



Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 2, 2013
Location: Clark County Government Center, Pueblo Room
500 S. Grand Central Pkwy.
Las Vegas, NV 89155

Time: 5:30 pm

Board Members Present: Paul Dixon, Chair Michael J. Reese, Vice Chair
Ryan Anderson Brian Patterson Jacky Holt

The agenda for this meeting was posted in the following locations;

- Nevada Department of Wildlife, 4747 West Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89107;
- Clark County Government Center, 500 Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89108;
- City of Henderson, City Hall, 240 Water Street, Henderson, Nevada, 89015;
- Boulder City, City Hall, 401 California Avenue, Boulder City, Nevada, 89005;
- Laughlin Town Manager's Office; 101 Civic Way, Laughlin, Nevada, 89028;
- Moapa Valley Community Center, 320 North Moapa Valley Road, Overton, Nevada, 89040;
- Mesquite City Hall, 10 East Mesquite Boulevard, Mesquite, Nevada, 89027.

Date: March 26, 2013

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1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Chairman Paul Dixon.
- Roll call of Board Members was performed by Stacy Matthews. A quorum was present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

A. Chairman Paul Dixon requested all stand and led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Minutes of March 12, 2013 CCABMW Meeting - Action

- Jana Wright identified a typographical error on page 2, Item 7, bullet 4: "NRD" should be "NRS".
- A Motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on March 12, 2013 amended to correct the noted error. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Agenda for April 2, 2013– Action

- Vice Chair Reese noted that item #10 is a duplicate of #1 and should be deleted.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the Meeting Agenda as written with the deletion of #10. Motion passed unanimously.

Unless otherwise stated, items may be taken out of the order presented on the agenda, and two or more items may be combined for consideration. The Board may also remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item at any time.

5. Action Items:

A. Discuss & make recommendations regarding the following Action Items from the Board of Wildlife Commissioners April 5th, 2013 Agenda and additional items brought forth to the Clark CCABMW from the public for discussion. CCABMW agenda & support materials are available upon request to Stacy Matthews (702) 455-2705 or smatthews@co.clark.nv.us. The final Commission agenda & support materials should be available on April 1, 2013 at www.ndow.org.

1. Set 2014 & 2015 CCABMW Meeting Dates (For Possible Action) Chairman Dixon will discuss setting of the CCABMW meeting dates for 2014 and 2015.

- Chairman Paul Dixon asked the Secretary, Stacy Matthews, to summarize the proposed dates.
- Stacy Matthews explained that the proposed dates are generally the Tuesday immediately preceding the Wildlife Commission meetings. As the Commission has recently published dates for meetings in 2014 and 2015, the CCABMW will set dates appropriately. Two exceptions to the "Tuesday prior" practice are: the August meeting in Overton is held on the Saturday prior to the Commission Meeting, and the November 2014 meeting would fall on Veteran's Day, so that CCABMW meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 4th.
- Chairman Paul Dixon asked Commissioner McBeath to assess the availability of needed backup materials if the Board met over a week prior to the Commission Meeting.
- Commissioner McBeath answered that some materials might not be available, and new items might be added to the Commission Agenda after the Board met.
- Stacy Matthews reviewed the proposed 2015 CCABMW meeting schedule.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the calendar for 2014 and 2015 as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Discuss & make recommendations regarding the following Action Items from the Board of Wildlife Commissioners April 5th, 2013 Agenda and additional items brought forth to the Vegetation issues at Key-Pitman WMA. (For Possible Action) Chairman Dixon will lead an informational discussion about vegetation issues at Key-Pitman WMA ask for public input for public comment.

1. SB333 Compensation Tags – Revises provisions relating to wildlife. (BDR45-1026)

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic. SB333 addresses compensation tags for individuals who run game preserve parks.
- Commissioner McBeath explained that farmers or ranchers, and those that grow alfalfa can receive a compensation tag for mule deer or antelope when their crops are impacted by 50 or more game animals. SB333 proposes to remove the 50 animal requirement.
- Chairman Paul Dixon stated that he feels there needs to be objective criteria set in order to avoid uneven distribution of benefits.

