident restricted deer tag to apply for a nonresident deer tag in the Partnership in Wildlife Drawing and the Silver State tag drawing in the same year; and revises the big game return card questionnaire deadline from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Deputy Director Robb said this regulation change to PIW tags was at the request of Washoe CABMW Chairman Sean Shea and the Washoe CABMW. Two reasons for the proposed changes would be to allow the losers to compete for a statewide tag, and believe the change will put more money in the Heritage Account by allowing those that did draw a tag to participate. He said there are a lot of changes in the regulation, some are modernizing language and there is a change to the time to get the return cards in. The order of the main draw will still be Silver State tag first then PIW.

Public Comment -

Chad Foster, Douglas CABMW, pointed out at their meeting that there is more clean up to be done. In Section 4, 2 (B), is omitted but down in Section 7, 8 (A), has same language as far as support to control predator and protect habitat. If you omit in beginning you may want to omit at end as well.

Steve Marquez, White Pine CABMW, said they had problems with this mainly in language in Section 9, 3 (B). White Pine action report: Board opposed to language; especially 9-3B - worded as **may apply** for a nonresident deer tag in the PIW drawing and the Silver State tag drawing in the same year. Suggest that by adding the word *not to* 9-3B so it would read as **May NOT apply** for a nonresident deer tag in the PIW drawing and the Silver State tag drawing in the same year would resolve the language issues.

Commissioner Drew said on page 3 we strike the fee required pursuant to NRS 502.253 for support of programs to control predators and protect wildlife habitat. Commissioner Drew said he is assuming we can do that but may be a question for the DAG. His other question is one that was in some of the CABMW reports, as to how this would work on a mule deer party tag.

Deputy Director Robb said the person in the party who drew the PIW tag would be out of the party.

Commissioner Drew asked if that is so, will there need to be language needed to clarify that. He would like that question answered before the next meeting.

Deputy Director Robb will follow-up to provide the answer.

Commissioner Drew said there is a misunderstanding by some of the CABMWs that there is a separate pool of nonresident PIW tags under deer.

Deputy Director said it is one bucket, both resident and nonresident.

Commissioner Drew said mule deer is confusing because you can apply as a party with both residents and nonresidents. He asked if in the past if the PIW draw was open to nonresidents.

Deputy Director Robb said PIW has been open to nonresidents in the past, but PIW was not open to the restricted nonresident guided hunts (NRGH) whom are not eligible to participate in the main draw as that was seen as “a second bite of the apple.” Representatives from Nevada Guides and Outfitters Association attended a Tag Allocation and Application Hunt meeting and requested eligibility for NRGH applicants. The change would allow NRGH applicants to be able to participate in Silver State and PIW – but still remain ineligible for the main draw.

Commissioner Drew said he understands White Pine CABMW’s concern and has never supported two bites of the apple in terms of NRGH applicants being allowed in the main draw, but does not necessarily have a concern with Silver State or PIW draws.

DAG Stockton said he cannot answer the earlier question about a PIW application being excluded from the \$3 fee. He knows that LCB reviewed the regulation.

Deputy Director Robb said the \$3 fee applies to Silver State tag.

Commissioner Drew said he would like an answer before next workshop: Can we exclude a PIW application from the fee? If we can, he is fine, just seems gray at this point. He said Douglas CABMW pointed out language pertinent to the main draw.

- 19 Commission Regulation 17 - 05, Amendment #1, Big Game Seasons 2017 – 2018, Nonresident Desert (Nelson) Bighorn Ewe Hunts – Brian F. Wakeling – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider Amendment #1 of the 2017 - 2018 Big Game Hunting Seasons and Dates, to specifically address nonresident Desert (Nelson) Bighorn ewe hunts that were inadvertently omitted at the February Commission meeting.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 17 - 05, AMENDMENT #1, BIG GAME SEASONS 2017 – 2018 NONRESIDENT DESERT (NELSON) BIGHORN EWE HUNTS. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 20 Commission Regulation 17 - 12, Migratory Game Bird Seasons, Bag Limits, and Special Regulations for Waterfowl and Webless Migratory Game Birds; Public Hunting Limited on Wildlife Management Areas and Designated State Lands – 2017- 2018 Season – Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider recommendations for seasons, bag limits, and special regulations for migratory game birds for 2017 - 2018 seasons and adopt regulations that comply with the proposed regulations framework for the 2017- 2018 hunting seasons on certain migratory game birds established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Commission will also consider rules regulating public hunting on Wildlife Management Areas and designated state lands.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme presented CR 17 -12 beginning at 9:15 a.m.

Mourning and White-Winged Dove

Public Comment -

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, asked about Eurasian collared doves?

Biologist Woolstenhulme answered that Eurasian population stable and no requirement to report as they are an unregulated species.

Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt CABMW, said his board agreed with all the Department recommendations.

