

**Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Meeting
Commission Meeting**

Approved Minutes – COMPLETE VIDEO OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE AT WWW.NDOW.ORG

The public is invited to attend and provide public comment from the following location:

Churchill County Chambers
155 N. Taylor St.
Fallon, NV 89406

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 two day meeting:

Chairman Jeremy Drew	Vice Chairman Grant Wallace	Commissioner Chad Bliss
Commissioner Brad Johnston	Commissioner David McNinch	Commissioner Paul E. Valentine
Commissioner Bill Young		

*Commissioner Mori Excused Absence

Secretary Tony Wasley	Deputy Attorney General Harry Ward
Recording Secretary Suzanne Scourby	Administrative Assistant III Jordan Neubauer

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

Deputy Director Jack Robb	Deputy Director Patrick Cates
Management Analyst III Maureen Hullinger	Chief Game Warden Tyler Turnipseed
Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling	Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne
Habitat Staff Specialist Matt Maples	Biologist 4 Kim Tisdale
Biologist 3 Travis Hawks	Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme
Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox	Management Analyst 3 Kim Jolly

Meeting Attendees

Don Sefton, Systems Consultants	Jeff Turnipseed, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited
Fred Voltz, self/general public	Judi Caron, Northern Nevada Safari Club
Don Molde, self	Elaine Carrick, No Bear Hunt Nevada
Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW* Chairman	Brad Block, White Pine CABMW
Doug Martin, Carson CABMW Chairman	Caron Tayloe
Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW	Butch Tamblyn, Washoe CABMW
Rex Flowers, self	Bob Rittenhouse, Douglas CABMW

*County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

Friday, August 7, 2015 – 1:30 p.m.

- 1 Election of Officers – Chairman Drew – For Possible Action
In accordance with Commission Policy #1 the Commission will elect a chairman and vice chairman.

Commissioner Drew opened nominations for the Commission's chair and vice chair.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH NOMINATED COMMISSIONER DREW FOR CHAIRMAN. COMMISSIONER YOUNG SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Drew accepted the nomination and said serving as chairman has been an honor.

COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION: COMMISSIONERS WALLACE, BLISS, JOHNSTON, MCNINCH, VALENTINE, AND YOUNG. MOTION CARRIED 6 – 0. COMMISSIONER DREW ABSTAINED, COMMISSIONER MORI ABSENT.

Chairman Drew called for nominations for vice chair.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH NOMINATED COMMISSIONER WALLACE FOR VICE CHAIR. COMMISSIONER BLISS SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Wallace accepted the nomination.

COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION: COMMISSIONERS DREW, BLISS, JOHNSTON, MCNINCH, VALENTINE, AND YOUNG. MOTION CARRIED 6 – 0. COMMISSIONER WALLACE ABSTAINED, COMMISSIONER MORI ABSENT.

- 2 Call to Order, Introduction and Roll Call of County Advisory Board Members to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) – Chairman Drew

Chairman Drew called for roll call of the Commission, Commissioners Layne and Mori absent. He said there has been no word from the Governor's Office, so he has assumed that Commissioners Layne and Young are still serving on the Commission at the pleasure of the Governor.

CABMW Present – Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW; Doug Martin, Carson CABMW; Butch Tamblyn, Washoe CABMW; and Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW; and Brad Block, White Pine CABMW.

- 3 Approval of Agenda – Chairman – 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 Drew said the documents were numbered incorrectly when we received them from the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB), Item #6C is actually #6D. The LCB number is R031-15 for the Arbitration Panel. Item #6D is actually #6C. The LCB number is R030-15 for the Awards, Issuance, and Use of Tags. The two regulations will be heard in a workshop again at the Las Vegas meeting in September to insure that they are correct and comply with Open Meeting Law.

CABMW Comment – None.

Public Comment – None.

COMMISSIONER YOUNG MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE TWO CHANGES CHAIRMAN DREW MADE. COMMISSIONER BLISS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED. COMMISSIONER MORI ABSENT.

- 4 Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence – Chairman – 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 Drew sent a letter to Governor Sandoval regarding the Department's exceptional performance in hosting the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) 2015 Conference in Reno. He read the letter for the record:

Dear Governor Sandoval, it is my pleasure to write to you today with high praise for the Nevada Department of Wildlife's (NDOW) exceptional performance in hosting the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) Conferences in 2015. The Department worked closely with WAFWA staff and contractors in hosting the mid-winter meeting in Las Vegas in January and the larger summer conference in Reno in July. As a native Nevadan, lifelong wildlife conservationist and sportsman, I was extremely impressed with NDOW's effort and execution in hosting these two large events. In the process, NDOW illuminated the greatness of Nevada, its wildlife resources and those responsible for conserving and managing those resources. Time does not allow me to convey all of the compliments and high praise that I received from representatives of the other western states and WAFWA Staff. Every time I received a compliment, I made sure that credit was given where it belonged, to Director Wasley and his staff. Due to their dedication and pride for our State, NDOW was able to convey and represent what we all love about Nevada. For that, I was truly Nevada Proud, and felt it important to convey to you!

- 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.

Doug Martin, Carson CABMW, briefed the Commission on the urban deer problem which may be due to the Waterfall fire as the deer have found food and water and are not leaving. A public service announcement has been completed regarding the growing urban deer problem, and he said eventually they will need to know a baseline of what the population is. After a population baseline is established a management objectives plan based on science and social issues will be done.

6 Commission General Regulations – Workshop/Public Comment Allowed

A Commission General Regulation 454, Firearm Carry During Muzzleloader and Archery Hunts, LCB File No. R007-15 – Chief Game Warden Tyler Turnipseed – Workshop/Public Comment Allowed

The Commission will consider permanent adoption of the temporary regulation which expires November 1, 2015, relating to the carry of a firearm in the field while hunting under archery and muzzleloader regulations, including language changes from Assembly Bill 136 of the 78th Legislative Session. The regulation will change NAC 503.142 and 503.144 to allow the carry of personal protection handguns while archery and muzzleloader hunting. The regulation was in response to input from sportsmen and AB 136 sponsored by Nevada Assemblyman John Ellison to allow the carry of firearms while archery and muzzleloader hunting, for protection from criminal activity and wildlife attacks. The temporary regulation was workshopped on November 14, 2014, and adopted on February 7, 2015, at the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meetings. The Commission discussed different alternatives at the workshop to handgun carry restrictions and the needs for archers to carry a handgun during archery only season. The language was updated to reflect the changes requested by the Commission by allowing a person to carry any handgun that is not scoped and has a barrel length less than 8". The language change clarified the type of handgun to be carried in the field during archery only season. Further language changes were added as a result of AB 136 to also allow handgun carry during muzzleloader season.

Chief Game Warden Tyler Turnipseed said this regulation was adopted as a temporary regulation. It was in response to sportsmen in Nevada and Assemblyman John Ellison. Assemblyman Ellison brought Assembly Bill 136 forward to put it into statute. The legislature adopted this same language including the barrel length and no scopes. This would make the temporary regulation permanent. It goes along with the bill that was passed this legislative session.

Chairman Drew asked about the "telescopic sight" which is different than the wording in the past. He asked if Chief Game Warden Tyler Turnipseed was comfortable with "telescopic sight" versus "scope."

Chief Game Warden Tyler Turnipseed said the Legislative Counsel Bureau changed the wording from scope to telescopic sight. The Department used the word scope because that is the term they are familiar with. The Department is comfortable with the wording change.

