

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Meeting
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Amended Agenda – *See Agenda Item #23 June 15, 2017

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

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 Grant Wallace	Vice Chairman Brad Johnston	Commissioner John Alberg
Commissioner Tom Barnes	Commissioner Jeremy Drew	Commissioner Kerstan Hubbs
Commissioner David McNinch	Commissioner Paul E. Valentine	Commissioner Bill Young

Secretary Tony Wasley
 Senior Attorney General Wayne Howle

Administrative Assistant III Lynn Walker

Nevada Department of Wildlife personnel in attendance:

Deputy Director Jack Robb	Deputy Director Liz O'Brien
Chief Game Warden Tyler Turnipseed	Conservation Educator Administrator Chris Vasey
Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Zahradka	Wildlife Staff Specialist Mark Farman
Upland Game Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa	Management Analyst III Maureen Hullinger
Fisheries Division Administrator Jon Sjöberg	Wildlife Staff Specialist Karen Vargas
Management Analyst III Jordan Neubauer	Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme

Others in Attendance:

Bob Rittenhouse, Douglas CABMW	Dave Stowater
Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW	Don Molde
Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW	Mike Reese, self
Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW	Stephanie Myers
John Hiatt, Clark CABMW	Dr. Paul Crawford, self
Paul Dixon, Chairman Clark CABMW	Jana Wright, self
Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW	Stephanie Myers
Brandon Buckles, self	Leonard Swedberg, On Point Guide Service
Bud Ogan, On Point Guide Service	Christine Garvin, Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn
Darrell Garvin, Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn	Donald H. Sefton, Systems Consultants
William Lexa	Ben Crawford, self
Patrick Donnelly, Center for Biological Diversity	Robert Gaudet, Nevada Wildlife Federation
Dan Redding	

Friday, June 23 and 24, 2017

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

Chairman Wallace called the meeting to order and conducted roll call. Commissioner Young absent at roll call; arrived at 11:02 a.m. Roll Call of CABMW Members: Paul Dixon, Clark; Bob Rittenhouse, Douglas; Sean Shea, Washoe; Glenn Bunch, Mineral; Joe Crim, Pershing; and John Hiatt, Clark CABMW.

- 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

(No audio recording. Microphones were not turned on)

Chairman Wallace said he would like to agenda item #7 at the call of the chair.

Public Comment - None

COMMISSIONER HUBBS MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. COMMISSIONER BARNES SECONDED THE MOTION COMMISSIONER BARNES NOTING THE EXCEPTION OF AGENDA ITEM #7. MOTION PASSED 8 - 1. COMMISSIONER YOUNG WAS 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.

(Microphone not on) Commissioner Barnes said he heard that the hunt books were not out soon enough. Three weeks ago the mid-year cattlemen’s meeting discussed damage to private property *(Audio Resumed)* with shed antler hunters. Commissioner Barnes said he knows the Commission discussed a shed antler collection regulation which would set a season for collection a few years ago. He said people in his industry would like the Commission to re-visit the shed antler regulation.

Commissioner Almborg said he has been approached by people to also have the trail camera regulation on a future agenda.

Secretary Wasley said he would like to make the Commission and CABMW’s aware of the CABMW workshop in conjunction with the August meeting. He said he would invite agenda items to be added to that workshop agenda. He said he will read and make sure the Commission is in possession of the following correspondence: Lands issue, which will be discussed tomorrow (Saturday, June 24, 2017); the Heritage tag vendor selection, which will be distributed to the Commission or read into the record at the appropriate time; email from one individual expressing concern for hunting in northeastern Elko County with concerns that the Wine Cup Ranch will eventually be fenced and deny access to hunters, that individual is not able to attend the meeting. If the Commission has not received that correspondence, he will make sure that they do. Lastly, he said long-term Conservation Education employees Chris Healy and Kim Toulouse retired from NDOW. Each served 30 plus years. Chris Healy had appeared in over 1,000 TV spots and over

5,000 radio spots. He wanted to make special mention of their retirement and noted that they will be missed.

- 4 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 that at their meeting a member of the public brought up issue that feral cows in the McCullough Range are destroying water supplies and damaging property. He said that feral horses are controlled by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and that the Department of Agriculture controls the cows. His assumption is that if feral cows on the range are destroying water and habitat used by wildlife, the Department should work on this. He would like to know if there is education that can be given back to the public of what is being done in those areas would be great.

Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW, said Walker Lake is up over nine plus feet. This morning there was a flow of 2,250 cubic feet per second into the lake. Thank you to the Department for their efforts and supporting what we do. Mineral County held a forum for people interested in Walker Lake which was attended by almost 200 people. The event lasted almost two hours. The Department made presentations at the event and fisheries personnel were quite knowledgeable.

- 5 Duck Stamp Request – Wildlife Staff Specialists Mark Farman and Mike Zahradka for Possible Action. The Commission will review and may take action to approve up to \$87,511 for projects submitted for funding from Duck Stamp funds.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Mark Farman from the Habitat Division briefly reviewed the highlights from support material for the Duck Stamp Program. The report briefly summarizes the progress made on the projects approved for FY17 funding. Page 10 has a summary table for projects seeking funding for FY18. The grand total of the amount requested is \$87,511. Page 11 answers the question of what happens to the balance in the Duck Stamp Account if the Commission approves the full amount of projects. We would still have a very healthy balance of \$323,608. The proposals for FY18 are found beginning on page 12.

He said Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Zahradka will highlight projects on NDOW's Wildlife Management (WMA) Areas.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Zahradka from the Habitat Division said he oversees the Wildlife Management Areas. He provided an update on the completed projects in FY17 and how they tie into FY18. Duck Stamp Funds are utilized to improve soil conditions in fields in the Overton WMA. At the Carson Lake Wetlands, with the assistance of Ducks Unlimited and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, funds were used to enhance portions of the Rice and Cabin drains. Sediment was dredged from canals and new water control structures were installed. Currently, the ditches sit under six-feet of water due to this year's excessive spring run-off. The main project for the WMAs is in FY18 and it is the completion of a wetland enhancement project at the Key Pittman WMA. Once that project is completed, attention will be focused on Overton Wildlife Area where a similar project will be done on the Pintail and Wilson Ponds.

Commissioner Johnston asked if the farming project for the Overton WMA is being farmed by someone who is leasing the property. He said we are going to use \$3,500 of Duck Stamp money to buy inputs and soil amendments, because the farm fields have suffered from a lack of appropriate farming strategies. Commissioner Johnston asked why we are letting the same person farm the ground if they are not doing it right. It should be part of the lease so that we do not have to come back and spend sportsman dollars to do what the farmer should be doing.

Mr. Zahradka answered that the farming lease was incorporated into the Duck Stamp Program close to 10 years ago when Elmer Bull was the Habitat Division Administrator. That was when the lease was advertised, and the first time there was no interest from anyone wanting to farm on the Overton WMA. The second time it was advertised, the agreement was made that \$3,500 from the Duck Stamp Program would be provided annually to help fund and offset the cost of improving the conditions of the fields. This has been going on at least six years. The lease agreements are five years. He said NDOW could change this arrangement if we want to the next time we advertise the lease.

Commissioner Johnston asked how much the farmer pays for the lease. Mr. Zahradka answered that it is set on a percentage of the crop. NDOW gets 25 percent of the product from the fields which are taken in standing wildlife cover and feed.

Commissioner Hubbs asked which projects address conditions that are the most severe and pervasive in the state i.e. what areas need to be rehabilitated the most.

Mr. Farman said that most of the WMA projects are for improving waterfowl habitat conditions such as pond leveling, and other wetland enhancements. Severe conditions is not the case since the WMA properties are typically the state's most valuable wetlands and most important waterfowl habitat. This is managing what we have as well as we can to maximize the wildlife value on those wetlands. These projects are for maintenance as well as enhancement.

Commissioner Johnston asked if the technician support is a new project. Mr. Farman said it is paying for a graduate student to band and track and analyze data for multiple years of past data tracking and banding work as well as any ongoing work that will go into FY18.

Commissioner Johnston is concerned that the Duck Stamp money is funding a stipend for a grad student rather than funding a project. Mr. Farman answered that the graduate student's work is part of an ongoing project and the statutes allow for monitoring and related research and data analysis.

Public Comment – None

Commissioner Johnston noted that he appreciates the explanation on the farm lease but is not sure if NDOW should make a five-year commitment for expenditure of Duck Stamp money on a lease agreement as the allocation of Duck Stamp funds is an annual process. He thinks it is a bad practice. Commissioner Johnston said before the lease is renewed he would like to see if the lease-holder could use their own money for field condition improvements instead of Duck Stamp funds. He understands that NDOW was trying to catch up the conditions to get a person to take the lease but after five-years, that should be caught up. He would like to look at it then.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON SAID WITH THAT EXPLANATION HE MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY18 DUCK STAMP PROJECTS AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE TOTAL SUM OF \$87,511. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCNINCH. MOTION PASSED. COMMISSIONER YOUNG WAS ABSENT.

- 6 Upland Game Bird Stamp Request – Wildlife Staff Specialists Mark Farman and Shawn Espinosa – For Possible Action – The Commission will review and may take action to approve up to \$335,094 for projects submitted for upland game bird stamp funds.

Mr. Farman said staff is recommending the expenditure of \$335,094 on new Upland Game Stamp projects. The program report [supporting material] shows that most of the projects are very important to Wildlife Staff Specialist Espinosa's Upland Game Bird Program. This is the first year we have totaled other funding sources that are being used on the same projects in the support material summary table. The Upland Game Bird Stamp funds are an important source of state match for

federal grants. Almost \$1.1 million worth of work is being done with only one-third of the money coming from the Upland Game Bird Stamp Program. The projects on the second page of the support material table include quite a bit of habitat work. If the Commission approves the full list of recommended projects, it would result in approximately \$325,000 remaining in the account. The report contains the FY18 proposals and he introduced Upland Game Staff Specialist Espinosa to highlight the upland game projects he manages.

Upland Game Staff Specialist Espinosa shared information on nine projects: The Sharp-Tailed Grouse Program was most successful in 2015 when we recruited about 44 chicks into the population. Over the course of five years, 212 sharp-tailed grouse were moved from southeastern Idaho to the Bull Run Basin in Elko County. This year, only 22 female sharp-tailed grouse are able to be moved due to the source population being lower and due to conditions in southeastern Idaho. In 2016 we were forced to move adult birds.

As part of the Mountain Quail Program we continue to move birds from Oregon into Nevada. During this last year, 88 Mountain Quail were moved into the Fish Creek Mountains in Lander County. We have had success with Mountain quail populations growing.

The Greater Sage-grouse Population Monitoring Project had two seasonal lek counts in White Pine County. Staff had 22 mornings of surveying, over 40 leks. Another project that was conducted through this project was the Fixed Wing Infrared Surveys. We used some of the Upland Game Stamp money as well as money received from the U.S. Forest Service to conduct infrared surveys in several mountain ranges. The results may have located up to 13 new lek locations. The project estimating Greater Sage-grouse vital rates had two control sites in Nevada that are being monitored. Nest success was dismal at both sites. We are going into our third year of intensely monitoring birds through the Bi-State Greater Sage-grouse Monitoring Program. Adult survival is about 72 percent annually and the brood survival rate is at about 63 percent. There are projects monitoring the effects of the removal of Pinyon and Juniper and landscape-level treatments on Greater Sage-grouse in southeastern Nevada. It is difficult to capture birds in some of those sites. Mr. Espinosa said NDOW partnered with the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) on a late brood rearing habitat project, which looked at linking survival of chicks with late brood rearing habitat conditions. With this model we are able to see how habitats have changed from 1985 to 2016 with areal imagery. Virginia Mountain is another one of our study sites. We had little information on how birds operated on that mountain. Through the results of this study we found there was poor nest success there largely due to the fire that occurred in 1999. We did raven renewal and saw some improvement.

There are a few new projects proposed this year. One is for dusky grouse ecology and management in White Pine County. The Corners for Quail Program will be a pilot project in the Quinn River Valley. Fifty acres of Canada wild rye and blue flax will be planted in a landowner's corner pivots. (See the support material for more information.)

Commissioner Drew acknowledged that the dusky grouse project is a four-year, three field season project and asked if it will cost \$7,500 annually and if it will go up.

Mr. Espinosa replied that if anything, the budget will decline because the first year is usually the most expensive year as a result of start-up costs.