Commissioner Drew noted some CABMWs had questioned the hunt's end date.

Biologist Woolstenhulme answered that it was changed several years ago.

American Crow

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE MOURNING AND WHITE-WINGED DOVE AND AMERICAN CROW BOTH AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER ALMBERG SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Special Youth Waterfowl Hunt

Commissioner Drew asked if license simplification passed, would these requirements be affected.

Secretary Wasley answered that the legislation has not been introduced yet, and if passed the programmatic aspect would not be in place for 2017, more likely 2018.

COMMISSIONER HUBBS MOVED TO APPROVE AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ducks and Mergansers, Page 3 through 6

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE ALL DUCKS AND MERGANSERS LISTED ON PAGE 3 THROUGH PAGE 6 EXCEPT SCAUP. COMMISSIONER BARNES SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Scaup and Snow and Ross Geese

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Swan

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER BARNES SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Wildlife Management Area Regulations

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE WMA REGULATIONS. COMMISSIONER HUBBS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 21 2018 and 2019 Commission Meeting Schedules – Secretary Wasley – For Possible Action
The Commission may take action to approve a schedule of meetings and locations for calendar years 2018 and 2019.

Commissioner Drew said change references to Lincoln County from Caliente. He said he has preference for Lovelock/Pershing County and other locations where CABMW members live who participate regularly at Commission meetings: Lovelock, Winnemucca, and Hawthorne.

Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW, said he appreciates the May meeting not being held near Armed Forces Day.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said ability to see other communities is helpful to CABMW members.

Fred Voltz said the Commission has had four years to sort out the video conferencing absence for easy access by the interested public to the Commission's activities and remains unable to do so. None of the rural locations proposed have video conferencing capabilities, which acts as a barrier to public participation, and needlessly increases travel expenses from the public treasury. There has been poor local attendance when meetings were held in Ely, Eureka and Yerington, among other rural sites, counteracting the claim that these meetings are held so the locals can participate. CABs have a poor attendance as well at urban and rural locations, so 'rewarding' those few who show up with Commission meetings in their remote counties generates more staff and public travel expense. People who live in remote counties cannot expect the same services as people who live in heavily-populated areas. The Legislative Counsel Bureau can make the Grant Sawyer Building in Las Vegas and the Carson City Legislative Building available so long as the Commission pays for staff overtime to operate the equipment. Expecting that video conferencing will be made available for "free" is unrealistic and unfair to those with the equipment and broadcasting capabilities. As Commissioners believe they are the ultimate experts on Nevada's wildlife because they have considerable experience as hunters, such claims are inconsistent with the statement that field trips are necessary for Commissioners to learn about Nevada's wilderness on the public's dime. Previously-used rationales for continuing to deny video conferencing are the stimulation of rural economies with rented hotel rooms and restaurant meals. It is not up to the public treasury to generate such economic activity. Communities need to figure out how to boost their own fortunes without public subsidies.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION CALENDAR: ALL PLACES THAT LIST RENO, ADD "/CARSON CITY" TO DESCRIPTION. MARCH 2018, SOUTHERN NEVADA IS SPECIFICALLY LAUGHLIN; JUNE 2018 PERSHING COUNTY; AUGUST 2018 LINCOLN COUNTY. JUNE 2019 MINERAL COUNTY AND AUGUST 2019 WHITE PINE. COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 22 Appeal – Nerces Himidian – For Possible Action
Mr. Himidian is appealing the extension of his revocation of license.

Chairman Wallace asked if Mr. Himidian is present today. No answer from Mr. Himidian. He said Mr. Himidian acknowledged by memo that he was aware that today was his hearing and by not appearing he has waived his appeal hearing. The decision of the Department stands.

Commissioner Johnston said for the record administrative code specifically addresses appellants failure to appear. If they fail to appear, the Commission may dismiss the appeal with prejudice.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED THAT APPEAL BE DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE FOR THE APPELLANTS FAILURE TO APPEAR PURSUANT TO NAC 501.179. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCNINCH. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 23 Future Commission Meetings and Commission Committee Assignments – Secretary Wasley and Chairman Wallace – For Possible Action
The next Commission meeting is scheduled for May 12 and 13, 2017, in Reno and 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 and add or dissolve committees, as necessary at this time. Any anticipated committee meetings that may occur prior to the next Commission meeting may be discussed.

Commissioner Drew said NBWC Legislative Committee meeting scheduled for April 12 and April 19 is the telephonic meeting to discuss legislation.

Commissioner Barnes requested May Commission quota setting item be on Friday if possible as he will not be able to attend on Saturday, May 13, 2017.

- 24 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.

None

Meeting adjourned 10:25 a.m.

Note: The meeting has been videotaped and is available for viewing at www.ndow.org. The minutes are only a summary of the meeting. A complete record of the meeting can be obtained at the Nevada Department of Wildlife Headquarters Office in Reno.