Chairman Drew asked about the LCB reference file number R107-14 and asked if there was a reason that it is not a NAC number.

Chief Game Warden Tyler Turnipseed said it was changed with a temporary regulation, he was not sure though.

Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Harry Ward said there is not a problem with the listing of the LCB number instead of an NAC.

CABMW Comment –

Paul Dixon, Clark County CABMW, said they discussed this many times. The CABMW is split on the vote. No recommendation due to the split vote. The CABMW members with the dissenting view believe that carrying handguns in the field will lead to problems. There may be people who abuse the privilege.

Brad Block, White Pine County CABMW, said this has been discussed at length a couple times within his CABMW. There was no dissent initially. Now, there is a question of why this is necessary. One person felt it was a second amendment right issue and everyone should be allowed to carry whenever they want. The CABMW voted unanimously to accept the language as written.

Public Comment – None

Chairman Drew said this ship has sailed. This regulation will be consistent with the state law that was passed in the last legislative session. The Department is comfortable with the changes. The regulation will advance to the September meeting.

B Commission General Regulation 455, Trapping Questionnaire Deadline and Trapping License Valid Dates, LCB File No. R008-15 – Management Analyst 3 Maureen Hullinger – Workshop/Public Comment Allowed

The Commission will consider permanent adoption of the temporary regulation which expires November 1, 2015, relating to trapping questionnaires and trapping license valid periods. The regulation will add language to specify the valid period of a trapping license as July 1 – June 30. The regulation amendment will also update the trapping questionnaire deadline language, changing the deadline from April 30 to May 31, making it consistent with other Department questionnaire language. The amendment includes adding authority for the Department to prohibit the purchase of a subsequent trapping license when a trapper fails to return a questionnaire. This amendment will allow the Department to administer the trapping questionnaire processes effectively in regard to the trapping seasons as established by the Commission, prohibiting sale of a trapping license until the previous year's questionnaire is provided. The regulation is intended to give trappers ample time to return their questionnaires but also provide an efficient license denial procedure if they fail to return their questionnaire. The temporary regulation was discussed in a workshop session on Nov. 14, 2014, and the temporary regulation was adopted on Feb. 7, 2015, at the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meeting.

Management Analyst (MA) 3 Maureen Hullinger said this is now a temporary regulation. This was implemented and it included extending the valid period of the current valid trapping license to June 30, 2015 to get the trappers through the change/transition period. Extended the deadline to May 31 and questionnaires were sent out in mid-April to all licensees related to the 2014 and 2015 license years with information on submitting questionnaires online. An email reminder was sent to all outstanding licensees in mid-May. The Department programmed the suspension aspect of the regulation. The outstanding trapping licensees who did not submit a questionnaire were put into a suspended status for the new license year, which began July 1. The only change since February is in section 2, subsection 2, "the Commission or the Department to suspend" we added "or the Department," so the Department will have the authority to suspend the licenses.

Chairman Drew asked if it was LCB's recommendation to leave "the Commission or the Department to suspend" for consistency.

Management Analyst 3 Hullinger said that was correct. It clarifies what the statute means. Chairman Drew asked about the last line of section 2, subsection 2. It says “A person who’s trapping license is suspended or whose right to acquire a trapping license is denied pursuant to this section may have the privilege reinstated.”

MA 3 Hullinger said that allows for if they have other issues in regard to the privilege that may keep them in a suspended status.

Chairman Drew said if there was another issue he assumed that it would not fall under this subsection as to the suspension. He asked if there was a reason it says “may” and not “shall.” If it was changed to “shall” there would be no ambiguity. He believes the subsection is specific to the questionnaire return.

MA 3 Hullinger said it can be changed to “shall” because it would be reinstating the purchase aspect.

Chairman Drew said it would not necessarily override if someone’s license was suspended for another reason. It would simply be if the questionnaire was not turned in.

DAG Ward said he does not have a problem with the word change. His only concern would be that someone would have a due process right to appeal this and that is set up.

CABMW Comment – None.

Public Comment –

Fred Voltz said there are a number of missing elements in this proposed regulation. The support material states the questionnaires were sent in mid-April with a reminder in mid-May. No information has been provided on the number of noncompliant trappers. How many still have not complied as of today out of the total number of licensed trappers? At this same meeting one year ago the non-target wildlife injuries and deaths caused by trapper’s activities was released to the public after considerable delay. The compliance percentage for trappers filing that report was in the 30 percent range, hardly an appropriate response. There is no knowledge about the accuracy of the data that was submitted. Self-reporting and self-regulating situations show that those who are regulated have a decided disincentive to fully report casualty counts and the problems if they fear negative consequences for their questionable actions. The recommended penalty in this regulation for non-compliance seems inappropriate and inadequate; a one year inability to apply for a trapping license. If trappers cannot complete the necessary reports by the stated deadlines the non-compliant person should be heavily fined and/or have their current licenses revoked immediately. Additionally, their ability to apply for any Department wildlife killing license should be suspended for a minimum of three years into the future. The same standards need to apply to other species killed by licensees when they have failed to accurately and timely report their activities and dead animal body counts.

Chairman Drew said to change “may” to “shall” as discussed earlier to remove any ambiguity, and to advance the regulation to the next meeting in September.

C Commission General Regulation 457, Awards, Issuance, and Use of Tags, LCB File No. R030-15 – Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling – Workshop/Public Comment Allowed

The Commission will consider a permanent adoption of the temporary regulation which expires November 1, 2015, amending license issuance and use clarification for elk incentive tags. Elk incentive tags were designed to be issued in association with "bull" hunts and seasons. Subsequent to initial NRS and NAC adoption, "spike" hunts have been developed, and "antlered" tags do not clearly denote the appropriate quota or season for which the incentive tags are intended. The amended formula will account for the harvest of "spike" elk, but identify seasons for incentive tag use; and other matters relating thereto. The temporary regulation was workshopped on March 20, 2015 and the temporary regulation was adopted on May 15, 2015, at the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meetings.

Administrator Wakeling said that this is a temporary regulation to be made permanent. There have been some changes over time with the way that antlered elk have been referred to. The changes in the NRS and the NAC have resulted in confusion as the Department started to develop additional hunts, specifically the spike only hunts. The spike only hunts seem to have much lower success. This has not affected any of the incentive tag holders. The proposed revision largely addresses the issues and tries to bring it back to the intent that was originally designed. The Department had originally proposed eliminating spikes entirely from consideration. The Commission asked that the harvest of the spikes be considered as part of the formula. That change was adopted through the temporary regulation.

CABMW Comment –

Brad Block, White Pine County CABMW, said one of the CABMW members noticed that it might cause confusion the way it was worded. The explanation is in the minutes of the White Pine County CABMW meeting. They agree with the entire regulation except for the definition of Total Spike Harvest (TSH).

Division Administrator Wakeling said that he has not seen the proposed change.

Chairman Drew said that the comment in the minutes says if the incentive tags are included it might inflate the quotas. We are only talking about the harvested animals and not the number of tags issued.

Brad Block, White Pine County CABMW, said it was just one word in a sentence.

Public Comment – None.

Chairman Drew thinks the concern from White Pine County CABMW is covered.

Commissioner Valentine said the recommended change to the definition of TSH is “The total number of spike elk harvested in spike-only hunts in the previous year in the unit of units within the management area or areas in which the private land is located.” They want to add “in spike-only hunts.”

Commissioner Johnston asked if the issue is the spike not being taken during the spike hunt.