- Vice Chair Reese noted that in the past, the rancher/farmer would call NDOW and set a date for NDOW to visit, and for every 50 animals observed on the land, the rancher/farmer would receive one deer tag.
 - Brian Patterson was confused by the references to elk in the bill. Does it mean the rancher/farmer could receive an elk tag?
 - Commissioner McBeath stated that the elk situation is covered elsewhere. SB333 only deals with deer and antelope tags.
 - Ryan Anderson stated that he does not like not having a set number. Leaving it to the discretion of an individual or individuals could breed corruption and inconsistency.
 - Jay Holt asked the Commissioners in attendance to explain the reasons why this bill was introduced. What was perceived to be wrong with the way Compensation Tags were being distributed?
 - Commissioner McBeath did not know. He said he was aware that some ranchers were critical of the process, but, by and large, the process seemed to work effectively.
 - Chairman Paul Dixon opened the floor for public comment on this item.
 - Arlene Gawne asked Commissioner McBeath why ranchers would be unhappy with the process, and does NDOW ever just take the rancher's word for the number of animals?
 - Commissioner McBeath answered that the process only applies to deer and antelope, and the rancher must arrange for the area NDOW biologist to do the survey. Often, the ranchers are busy and don't get the survey done.
 - Commissioner McBeath further explained that there is a cap on the number of landowner compensation tags, but he is not aware that the number issues ever came close to the cap. He agrees that there should be an objective standard set as there is now. He feels the 50 animal criteria seems to work.
 - A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of SB333 as written with the following changes: 1) Page 2, Line 7, keep "each 50" in the wording, and 2) Page 5, Lines 10-12, remove the proposed subsection (c).
 - The Board continued discussion of this motion.
 - Commissioner Karen Layne offered her advice that due to the limited time remaining in the Legislative Session, the Board should recommend acceptance or rejection of the proposed Bills rather than trying to re-write them.
 - Brian Patterson withdrew his motion.
 - Ryan Anderson made a motion to recommend the Commission reject SB333. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
2. **SB213 Trapping** – Revises certain provisions relating to the trapping of wild animals. (BDR 45-450)
- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic. SB213 addresses several issues related to traps and trapping. He further noted that in his opinion, after hours of testimony, no new arguments have arisen, the NAC enacted last year established boundaries that appear to be working, last trapping season saw no new incidents, and the price of furs has risen dramatically. He is opposed to the changes proposed in this bill. He feels the NAC needs some time to work before these regulations are revisited.
 - Jay Holt agrees that the NAC needs a chance to work and opposes SB213.