Commissioner Drew asked how we are able to work the USFWS Greater Sage-grouse Wildlife Restoration Grant into a dusky sage grouse project.

Mr. Espinosa clarified that was a typo and that we are actually using the Upland Game Management Grant.

Commissioner Barnes brought up the Eastern Nevada weed control, saying he thinks it is important to do seeding in Harrison Pass.

Commissioner Hubbs mentioned that someone had contacted her regarding questions about hunting seasons and upland game birds. There were issues from the public regarding starting those seasons at a different time.

Chairman Wallace said that will be discussed on Saturday.

Commissioner Valentine asked what Mr. Espinosa's feeling was on sharp-tailed grouse and when he felt that project would end.

Mr. Espinosa replied that what we saw in 2016 was unfortunate; however they would now like to augment that population for another two years.

Commissioner Johnston said it is incredible that spending \$335,000 in Upland Game Stamp money can lead to a total of almost \$1.4 million being spent by leveraging the Upland Game Stamp money.

Public Comment –

Paul Dixon, Clark CAB echoed Commissioner Valentine that the Upland Game Bird Program is the penultimate example of how to put together funding. Any questions from Clark County CAB were answered in the support material. He would like to know how weeds are affecting wildlife.

Sean Shea, Washoe CAB had a couple questions on sharp-tail grouse. In 2016, 32 of the 40 radio-marked birds released had perished. Is it because of the season or does there need to be a new technique used? In Mason Valley, they lost 10 birds that were in a pen and were unsure how.

[Commissioner Young arrived at 11:02 a.m.]

Patrick Donnelly, Center for Biological Diversity, appreciates the studies for Pinyon and Juniper removal on Greater Sage-grouse populations. He would like to encourage that a wide variety of metrics be studied. The wholesale clear cutting of Pinyon and Juniper for sage grouse habitat has a variety of effects on the overall ecosystem. Managing it for one species may not always be beneficial to overall environmental health.

Commissioner Hubbs asked if we have had negative consequences of the chaining of trees.

Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne answered that is something evaluated by staff. The Department does take into consideration other trees and wildlife species and those that are historical. It is a matter of what we do wholesale in cooperation with other agencies because what we do is not keeping up with the expansion of Pinyon-Juniper woodlands.

Commissioner Hubbs asked if we use the clear cut methodology of removal.

Administrator Jenne said we do not. A mosaic pattern is used not a block of downed trees or wholesale removal of trees.

Mr. Espinosa said from a sage-grouse standpoint to clarify, the focus of which is named Phase I and Phase II pinyon-juniper is actually small trees that are encroaching onto a sagebrush bench or scattered trees. There is no focus on old growth stands which are named Phase III stands, as no return on investment because there is no understory plant growth that will respond. He also noted that the Joint Fire Science Program is the monitoring body on treatment of weed infestations, but we do

not have a lot of information on how weed infestations are affecting wildlife populations. Mr. Espinosa said there is a little threshold with respect to sage-grouse as once we exceed 7 percent of canopy or cover of cheatgrass, there is a decline in use of that area by sage-grouse. Regarding the question from Washoe CABMW in regard to the high mortality of sharp-tail grouse in 2016 the reason is the majority of birds moved were adults, very few yearlings. The adults move more to find home range and when birds move a lot they are at risk of predation; hence, the preference for yearling birds who do not move as much. In regard to the 10 mountain quail he does not know what happened to them.

Secretary Wasley explained that the scientific literature for pinyon-juniper estimates that there is over three times the amount of pinyon-juniper then we had 150 years ago. The amounts that we are removing do not even put a dent into the rate of expansion of the larger amount of pinyon-juniper that is grown.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE THE DEPARTMENT'S UPLAND GAME BIRD STAMP PROGRAM PROJECTS FOR FY18 AS PRESENTED. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ALMBERG. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7 Commission Regulations – Adoption/Workshop – For Possible Action – Public Comment Allowed

Commission General Regulation (CGR) 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 – For Possible Action

The Commission will consider adopting amendments to 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. A workshop was held in Las Vegas on March 25, 2017. The Commission directed the Department to hold a second workshop due to questions the Commission had: 1) What are the effects on the applicant and the party if the applicant is drawn for the PIW tag. 2) Why are the predator and/or other fees not collected when applying for PIW. The nonresident process for applying for PIW was also discussed. A second workshop was held for this regulation on May 13, 2017. The Commission did not have any recommended changes and all questions were adequately answered. The Commission asked to proceed with an adoption hearing.

Management Analyst III (MA III) Maureen Hullinger of NDOW's Data and Technology Division explained that CGR 466 proposes to change the order of the drawing regarding PIW and the Silver State tag. This change will allow PIW applicants to all participate in that portion of the draw versus just the unsuccessful “switches” which it currently is doing. It also addresses an eligibility opportunity for the restricted nonresident guided tag applications allowing them to be able to apply for those deer tags in the Silver State Tag drawing and the PIW. Lastly, it changes the return card deadline to 11 p.m. Two workshops held, questions have been answered adequately, and is requesting Commission adoption of CGR 466.

Commissioner Drew had a question from past Commissioner Bliss: With the PIW now being eligible to those folks that applied, would their new bonus point for that draw apply? In his mind it shouldn't because PIW would be associated with that year's application. He wants to make sure though that they are not having an extra bonus point going into the drawing for PIW when all of the regular draw folks have not yet earned that bonus point.

MA III Hullinger explained that regulation excludes Silver State and PIW from the bonus point program. Bonus points are restricted to those antlered deer categories in the main drawing. They will not be utilizing bonus points. They go in with one draw number if they apply for those options. The restricted nonresident guided deer applicants come out of the main draw and are only eligible for Silver State and Partnership in Wildlife.

Public Comment – None

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 466 LCB FILE NO. R140-16 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER VALENTINE. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8 Wildlife Heritage Committee – Commissioner and Committee Chairman Wallace

A Heritage Committee Report – Chairman Wallace – Informational – The Commission will hear a report on the committee’s recent meeting.

Chairman Wallace reported that the Heritage Committee meeting was held this morning [June 23, 2017]. The Committee’s recommendations to the Commission for the Heritage tag vendors were finalized, all of the new Heritage Projects were recommended for approval by the Commission, as were the extension requests and the funding reallocations.

A 1 Heritage Project Extension Requests – Chairman Wallace – For Possible Action
Pursuant to NAC 501.340, the Commission will review committee recommendations and may approve requests for extension of projects approved in previous years.

Chairman Wallace said the projects discussed were: Heritage Project 13 - 08, request for extension of Duck Creek Valley Sage-Grouse Habitat Improvement Project; extension request for Project 15 - 02 Respiratory Pathogens in Mountain Goats: Assessing Effects on Recruitment and Transmission Risks to Sympatric Bighorn Sheep; Project 16 - 03 Sierra Front Winter Mule Deer Habitat Improvement Project; Project 16 - 06 Mule Deer Corridor and Survival Analysis; Project 17- 02 FY17 Big Game Capture Monitoring and Disease Surveillance Program; Project 17 - 03 Spruce Mountain Restoration Project; Project 17 - 05 Delineation of Desert Bighorn Lambing Habitat and Ram Dispersal Patterns; and Project 17 - 06 Sheep Flat Habitat Enhancement. The Heritage Committee voted to approve the extension requests on all of those listed.

Commissioner Drew said that in 13 – 08 the Duck Creek Valley Sage Grouse Project notes that NDF crews could not complete the work because of the Little Valley Fire. Is that because NDF is burning slash piles on an indefinite burn ban? He said he brings that up because it is FY13 and a few years out, and in his opinion he prefers money to be spent for on the ground projects. Commissioner Drew asked if we will be able to finish that project this year.

Mark Farman, Staff Specialist, explained that Commissioner Drew is correct that NDF crews were not available because NDF was not allowed to burn slash piles due to the Little Valley Fire. The NDOW Project Manager of this project, Lee Turner, has assured him that the rest of this project should be finished during this fiscal year.

Commissioner AlMBERG said he is familiar with that project and that NDF’s intent is to grind it up this fall.

Public Comment – None

CHAIRMAN WALLACE MOVED TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE HERITAGE COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE PROJECT EXTENSION REQUESTS FOR PROJECTS 13 - 08, 15 - 02, 16 - 03, 16 - 06, 17 - 02, 17 - 03, 17 - 05, AND 17- 06. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

A 2 Heritage Funding Reallocation – Chairman Wallace – For Possible Action

The Commission will review committee recommendations and may approve reallocation of \$175.75 in unused Heritage funds from previously approved projects to any other previously approved projects from the same fiscal year.

Chairman Wallace explained the reallocation of the funds. In FY16 there was a remaining balance of \$134.42 from two separate projects to be reallocated, \$70.42 from Project 16 – 04 Atlanta Road Sage-grouse Habitat Improvement, and \$64 from Project 16 – 09 the North Schell Pinyon-Juniper Removal Project. The committee approved reallocating that total of \$134.42 to Project 16 – 03 Sierra Front Winter Mule Deer Habitat Improvement Project. There was also a remaining balance of \$41.33 from Project 14 – 04; however there are no projects still active from FY14 for money to be reallocated to; therefore the only reallocation is of the \$134.42 to Project 16 - 03.

Public Comment – None

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE REALLOCATION RECOMMENDATION OF THE HERITAGE COMMITTEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$134.42 FROM PROJECTS 16 - 04 AND 16 - 09 AND REALLOCATING THE AMOUNT TO PROJECT 16 - 03. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER YOUNG. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

A 3 Fiscal Year 2018 Heritage Project Proposals – Chairman Wallace – For Possible Action

The Commission will hear the recommendations from the Heritage Committee and may take action to approve 2018 project applications for funding up to \$785,913.92.

Chairman Wallace explained that the Heritage Committee recommends funding all proposed projects submitted for the amounts requested except for Project 18 - 02. Project 18 - 02 would be funded at \$66,313.92. That difference between the project's original request of \$100,000 and \$66,313.92 will be made up for by a donation from Nevada Bighorns Unlimited, Reno. With this donation, all of the projects will be fully funded.

Public Comment –

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, asked why was some of the funding for 18 - 08 Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge Collection Ditch and Ponds Habitat Improvement Project is not from the Duck Stamp account. If there was more Duck Stamp money Nevada Bighorns Unlimited wouldn't have to add more money.

Staff Specialist Mark Farman said they originally considered adding a small amount of Duck Stamp money to contribute to that project, but after speaking with NDOW's Waterfowl Program Manager, it was determined that the benefit of the project from the perspective of trout versus waterfowl, that even though there is a waterfowl benefit, it was decided that the percentage was so small, that a more simplified approach was used. Mr. Farman also said NDOW's Habitat Conservation Fee account is funding more than one-half of the project's total costs as well.

Commissioner Hubbs asked what the percent of projects funded is compared to projects submitted.

Mr. Farman explained that all the proposals will be funded this year. Over the last five years there were two instances where proposals were not funded.

Commissioner Drew thanked Nevada Bighorns Unlimited for donating the shortfall on the overall project requests. He said he had the same question as Washoe County, and unfortunately that \$100,000 in seed purchases will be needed by the end of this year's fire season. He appreciates everyone for making that request and funding it fully; unfortunately we are going to need it.

Commissioner Johnston commented that as you go through the Heritage projects we sometimes do not take the time to realize that between Heritage, Upland and Duck Stamp project monies, the Commission just funded about \$1.2 million in projects which will be leveraged with another \$2.4 million in projects. Commissioner Johnston said according to his math that is over \$3.5 million dollars for projects for wildlife and conservation showing the importance of hunting opportunities, as hunting opportunities create the revenue and matching funds. He said sometimes we lose sight of that.

Secretary Wasley echoed Commissioner Johnston's sentiments. He said he was correct and that in the last hour the Commission has approved over 10 percent of NDOW's operational budget.

CHAIRMAN WALLACE MOVED TO APPROVE THE WILDLIFE HERITAGE PROPOSALS FOR FY18 AS PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE FOR FULL FUNDING OF ALL PROJECTS EXCEPT FOR PROJECT 18 – 02 FROM \$100,000 TO \$66,313.92 WITH THE DIFFERENCE BEING MADE UP BY THE GENEROUS DONATION BY NEVADA BIGHORNS UNLIMITED, RENO. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BARNES. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 9 Commission Regulation 17-06 Amendment #1, 2018 Heritage Tag Organization/Vendor Selection and Special Regulations – Management Analyst 3 Maureen Hullinger – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider selection of the 2018 Heritage Tag vendors/organization recommendations.