Chairman Drew asked for someone to speak up if they were clearer on the suggested change.

Commissioner Valentine said it looks the same.

Commissioner Johnston read from the White Pine CABMW minutes and explained the change of adding “in spike-only hunts.” They are trying to make clear that the TSH would be limited to the total number of spike elk harvested in a spike only hunt rather than any antlered elk they could legally take a spike elk.

Chairman Drew said that makes sense and he is comfortable with the addition. He explained the change to be that the definition of TSH would be “The total number of spike elk harvested in spike-only hunts in the previous year in the unit of units within the management area or areas in which the private land is located.” The new language inserted is “in spike-only hunts.” He said the regulation advances to the next meeting in September with this change.

D Commission General Regulation 456, Special Incentive Elk Arbitration Panel, LCB File No. R031-15 – Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling – Workshop/Public Comment Allowed

The Commission will consider permanent adoption of the temporary regulation which expires November 1, 2015, relating to amending NAC 502.42283 by which the Commission may facilitate decisions by appointing or serving as the arbitration panel should arbitration of elk incentive tag awards become necessary; and other matters relating thereto. The temporary regulation was workshopped on March 20, 2015 and the temporary regulation was adopted on May 15, 2015, at the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meetings.

Administrator Wakeling said that this is another temporary regulation. This regulation was initiated by concerns brought by local individuals who had been involved with some of the arbitration processes. The way the arbitration process operated in the past required a local businessman, local livestock producer, and a local CABMW member. While those individuals were very familiar with the situations there was also difficulty dealing with personal relationships at that level. The process put stresses on individuals and they were uncomfortable, and he said he believes this request came from White Pine County. They submitted a letter requesting the Commission to consider some other approaches to the arbitration process. The arbitration process allows for the Commission to act as the arbitration panel or to appoint an arbitration panel. It can be a broader section of the state instead of the local community. It does not make it so personal. The Commission did have to address one arbitration concern this past June using this temporary regulation. The drafted language adds July 1. It also adds that the Commission will set forth the procedure for filing a claim and the process under which a claim must be resolved through arbitration and this has already been completed by the Commission.

Chairman Drew asked about the July 1 date and initiating any arbitration at the June meeting.

Game Management Division Administrator Brian Wakeling said that he does not see any issues with that. There was communication with the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB). Their initial wording made it look as though it could last a year following the claim. They were comfortable with this language and so is the Department.

CABMW Comment – None.

Public Comment – None.

Chairman Drew said to advance to the next meeting in September with no change.

7 Reports – Informational

- A Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Conference – Secretary Tony Wasley, Commissioners Drew, McNinch and Valentine
A report from the annual conference will be provided.

Secretary Wasley thanked the Commission for the recognition of the Department for WAFWA to the Governor. He thanked the Commission for their outstanding representation at WAFWA. The attendance at the conference was the highest it has been in the last five years. There was participation from federal partners such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, et cetera. He thanked Commissioners Drew, McNinch, and Valentine for their participation. He expressed thanks and gratitude for Department staff who worked extensively on WAFWA through the week. The theme was Landscapes in Transition. Plenary speaker George Gruell made a presentation of photo points in the west with broad appeal and broad interest capturing Landscapes in Transition. As the president, he recognized the Bi-State Sage-grouse conservation effort with the WAFWA President's Award. The award was received by several individuals and was emblematic of how we deliver conservation and epitomizes partnerships in conservation. He expressed heartfelt gratitude to Department staff and the Commission. The Department took the opportunity of WAFWA's location in Reno to expose staff to professional development through attendance at the conference.

Chairman Drew said he was chairman of the Commission Committee and he received much praise for the conference. He thanked Commissioners McNinch and Valentine for attending. Commissioner McNinch hosted an evening at his home. Nine states were represented at the commission activities. They had an agenda with oral and written updates from each state. They discussed the Arizona license simplification process, bighorn disease monitoring efforts, EPA water of US rule and the potential implications on wildlife management. They had a discussion with the executive director of WAFWA on the history of the Commissioners' Committee interaction with WAFWA and will try to reengage states that are not participating. Every state had their own challenges with their respective state legislative bodies. He provided an update on the Blue Ribbon Panel that was established to look at federal rules to broaden funding mechanisms for states, report will be forthcoming. The mid-winter is scheduled for San Diego and items were built on Blue Ribbon Panel, funding trends. All will be discussed at the mid-winter meeting.

Commissioner McNinch thanked Department staff and heard a lot of praise for the Department, and he too was exposed to different Department staff at the event. He said the Blue Ribbon Panel was discussed and they will have meetings in September and December with a report provided on different concepts such as excise taxes, energy fees, and corporate partnerships. Commissioners/Directors meeting had item and it would be nice to have everyone chip in. There is lot of concern with breaking down barriers and the vast majority who are supportive of wildlife, the middle group who want wildlife managed and to find a way for them to participate. The Department is good at recruiting employees but not keeping them. It has caused a conversation about different mechanisms. Arizona conducts human dimension work.

Commissioner Valentine thanked Director Wasley and the Department staff. He also thanked Commissioner McNinch and Chairman Drew.

Commissioner McNinch said Chairman Drew put together a comprehensive report in one night, and noted Chairman Drew's effectiveness in running the meeting.

Secretary Wasley said he would add thanks to Commissioner McNinch for hosting a dinner that started the conference. He pointed out the value to attending the meetings such as access provided to high level federal officials, and have been able to effect change through those contacts, such as allowing radio collars which was the result of pointed and specific conversation with Department of the Interior, there are opportunities to engage and network with peers in other states. There is also an opportunity to share science and develop unified front. He said all will be hearing more about the Blue Ribbon Panel, and explained that we have this North American model that we fund wildlife conservation, which is taking revenue on less than 10 percent to take care of the remaining species, which creates divide as to how we manage wildlife. The Blue Ribbon Panel is looking for new funding mechanism for species that do not pay for themselves. It is to get away from "us" versus "them" and be part of the North American model. Two NDOW employees were acknowledged with awards: Rich Haskins received lifetime honorary membership to WAFWA, and Jon Sjöberg received the Wildlife Professional of the Year award. USFWS Director Dan Ashe was there to see the ceremony and acknowledged the work done by Administrator Sjöberg with native fishes.

Secretary Wasley introduced new NDOW employees Jordan Neubauer and Alex Portillo.

- B Industrial Artificial Pond Permit and Mining Assessment Fee Regulations – Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne and Habitat Staff Specialist Matt Maples
An overview of the existing regulations governing the permit process and assessment fee program will be presented to provide a baseline understanding before future regulation modifications are sought.

Habitat Staff Specialist Matt Maples went through a PowerPoint presentation (exhibit file).

Commissioner Johnston asked if Department staff will be reaching out to the stakeholders for their input as they move forward.

Habitat Staff Specialist Maples answered yes, and that proposed regulations are being finished now with industry being included.

Secretary Wasley said they are aware and some of them asked for this modernization.

Chairman Drew asked if there was a timeline.

Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne said they will be coming with the proposed regulation change in 2016.

Commissioner McNinch asked how restrictive the amounts in the NRS are.

Administrator Jenne said that they are so restrictive that they are not going to touch the cap, cannot go above the \$10,000 cap, and they will work to bring in the businesses that are not paying the assessment.

Commissioner McNinch asked if this will turn into a legislative issue.

Administrator Jenne said staff believes they can get to where they want to be. After discussions with industry they will have a better idea.