- Vice Chair Reese noted that Las Vegas TV Channel 3 and Channel 13 ran stories about pets being taken by wildlife. Channel 3 headlined their story asking "What's Changed?" Traps were moved back 1/2 mile. He agrees with waiting at least one more trapping season before addressing this again.
 - Jay Holt shared that one of his clients on Sunrise Mountain had a Pomeranian taken by a coyote in late January/early February.
 - Commissioner Karen Layne stated that the Commission has already reviewed SB213 and will not support it for technical reasons.
 - Jana Wright spoke in support of SB213, primarily the provisions dealing with trap identification. She feels SB213 completes the job that the Commission started last fall.
 - Chairman Paul Dixon responded that in his opinion, the Trapping Committee did a commendable job with the NAC, and will pick up where they left off last fall. He feels the Committee and Commission is the right place to get this done rather than through legislation.
 - Vikki Werner asked if there is any chance that once the laws are changed legislatively, can any of those changes be undone. Trappers are staying away from Mt. Charleston because it's just too hard to set a trap that complies with the new regulations.
 - Ryan Anderson noted that all of the discussion at this meeting has been regarding SB226 and not SB213.
 - Robert Gaudet, Nevada Wildlife Federation, stated that he is opposed to SB213.
 - Richard Pabst also opposes SB213. He sees it as another slice to reduce or eliminate trapping altogether.
 - Commissioner McBeath stated that while the Commission has already voted on this Bill, he personally still wants to hear what the CABs and the Public have to say on these matters.
 - A motion was made and seconded to oppose SB213. Motion passed unanimously.
- 3. SB82 Bears** – Prohibits the Board of Wildlife Commissioners from authorizing the hunting of black bears. (BDR 45-409)
- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic. He noted that the USF&WS refuted the claim that the black bear in Nevada was a unique sub-species and needed to be protected. There is no data that supports claims that the bear population is endangered, in fact the numbers have grown significantly over the past decade with no impending catastrophic decline in sight. The number of bears taken in the two seasons is trivial compared to the overall population in Nevada. There is no biologic reason to eliminate the hunt.
 - Ryan Anderson stated that he sees this Bill as an attempt by those that oppose the black bear hunt to find a "back door" way to stop the hunt. He is vehemently opposed to SB82.
 - Brian Patterson agreed with Ryan and noted that the Senator that sponsored this Bill did not feel strong enough about it to put his name on it.
 - Vice Chair Reese noted that more black bears are killed through non-hunting means each year than are taken in the hunt. He feels the Commission and NDOW are fully capable of managing the black bear population in Nevada and regulate the hunt year to year.
 - Vikki Werner asked whether SB82 was intended to regulate the hunt or the Wildlife Commission.

- Ryan Anderson answered that the Bill seeks to have the Black Bear declared a protected species in Nevada, and thus the Wildlife Commission cannot establish a hunt for the protected black bear.
 - Vikki Werner stated that she is opposed to SB82.
 - Commissioner McBeath noted that the Black Bear was a protected species due to its small population in Nevada. Once the population grew to where it could sustain a hunt, it was reclassified as a game animal.
 - Robert Gaudet is opposed to SB82 and he feels that NDOW should have time to gather data from the past two hunts before any action is taken.
 - A motion was made and seconded to recommend opposition to SB82. Motion passed unanimously.
- 4. SJR7 Constitutional Amendment** – Proposes to amend the Nevada Constitution to preserve the right to hunt fish and trap in this State. (BDR C-586)
- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
 - Vice Chair Reese stated that he is the President of the Southern Nevada Coalition for Wildlife (SNCW). He endorses SJR7, as does the Coalition. This Constitutional Amendment will make hunting, fishing, and trapping a right in Nevada, not just a privilege. Seventeen other States have enacted and amended their State Constitutions to ensure this right.
 - Chairman Paul Dixon noted that to amend the Nevada State Constitution requires approval in two separate Legislative Sessions and approval by the public by ballot measure.
 - Brian Patterson voiced his support for SJR7.
 - Ryan Anderson, also a member of the SNCW, supports SJR7.
 - Jana Wright is opposed to SJR7. She feels the statement in Article 1 of the Nevada State Constitution dealing with the right to bear arms applies to hunting and no further amendment is needed.
 - Bill DeJuncker, a member of SNCW, read from the official SNCW Position of SJR7.
 - Vikki Werner spoke in support of SJR7 because it opens the discussion to the entire population of Nevada, not just sportsmen and members of certain animal rights groups.
 - Robert Gaudet, President of the Nevada Wildlife Federation, member of SNWC, and NDOW Instructor, strongly supports passage of SJR7 for many of the reasons voiced by Vikki Werner, and because he does not trust anti-hunting advocates.
 - A motion was made and seconded to recommend acceptance of SJR7. Motion passed unanimously.
- 5. SB245 Dangerous Animals (Wildlife Commission)** – Enacts provisions relating to the importation, possession, sale, transfer and breeding of dangerous wild animals. (BDR 50-161)