MA III Hullinger said CR 17 – 06, Amendment #1 is selecting tag vendors for the 2018 Heritage tags fund-raising activities. She said this year 16 vendors submitted proposals and one proposal was late. The Heritage Committee recommendations from today's earlier meeting are as follows: One mule deer tag to Nevada Sportsman Unlimited, and one mule deer tag to Wildlife Habitat Improvement of Nevada; one antelope tag each to Pershing County Chukars Unlimited and Nevada Waterfowl Association; one elk tag each to Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited and Elko Bighorn Sheep Unlimited; one Nelson bighorn sheep "jointly" to Wild Sheep Foundation and Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn; the second Nelson bighorn sheep tag to Nevada Bighorns Unlimited Reno; one California bighorn sheep tag to Nevada Bighorns Unlimited Reno. Recommendations for the five wild turkey tags: One wild turkey tag to Wildlife Habitat Improvement Nevada; two wild turkey tags to Carson Valley Chukar Club; one wild turkey tag to Nevada Sportsman Unlimited; and one wild turkey tag to Meadow Valley Sportsman.

Commissioner Johnston asked about the joint request from Wild Sheep Foundation and Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn for one Nelson Bighorn sheep (*microphone not on*). Deputy Director Robb explained for clarification about the joint request: The tag would be given to the Fraternity and the venue that the Fraternity would use for auction of the tag would be the Wild Sheep Foundation function.

Commissioner Drew said there were several vendor requests not fulfilled such as Nevada Bighorns Unlimited-Fallon and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF). Those groups usually get high prices for tags. He is curious about Carson Valley Chukar Club receiving two wild turkey tags but no events in Reno were awarded a turkey tag.

Chairman Wallace said the committee's discussion was toward keeping the tags in Nevada. They chose Elko to keep the money in Nevada for the local group. He said part of the discussion was you have bidders by phone but having the event local could bring support to those Nevada groups. That was big part of discussion. Carson Valley Chukar Club there was discussion that two would make the event more fun with people bidding against each other to get the price up higher.

Commissioner Almberg added the same rationale was used on the Mule Deer Foundation as well, going from national event to keeping everything "in state."

Public Comment –

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said they supported SCI as a potential vendor for one wild turkey tag. They thought one turkey tag would be one way to introduce them to the fund-raising process. Carson Valley Chukars could still have one tag.

Chris Seflu of Nevada Bighorns Unlimited Reno supports Mr. Dixon's comment for Northern Nevada-SCI who has had Heritage tags in the past. He supported splitting the turkey tags. Mr. Seflu thanked the Commission for consideration for NBU-Reno for two sheep tags.

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, said they support two tags for Carson Valley as they give an exuberant amount of money to the upland game program. They will sell those tags for as high as they can go. For SC he has noticed that numbers went down although a great organization.

Director Wasley received written correspondence earlier this week from Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation which he read to the Commission (exhibit file).



ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION

Received 6/20/17

9

June 19, 2017

Nevada Department of Wildlife
Attn: Director Tony Wasley
6980 Sierra Center Pkwy, Suite 120
Reno, Nevada 89511

RE: Proposal for: Rocky Mountain Elk tag

Dear Tony,

As you know, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring the future of elk and other wildlife by conserving, restoring and enhancing natural habitats. To help achieve this mission, the National office of the RMEF has requested to contract with the Nevada Division of Wildlife to participate in the auction of the proposed Nevada Elk Tags.

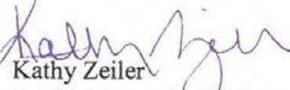
The special state tags will again be sold at our Hunter's Rendezvous event to be held in Tucson, Arizona on Saturday, January 27, 2018. Since 1990, RMEF has raised over \$1.6 million for the state of Nevada. Over the past four years at this Tucson event, the tags have raised a combined \$480,000. One hundred percent of that went back to the state Nevada.

In addition to the money raised on the tags, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has done the following in Nevada over the past 10 years:

- Funded 90 projects across the state including:
 - o 5 lands projects that permanently protected 2,829 acres of critical wildlife habitat.
 - o 47 Habitat & Wildlife Stewardship projects enhanced and restored more than 24,000 acres of wildlife habitat across the state in addition to reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfire.
 - o 38 Hunting Heritage & Conservation Outreach projects that instructed more than 11,000 youth and adults in outdoor skills and conservation.
- Collectively these projects have directly benefitted 13 Nevada counties. Several projects also had statewide benefits.
- Collectively these projects have a RMEF contributed conservation value of nearly \$1.2 million.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit for the Nevada elk tags. If you have any questions, please call me at 1-800-225-5355, extension 511.

Sincerely,


Kathy Zeiler
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Event Services Manager

Commissioner Johnston said he had same question as Commissioner Drew with the committees' rationale. He said both the Mule Deer Foundation and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation have done extraordinarily well selling these tags. Commissioner Johnston said not sure if the committee discussed that giving them tags is an opportunity for Nevada to be highlighted outside of state at these premier sportsman organizations. If we lose those opportunities we must ask if we lose potential money for the Heritage Account by not providing them tags.

Chairman Wallace said that the committee did discuss that but was not the highlight of the discussion. The committee and the public in attendance were in favor of keeping tags at events in Nevada. The highlight of the discussion was to keep tags in Nevada. He said he is not saying what Commissioner Johnston said is not important as he sees his point and it makes sense but the committee's discussion was keeping it in Nevada.

Commissioner Drew said he is split on this as he has previous life experience managing these tags. He would say that tags create interest for the events, especially with bigger tags, as buyers seek those venues out either in person or on the phone. No matter how you go, you will have money come into the state and it probably won't deviate a whole lot no matter where you put those tags. At the same time there is something to be said for the bigger expos that draw regional and national attention. He does not know if one approach is better than the other from a fund-raising standpoint for wildlife. Commissioner Drew said he is comfortable with the committees' recommendation and does not know if there is a right answer.

Chairman Wallace said he agreed with Commissioner Drew.

Commissioner Johnston said as to the explanation that selling the tags local adds to the number of tickets sold for an event or adds value may not be as important because most local attendees are not in the game to buy the tag. He supports maximizing the value of the ticket and there is benefit to the state having some of these tags auctioned outside of the state, maybe hard to quantify, but believes it does. He said auctions are exciting when they auction Heritage tags, but does not think that drives the NBU dinner. What drives attendance at the NBU dinner is what that organization does in putting on the event such as silent auctions, raffles, and has become a major social event. Commissioner Johnston said he does not see how giving a Heritage tag to a Nevada group just because they are a Nevada group will do much for their dinner.

Commissioner Barnes said he is on the fence and listened to the committee discussion this morning and is leaning more toward the committee's recommendation.

COMMISSIONER BARNES MOVED TO ACCEPT THE HERITAGE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION FOR THE 2018 HERITAGE TAG VENDORS. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ALMBERG.

Commissioner McNinch said he will not support the motion. He said if Mule Deer Foundation suspected they may not get a tag he believes they would be present. For that reason he will not support the motion.

Commissioner Young was not able to attend the committee meeting. He wanted to remind the group that RMEF has moved their program to Las Vegas during the National Rodeo Finals. The RMEF event has done a lot for Nevada. The value of conservation in Nevada was \$17 million dollars, just can't discard that.

Commissioner Johnston added that none of his comments should be interpreted that other groups are not worthy or are not good, as he is not saying that. He is looking at the historical record and value of tags being auctioned outside the state. He will not support the motion for the reasons stated, and Commissioner Young's comments for RMEF pushes him even further in that regard.

Chairman Wallace said he has no ax to grind either way, and more information came forth in the last 10 minutes. He wished the committee would have had the email from Director Wasley. He doesn't want to vote against his own committee recommendation, but getting a sense from Commission that there are other thoughts. If Commissioners have other thoughts to amend the motion he will leave that up to the Commission.

Commissioner Barnes would like to make an amendment to the motion to take care of what we need done.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO AMEND THE MAIN MOTION TO CHANGE THE SECOND WILDLIFE HERITAGE ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK TAG FROM ELKO BIGHORNS UNLIMITED TO ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION, AND THE WILDLIFE HERITAGE CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP FROM NBU-RENO TO ELKO BIGHORNS UNLIMITED. COMMISSIONER YOUNG SECONDED.

Commissioner Drew said he had not attended the Elko Bighorns Unlimited event but knows they do great things for wildlife and has attended NBU-Reno where they do a phenomenal job. The amendment is in the spirit of spreading the excitement in the state.

Chairman Wallace asked if the amendment needs one-third vote. DAG Howle said simple majority.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 10 Nevada Department of Wildlife Project Updates – Director 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 detail in addition to the summaries provided as part of the regular Department Report and are intended to inform the Commission and public as to the Department's ongoing duties and responsibilities.

Secretary Wasley said as has been done previously as the Commission moves to different Commission meeting locations, the Department presents relevant geographic issues. Today there are two project updates: Commercial collection of reptiles which is a follow-up from the March meeting and field trip. The second presentation is a program update report on the Aquatic Invasive Species program.

Commercial Collection Project Update

Wildlife Staff Specialist Jason Jones made a PowerPoint presentation on commercial collection of reptiles and on the 700 or so pit fall traps on the desert landscape. Mr. Jones said the impact of 700 traps open year round for more than 20 years. Mr. Jones said it is known the traps are only checked every few or so months. After the presentation Mr. Jones answered questions from the Commission such as the decline because of captive bred reptiles.

Commissioner Hubbs asked about the type of regulations in place in 1980s. She asked what the methodology and what was the controversy regarding the monitoring of commercial collection. Why did they not stay with that regulation and was that the best approach at that time.

Wildlife Diversity Administrator Jennifer Newmark said that in her research of the issue, she read that in 1989 there was a general regulation put in place by the Department to prohibit commercial collection. A court battle occurred as to whether the Department and the Commission had the authority to go forward with a prohibition. The case went to the Supreme Court, and the court ruled in

favor of the Department and Commission. However, the regulation was temporary and was allowed to expire. Interesting parts to this that are important to note with commercial collection that due to the lack of data on reptiles that this was an opportunity to get more data although the data is not the right “type” of data to manage them as it is “removal” data.

Commissioner Hubbs said a complete prohibition may have been too much, and wondered if better methodology for commercial collection rather than blanket approach.

Administrator Newmark answered that it would be worth considering if right approach is a complete prohibition or a different approach of setting seasons and not removing animals during the reproductive season, and in her opinion there are areas of the state that have been heavily collected over the last 20 years, those areas should be considered for a closure. Administrator Newmark said the Commission could consider a prohibition on collecting for a few years to understand the impacts.

Commissioner Almberg asked what regulations other states have for commercial collection.

Mr. Barnes said as to the states around Nevada, California does not allow commercial collection although they allow biological supply companies to collect extremely common species but not for commercial gain as he discussed in his presentation. Utah has a permit only system that one would have to apply for and the take numbers would be very low. Arizona also does not allow commercial collection. Idaho currently has one collector after he ceases to collect; they will not allow collection the

Commissioner McNinch agreed with Administrator Newmark and feels that what they saw on the field trip was worth going down the path to try and find a solution.

Chairman Wallace asked if the Department is looking for the Commission to regulate this activity and is there something the Commission could do.

Secretary Wasley said that the “State” Supreme Court ruling had a key discussion point of where the burden of proof lies. Is the burden with the state to demonstrate no impact or should the burden be on those that are conducting this activity. He said the Department will go in the direction the Commission thinks best. Today the item is an informational project update. For the Commission to take action the item would need to be brought to the Commission in a different format in the future. He said what we are seeing warrants further examination and discussion as to what is appropriate and whose responsibility.

Commissioner Johnston said right now the issue is illegal commercial collection with pitfall traps. He asked what will be done to remove all these traps because until the traps are all destroyed they are still having effects on the wildlife. Commissioner Johnston said if any criminal prosecutions occur, such as people caught with these illegal traps, it needs to be pushed that they go out and remove their offending traps. Not put it on the Department or volunteers. That needs to be figured out.

Commissioner Hubbs asked if the BLM is able to help the Department solve this problem as Mr. Barnes mentioned in his presentation that BLM land is predominantly where the traps are. Is BLM prepared to work with NDOW to clean that up?