Habitat Staff Specialist Maples said they are using this as a cost recovery. The fees will be based on minimum costs.

Secretary Wasley said the industry appreciates cost recovery, and the Department concern was subsidizing costs with sportsman dollars. Now certain industries are subsidizing others and need to broaden pool of those not paying.

Chairman Drew asked for an example.

Secretary Wasley said some lithium and saline concentration ponds are still required to be permitted but the fee assessment is based on ore processing. They do not process any ore; however there are impacts to wildlife. Those that are processing ore are subsidizing the permitting process for someone who is concentrating saline through a series of ponds.

Commissioner McNinch said the NRS does not reference ore; it only references impacts to wildlife.

C Nevada Drought Update –Fisheries Division Administrator Jon Sjöberg, Western Region Biologist 4 Kim Tisdale and Western Region Biologist 3 Travis Hawks
Department staff will provide an update on the ongoing drought conditions affecting fisheries in Northern Nevada with a presentation on management strategies for the Truckee River through extended drought conditions. Updates on drought impacted fisheries in other areas of Nevada may be included in this presentation.

Biologist Kim Tisdale and Biologist Travis Hawks presented a PowerPoint (exhibit file).

Chairman Drew said he knows it has been a tough summer and he appreciates all of the outreach activities.

D Resource Enhancement Stamp (RES) and Dream Tag Raffle Tickets – Deputy Director Patrick Cates and Don Sefton, Systems Consultants
An overview of the RES and Dream Tag program, including recent changes in sales process, will be provided. A report on RES and Dream Tag sales trends since inception of the program will also be provided.

Deputy Director Cates provided historical data on the Dream Tag Raffle.

Commissioner Johnston commented that it sounds like the LCB and Treasurer made issues and now NDOW has a situation where raffle ticket sales are down. Did money ever go where it was not supposed to go?

Deputy Director Cates said money always went where it was supposed to. The issue was with LCB with the money passing through our accounts.

Commissioner Bliss said the Department was not able to handle the ticket money, but you can handle the Resource Enhancement Stamp (RES) money. It is state law that it comes right to the Department. Part of the language requires that they have to have the RES to purchase a ticket. Wouldn't that be part of the conflict?

Deputy Director Cates said that it is a gray area. LCB said it is too close to being involved. They did not have a problem with the RES money coming to us.

Commissioner Johnston said that LCB and the Treasurer was making an issue out of nothing and making it more complicated for the Department. The raffle ticket sales went down.

Don Sefton, Systems Consultants, went over a PowerPoint presentation (exhibit file).

Commissioner Bliss said that an issue that has come up this year through the draw was how the RES was the first question when applying. He said multiple people bought the stamp and did not know if they had to buy it to be part of the draw. One individual was applying for his son and he thought if he checked no on the RES it might hamper his chances of drawing a tag. It caused a lot of confusion, and there must be a better way to clarify what you are purchasing as it is nonrefundable.

Don Sefton said the RES is identified as optional on the website. People are fairly superstitious about the draw. The RES is for marketing and the dream tag program. He suggested broadening the Department's connection with the public and they would participate.

Chairman Drew said he also received calls from persons who did not know what the stamp was.

Deputy Director Cates said next year they will need to look at placement to make sure everybody understands what they are buying even though it was clearly identified as optional.

Commissioner Johnston asked if there was a way to figure out a way to buy raffle tickets as part of the application hunt system. He does not know the solution and does not want to take the stamp off as that will further reduce sales.

Deputy Director Cates said he feels like they should continue to sell the RES in the application hunt system. Be more careful as to where it is placed. There is no way to go back.

Commissioner Johnston asked if there could be a separate second payment.

Deputy Director Cates said yes and they talked about that. He agreed with the Treasurer's Office that public money should not be deposited into private account.

Commissioner Drew asked if there is anything limiting two credit card swipes.

Don Sefton said the credit card gateway staff said no. No one allows two purchases through a single website with two separate merchants. It is not done. He said he did not get an answer if it could be done.

Commissioner Johnston asked if you could have two separate payment screens.

Don Sefton said they said no, not through one website. You can complete the transaction and go to another website and do it, which is basically what we are doing with the stand alone.

Commissioner Johnston clarified that it was the website not the screen.

Deputy Director Cates added that the controller's office tried to find a solution but came back with the same response.

Commissioner Bliss asked if the account was spent down each year.

Deputy Director Cates said funds used for staff time and marketing, and it has not been spent down every year. Last year there was an ending balance of \$56,000. The money was for administering the program.

Commissioner Bliss asked if there was money available because there were projects that were not funded through the Heritage Committee as there were not have enough funds. He thought the money could be used to add to the projects and people may be more inclined to purchase the stamp if money were used for projects.

E Humboldt County Elk Management Sub-Plan Update – Commissioners Drew and Mori and Game Division Administrator Brian F. Wakeling

The Humboldt County Elk Management Sub-Plan Steering Committee held its first meeting on June 30, 2015, and a subsequent meeting on July 28, 2015. A brief summary of the meetings will be provided as well as a report on the Committee's progress.

Chairman Drew said the committee had its first meeting on June 30 and the second meeting July 28. The chairman is Eddie Booth of Winnemucca. Both meetings have been productive. Ken Gray was there and very helpful. The first meeting initiated setting up technical advisory committee with assignments. Maps developed with habitat designations for elk such as high, low, and medium. A working draft plan was started. There was a lot of good interaction occurring. The first draft will be provided to the Commission at the February Commission meeting. The committee will meet on the last Tuesday of every month at 2 p.m. at the Winnemucca Inn in Winnemucca, Nevada.

Administrator Wakeling said Chairman Drew covered the progress the committee has made to date. Chairman Booth has done tremendous job managing the committee of 14 members. They have a good, solid framework to start with. It will be more challenging in the coming months.

Chairman Drew said their planning area covers game management area 3.

F Public Work Contracts – Deputy Director Patrick Cates

A report will be provided on public work contracts awarded by NDOW in the previous year.

Deputy Director Cates reviewed the public works contracts (support material). All state contracts go through formal approval by the state board of examiners, except for public works contracts. The Department is exempt from having to go through the department of public works to administer a public work contract. The Department was not reporting the contracts to any public body so they want to start bringing them to the Commission meetings, maybe twice a year to improve transparency.

Chairman Drew appreciates the report.

G Department Activity Report – Secretary Wasley
Secretary Wasley will provide a report on recent Department activities.

Secretary Wasley provided update on the Sage Grouse Land Use Plan. Flesh out a database to track projects. Range wide, looking at a decision signed by USFWS on or before September 30. Record of decision will put the land use plan into effect. Legislation passed prohibiting spending money to publish a notice of rule listing if listing is warranted; by September 30 they are supposed to make the finding. Sagebrush Ecosystem Council meeting next week and are continuing to the implementation of the state's Conservation Credit System. Many of the states' comments were largely dismissed by the BLM, but there is room to continue discussions.

New NDOW Headquarters – With the lease approved by the Board of Examiners in early July, the demolition of the nearly 27,000 square foot facility in south Reno is underway. Operations Division staff are working closely with the State's Leasing Services and with the landlord's project manager to ensure the new headquarters facility will meet our needs. We anticipate a move-in date of November or later.