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic and turned to Jay Holt for his comments.
 - Jay Holt stated that it is his belief that this Bill was influenced by the chimpanzee issue, but most of the animals listed in the bill as dangerous wild animals are already covered by other provisions of the NRS or NACs. He sees this as a pointless bill as it says nothing about housing requirements for wild animals, lists many species of "Dangerous wild animals" without distinction as to sub-species (equating a one pound marmoset with a 500 pound gorilla, for example). He feels it is poor legislation that discriminates and exempts Casinos from following the regulation. This Bill needs to be rejected and rewritten using published data and NDOW guidelines.
 - Vice Chair Reese stated that he will abstain from voting on this matter as he has a family member employed by a casino as an animal attendant.
 - Ryan Anderson agreed with Jay Holt and opposes this Bill.
 - Stacia Newman, Nevada Political Action for Animals, stated that animal abuse and neglect brought about this bill. She cited incidents with pet capuchin monkeys and kinkajous causing serious harm to humans. These animals have no place in neighborhoods or apartments. She also cited the recent escape of Bobcats into a neighborhood.
 - Ryan Anderson noted that the Bobcats Stacia referred to were being held illegally. This bill does nothing to address that situation. the problem we have is the number of illegally housed animals.
 - Jay Holt notes that there are in place laws that proscribe penalties for abuse and mistreatment of animals, exotic or not. This bill, as written, is pointless.
 - Vikki Werner agreed with Jay Holt. This bill does nothing to address the people who are not taking care of exotic animals. Domesticated animal attack people just like exotic animals. This bill is not going to make bad people better.
 - Robert Gaudet opposes SB245 because it could adversely effect his organization that trains dogs to be aware of snakes.
 - A motion was made and seconded to recommend opposing SB245. Motion passed: FOR: 4, AGAINST: 0, ABSTAIN: 1 (Vice Chair Reese).
- 6. SJR1 Wild Horses-** Express support for wild horses and burros in Nevada. (BDR R-115).
- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
 - Vikki Werner asked for more explanation on the purpose of this Resolution.
 - Arlene Gawne, Member of the Spring Mountain Alliance, views this Resolution as instituting a paradigm shift when considering wild horses and burros. It promotes the potential value of wild horses and burros as an attraction for eco tourism and thus a revenue source for the State.
 - Chairman Paul Dixon asked if this was new in this Legislative Session or came from the last Session.
 - Arlene Gawne confirmed that it is new from this Session.
 - Robert Gaudet stated that he is opposed to SJR1 as written. Horses cannot be allowed to run wild with no controls. They tear up the habitat, springs, etc.

- Garnet Pasquale, America's Wild Horse Advocates, stated that the reason this is being written is as an honorarium for wild horses.
- Ryan Anderson noted that wild horses are really feral animals. They are not indigenous to Nevada. He agreed with the statements made regarding the habitat impact of wild horses. As this is tantamount to a Constitutional Amendment, he cannot support it.
- Vice Chair Reese read from the SJR page 1, lines 17-19, "limiting the numbers of wild horses and burros on public and private lands may jeopardize their genetic diversity, health and long-term survival in the State of Nevada", noting that this statement nullifies any herd size restrictions as set in the EML.
- Brian Patterson noted the historical references in Page 2, lines 3-7, describing the wild horses as "living symbols of freedom, the pioneer spirit of the West and America's heritage". But at the expense of what else? It appears to put the wild horse and burro above all other wildlife in the State of Nevada.
- Chairman Paul Dixon stated that while he is in favor of the drive to promote eco tourism, he cannot support SJR1 as written as it does not go far enough to balance the good of the tourism and revenue gains with the impact to the habitat and ecosystem.
- A motion was made and seconded to recommend opposition to SJR1. Motion passed: FOR: 4, AGAINST 0, ABSTAIN: 1 (Jay Holt).