Mr. Jones said that BLM is very interested in helping find the solutions as they see the traps as having ecosystem level impact. He said to understand the magnitude of this will take more effort such as survey with aircraft and quantifying how many are out there to better understand it.

Commissioner McNinch said he is all in on doing away with this. He agreed with Commissioner Johnston on having the collectors clean up the traps. He would like to find a way to solve this problem sooner than later.

Commissioner Hubbs asked how to have this on a future agenda for action.

Chairman Wallace said he has this item on his agenda item list for discussion tomorrow.

Program Update on Aquatic Invasive Species Program

Fisheries Division Administrator Jon Sjöberg and Wildlife Staff Specialist Vargas presented a quick overview presentation on the AIS program (exhibit file). She said the AIS decal has been simplified to two decals, one for motorized vessels (\$12 per year) and the other for non-motorized (\$5 per year) effective Jan. 1, 2018. She reviewed the watercraft inspection stations which is the gut of the program. Following this presentation will be presentation of the draft Nevada AIS Management Plan.

11 Draft Nevada Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan – Fisheries Division Administrator Jon Sjöberg and Wildlife Staff Specialist Karen Vargas – For Possible Action

The Commission will hear a report on Nevada's Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan (AIS Plan). The AIS Plan is intended to provide guidance to AIS control and prevention programs in the State of Nevada and enhance coordination and effectiveness of AIS control efforts in Nevada and regionally through establishment of an inter-agency Nevada Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group. The Commission may take action to provide recommendations for modification of the draft for the August meeting.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Vargas presented the AIS Management Plan (exhibit file). Ms. Vargas said the plan is lengthy and will be around 100 pages when done. The purpose of the plan is to provide this broader direction for the program to go and hold the program accountable. She said this is not boots on the ground which is being done, rather it helps Nevada work with other western states bringing all together. It will provide from federal perspective more grant funding (\$41,000 per year in Nevada). The plan will provide consistency and general direction. All states have been requested by the federal government to have an AIS plan overseen by the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force.

Administrator Sjöberg said the draft AIS plan will be brought back to the August Commission meeting to move forward.

Commissioner Drew brought up that the Carson CABMW was concerned with concept of reciprocity. He said they want to be more consistent with the neighboring states and the TRPA. Commissioner Drew recommended reaching out to the Carson CABMW chairman for clarification of their comments.

Ms. Vargas said their comments can easily be incorporated into the plan. That is the purpose of the Western Regional Panel and why they meet. She said because of Lake Mead Nevada will be the last for reciprocity. That should be added to the draft plan but no guarantees.

Commissioner Hubbs had questions in regard to the titles of climate changes and federal funds. Where are we now with federal funds, what will happen if programs taken away from the federal perspective.

Ms. Vargas stated that if the funds the State of Nevada received from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and BOR went away the program would be cut at least in half. The fees for decals do not bring in enough money to cover the current program.

Fisheries Administrator Sjöberg said the president's federal FY18 budget still funds it, but no one knows at this point. He explained the funding further.

Ms. Vargas said the program runs about \$700,000 per year. This year will be the test as there is water.

Public Comment -

John Hiatt, Clark CABMW, said the whole issue of invasive species is important. Invasive species are a great threat to Nevada's wildlife. We have been remiss in not addressing it earlier on. We talk of quagga mussels as unintentional but we also have intentional species introduction. Virtually every warm spring has non-native species and aquatic invertebrate species introduced into it. There needs to be a way that people can dispose of their unwanted invasive animals purchased through the pet trade responsibly. Disposal of unwanted pets should be part of the plan.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, asked whether plants as well as vertebrates are in the plan because of so many invasive plants in reservoirs.

Fisheries Administrator Sjöberg said that the plan addresses key aquatic invasive plant species; although the plan's primary focus is watercraft, quagga and zebra mussels. Concerns such as the pet trade and other introductions are addressed in the plan and they are handled through some other Department programs.

Chairman Wallace said that the AIS Program Plan will be brought back to the August Commission meeting for approval.

12 Reports – Informational

- A Update on the 79th Legislative Session (2017) – Commissioner Drew
An update will be provided on the 79th Legislative session.

Commissioner Drew said the session ended June 6, 2017. A spreadsheet was included in support material. The black text denotes bills that were resolved after support material sent. The bills denoted in red are bills that did not pass or were vetoed. Those bills highlighted in green passed and were signed into law. He briefly highlighted the bills that were pending at the May meeting: AB 29, specific to off-highway vehicles was passed and of significance NDOW was not added as an Ex Officio member; AB 101, predator fee bill, vetoed by governor, no change to predator management fee. AB 138 was one of two water guzzler bills and AB 138 was passed and signed into law. AB 138 states that guzzlers do not need a water right as long as development is coordinated and approved by NDOW with provisions that the guzzler can't exceed 20,000 gallons and can't have more than one-quarter mile of piping or apron size that exceeds one acre. AB 209 was a water bill that the Commission did not take a position on and was passed. SB 47 and SB 51 was the same. SB 74 provisions specific to guzzlers was rolled into AB 138. The Department's bill on nuisance wildlife claims was passed and signed by the governor effective July 1, 2017. SB 197 and SB 198 both passed, they dealt with extending bonding deadlines for the Tahoe EIP and natural resource bond approved in 2001. SB 221 provisions governing wildlife which was the Wildlife Education Council and merged into committee did not pass, and subsequently no changes to Heritage Account or how the program is administered going forward. SB 364 passed which mandates trap registration for a fee of \$5. The Commission will have to re-visit the trap regulation. The trapper can elect not to pay the fee and in lieu can add their name and address to the trap. The Commission was opposed to that. No change to trap visitation. One other change that affects the Department is providing signage where there is a state agency that manages public lands. SB 411 dealt with feral cat colonies and the language went away or was changed. SB 511 passed and amended to include the landowner cap

provision. Different parts of the bill will take effect but the landowner cap change was effective upon approval. Thanks to all involved as SB 511 was a huge bill that took a lot of effort and support from the legislature. He also reviewed the resolutions as denoted on the spreadsheet and noted that SJR 13 passed which was another legislative success.

- B Administrative Procedures, Regulations and Policy (APRP) Committee Report –
 Commissioner and Committee Chairman David McNinch
 The Commission will hear a report on the committee’s recent meeting.

Commissioner McNinch said at last night’s meeting there were technical difficulties with the recording equipment therefore no action was taken by the committee on any items. The committee discussed petitions which are part of the Commission’s Rules of Practice. Petitions have been discussed by the committee and subsequently petitions were brought to the Commission in an effort to modify the policy in order to submit the policy to the Secretary of State as required. During those conversations it was suggested that the committee is proposing significant changes to the policy that we look at Nevada Administrative Code and modify that. NRS dictates that petitions be processed in a certain timeframe. The takeaway from last night’s meeting is that the next APRP Committee meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2017, to discuss the petition questions further.

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

Secretary Wasley thanked Commissioner Drew for his teamwork. His representation of the Commission at the legislature was tremendous. He said Commissioner Drew has been through more sessions than most of us. He echoed the sentiment of Commissioner Johnston and Chairman Wallace that he will be missed.

The Department is wrapping up a major strategic planning overhaul. This includes training and facilitation of a new agency-wide strategic plan with assistance to implement the plan with buy-in throughout agency personnel. Divisional strategic plans are also being developed. The Department hopes to complete and implement the new plans by July 2017.

The Department is in the midst of a request for proposal (RFP) for a license vendor for our licensing and vessel registration system, and our tag application and draw system. A decision will be made by July 2017. The Department is hopeful to find the vendor who will best meet our needs.

On June 21 the Legislative Commission met and approved Commission General Regulation 464 (Appeals) and Commission General Regulation 467 (Special Assistance Permit). Commission General Regulation 464 resolves a few problems with the Appeals process before the Commission. The changes provide more flexibility with scheduling, avoids conflicts with one Attorney General advising two sides of an issue, clarifies the limited jurisdiction of the Commission, and requires notification of legal representation. Commission General Regulation 467 prescribes the circumstances under which a person may assist in the killing and retrieval of a wounded big game mammal by another person who: (1) is a paraplegic, has had one or both legs amputated or has suffered a paralysis of one or both legs which severely impedes the person’s walking; and (2) has obtained a valid tag issued by the Department of Wildlife for hunting that animal. These regulations became effective on June 21, 2017.

Nevada has experienced somewhat mysterious, sudden death of isolated elk for several years in the northeastern part of the state during late spring. Three radio collared cow elk have perished since May 1 in the Tuscarora area. To date we have struggled getting samples collected quickly enough to complete a full battery of testing due to the delay associated with mortality signals. Despite testing for anthrax, EHD, blue tongue, and poisonous plants, no clearly identified cause has been isolated.

Currently, consumption of a toxic plant is the prevailing theory, but it has yet to be confirmed.

Bear activity has been increasing in the Tahoe basin. Multiple bears have been captured and relocated, including two yearling bears that may have been offspring of the female bear inadvertently killed by Washoe County Sherriff's Office. Another bear was euthanized after breaking into a home. Yet another bear was found within a home and apparently knocked a person to the ground in its efforts to escape the home. The individual experienced minor injuries.

Nevada will be hosting at least three WAFWA-sanctioned workshops in the next two years. The Western Wild Turkey Workshop will be held in April 2018 near Reno, NV. The Biennial Pronghorn Workshop will be held in Reno during the week of August 13, 2018. The Desert Bighorn Council will be held in Mesquite, NV during the week of April 15, 2019. Game Division staff are reviewing and scheduling the venues, trainings, field tours, and associated activities with each of the planned events.

The Game Division anticipates receipt of a report from the University of Montana regarding the peer review of our mule deer management program. The Department contracted the review to provide an outside view of our Division's activities to determine how we might continue to make improvements to our successful program. The report is expected by the end of June 2017.

Meetings have been underway among the Department, the Nevada Department of Transportation, and the Nevada Highway Patrol to address frequent bighorn sheep-vehicle collisions along a highway near Hawthorne, NV. This is along the alignment likely to be addressed through construction of Interstate 11, but that is decades in the future. In the meantime, 8–15 bighorn sheep are being struck on the highway annually.

Fencing, signage, speed reduction, and herd reductions are being considered to limit collisions. As many states recognize, addressing public safety situations on highways can be challenging and expensive to address.

The AIS program is fully operational for the 2017 summer boating season with the new roadside inspection station in Alamo and a new location for the Elko roadside station on the Mountain City Highway in place. Traffic has been relatively light in most locations so far but should pick up with warmer weather coming. Staff so far this year have completed over 5,400 inspections and 300 decontaminations, 70 percent of those at Lakes Mead and Mohave.

Marketing for the new regulation requiring pulling drain plugs is also underway with 3 billboards in northern Nevada, rack cards and statewide radio messages. We'll be distributing free drain plug holders to boaters as part of the promotion.

Initial concerns over flooding at Mason Valley Hatchery were alleviated due to a revised forecast, but new projections for flows in the Walker River suggest a peak at near 3,000 cfs by the last week of June. This is about 2.5 feet above flood stage and has the potential for minor flooding of the Hatchery building and residences. However this is dependent on actual snowmelt and the forecast has low confidence for timing and magnitude.

Taking advantage of great reservoir water conditions this year, we've completed additional stocking of warm water fish in multiple waters across northern Nevada, including channel catfish for Willow Creek, South Fork, Wildhorse, Jakes Creek, Rye Patch, Squaw Reservoir and multiple urban ponds. Wipers were also stocked in Lahontan and Rye Patch reservoirs. Catfish stocking in Clark County urban ponds was completed for spring through June and will begin again in August or September when temperatures allow.

Water conditions in other areas of the state including the White Mountains, Lincoln and Nye counties are also expected to be better than average. Crappie fishing has been great at Kirch WMA, Lincoln County reservoirs and Lake Mead. The latest BOR forecast is predicting that Lake Mead will be nearly stable for the next two years with only about a 10 foot annual change in elevation.

Because of conditions from this winter access to Marlette Lake for rainbow and cutthroat trout spawning is essentially impossible. Snow drifts of up to 10' were still blocking the access road in early June and because lake levels were dropped this winter to protect the dam, a large delta has built up in front of the spawning stream preventing access for fish. Fortunately we had reserved rainbow trout eggs from a private vendor just in case which should make up program needs for this year.