New Winnemucca Office – in the near future the Winnemucca staff will be moving into a much larger office at our Winnemucca location. In coordination with Division of State Lands, the Department has been assigned the facility previously occupied by JOIN staff (Jobs Opportunities in Nevada). This new office is located on our existing property, just across the parking lot from our current office. We will share the office with about a dozen Nevada Department of Transportation employees.

Game Division staff attended a bighorn sheep respiratory disease investigation training in Ft. Collins, CO sponsored in part by Wild Sheep Foundation and coordinated by the WAFWA Wild Sheep Working Group and Wildlife Health Committees. NDOW veterinarian Peri Wolff helped to teach the course and one biologist from eastern and southern Regions attended the training. The purpose of the training was to train agency biologists, managers, and wildlife health workers so they could return to their respective agencies and pass the information and training along to others. This was one of the most informative and valuable training/workshops that he has attended in over 22 years with NDOW.

NDOW chaired the annual Late Season regulatory meetings in Reno during the week of July 20, 2015. The Pacific Flyway Council met on Friday, July 24, 2015, when late season waterfowl seasons were set.

Data collection on the furbearer and upland-waterfowl questionnaires recently concluded. Furbearer data has been entered by Game Administrative staff. Analysis of these data will commence in August and will be followed by production of the Status book.

Wildlife health and other Game Division staff in conjunction with USDA, WS is discussing the logistics of implementing the 2015 Plan for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Surveillance in Waterfowl in the United States. The plan calls for 1,360 dabbling ducks to be swabbed for AI in Nevada waters over the next year.

The Game and Habitat Divisions have worked together to provide informational correspondences to big game tag holders who have special unit boundaries, unit groups that recently were split, and to spike elk tag holders clarifying spike elk definition with photos.

Game Division staff continues to coordinate with Nellis Test and Training Range (NTTR) liaisons on the proposed fall bighorn capture to conduct disease surveillance and monitor herd connectivity.

Game Division staff met with stakeholders to discuss our short term goals and projects for bighorn sheep restoration and monitoring.

The Nevada Sage-grouse Lek Survey Database was updated with most 2015 lek count data except for a few consultant type data that was not available at the time of completion. This is the earliest that the lek count database has ever been updated and was expedited at the request of the assessment team for WAFWA for updating the range wide, management zone and state population trends. The 2015 preliminary results for sage-grouse lek counts are as follows:

- 965 leks surveyed of which 559 were active;
- 1,835 visits made to these leks;
- 11,907 males observed for an average of 21.3 males/active lek which represented an overall lek attendance increase of 19%.

Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa presented on the Bi-State Sage-grouse Distinct Population Segment and the successful demonstration of conservation for the species into the future at the WAFWA Plenary Session.

The Game Division has initiated a retrospective analysis of aerial survey data of mule deer data in 2 hunt units (1-low density herd and 1-high density herd) on July 24, 2015 to examine possible improvements. A meeting will be scheduled to discuss results among Game Division Staff prior to developing recommendations and meeting with Field Biologists.

An exclusion fence was completed in the headwaters of Crowley Creek in Humboldt County after more than ten years of planning. The fence is designed to exclude livestock from the headwater spring source that feeds Crowley Creek; an LCT water. Unfortunately, it is feared that all resident LCT have been lost.

A gill net survey was completed at Wall Canyon Reservoir in northern Washoe County. Stable populations of self-sustaining brown trout and smallmouth bass were found in addition to hatchery stocked rainbow trout.

After being dry for 10 months and subsequent dredging, bullfrogs were recently found in Turley Pond in Dixie Valley (Churchill County). The species pose a threat to Dixie Valley tui chub and Dixie Valley toads in the area. The origin of the bullfrogs remains unknown. Bullfrog eradication efforts continue.

Habitat and fish population surveys were completed on Coleman, Snow, and Big creeks in Humboldt County.

A population survey of the entire length of Third Creek (tributary to Lake Tahoe) was completed to delineate uppermost distribution of trout populations in the stream.

Population surveys of Hunter Creek and Dog Valley Creek (tributaries to the Truckee River) were completed. Healthy populations of rainbow and brown trout were found along with a suite of native non-game species.

A considerable portion of time and effort for Eastern Region fisheries personnel has been spent on the planning, preparation, and necessary pre-treatment activities required for the upcoming treatment projects at Bassett and Comins Lakes in White Pine County. Both reservoirs, tributaries, and associated wetlands will be treated with rotenone on two consecutive weeks in August to remove damaging populations of northern pike and carp. Pike were illegally introduced into Comins Lake in 1999 (likely from Bassett Lake) and quickly destroyed its renowned trout and bass fishery. By eradication of both waters, it is hoped that the project will eliminate pike from White Pine County for good and pave the way for the restoration of two valuable sport fisheries.

Columbia spotted frog surveys were completed in the Eastern Region.

Annual shad trawl surveys aimed to monitor forage production for the striped bass fishery in Lake Mead ended in June. Overall shad production was down from last year; however, numbers of larval shad were high enough that we are considering it a good year for shad production. Shad production should be ample for the Lake Mead striped bass fishery, and it should contribute to a strong striped bass fishery in the coming year.

Low water levels in Lake Mead have made some boat ramps difficult to launch from. National Park Service continues to improve boat ramp conditions and is currently working on extending the boat ramps at Hemenway Harbor at Lake Mead.

Fisheries staff has been busy in the field conducting numerous fisheries population and monitoring surveys for Toiyabe Columbia spotted frogs, Pahump poolfish, Pahrangat Valley native fishes, Railroad Valley native fishes, native amphibians, sport fish surveys on artificial aquatic habitat in Lake Mohave, Devils Hole pupfish, black bass young-of-year abundance, and native amphibians.

Muddy River biologists have been busy conducting intensive fisheries community sampling and river mapping of the Muddy River in preparation of our nonnative removal efforts this coming fall and winter.

An emergency contract was recently approved to fix an inoperable hatchery building water pump at Gallagher Hatchery in Ruby Valley.

Work continues on the "Fishing Nevada" brochure. After a few additional edits by Fisheries staff, it is hoped to be finalized soon.

Three Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Rovers are still working: one at Topaz Lake, one at South Fork Reservoir and the Southern NV Rover has been working at Cave Lake, Kirch and Eagle Valley. AIS Staff is working on revising budgets and submitting to FWS for approval for three Lake Mead AIS grants from past years. Lake Mead AIS staff have been averaging around 8-10 decontaminations per week. Good news is that California AIS inspection stations this year have hardly rejected any Lake Mead decontaminated boats thus far in 2015.

The Habitat Division has recently conducted interviews for three positions and should soon announce the selected individuals for the; Western Region NDOW/NRCS Private Land biologist position, the SR water development lead crew position, and the ER habitat biologist position.

Habitat Division staff continue to work with USFWS, Great Basin Bird Observatory and Otis Bay Ecological Consultants on the Walker River restoration project through parts of the Mason

Valley Wildlife Management Area (WMA). This pilot project is designed to restore river sinuosity and improve riparian habitat conditions. As part of the project, Otis Bay Ecological Consultants has also completed approximately two miles of nature trails for hiking and wildlife viewing on the southern portion of the WMA. The USFWS recently closed the comment period for the project EA and it hopeful that we should have an FONSI in the near future.

Habitat staff and field biologists have been working on modifying and updating the internal permitting guidance document and developing proposed Industrial Artificial Pond Permit regulation changes.

The Bald Mountain Mine Expansion EIS is anticipated to be released for a 45 day public comment period sometime later this month. Bald Mountain Mine is for sale.