7. AB168 CABMW Composition – Requires the membership of each county advisory board to manage wildlife to include one qualified member who represents the interests of the general public. (BDR 45-780)

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic and voiced his opinion that this works well for Counties with populations over 100,000, where CABs are 5 or more member Boards, but for smaller Counties with Boards of 2 or 3 members, it doesn't work.
- There was extended discussion among the Board regarding the details and wording of this proposed Bill.
- Ryan Anderson is opposed to this Bill based on the wording and use of the term "general public". "Non-consumptive" would be a better term.
- Jay Holt hunts limited species and fishes. He sees value in having a non-consumptive voice on the Board.
- Brian Patterson doesn't understand what a qualified member of the general public is, so he cannot support this Bill.
- Robert Gaudet is opposed to the language of the Bill. He believes all Board member should hold a current hunting or fishing license since some of the license revenue goes to help support wildlife in Nevada.
- Richard Pabst objects to the wording of this Bill. He doesn't see how the County Commission will find a person to "represent" the general public of the County. That person will have to be "anti everything having to do with hunting/fishing/trapping/etc."
- Arlene Gawne agrees that the language as written in this Bill is pathetic. She pointed out that the title CCABMW does not say it strictly for hunters, fishermen, and trappers. There are many people who are not hunters, etc., who enjoy and value wildlife.
- Jana Wright voiced her support of AB168 as it allows diversity.

- A motion was made and seconded to recommend opposition to AB168. Motion passed FOR: 3, Against: 2.

8. SB134 Guzzlers- Revises provisions governing animals. (BDR 48-249)

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
- Brian Patterson questioned the rationale of requiring State Engineer's approval for a guzzler of only 1000 gallons. He cannot approve this bill as written.
- Ryan Anderson agreed with Brian. He also noted that the Bill authorizes the State Engineer and his assistants to arrest violators.
- Vice Chair Reese agreed that the 1000 gallon stipulation is ridiculous. Most guzzlers are 5000 gallons at least.
- Bill DeJuncker agrees.
- Robert Gaudet agrees.
- Commissioner McBeath explained some of the background leading to this legislation. He sees it as a "very dangerous" piece of legislation with respect to organization that build and maintain guzzlers for Nevada's wildlife.
- Motion was made and seconded to recommend opposition to SB134. Motion passed unanimously.

9. AB396 – Revises provisions relating to the waters of this State and access issues. (BDR 48-763)

- This item was not discussed due to time constraints.

6. Public Comment: Members of the public who wish to address the Board may speak on matters within the jurisdiction of the Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife. No action may be taken on a matter not listed on the posted agenda. Any item requiring Board action not on this agenda may be scheduled on a future agenda. Public comments on posted agenda items will be allowed at the time the agenda item is considered before the Board takes any action on the item. Comments will be limited to three minutes. **NOTE: Please complete the Public Comment Interest Card and submit to Chairman Dixon.**

- Vikki Werner Expressed her feelings that many of the Action Items discussed were controversial. She feels the wording in AB168 should be "non-consumptive" she finds "general public" offensive.
- Ray Crump was upset that he had to pay a \$3 fee for "predator control" when applying for a deer tag. When he asked a NDOW person where the \$3 goes, he was told they were advised not to say anything.
- Chairman Paul Dixon explained that by NRS, a \$3 predator control fee must be collected with every application.
- Bill DeJuncker, WHIN, requested the CCABMW Agenda for the next meeting include an item to discuss compensation for non-profits awarded a Heritage tag in order to cover advertizing costs.

7. Authorize the Chairman to prepare and submit any recommendations from today's meeting to the Commission for its consideration at its April 5th meeting in Reno, Nevada. (For Possible Action)

- A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Chairman to prepare and submit recommendations from this meeting to the Commission. Motion passed unanimously.
- 8. The next Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting is scheduled for May 7th, 2013 at the Clark County Government Center, Pueblo Room to support the scheduled Wildlife Commission meeting on May 10th and 11th, 2013 in Reno, Nevada.**
- 9. Adjournment**
- A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:59PM.