Western Region staff are working with the owner of Squaw Reservoir to address maintenance issues on the dam and improve access for anglers. Wet spring conditions are creating other access issues; for example roads are passable up to Knott Creek and Onion reservoirs but a huge boulder rolled onto the road that goes up to the Blue Lakes trailhead, probably limiting access to ATVs. High stream flows have also been limiting field activities such as stream survey and amphibian monitoring.

Staff are continuing to work with the State of Utah and other partners to develop a "range wide" Conservation Strategy for spring snails in Nevada and Utah. Over 30 species may be facing listing decision by the FWS by 2020. An initial meeting with partners to develop an agreement was held on June 13 and we hope to have a completed agreement by this fall, followed by a detailed conservation strategy.

Habitat Division staff continue to review and finalize a large number of FY18 project proposals. In addition to the 13 Wildlife Heritage project proposals, seven Duck Stamp, 15 Upland Game Bird Stamp and approximately thirty Habitat Conservation Fee project proposals have been submitted to date; requesting over \$2,000,000 in annual funding.

Nevada Partners for Conservation and Development project effectiveness monitoring crews began work in May and the crews have already surveyed approximately 175 plots associated with projects in the Pine Nuts, China Camp and Great Basin National Park (GBNP).

With the passage of the revised Industrial Artificial Pond (IAP) Permit regulations in the fall of 2016, each of the existing 88 active permits are to be modified by July 2017 to ensure full implementation of the new regulation. The primary goal of the regulation change was to improve cost-recovery efforts for the permitting program by revising the assessment fee structure.

NDOW continues coordinate with Nevada Division of State Parks on the recently legislatively approved donation of three properties along the East Waller River. The Walker River State Recreation Area will bring in excess of 12,000 acres into public use while providing 28 miles of river access. Together with historic structures and valuable wildlife habitat; the Pitchfork, Rafter 7, Flying M and Nine Mile ranches will serve as four distinct park units supplying camping, hiking, wildlife viewing, outdoor education and fishing opportunities.

The Habitat Division has continues work on a Habitat Restoration and Rehabilitation Strategic Framework and Geographic Information System (GIS) tool. This effort will help NDOW prioritize and portray wildlife driven habitat values and beneficial projects to the public and conservation partners. Presenting clear and transparent priorities to ensure NDOW and our partners' priorities align, or at least consider other conservation efforts in the region.

The northern water development crew finished up the volunteer construction season with a new big game build in the Hoppin Peaks north of Winnemucca. So far this year, the crew and its dedicated volunteer force has constructed three new big game guzzlers and completely rebuilt three existing big

game guzzlers.

Nevada is proud to announce that we're celebrating 100 of years of state game wardens. Early references to the office of Nevada State Game Warden appear to begin in 1917. We've taken this opportunity to give out commemorative badge pins with the "1917-2017 100 year anniversary of Nevada State Game Warden" logo.

We are seeing several elk poaching cases from recent years come full circle with arrests, trials and sentencing. All of these cases involved trophy bull elk from eastern Nevada, and all suspects are non-residents who came to Nevada areas known for producing big bulls:

A Utah man was sentenced April 14th for the felony killing and waste of a bull elk near Pioche back in August of 2015. Zackry Holdaway, 26, of Cedar City was ordered to pay a \$20,000 civil penalty and \$576 in additional fees. Holdaway will lose all hunting and fishing license privileges for six years, was given a suspended sentence of 32 months in state prison, and ordered to serve five years on probation. This was a very lengthy investigation and one of the biggest civil penalties we've ever seen. The case generated a lot of public interest and big time media attention all around the world. The elk was killed at night, with a spotlight, without a tag, on private land without permission, and was left to waste after the head was removed. Holdaway had just completed a multi-year license revocation for prior big game violations in Utah.

Two Wisconsin men were recently arrested at their residences for charges relating to the killing of a large bull elk in the Ely area by a man other than the person named on the tag. This father/son pair will face formal charges in upcoming months in White Pine County.

Three more people were sentenced in April and May for their roles in an Elko County elk poaching dating back to 2015. This was a lengthy and complicated series of cases that involved assistance from several agencies, especially Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

Amy Jo Summers, 42, of Tremonton, Utah, was sentenced for gross misdemeanor possession of unlawfully killed big game. Penalties included over \$2600 in fines plus forfeiture of a .243 rifle used in the crime and a 6x6 bull elk rack. She also faces a five year revocation of privileges.

Steven Frank Bennett, 69, of West Valley, Utah pled no contest to a misdemeanor charge of unlawful possession of wildlife out of season and was assessed \$355 in fines. Bennett also pled no contest in Box Elder County, Utah on March 6 for wanton destruction of protected wildlife in the killing of two more bull elk outside his hunting area. For these separate counts, he received a 365 day suspended jail sentence per charge, fines of nearly \$900, restitution of \$16,000 to be paid to the Help Stop Poaching Fund, 18 months of probation, and 40 hours of community service. In addition, a large 6x6 bull elk rack was seized from Bennett's residence. Administrative procedures will likely carry a 20 year revocation of privileges.

Susanne Arkoosh Bedke, 42, of Oakley Idaho, pled no contest in Box Elder County on May 3 to Interfering with an officer for her role in the obstruction and holding of a game warden behind closed gates during the initial investigation. She received penalties that included 180 day suspended jail sentence and \$680 in fines.

Two different master guides are facing charges in unrelated cases for guiding on U.S. Forest Service lands without a Forest Service special use permit. Mike Sonderman of Black Mountain Outfitters, and Rob Wallin of Nevada Outfitters are both facing these charges. While a federal permit violation, we are generally expected to prosecute these cases in state courts since there are few, if any, federal officers in Nevada and federal prosecutors seem to have no room in their caseload for these types of cases.

Two California residents were convicted in January for residency fraud charges. David Johnson of Paradise was convicted of a gross misdemeanor for providing false information to obtain a big game tag and paid over \$2,000 in fines. Geneva Williams of Magalia was convicted of a misdemeanor for providing false information to obtain a license and paid over \$1,000 in fines.

The 2017 boating season has started with several tragic drowning deaths at Lake Mead and a fatal jet ski accident on the Colorado River at Laughlin. None of the drowning victims were wearing a flotation device of any kind.

With such a wet winter following five years of drought, we have water in lakes and reservoirs that haven't had water in many years. This has reactivated a lot of boaters and led to much more boating activity over Memorial Day Weekend. We have so many more boaters this year that our licensing office nearly ran out of registration decals and recently ordered another 10,000.

Also in the name of staying vigilant for boaters operating under the influence, we are again conducting several OUI checkpoints at Lakes Mead and Mohave this summer.

Statewide night jar surveys were conducted in both May and June. Breeding bird surveys are also being conducted around the state and many routes are producing large numbers of species this year. These annual surveys should be completed within the next several weeks.

In the Lake Tahoe basin, biologists are monitoring the success of several raptor species' nesting attempts. The Peregrine Falcon nest near Castle Rock seems to have failed although what caused the failure is unclear. The nest was being monitored to assess effects of climbing activity on nesting success. However, there have been relatively few climbers on this route this year. Elsewhere in the Basin, there are two other Peregrine Falcon nests and both are active and have young on the nest.

Four Osprey nests are being monitored along the shoreline of Lake Tahoe in addition to eight upland nests. All four shoreline nests are active but only two of the eight upland nests appear to be active.

In Southern Nevada, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher nesting season has begun. Diversity biologists have begun territory and nest searching surveys at six study areas, including assisting the USFWS survey at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. Breeding activity and territory defense has been documented at 5 of the 6 areas with nesting just getting initiated. Nests will continue to be monitored throughout the season for success and productivity. These surveys come on the heels of secretive marsh bird surveys that were recently completed at Key Pittman and Overton Wildlife Management areas. Ridgeway's rails were documented at Key Pittman for the first time this year and are the northernmost record for the species in the state.

Five days were spent surveying for reptiles in the White Mountains. The general goal of the survey was to find as many different kinds of reptiles within the range, with targeted concentration on detecting Panamint alligator lizards. This species is thought to occur in the area but has not been documented. Unfortunately they were not detected this year either so their occurrence in the state remains uncertain. Panamint alligator lizards are a species under status review by the USFWS.

Conservation Education Staff attended and participated in the Outdoor Education Academy in southern Nevada which had over 100 Instructors learning the newest techniques in teaching hunters. They also attended the International Hunter Education Association's annual conference in Gleneden Beach, Oregon.

The Nevada Big Game Hunting Guide was completed and sent to the printer. It will ship June 23. Work continues on the all new Nevada Small Game Hunting Guide, which will replace the annual brochures for upland game, migratory bird, furbearer and turkey.

Staff met with representatives of the USFWS to plan a waterfowl hunting workshop for September. The purpose of the introductory workshop is to provide basic information that will help those who are new to waterfowl hunting or new to hunting in Nevada, and to minimize legal issues during the season.

Staff hosted a wildlife cooking class at The Springs Preserve in Las Vegas. The class was sold out and one participant is a freelance writer and expressed an interest in writing about that aspect of our education efforts.

Free Fishing Day statewide saw a record number of participants with over 3,200 attendees, 2,730 rods given away and a number of activities for added fun. Despite weather concerns everyone said they had a great time and always looked forward to our events.

Ten fishing clinics are planned for the summer months spread across the state.

Hedwig the owl has visited several schools over the past month giving presentation on raptors and the predator-prey relationship. Approximately 130 students plus teachers were contacted. Hedwig was also taken to the Community in Schools at risk classes at Elko High School to talk to seniors about possible careers in wildlife and what continuing education would be needed for the various jobs available.

Commissioner Young wanted to know if the Lake Mead Hatchery will be opening any time soon. Director Wasley called on Fisheries Administrator Sjöberg to answer the question. Mr. Sjöberg said that Lake Mead June water level projections were promising but have been scaled down to 1180 which will not get us out of the temperature range under existing conditions to stock trout.

D Wildlife Trust Fund Semi-Annual Report - Deputy Director Liz O'Brien - A report will be provided on the investment and expenditure of the money in the Wildlife Trust Fund for the period of July 1, 2016, to Dec. 31, 2016, pursuant to NRS 501.3585.

Deputy Director O'Brien said the report was submitted with the status of the Wildlife Trust Fund in the packets. This report is for the period of July 1, 2016, through Dec. 31, 2016. During that time the Department received \$35,335.50 in donations. The Department expended \$233,500.89. Attached to the report is a detailed list of gifts and donations received during that time frame. The donations save sportsman's revenue and oftentimes can be used as match for federal dollars.

E Litigation Report – Deputy Attorney General Wayne Howle

Chief Deputy Wayne Howle said he is filling in for DAG Stockton. He said the Walker River litigation has been ongoing for decades. Last year a federal court ruled and all parties are appealing to the 9th Circuit. The case has been briefed and a date will be set soon. The other significant case is the Molde litigation which pertains to trapping. He has the trial date set for October 2017.

13 Public Comment Period

Meeting Recessed at 3:33 p.m.

Saturday, June 24, 2017 – 8:30 a. m.

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

Chairman Wallace called the meeting to order. Commissioner Young was absent on Saturday. Roll call of CABMW Members: Paul Dixon, Clark; Mike Reese, Clark; Bob Rittenhouse, Douglas; and Joe Crim, Pershing. (*One CABMW member unintelligible on audio*)

- 15 Approval of Minutes – Chairman Wallace – For Possible Action
Commission minutes from the April and May 2017 meetings.

Commissioner Valentine said he was not at the end of the May meeting where the last item was discussed but is comfortable voting on the minutes.

Commissioner Barnes will abstain from voting on the May minutes as he did not attend.

Commissioner Johnston said for the April minutes that his comment on page 3 of the April minutes should be changed to read: “Commissioner Johnston said he is frustrated with the legislature tweaking the rules every two years, that is unfair to the people who pay the \$3 fee every time they apply and does not allow the Department or Commission to move through the plans without a change.” That is what his comment really was. The next change is on page 6 in fourth paragraph, second sentence, “legislative” should be changed to “legislation.”

Public Comment on April and May Minutes – None

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 2017 COMMISSION MEETING AS PRESENTED WITH TWO CHANGES IN HIS COMMENTS. COMMISSIONER VALENTINE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER YOUNG WAS ABSENT.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSOTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 2017 COMMISSION MEETING AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER DREW SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 7 - 0. COMMISSIONER BARNES ABSTAINED. COMMISSIONER YOUNG WAS ABSENT.