Boating season is in full swing as we reach late summer. July 25th brought our 5th boating fatality of the summer with a particularly gruesome incident in which a man was sucked into a boat prop on Lake Mohave near Laughlin. Las Vegas Metro Police Dive Team assisted our wardens with the recovery.

Two prior fatalities in separate incidents earlier in the summer on the Colorado River at Laughlin both involved collisions between personal watercraft (PWC). All four of the PWC's in these two fatal accidents were rentals rented on the Arizona side of the river where requirements are much less stringent for safety briefings given to renters.

The two Laughlin wardens have kept especially busy with these three fatals, as well as numerous other accidents. This work load will become more difficult as one of the two wardens gave notice of resigning to go to another agency effective August 14th.

Lake Mead has also seen two fatal boat accidents, both of which involved people voluntarily leaving their vessels to swim and then subsequently drowning.

Lake Tahoe saw a collision between two PWC's on August 1st that resulted in a severe injury. The victim is in intensive care with a prognosis unknown. This accident also involved two rental craft and alcohol is suspected to be a factor.

Urban wildlife calls continue to escalate with coyotes in the Reno/Sparks area topping the problem list. Many of these calls are from distraught pet owners whose dogs have been killed by coyotes that jumped their backyard fence. Providing a response to these calls to the satisfaction of the reporting party is nearly impossible.

The three wardens that graduated from the academy in May are in their final phases of field training and will hopefully be in their permanent duty stations near the end of August. These duty stations are Winnemucca, Eureka, and Battle Mountain. Four more newly hired wardens graduated from the academy on July 23rd and are now starting field training. They will be in their duty stations of Tonopah, Fallon, and Las Vegas in approximately 3 months. We are also currently conducting interviews in an attempt to fill 3 vacancies around the state as we continue to chase the mythical concept of being fully staffed.

July was a busy month for conferences and workshops. Staff participated in the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) summer conference, attending several committee meetings including the CHAT Wildlife Council, the Non-game/Endangered Species Committee, the Western Bird Conservation Committee, the Wildlife Chief's meeting, and finally

the Climate Change Committee. Concurrently, other Diversity staff attended the week's-long Pacific Flyway Council meeting, discussing many bird conservation issues including newly proposed changes to the regulation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Staff also attended the Joint Meeting of the Ichthyologists & Herpetologists where staff provided several presentations and organized training workshops. All of these meetings were held in Reno, NV.

During the last period, several of Diversity's Federal Aid grants were approved, including amending existing SWG grants with additional federal funding, time extensions, and modifications within scopes of work. These SWG grants provide the majority of the Division's funding. Two U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Section 6 grants were also approved to continue funding the Division's work on endangered birds, desert tortoise, and Gila monsters.

In partnership with the Fisheries' Division, staff organized and participated in a week long Columbia spotted frog survey. This annual monitoring brings together diverse partnerships including U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, in addition to several NDOW employees from both Fisheries and Diversity. Additional field work has included bat surveys, breeding bird surveys, raptor surveys, and shorebird surveys. A pika blitz has been scheduled for mid-September and in preparation, several staff will be conducting preliminary surveys in northern Washoe County later this month. Finally, a small bat blitz has been organized for mid-August to assist in the National Park Service with inventory and banding efforts in Great Basin National park.

A webpage was created to address issues specific to fishing the Truckee River which has been impacted by drought conditions. The "Rest Your River" website and accompanying outreach campaign encourages anglers to fish before 11am and only when temperatures are below 68 degrees.

The Eastern Region staff hosted the 25th annual Angel Lake Kids Fishing Derby on July 11 with approximately 150 youth and just as many adults participating.

Sections of the Verdi Nature Trail have been restored and rebuilt including the removal of noxious weeds and invasive plant species.

The volunteer program coordinator is finalizing a report on volunteer time contributions for Fiscal Year 15. Preliminary numbers indicate over 450 volunteers have contributed more than 10,000 hours of time. A finalized version of the report will be made available.

The 2015 Nevada Hunting Guide was mailed directly to tag recipients and is now available at license agents and NDOW offices. The guide is completely revised with upgraded content and fully updated sunrise/sunset tables.

The Upland Game Seasons, Limits and Regulations brochure and the Furbearer Seasons, Limits and Regulations brochure have been delivered to license agents and NDOW offices.

The Conservation Education, Game, Wildlife Diversity and Law Enforcement Divisions collaborated to define the essential functions for two new Conservation Aid positions that will serve as a single point of contact for urban wildlife conflict calls. Recruitments are underway to fill the positions.

BEAR Logic Month activities designed to educate the public on living in bear country concluded in July. To meet the goal of BEAR Logic Month, NDOW put together a series of public service

announcements (PSA), press releases and a resource page on the NDOW website at www.ndow.org/Bear. In addition, the outreach effort consisted of five email blasts, one weekly during the month of July covering topics such as the responsibilities of living in bear habitat, when to contact NDOW, reducing attractants and non-lethal management tools.

Commissioner Johnston liked the hunting guide. He said it is a very nice product.

Commissioner Bliss asked what the timeframe on restocking Comins and Bassett Lakes.

Secretary Wasley said he was not sure. He suspected there would be follow up surveys to verify it was effective.

H Litigation Report – Deputy Attorney General Harry Ward

Deputy Attorney General Harry Ward said he does not have any additions to the document he provided (support material).

8 Public Comment Period

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, asked if information about bears is sent to residents of Incline Village. It seems that there is still ignorance on how to deal and live in bear country.

Fred Voltz, read the following statement:

The justifiable furor surrounding Cecil the lion's death in Zimbabwe highlights the archaic and destructive effects of trophy hunting. As emblematic as Cecil's death was of gratuitous killing's pointlessness but for wall ornaments and bragging rights around a bar stool, further research of this event leads right back to Nevada. Safari Club International (SCI) has allegedly launched an investigation into the events surrounding Cecil's death only after a total of three suspect wildlife deaths perpetrated by one of its now-suspended U.S. members. Yet it was troubling to learn that SCI's northern Nevada chapter is supported by Carl Lackey as a private citizen, even though his Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) job is to protect and maintain bears in their natural habitats and away from human settlements. More troubling yet, the NDOW, a publicly-funded entity, is a supporter of SCI. NDOW, and by extension this Commission, also support with publicly-paid staff, and perhaps dollars as well, the Maison Ortiz camp, which principally focuses on training youth how to kill wildlife. If the Commission has excess funds for making charitable contributions and can allocate staff time to such wildlife killing-focused groups, why aren't organizations such as the U.S. Wolf Refuge, any number of wild horse protection organizations, No Bear Hunt Nevada, and Nevadans for Responsible Wildlife Management, among others, receiving equal support from the Commission and its department? How many other wildlife killing organizations are NDOW and this Commission giving money and staff time to support? In other words, where is the balance in supporting organizations which advocate the preservation of wildlife versus those intent on maximizing wildlife killing? In the alternative, since 'killing' is not in the title of the Commission or department, staff time and/or money contributions should cease to organizations that are committed to wildlife killing convenience and opportunity for their membership and sponsors. Your mission as a Commission has been clearly outlined in the NRS: it is to protect, manage and perpetuate wildlife species, not unilaterally encourage its death.

Judi Caron, member Northern Nevada Chapter of SCI, thanked NDOW employee Alex Portillo for his outstanding work.

Meeting Recessed at 4:50 p.m.

Saturday, August 8, 2015 – 8:30 a.m.

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

Chairman Drew called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Commissioners Layne and Mori absent.