- 16 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 AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER VALENTINE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER YOUNG WAS ABSENT.

- 17 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 Drew said he has two items. One is in regards to the tag results recently posted online. Former Commissioner Bliss contacted him as someone contacted him as to why the results on Hunt Nevada indicated some individuals were ineligible for the Silver State tag drawing. They were not shown on the unsuccessful list but rather the ineligible list. Their question is if they were ineligible for that drawing why were they charged \$25. Commissioner Drew contacted NDOW and was told that the Silver State tag did draw first and those ineligible applicants should have shown as unsuccessful. However when he himself received his email and hard copy receipt he noticed that the ineligibility was still applicable at least on his Silver State applications and was specific to the tags where he had drawn in the Main Draw. He thinks that designation has created confusion with folks that if they truly

were ineligible or how the drawing was conducted in proper order. Commissioner Drew said it is more an issue of how it was posted and on the receipts, maybe a good idea to clarify that for people, follow-up correspondence could be drafted to explain and address the issue. His second item, is announcing that this will be his last Commission meeting. Commissioner Drew said it has been a privilege and an honor to serve the State of Nevada. He appreciates the time and friendships that he has made during his time. Commissioner Drew said he will focus on finishing the remainder of his term until July 1, and plans to attend the August meeting.

Chairman Wallace said he appreciates Commissioner Drew's service to the State of Nevada. He said the Commission will honor and recognize Commissioner Drew formally at the August meeting in Minden.

Commissioner Hubbs was called by Commissioner Young this morning. Commissioner Young asked her to speak about the issue she brought up yesterday, the correspondence from Bud Ogan. She will speak of his correspondence at the appropriate time. Mr. Ogan was unable to catch a plane and get here this morning.

- 18 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.

None

Commission Regulation – Adoption – For Possible Action – Public Comment Allowed

- 19 Commission Regulation CR 16-13, Amendment #1 – Upland Game and Furbearer Seasons, Bag Limits and Special Regulations 2017–2018 – Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa and Wildlife Staff Specialist Wildlife Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme
The Commission will consider amendments to this regulation for seasons, bag limits, and special regulations for upland game birds, rabbits, wild turkey, furbearers, and falconry seasons for 2017–2018.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa said for CR 16 – 13, Amendment #1, the Department has four recommendations. He understands there are also additional recommendations from CABMW members and the public. He began with the first recommendation: 1) Mountain quail season, want to draw mountain quail out of the hunt table for California and Gambel's Quail and make Mountain Quail have their own separate season to clarify what the daily bag limit of two and possession limit of four. Also, to draw attention to the special note/regulation to report Mountain Quail harvest to the Department. He believes these changes were at the request of Washoe CABMW last year.

Commissioner Drew said he appreciates that and the information will be helpful with the amount of trap and transplant that has gone on in recent years. His only question is on the possession limit. We may have had this discussion last year or the year before about why Mountain Quail was four and everything else was three times the daily limit. Is there a concern if we make that six just to make it consistent with the other species?

Mr. Espinosa answered that from his standpoint a possession limit of six would not be detrimental to mountain quail.

Public Comment – None

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE THAT PORTION OF CR 16 – 13, AMENDMENT #1, SPECIFIC TO CHANGES PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO QUAIL, CALIFORNIA AND GAMBEL’S, AS WELL AS MOUNTAIN QUAIL, WITH ONE CHANGE: TO CHANGE POSSESSION LIMIT ON MOUNTAIN QUAIL FROM FOUR TO SIX. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON.

Commissioner Valentine wants to know if the motion includes the season dates as posted. He said he thought we may want to change season dates on upland game.

Commissioner Drew said the motion would include all the season dates but this would be time to discuss changes per the correspondence received. Maybe amend the motion as was done yesterday during the Heritage vendor selection.

COMMISSIONER DREW WITHDREW THE ABOVE MOTION TO ALLOW FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THE SEASONS. COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON AS THE SECOND AGREED.

Commissioner Hubbs said she received a phone call from Mr. Robert Ogan who wanted to mention coinciding the dates for the upland game season with the overlapping deer season. There is usually a week between upland game and deer season. Mr. Ogan stated it is difficult to hunt after the deer season has started with the upland game birds, and it would be an economic relief if hunts were at the same time to save on travel costs for Southern Nevada residents. She said it sounded as if he takes people out to hunt and since the date is not set that makes planning hunts difficult. He wants a permanent setting of the date in October such as the second Saturday. If she misstated anything, please let her know.

Public Comment –

Robert Ogan said he wants a set season date for the upland game seasons. Most states have that. People who get a deer tag only every two or four years in this state who have family or friends who want to go out hunting would benefit. Most of the hunters are from Reno or Las Vegas and have a long way to travel. The deer season in most areas opens Oct. 5. Mr. Ogan said if upland game seasons open up Oct. 14 that is nine days later than the deer season which is a disservice to the people who have to travel. Also, hunters don’t find out about the season until August. How do you book vacations. Speaking as an outfitter and a sportsman how do you book hunts? He said if it was that way for deer hunters every seat at this meeting would be filled demanding a set season.

Mike Reese representing himself said that everybody that hunts knows that the dove hunt opens on Sept. 1 and is finished on Sept. 30. In the southern part of the state there has been a movement to set the date. The date selected is Oct. 1. Does not feel it has any impact on the biological effect on the animals. A set date would be easier for Law Enforcement. Would like to see upland game seasons start on Oct. 1. The clincher for him was when he asked the NDOW warden when quail season opened and the warden responded that he has to look it up. Also makes sense to teach the youth that upland game opens the first would simplify everything making it conducive for hunters who are up there scouting ahead of deer hunts.

Leonard Swedberg said he is a guide for On Point Guide Service. He supports Mr. Ogan and others. He agreed with everything they said. Oct. 1 will help families and outfitters to plan their vacations.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said they had extensive discussion on opening season dates for game birds. They had 16 persons in attendance and 14 persons supported moving to fixed dates for upland game.

Scott McLure, Las Vegas, said he wanted to concur with what everyone has said. He hopes Oct. 1 is the date but also having a fixed season date would work.

Commissioner Almborg said that the Carson CABMW did not want support a fixed date. He asked what is the impact to the deer hunters in the field who have waited three years for a tag. Is there impact to the birds with additional hunting pressure?

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa said there would be more people in the field with an earlier opening date. Hard for him to speak to overlap of use as all depends on the year and what is going on with precipitation. There could be competition for camp spots and probably more people on quads. Those are issues to consider.

Commissioner Drew asked Mr. Espinosa his thoughts on switching from second Saturday in October opener to a fixed date. Does he see any issues biologically with switching the opener?

Upland Game Staff Specialist Espinosa said that there are two times of year that you can have additive mortality effects on chukar. One is early in the season when they are tied to water. The other is late in the season if we get the right type of snow pack conditions you can have additive mortality. Largely over the last decade we have not had those types of snowpack conditions to have additive effect. Northwestern Nevada and Humboldt County it has been more rain on snow type of events, and warming events that have opened up habitat down low. He cited a study done by BYU that found by mid-October birds pull off and cease to use water sources so anything we do to allow the first part of October as a reprieve period for birds to pull off water is prudent in his biological opinion. Also would mention when you have birds using water developments and people are drawn to them they saw in Utah were people were shooting right into the guzzler. That is another thing to consider whether it is for quail or chukar.

Commissioner Johnston said he has concerns with a fixed date not being on the weekend. He is not in favor of moving the season to accommodate deer hunters especially after hearing from Mr. Espinosa. Commissioner Johnston said he is concerned for the early deer hunters who want to get out before the chukar hunters.

Commissioner Drew said this year the calendar shift falls on Oct. 14 instead of Oct. 8 or Oct. 10. With the calendar shift does it make any sense if we set the youth hunt back?

Upland Game Staff Specialist Espinosa said he is comfortable with the youth hunt season which has been increased from a two day season and now is nine days.

Commissioner Drew said he is not seeing overwhelming support or a compelling reason to change at this time, especially since we are dealing with a one-time calendar shift.

Chairman Wallace agreed with Commissioner Drew. What changed his mind is the biological reasons and protecting the resource.

Commissioner Valentine said he agreed with Mr. Ogan's concept of date certain same as big game season dates but agreed that the biological impact changed his mind.

Commissioner Hubbs said she appreciated the tenacity of Mr. Ogan in reaching out to the Commission and using the process. She respects that and he did a good job. She could support some type of ease of travel to get up there but wildlife has to come first and take precedence. For that reason she does not support a fixed date.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE THAT PORTION OF CR 16-13, AMENDMENT #1 2017 – 2018 UPLAND GAME SEASONS AS PROPOSED FOR THE YOUTH CHUKAR AND HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE SEASON, CHUKAR AND HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE, CALIFORNIA AND GAMBEL’S QUAIL, AND MOUNTAIN QUAIL WITH ONLY ONE CHANGE THAT BEING THAT THE POSSESSION LIMIT ON MOUNTAIN QUAIL BE CHANGED FROM FOUR TO SIX. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON. MOTION PASSED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER YOUNG WAS ABSENT.

Wild Turkey

Upland Game Staff Specialist Espinosa said the next change is a recommended change to the junior wild turkey season. The Department recommendation is to divide the season for Hunt Unit 115 in White Pine County into two separate seasons with two tags each for the junior hunt. Also to establish a new junior wild turkey hunt for Pershing County, likewise with two seasons with two tags for each season.

Commissioner Valentine wanted to know the reason for splitting the seasons in 115.

Staff Specialist Espinosa said that the biologist mentioned that with the number of tags with a concurrent adult season that splitting the seasons will reduce hunter congestion.

Public Comment – None

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE THAT PORTION OF CR 16 - 13, AMENDMENT #1 SPECIFIC TO THE JUNIOR WILD TURKEY SEASONS FOR 2017 AND 2018 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BARNES. MOTION PASSED 8 – 0. COMMISSIONER YOUNG WAS ABSENT.

Upland Game Staff Specialist Espinosa said the next change is to the spring limited entry wild turkey hunt, an increase in the number of tags available in Hunt Unit 151 and 152, going from two tags to three tags in Lander County. Also, likewise with the youth season, to divide the season for Hunt Unit 115 in White Pine County into two separate seasons. With 15 residents and one non-resident tag each for that unit.

Public Comment –

Mike Reese representing himself said he does not have an issue with turkey season and shared a picture of 20 turkeys in Rainbow Canyon that are on the verge of being domesticated. Mr. Reese would like to transplant those turkeys to Lincoln County for future hunter opportunities.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE THAT PORTION OF CR 16 - 13, AMENDMENT #1, FOR THE WILD TURKEY 2017 - 2018 SPRING LIMITED ENTRY HUNTS 0131 AND 0132 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER VALENTINE. MOTION PASSED 8 – 0. COMMISSIONER YOUNG WAS ABSENT.

Upland Game Staff Specialist Espinosa said his last recommended upland game change is to add a fall wild turkey hunt for Paradise Valley, Hunt 0135 and 0137. That would be open Oct. 7 through Oct. 29, 2017. This hunt is per Humboldt County’s request.

Commissioner Drew said for the record is there request due to the high number of birds in that area.

Upland Game Staff Specialist Espinosa said that is correct and some ranches have flocks in excess of 60 birds on their ranches.

Commissioner AlMBERG asked if the landowners are allowing hunting on their private property.

Mr. Espinosa answered yes they are.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE THAT PROTION OF CR 16-13, AMENDMENT #1, SPECIFIC TO THE WILD TURKEY 2017 FALL HUNTS 0135 AND 0137 FOR PARADISE VALLEY AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ALMBERG. MOTION PASSED 8 - 0 WITH COMMISSIONER YOUNG ABSENT.

Furbearer Seasons

Furbearer Wildlife Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme said before starting review of the regulations that he has a short PowerPoint presentation on how we determine bobcat seasons (exhibit file).

Comments on life span of bobcats and gray fox (9:30 a.m.)

Commissioner Drew said specific to the CR is why the inconsistency with the bobcat sealing dates. One time is from 1 - 5 p.m., the next is 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please address the check in times for the bobcat pelts sealing dates.