CABMW Members present at roll call: Brad Block, White Pine CABMW; Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW; Butch Tamblyn, Washoe CABMW; and Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW.

- 10 Approval of Agenda – Chairman – 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 WALLACE MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 7 – 0. COMMISSIONER MORI ABSENT.

- 11 Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence – Chairman - 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 Drew said Jeanette Dean has contacted him regarding having coyote killing contests. He will address this issue on a future agenda.

Commissioner Johnston said he received an email from Darin Elmore regarding the definition of spike as he has participated on a spike hunt. He would like to add that there could be a fork on one antler. Adding a definition would assist in compliance and identifying spike bull.

- 12 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, said a group met in southern Nevada regarding litter at urban ponds in Clark County.

- 13 Proposed Process for Increasing Transparency and Public Involvement in Establishing Harvest Management Objectives – Game Division Administrator Brian F. Wakeling – Informational
The Commission will be briefed on a process to identify all harvest management objectives in a single document, seek public input on those objectives, and obtain comparative data from other states, and corroborate with scientific literature on harvest. This process does not intend to change harvest objectives, but place them in a single document so that biologists, CABMWs, Commissioners, and the public have the ability

to review. Where clear guidance may be lacking, appropriate harvest management objectives may be developed to guide future management.

Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling presented a PowerPoint (exhibit file).

Commissioner McNinch said he likes where the Department is headed.

Commissioner Young asked for the process to develop this. How will it start? Who will lead it?

Administrator Wakeling said this is primarily something he intends to lead. He will not do it without leadership buy in. They will follow the steps outlined in the PowerPoint. Pull together an internal team and consolidate. Some things are updated more frequently than others. Hold public meeting and conduct surveys. Summarize and provide exact copies.

Commissioner Young asked if he did this in Arizona.

Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling said yes.

Commissioner Young asked what year it was started, how long it took, and what the end result was.

Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling said it was a long evolution. They were presented annually. It was done for at least 20 years. It was formalized in the early 2000s. Over the last few years it was seen as less contentious.

Chairman Drew said it would be helpful to have the guidelines consolidated. What would be the scope? The timeline is ambitious, but are we talking about starting with big game or include upland game and waterfowl?

Administrator Brian Wakeling said his intent would be to include all of those. It is an ambitious undertaking. The timeline might be amended. The Department will keep the Commission updated.

Chairman Drew said his expectation is not to let haste get in the way of doing a good job.

Secretary Wasley commended Administrator Wakeling for taking on this challenge. There are internal challenges. Will benefit the Department, Commission, and the public.

Commissioner McNinch said there are a lot of differences in opinion in the room. This is a big step and it is progressive. Might have small term losses. They have his support.

14 Nevada Department of Wildlife Project Updates – Secretary Wasley – Informational
The Commission may choose to have project updates from miscellaneous projects.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Lee Turner presented a PowerPoint (exhibit file).

Commissioner Young requested that a similar presentation be done on areas in southern Nevada.

Commissioner McNinch asked about the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) process. Have shelf ready projects. Huge batches of NEPA projects.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Turner said that is how it is being done. Look at big landscapes and get NEPA done and take another project.

Commissioner McNinch said it is encouraging.

Chairman Drew said that the Carson District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) actually put the pine nut respiration project in one EA and it is the right time frame for the 25,000 acres. He asked about the private land owners in the pine nuts.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Turner said they are doing a project right now on private land to the west of the crest.

Chairman Drew said they are looking at potential land exchanges. He asked if Lee Turner has had any discussions or similar presentations with Douglas CABMW, Carson CABMW, or Lyon CABMW.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Turner said he has not.

Chairman Drew said he would recommend it. He also saw an email on an Intermountain West Joint Venture Tour on in August.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Turner said he planned to attend the field trip.

Chairman Drew said to give them a shameless plug if anyone happens to be interested.

Commissioner Bliss said he appreciates the work being done as the projects benefit all wildlife. He said he is familiar with projects in his county and sees the benefit with the grasses and wildlife using the areas.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Turner said Jake Tibbetts has done a great job and is the force behind the projects in Eureka County.

Commissioner Bliss said Lee Turner's work is why they were able to do the amount of work that was done in Eureka County. Two groups got together with the same good intentions.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Turner said CABMW Members Cory Lytle and Shane Boren have spearheaded projects as well.

- 15 Commission Regulation 16 - 01 Migratory Waterfowl and Webless Bird Seasons, Bag Limits, and Special Regulations for Waterfowl and Webless Birds, Public hunting limited on Wildlife Management Areas and Designated State Lands 2015 - 2016 Season – Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider recommendations for seasons, bag limits, and special regulations for migratory waterfowl and webless game birds for the 2015–2016 seasons and adopt regulations that comply with the proposed regulatory framework for the 2015–2016 late and early hunting seasons on certain migratory game birds established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Commission may also consider changes to rules regulating public hunting on Wildlife Management Areas and designated state lands.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme reviewed the Special Youth Waterfowl Hunt.

CABMW Comment – None.

Public Comment –

Don Molde asked if the Department staff could specify if any of the recommendations are different than the maximum recommendation allowed under the federal guidelines. What tailoring, if any, have we done with federal guidelines relative to Nevada's drought conditions.

Chairman Drew asked if Russell Woolstenhulme could let the Commission know where the Department stands with the federal framework.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme said the federal framework allows for two days for the Special Youth Waterfowl Hunt.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNT AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN COMMISSION REGULATION 16-01. COMMISSIONER VALENTINE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 7 – 0. COMMISSIONER MORI ABSENT.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme reviewed the Ducks and Mergansers as well as Scaup. The season is the maximum allowed under the federal framework.

Commissioner McNinch asked why scaup is included in the ducks and mergansers season and the separate as well.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme said scaup are included in the general duck limit of 7, but they have a set bag limit and a shorter season.

Commissioner McNinch asked about the south zone.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme said it could read that way. The Department's Law Enforcement division said there has not been any problems arise with the interpretations of the descriptions.

Commissioner Valentine asked if there was a reason there was a three day difference between the duck season and the scaup season in the south zone.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme explained the difference.

CABMW Comment – None.

Public Comment – None.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE DUCKS AND MERGANSERS AS WELL AS SCAUP AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN COMMISSION REGULATION 16-01. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 7 – 0. COMMISSIONER MORI ABSENT.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme reviewed the Coots and Common Moorhens, and Common Snipe.

CABMW Comment – None.

Public Comment – None.

COMMISSIONER BLISS MOVED TO APPROVE COOTS AND COMMON MOORHENS AS WELL AS COMMON SNIPE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN COMMISSION REGULATION 16-01. COMMISSIONER YOUNG SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 7 – 0. COMMISSIONER MORI ABSENT.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme reviewed the Canada Geese and Brant as well as White-Fronted Geese. The season is the maximum allowed under the federal framework.

CABMW Comment – None.

Public Comment –

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said public comment asked if the drought in Nevada is part of the decision-making. The federal framework is set on breeding grounds that are not affected by Nevada's drought.