Furbearer Wildlife Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme said that there have been dates added to this at the request of the Trapper's Association as well as various trappers and CABMWs. The differences in time are due to attendance at the office. The larger cities may be busy all day long with some of the smaller locations will not be as not that many show up. It has to do with the supply and demand.

Commissioner Valentine wants to change the Panaca check-in date from Feb. 2 to Feb. 16 on behalf of a request from Cory Lytle, Lincoln CABMW.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme said he checked with the local biologist on that change. He was told that would not be a problem.

Commissioner Hubbs said in terms of gray fox and bobcat is opening a season in response to providing more trapping opportunity or is there a biological reason incentive to do so such as stabilizing populations.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme said it is opportunity as population increases. No large impact to population by increasing season when opportunity exists.

Public Comment on Gray Fox Season, Bobcat Season, and the Bobcat Pelt Sealing Dates –

Brandon Buckles said he supports the 120-day bobcat season. The reports showed bobcat population is increasing. The male bobcats with higher mortality rate also feed on the young bobcats. Thanked Mr. Woolstenhulme for his research. He said being a trapper in Nevada as compared to other states, is that Nevada prides itself on research and a healthy population. The charts show that the 120-day season will continue the good health of the bobcat, making a stable population. The 120-day season would allow the trappers to get into sites that they normally cannot get to.

Dr. Paul Crawford, representing himself, said he appreciates the work the Department does monitoring the state's populations. He supports the Department's proposal of a 120-day season for gray fox and bobcats. Personal observation tells him that there are many grey fox and they could easily have a longer season.

Dave Stowater, district director for Clark and East Nye County for Nevada Trappers Association, said they highly recommend the 120-day season for the bobcat and gray fox.

Don Molde, Nevada Wildlife Alliance, said he appreciates the information that has been provided as is more than in the past. He disputed numbers of kittens in the Department presentation. There have been years that have been better. He said after yesterday's presentation regarding commercial reptile collection. He said that gave him a way of thinking that there are a lot of similarities between commercial reptile collection and trapping as both are commercial activities which violates one of the tenets of the Sisters of the North American Model. In both activities there are no quotas, the number of animals that can be taken are not regulated. Both activities have high impact on non-target species, and that is what his October lawsuit is about. Some trappers kill over 100 bobcats a year with a \$40 trapping license which can give you a \$40,000 return on your trapping. He compared the amount you can get for a bobcat pelt as compared to the chuckwalla reptile. Feels you can make the same argument for trapping and have the trappers show the burden of no harm as in yesterday's discussion.

Jana Wright said today the Commission will vote to have a 120-day season for bobcat and gray fox. Ms. Wright said she opposes the need for this amendment. Even though the data that Russell presented of two years of 94 kittens, this amendment is not needed, why not wait for next year when you set furbearing season to have three years of data. Also would like to say there is never a conversation on setting a quota or specifying how many of these animals can be taken in certain hunt units. She would like to see the trapping report show the unit the animals are taken in reported on. Feels that the forms should be changed to register this coming season and wants to see these changed to accommodate SB 364.

Stephanie Myers hates to think that the only role of a bobcat is for fashion. She wants the Commission to think about not having a season at all for the bobcat and the grey fox. They are not like a quagga mussel we want off our boat, bobcats are a beautiful mammal. The Commission has authority to do something. She strongly feels that there should be a limit of pelts and traps that can be set.

Patrick Donnelly, said he is the Nevada advocate for the Center for Biological Diversity, located in Las Vegas. His organization is nationwide non-profit with 1.4 million members, over 12,000 supporters in Nevada. He has only been in Nevada a few months with a degree in restoration ecology and environmental policy. His background is arid land ecology and botany. Mr. Donnelly said wildlife is new to him other than endemic fishes. Mr. Donnelly relayed their general stances on trapping to you as a way to encourage you not to adopt the regulation on the bobcat season. The Center believes that the highest priority for agencies responsible for public trust resources such as wildlife and public land must be to pursue policies which restore needed biodiversity. Managing for a whole ecosystem rather than specific species. Robust carnivore populations are essential to the restoration of proper ecosystem function. For too long carnivores have been prosecuted with huge reductions in numbers over the past 200 years. This is an example of managing an entire landscape for the benefit of a few target species, like to say their stance on trapping is not about hunting. There are many staff members who hunt, do believe is a valid and high use of public land. But trapping is not hunting. Trapping is the commercial exploitation of a public trust resource for the economic gain of an incredibly small portion of the population. Trapping is an indiscriminate means of managing wildlife, as others have the data to illustrate, incidental take of non-target species is an enormous problem affecting wildlife on the landscape scale. No specific plan on how to reduce incidental take, is an illustration of incompatibility of trapping with the public trust. Trapping has significant ecological consequences and intensively trapped areas can have localized extirpation which can have significant cascading trophic effects on the ecosystem. When the severe localized extirpations are replicated across the landscape, this can lead to an extreme cumulative impact affecting an entire ecoregion. This is particularly exacerbated in the Mojave Desert portion of the state, and would

encourage you in the future to consider split seasons with a reduced amount of time in the Mojave Desert reflecting the relative paucity of wildlife compared to the Great Basin part of the state. Trapping is also inhumane causing a painful and terrifying death to animals unfortunate enough to meet their end in a trap. There needs to be a fundamental reorientation of wildlife policy in the State to restore a natural balance with robust carnivore populations. This could mean declines in ungulate populations, their numbers are significantly lower than historical pre-European levels but there have been landscape scale changes to ecosystems from cattle grazing, groundwater depletion, mineral exploitation, invasive grasses and a whole host of influences that have influenced that decline. Indiscriminately killing carnivores will not solve the ungulate problem if considered at a broader ecosystem level scale.

Mr. Donnelly said on these general principles he and his organization are opposed to any extension or increase in length of furbearer seasons.

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, said his CABMW approved the CR as written.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, approved the trapping as recommended with the exception of Lincoln County sealing date to be moved.

Bob Rittenhouse, Douglas CABMW, said they do approve the extended period for the bobcat season.

Commissioner Hubbs asked if trappers are reporting what has been taken that is non-targeted.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme said that there is record of that. It can be made available to those that would like it.

Commissioner Hubbs asked what is the largest number of non-targeted species reported.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme said that it is four species of rabbits.

Commissioner Johnston said he is comfortable with the seasons but does have pause with the limits and bag limits.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme said that Utah does have a limit. Explained what happens in Utah and what happens with some of the trappers that are less than ethical. Most trappers are doing this recreationally, not commercially.

Commissioner McNinch asked if the numbers were based on statewide numbers, what do the numbers look like regionally and should they be adjusted?

Wildlife Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme reviewed the averages for the males and females.

Commissioner Hubbs gave her thoughts about trapping. It is very difficult to track our carnivores unlike our ungulates. Feels there should not be an unlimited amount of animals to be taken. She will not support the 120-day season.

Commissioner McNinch talked about coyotes. Wanted to know if we apply the same concept to bobcats it sounds that having too many males can be biologically bad. Feels it boils down to opportunity.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme explained the effects of bobcat trapping and how they bounce back if they are being taken, similar to the coyotes.

Commissioner Hubbs talked about the wet winter that we had. Resources are different than the ungulates. There will be a need of increased predators to increased ungulates or other species. Commissioner Hubbs made a motion to not approve a furbearer season that failed due to lack of a second.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THAT PORTION OF CR 16 - 13, AMENDMENT #1, REGARDING FURBEARER ANIMALS: THE GRAY FOX SEASON, BOBCAT SEASON, AND BOBCAT PELT SEALING DATES AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGE THAT THE BOBCAT PELT SEALING DATE IN PANACA WILL BE CHANGED FROM FEB. 2 TO FEB. 16. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSONER VALENTINE. MOTION PASSED 7 – 1.COMMISSIONER HUBBS OPPOSED. COMMISSIONER YOUNG WAS ABSENT.

Commissioner McNinch wanted to express the fact that there should be more quotas and or limits. He does support the motion at this time however does have concerns, but will support the Department's recommendations.

Commissioner Almborg will support the motion due to the data that was presented.

Commissioner Johnston talked about the public comment that compared the commercial reptile collection and the trapping. He does not look at them the same since the collection of commercial collection is illegal. Trapping is legal.

20 Finance Committee – Committee Chairman Gil Yanuck and Deputy Director Liz O'Brien

A Finance Committee Report – Committee Chairman Gil Yanuck
Informational – The Commission will hear a report on the committee's recent meeting.

Deputy Director O'Brien provided the Finance Committee's report on behalf of Committee Chairman Gil Yanuck. The committee met June 13 to discuss upcoming CABMW budgets. The amounts requested were denoted in the spreadsheet in support material. The committee voted to accept the budgets as recommended by the Department.

B Fiscal Year 2018 County Advisory Board Budget Requests – Committee Chairman Gil Yanuck – For Possible Action
The Commission may approve an estimated amount of \$36,526 for County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife budgets for fiscal year 2018.

Deputy Director O'Brien provided the Committee's recommendation on behalf of Committee Chairman Gil Yanuck. Ms. O'Brien said the committee approved the balance of the amount requested which was \$36,526. She explained how the Department obtains the budget calculation for the next year.

Public Comment – None

Commissioner Almborg said that Mineral County reported in their Action Report that they felt their budget was too low because the expenses from their last meeting had not been taken into account which may cause a shortfall.

Deputy Director O'Brien said she did not get a copy of that. She said if the amount of shortfall is known, that budget can be augmented. Ms. O'Brien suggested approving this today and staff will work with Mineral CABMW to amend the budget if needed.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2018 NDOW CABMW BUDGET REQUEST AS PRESENTED WITH THE THOUGHT THAT A CABMW MAY RETURN WITH AN AMENDMENT. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HUBBS. MOTION PASSED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER YOUNG WAS ABSENT.

- 21 Biennial Upland Game Release Plan for Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019 – Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa – For Possible Action
The Commission will review and may take action to approve the Department's proposed biennial upland game release plan for fiscal years 2018 and 2019.

Upland Game Staff Specialist Espinosa presented the Upland Game Release Plan. Mr. Espinosa said the release plan not only has what we plan on doing for the next two fiscal years, but also has synopsis of what has been done over the last two fiscal years in terms of upland game releases. He identified release areas for 2018 and 2019 for mountain quail, two species of wild turkey and ruffed grouse as denoted in support material (exhibit file). Mr. Espinosa answered questions from the Commission as he reviewed the plan.

Public Comment – None

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE NDOW'S UPLAND GAME RELEASE PLAN FOR 2018 AND 2019 AS PRESENTED. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON. MOTION PASSED 8 – 0. COMMISSIONER YOUNG WAS ABSENT.

- 22 Landowner Deer and Antelope Compensation Tag Program – Game Division Administrator Brian F. Wakeling – For Possible Action
The Department will provide a briefing to the Commission on recent developments regarding the Landowner Deer and Antelope Compensation Tag Program. The Commission will discuss and may direct the Department to develop a draft Commission Regulation regarding options pertaining to the Landowner Deer and Antelope Compensation Tag Program.

Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling said when the Commission requested that the Department return with this agenda item the outcome was still unsure for this year. Subsequently Senate Bill (SB) 511 was passed which included a provision to increase the cap from 1.5 percent to 2.5 percent. The Commission took action at the May meeting to allow for a greater number of landowner tags to occur anyways. SB 511 went into effect June 9 and the next week the Department was able to issue the 360 tags to qualified landowners. The legislative change will allow for 502 tags next year. He said this year was the most that we have seen. The Department does not feel that we will not be anywhere close to the 502 tags next year. However, there may come a time in the future where we will be faced with the same situation. Administrator Wakeling said he feels that within NAC it is not clear however the Commission can create regulation for the future of this program.

Commissioner Drew requested that the letter be forwarded to the Commission that was sent to the landowners. Commissioner Drew said from a personal standpoint that he supported the change in SB 511 with the assumption that the Commission would review the landowner tag program. He said if that does not happen he will be upset. It is up to the Commission chair as to who is on the committee and its charge. Commissioner Drew believes a committee is the best way to review the program to prevent a situation like this year.

Commissioner Johnston said he was contacted by CABMW Member Tom Cassinelli who participates in the program. Mr. Cassinelli requested in his words that the Commission use caution as the program may be fine as is and there may be no need to revamp the program, but perhaps more consistency in how the program is administered. His view was a committee is not needed.