Don Molde said his understanding is the federal framework is the maximum allowed, and his understanding is states are to tailor their recommendations to their local conditions. Nevada is in a drought and if there is no need to tailor conditions then he does not know when ducks get a break.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme said waterfowl will bypass Nevada if there is no place to land and feed. With no ducks, hunters will reduce their days in the field. In 2012 it was estimated there were 3,900 waterfowl/duck hunter that took 51,000 ducks. In 2013 that number dropped from 3,900 to 3,600 and the number of duck dropped to 38,300. In 2014 there were 2,700 duck hunters and 30,000 ducks. People find better things to do with their time when they are not successful with duck hunting. No water, no marshes, and very little duck hunting. Waterfowl are at all-time highs especially geese which are double and triple the objectives. By leaving entire length of the season with the large number of birds the Department is hoping to optimize on any conditions.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE CANADA GEESE AND BRANT AS WELL AS WHITE-FRONTED GEESE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN COMMISSION REGULATION 16-01. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 7 – 0. COMMISSIONER MORI ABSENT.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme reviewed Snow and Ross' Geese as well as Falconry seasons for migratory game birds.

Chairman Drew asked for an explanation on Snow and Ross' Geese and closures.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme said Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge is closed because there is a small population of trumpeter swans. Kirch, Mason Valley, and Scripps are closed due to nesting seasons.

Chairman Drew said the change is on the closed portion of the Wildlife Management Areas. The dates should be February 20, 2016 to March 9, 2016.

CABMW Comment – None.

Public Comment – None.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE SNOW AND ROSS GEESE AS WELL AS FALCONRY SEASONS FOR MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN COMMISSION REGULATION 16-01 WITH THE DATE CHANGE FOR SNOW AND ROSS' GEESE CLOSED IN THE KIRCH, MASON VALLEY, AND SCRIPPS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS, AND THE WASHOE STATE PARK DURING FEBRUARY 20, 2016 TO MARCH 9, 2016. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED. COMMISSIONER MORI ABSENT.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme reviewed Swan.

CABMW Comment – None.

Public Comment – None.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE SWAN AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN COMMISSION REGULATION 16-01. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 7 - 0. COMMISSIONER MORI ABSENT.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme reviewed the public hunting limited on wildlife management areas and designated state lands.

CABMW Comment – None.

Public Comment – None.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE PUBLIC HUNTING LIMITED ON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS AND DESIGNATED STATE LANDS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN COMMISSION REGULATION 16-01. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 7 – 0. COMMISSIONER MORI ABSENT.

- 16 Annual Big Game Release Plan for Fiscal Year 2016 – Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox – For Possible Action
The Commission will review and may take action to approve the Department's proposed annual big game release plan for fiscal year 2016.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox reviewed the annual big game release plan for fiscal year 2016.

Commissioner Valentine asked for clarification on the augmentation.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cox said he met with the Southern Region and they are looking at Lone Mountain for the source stock. The decision protocols were started last year. Sampled animals.

Chairman Drew said he had many questions on source stock. He asked if as of today it was Lone Mountain. If it is not Lone Mountain you are trying to stay within the metapopulation.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cox described the locations within the metapopulation.

CABMW Comment – None.

Public Comment –

Jeff Turnipseed, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited, said they understand the intent of the release. His board currently has a funding request from UNR that relates to this effort. Hopefully the experiment goes well and we are back next year discussing release sites.

Commissioner McNinch said there will be risks that cannot be managed and is comfortable with this as more than an experiment. He said there may be something that goes wrong.

Chairman Drew said he agreed with Commissioner McNinch and appreciates caution with the release being cancelled in Tonopah.

Commissioner Johnston said if you do not do this release then there will not be a comfort level with future releases.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cox said we will probably see more and more herds that have exposure and do not want paralysis by analysis, move forward and collect information.

COMMISSIONER VALENTINE MOVED TO APPROVE THE BIG GAME RELEASE PLAN AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER BLISS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 7 – 0. COMMISSIONER MORI ABSENT.

- 17 Future Commission Meetings and Commission Committee Assignments - Secretary Tony Wasley and Chairman - For Possible Action
The next Commission meeting is scheduled for September 25 and 26, 2015, in Las Vegas, 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 as necessary at this meeting.

Secretary Wasley provided agenda items:

Set/Revise Fishing Regulations
Workshop/Action on four Commission General Regulations from this meeting
Recognition of Commissioner Layne
TAAHC Meeting will be scheduled and a report will be provided
An item for the November meeting is the harvest objectives

Chairman Drew said there may be changes to some committee assignments.

CABMW and Public Comment –

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, asked for a briefing from the Department on the listing for sage grouse.

Commissioner Young said he will seek re-appointment to the Commission.

Elaine Carrick read the following statement about item #13 on the agenda:

Having all the information in a single document regarding how many animals have been killed for management objectives will make it easier to read and review. However, it also states here that "this process does not intend to change "harvest" objectives." So, the public can look at the numbers of animals to be killed, but there is absolutely nothing they can do to make any suggestions or changes. How is this encouraging public involvement? If public involvement is truly wanted, why wouldn't the public's input on these harvesting or killing objectives be considered? As an example, there has been a Black Bear Trophy hunt for the past four years. There has never been any scientific evidence given that killing 20 Black Bears every year is necessary to fulfill a specific bear management plan. The public has been involved by making their opposition known, but their involvement as opposition has been totally ignored. So, what kind of involvement is really wanted here? It certainly appears that a vocal involved public is not welcomed but rather a silent public involvement is what's desired. With the recent killing of Zimbabwe's beloved lion, Cecil, the public has expressed global outrage against trophy hunting. Surveys have shown that 75-80% of Americans are against trophy hunting. For the past four years, the public in Nevada has been very involved in expressing its outrage to the trophy bear hunt. You do have an involved public here. But no one is listening.

Fred Voltz read the following statement:

Past rationalizations for holding Commission meetings at remote sites have included "meeting the public" and "stimulating the local economies of rural areas." Tonopah, Ely and Eureka all lacked videoconferencing capabilities. The same applies to the upcoming meetings in Yerington and Minden. So, if the majority of attendees are in the greater Reno and Las Vegas areas, they must travel to these remote sites or be excluded from deliberations. Just two locals showed up at the recent two-day Eureka Commission meeting. No locals showed up at the Fallon meeting yesterday per the sign-in sheets except for an NDOW contractor. How much economic stimulating does a few score of hotel room nights generate for hard-scrabble rural areas? Shouldn't those areas be funding their own economic development programs rather than expecting state agencies to subsidize their existence? Grants are available through the governor's Office of Economic Development for such efforts. The amount of superfluous travel for many CAB members and NDOW staff, both in travel dollars spent and wasted time, should be enough encouragement to hold physical Commission meetings in either Reno or Las Vegas, with videoconferencing to Elko and Las Vegas or Reno. The public who regularly attend these meetings generally live in the Reno or Las Vegas metro areas; they should not have to travel long distances based on wrong-headed notions about where attendees live. Commissioners, CABs and NDOW staff should be appearing via videoconference rather than in-person if that site is the closest location to their homes. As for Committee meetings before the Commission meeting, there is telephone conferencing and the ability to connect via videoconference for those meetings as well. Let's see some smart business decisions as to the location and videoconferencing of all future meetings that save public funds rather than blowing money on unnecessary travel and pointlessly inconveniencing the majority of people who regularly attend these meetings, either voluntarily or as part of their jobs.

Don Molde said Ria Katz passed away, and he mentions Ms. Katz, as she used to attend the Commission meetings. He said her legacy is the regulation that mountain lion hunters are not allowed to kill females with kittens.

Meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Note: The meeting has been videotaped and is available for viewing at www.ndow.org. The minutes are a summary of the meeting. At the Department of Wildlife Headquarters in Reno is a complete record of the meeting.