Commissioner Drew said that Mr. Cassinelli called him and provided the same input. He relayed to him the same comment he made today. Again, his support of SB 511 was contingent upon review of the program at a minimum. Commissioner Drew said there are also concerns on the elk side, and may make sense to review both programs at the same time.

Commissioner Johnston added that the Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee also had some landowner issues on its topic list. If a committee does meet he will relay those topics to that committee.

Commissioner Barnes said Mr. Cassinelli contacted him as well. He said we are looking at a program that in the past worked fairly well. He knows periodically over the years as landowners who participated when needed as don't always have the count because it depends on what the deer are doing and if there is damage. Any program over time it doesn't hurt to stop and review periodically any program.

Chairman Wallace said Mr. Cassinelli called him as well and from the comments today it appears he was consistent with his message. Chairman Wallace said he is not sure at this point if a committee per se is needed or discuss at the full Commission level. Rather than a committee where they decide something then bring it to the Commission for five more opinions. Chairman Wallace said the best way may be a review by the Department and proceed through each step of the program. The program may deserve to have the Commission spend an afternoon on it. He agreed that this will be a problem in the future and it needs to be addressed sooner than later. A Commission briefing to understand the program would be beneficial with public comment as well.

Secretary Wasley said from the Department's perspective the urgency has diminished since SB 511 was passed. He said the Department would welcome input from the variety of stakeholders including landowners, the Farm Bureau and others involved in this. The Department would be happy to present options to the full Commission. Secretary Wasley said he understands the sensitivity of the issue, and some of the perceptions around the program. He agreed that if there was a committee the Commission would likely be rehashing those issues. Time could be saved if the Department engaged some of those stakeholders to bring options to the Commission. The Department's preference would be deal with the landowner deer/antelope tag programs separately from the elk incentive tag program. The programs are distinctly different. One program is "damage compensation" for damage on irrigated and cultivated lands used by deer and antelope. The elk incentive tag program is for "tolerance of elk on native uplands." There are stark differences in how the programs are administered.

Chairman Wallace agreed with Secretary Wasley on handling the programs separately. He supported having the Department engage with the stakeholders for ideas. That would help the Commission get started because honestly does not see anything that can be provided to the Department as direction at this point other than identify problems/current issues and provide options to the Commission.

Commissioner Drew suggested the Commission review NRS and NAC to see what is contained in each. He said use TAAHC as Commissioner Johnston said and any of the input from last meeting to make a list of issues. Once the list of issues is identified, the Commission can identify priority issues of how to address those items.

Commissioner McNinch said the system has been working. His statement may be out of ignorance as he has not discussed this with the Department, as it could be as easy as the Department conducting routine review of the program such as an audit to insure consistency of the program. That alone may be enough to help avoid this in the future.

Secretary Wasley said there is a statement that he wants to make relative to the present and historic administration of the program and perceptions that exist as well as what may have been

communicated to the Commission relative to the consistency of statewide administration of the program. There are some that believe that the program is not being administered consistently from one region to another. They believe no overhaul is needed, that if the Department would only administer the program the same way that would remedy the situation. He can say there has been exhaustive discussion internally for months/years as to how counts are done and the awarding of tags. The overwhelming majority of people who administer the program believe the program is administered consistently and that increase in tags and challenges in keeping tag below the 1.5 percent is the result of increased participation, increased use of irrigated lands, herd growth in antelope, and is not a result of the “consistent administration” of this program. Secretary Wasley said for the record to show that NDOW takes very seriously the notion that biologists in one part of the state are more lax than in another part of the state in the way they administer the program to provide tags. He said in-depth internal discussions have been had and he believes the program is being administered consistently.

Paul Dixon, speaking for himself, said that the Clark CABMW discussed this at their April meeting, providing recommendations to the Commission and others. As a private citizen he supports review of the program. At the May meeting it was said that it is a “tolerance” program, but the NRS is not written as a tolerance program. Education is needed so that the public can understand how the program is administered or what we are trying to accomplish. Mr. Dixon agreed that starting with the Commission would help provide the background and education needed. He believes that would be more transparent. He said over time when you start with a program that is to compensate and ends as tolerance program the goals change. Would like to understand where we have gotten to now. He said over the past five years NDOW and sportsmen have tried to reduce elk herd size so why is there a need for elk incentives. He supports looking at both programs and the NRS, suggested having one transparent program.

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, said this agenda items resulted in a heated discussion at their meeting. A lot of people do not know what is going on. They recommended that go to committee to work out the details. He could not keep track of the many questions that arose. Feels it needs to be reviewed.

Chairman Wallace said he would like this to start with the full Commission and then possibly to a committee. The Commission would understand how the program works with all the details. After that it could go to a committee.

Commissioner Drew said that there will be a CAB workshop in August and that may be a good time to address what a NRS is and an NAC.

Commissioner Almborg said he fully agreed with Chairman Wallace that everyone needs to understand the program.

Chairman Wallace sees no action items on this. He closed the item.

**Added Agenda Item*

- 23 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Public Land Parcel Disposal – Commissioner Drew and Division Administrator Alan Jenne – For Possible Action
The Commission will review lands identified by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as potentially suitable for disposal in BLM’s existing Resource Management Plans (RMPs) across various BLM districts in Northern Nevada. Critical habitat or important hunting areas will be identified as conflicts with any future land transfer proposals. The Commission may draft correspondence to provide its position on the land transfer/disposal proposals.

Commissioner Drew read a short letter from Jason Reiderer of Congressman Amodei's Office regarding land transfers that is a follow-up from the May Commission meeting. The letter states that Congressman Amodei read the Board of Wildlife Commissioners' letter of concern with land transfers. The letter requested that the BLM supply Amodei's office with maps of BLM lands potentially identified as suitable for disposal in existing Resource Management Plans (RMPs) in various BLM districts for Northern Nevada. Congressman Amodei requested that the Commission identify areas of critical hunting habitat or hunting areas within those areas that the Commission would oppose to being transferred; additionally he would like the Board to identify concerns within the checkerboard land along Interstate 80. Commissioner Drew said he committed to Mr. Reiderer that initial maps would be developed, presented to the Commission (today), and then be able to provide the Department with direction going forward. He requested Administrator Jenne to present what was done with initial set of mapping. He himself is comfortable sending the draft maps back to Mr. Reiderer for suggested updates and is willing to draft a cover letter for consideration at the August Commission meeting to provide final mapping. Commissioner Drew noted that he had received correspondence from Backcountry Hunters and Anglers as well.

Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne presented a PowerPoint presentation on Public Land Parcel Disposal (exhibit file). He said the supplied maps to Amodei's office from BLM which were past RMP lands identified for disposal. NDOW maps depict water developments and CHAT rankings which are comprised of species of greatest conservation need, species of economic and recreational importance priority, landscape condition priority and wetland/riparian priority. Administrator Jenne said this is an overview, very cursory evaluation. The maps were received with a short amount of time to turn them around and were a great way to utilize the CHAT tools to assess the maps with multi-data sets.

Commissioner Drew thanked Administrator Jenne for the maps as they provide the opportunity to provide feedback. He said on the CHAT map side maybe figure out a better way to delineate the checkerboard land areas. Commissioner Drew said he would like to see the draft mapping provided to the Congressman's office for initial feedback as well as the CABMWs before the August meeting. He volunteered to draft the cover letter for consideration and finalization at the August meeting. At that time in August also incorporate input received to the cover letter for all to be forwarded to the Congressman.

Commission discussion about what the maps are detailing. Commissioner Hubbs would like to include sensitive species.

Public Comment –

Patrick Donnelly, Center for Biological Diversity, said he and his organization strongly agree with keeping public lands in public hands. They are opposed to large-scale transfers of public lands into private hands. NDOW and the Commission do have an important role to play and the Nevada Congressional delegation will be listened to. He said a Pershing County bill was introduced by Congressman Amodei a few weeks ago. It is a classic Nevada compromise bill where there is Wilderness and Wilderness Release and a transfer of 150,000 acres into private ownership. There is a separate title which is a conveyance area attached to it with reimbursement to the federal government. He encouraged everyone to specifically look at the lands in Pershing County closely as the bill does have the support of the Congressional delegation. That support makes it more likely to move than other legislation.

Robert Gaudet, president of Nevada Wildlife Federation, said they are completely opposed to any major disposal or land transfer. Disposal means any land that is not a federal or state monument, or Wilderness Area. That includes all of our public lands. He urged the Commission to do whatever is necessary to keep our public lands public. Do not sell off our public lands, whether you traded or leased it because once you do that the land will be gone forever. Mr. Gaudet said to Commissioner

Drew that they will thoroughly miss him as he has been a real staunch supporter of Nevada's wildlife and its public lands. His shoes will be hard to fill.

Commissioner Drew said in follow up to Mr. Donnelly's comments that he agreed with him that the Commission does speak with a loud voice. Nevada's Congressional Delegation respects that. The Department's mapping should help inform on the Pershing County lands bill. He said he and staff could identify areas in the Winnemucca BLM District map. There is a previous letter that talks of some of the concepts Mr. Donnelly discussed and in limited cases we would support a transfer that speaks to access for base wildlife activities regarding "no negative impact to habitat." To Mr. Gaudet he said he appreciated his kind words and will stay involved/engaged.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO PROVIDE DRAFT MAPPING AS PRESENTED TODAY TO CONGRESSMAN AMODEI IN HIS OFFICE AS WELL AS THE CABMWS FOR FURTHER REVIEW AND INPUT TO AUTHORIZE COMMISSIONER DREW TO DEVELOP A COVER LETTER FOR REVIEW AT THE AUGUST MEETING AND TO WORK WITH NDOW ON ANY MAPPING UPDATES AND TO REQUEST AN AGENDA ITEM AT THE AUGUST MEETING TO FINALIZE THE COVER LETTER AND MAPS INCORPORATING ANY INPUT RECEIVED IN OUR CORRESPONDENCE TO BE CC'ED TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AS WELL AS THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER VALENTINE. MOTION PASSED 8 – 0. COMMISSIONER YOUNG WAS ABSENT.

24 Future Commission Meetings and Commission Committee Assignments – Secretary Tony Wasley and Chairman Wallace – For Possible Action

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Aug. 11 and 12, 2017, in Minden with time allocated for a Commission and County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife workshop. 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.

Director Wasley reviewed his list of agenda items for the August Commission meeting:

1. Secure meeting location
2. Election of officers
3. Commission recognition
4. Regulation update
5. Discuss the petition process regulation
6. Commission committee reports as well APRC
7. Commission Policies for workshop
8. WAFWA annual conference reports
9. Department projects: overview of the Tahoe EIP program and tour the Department's Air Operations
10. 2017 fire season update
11. CABMW workshop: landowner damage programs, population survey and modeling,
12. Revisit the shed antler issue and trail camera regulations
13. Commercial collection
14. AIS plan for approval
15. Discuss the signage requirement SB 364 for trapping
16. Prepare a roadmap, full discussion, list of issues, review of NRS and NAC, identify issues and determine whether a committee is needed
17. Finalization of the cover letter relative to public land disposal

Deputy Director Robb said he want to put on the record that with the passage of SB 511, and the NACs that go along with the license simplification and timing that we want to roll out the changes for the next license year. Staff is not sure if all the regulations will fall into the regularly scheduled

meetings. There may be extra Commission meetings perhaps telephonic to coordinate with the timing of the Legislative Commission to change these regulations to coincide with SB 511. He wants to advise that it is possible an extra meeting may be scheduled in September.

Commissioner Drew volunteered to NDOW staff that he could help find a meeting venue in Minden. At the last CABMW workshop it was mentioned that the workshop is open to all CABMW members. Not sure if we should reiterate that all the CABMW members can attend. He said the Minden location is an opportunity to see the new helicopter that was funded with Heritage funds. Commissioner Drew said there will be a fun event at some point during the meeting such as a barbecue that is open to everyone. That information will be forthcoming.

Chairman Wallace agreed with seeing the Air Operations Center.

Commissioner Hubbs asked if a letter had been submitted on the Pershing County Lands bill. Commissioner Drew answered that the Commission had not commented specifically, the Department has provided correspondence. What we are providing will be pertinent to that and can look at the map that pertains to that lands bill. In working on agenda item and support material we can identify that in proper form or fashion.

Public Comment – None

25 Public Comment Period
None

Meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.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.