



# Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

## MEETING MINUTES

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Date: September 17, 2013  
Location: Department of Forestry Conference Room  
4747 Vegas Drive,  
Las Vegas NV 89108

Time: 5:30 pm

Board Members Present: Paul Dixon, Chair J. Michael Reese, Vice Chair  
John Sullivan Brian Patterson Mike Pergola Ryan Anderson

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: September 12, 2013

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### 1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm by Chairman Paul Dixon.
- Roll call of Board Members was performed by Stacy Matthews. A quorum was present.

### 2. Pledge of Allegiance

- Chairman Paul Dixon requested all stand and Asked Vice Chair Reese to lead the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 3. Approval of Minutes of July 27, 2013 CCABMW Meeting - Action

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on July 27, 2013 as written. The motion passed unanimously.

### 4. Approval of Agenda for September 17, 2013 – Action

- Chairman Paul Dixon noted that informational item #7, Disease Event Update will need to be taken out of sequence, as the speaker, NDOW Biologist Peregrine Wolff, will present via conference call once she has returned to her office from the field.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the Meeting Agenda as written with the addition of a restroom break around 7:30, and allowing for the Disease Report to be taken out of sequence. 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. **CAB Member Items/Announcements/Correspondence: (Informational):** Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife (CCABMW) members may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the CCABMW. Any item requiring CCABMW action will be scheduled on a future CCABMW agenda. CCABMW board members may discuss any correspondence sent or received. (CCABMW board members must provide hard copies of their correspondence for the written record).
  - Brian Patterson - NDOW and Sportsman's Warehouse will be holding weekly informational seminars weekends from Sept. 28th thru Oct 19th.
  - Vice Chair Reese- Las Vegas Chapter of the Mule Deer Foundation will hold their annual Banquet November 16th at Santa Fe Station. Also, the Clark County Shooting Park will host the Western States Sporting Clay Championships next spring.
  - Mike Pergola - was asked why is spear fishing catfish not legal. As no NDOW representative had any answer or input, Chairman Paul Dixon will add this to a future agenda.
  - John Sullivan - Nevada Trappers Association will hold the 4th annual Trapper education on Mt. Charleston Sept. 28th at Prospect Springs Ranch.
  - Chairman Paul Dixon - read changes in Arizona/Nevada fishing/boating regulations/agreements.
6. **Carpenter 1 Fire Impact Update (Informational)** – An NDOW representative will lead a discussion about the Carpenter 1 fire impact. What is being done for plant and animal rehabilitation?
  - Brad Hardenbrook, NDOW, provided an update. Most of burn area in wilderness areas. Gambles quail, mule deer, elk, affected. BLM and Forest Service addressing debris flow and water run-off. Website: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/state/29>. Burn intensity varied across areas.
  - Mike Pergola asked about guzzlers in the burn area.
  - Brad answered that no water improvement projects were in the burn area.
7. **Disease Event Update – Southern California Desert Bighorn Sheep – Dr. Peregrine Wolff (Informational)** – A wild sheep disease report will be provided and impacts on the Southern Nevada Big Horn populations.
  - Chairman Paul Dixon was unable to reach Dr. Wolff by phone.
8. **Wild Horse Update - (Informational)** - An NDOW representative will lead a discussion about the status of the wild horse issues pending in Southern Nevada.
  - Brad Hardenbrook, NDOW Biologist, discussed status. A planning effort is underway for the Spring Mountains jointly between the Forest Service and BLM. Public Comment on the draft plan ended 7/15. Work is underway to have the revised Plan released in September, with the opportunity for Public comment by November. He read through a list of other projects.
  - Chairman Paul Dixon noted that due to the Federal Sequester funding issue, money for wild horse programs was divided evenly across all states, so Nevada funds are extremely limited.
9. **Cow Elk Management Strategies - (Informational)** - An NDOW representative will provide information regarding several cow elk hunt management strategies to meet the Department's elk management goals, to include information on any regulation changes to meet those management goals.
  - Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic.

- Steve Kimble (NDOW) - reviewed herd management objectives. Preference is to have hunters reduce herd numbers. One incentive is to offer cow elk tag if deer tag drawn in certain areas. Also proposed stopping bonus points for depredation hunts.
- Richard Pabst asked if NDOW is considering youth hunts. SK responded not yet.
- Ron Raynor asked if the proposal is accepted, would he lose the points he accumulated for seven years of deprivation hunts. SK answered yes.
- Commissioner McBeath stressed the impact of increasing elk tags in areas that coincide with deer season hunts.
- Another proposal is a wilderness-only antlerless elk hunt. Or join antlered and antlerless in same draw.
- Arlene Gawne asked what the target bull/cow ratio is for Nevada. SK stated it is 40 bulls per100 cows.
- Richard Pabst noted that some states have a "progressive" tag that adjusts if the hunter is unsuccessful in the initial tag category. He asked if this might be an option for Nevada.SK agreed this might be a useful option.
- Vikki Werner asked about the possibility of a youth spike hunt. She also asked how many of the proposals will be adopted? SK stated that the number of proposals adopted is up to the committee to decide (one, many, all, none).
- Dave Stowater asked about group cow tags vs. bull tags. What are the possible ramifications if a member of cow group draws a bull tag? SK was unable to provide definitive answers to possible scenarios.

#### **10. CCABMW Board Member Applications – (Informational) – CCABMW Board Member**

Applications are being accepted until close of business on 10/10/2013. The upcoming vacancy is for one member who is qualified to represent the interests of the general public of the county pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 501.265.

- Stacy Matthews announced a pending opening on the Board. Brian Patterson's term expires November 16th. Anyone wishing to apply as a representative of the General Public can do so. Applications are available on the Clark County Air Quality web site. Printed copies of the application were also available at the Meeting.

#### **11. Action Items:**

- A. Discuss & make recommendations regarding the following Action Items from the Board of Wildlife Commissioners June 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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](mailto:smatthews@co.clark.nv.us). The final Commission agenda & support materials should be available on June 17, 2013 at [http://www.ndow.org/Commission/Schedule\\_and\\_Agenda/](http://www.ndow.org/Commission/Schedule_and_Agenda/)

- 1. Commission Regulation 13 - 14 Fishing Seasons and Bag Limits for 2014 – 2016 - (For Possible Action)** The Clark CABMW Board will review and discuss recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about fishing seasons, bag and possession limits for the period of March 1, 2014, through Feb. 29, 2016.

- Chairman Paul Dixon asked Mike Pergola for his opinion on proposed fishing seasons and bag limits.
  - Mike Pergola had no objections to the season dates or bag limits. He proposed changing license dates to be Jan 1 - Dec 31. He feels this will increase revenue and allow license to be purchased in advance of the fishing season opening on March 1.
  - John Sullivan advised that currently you can buy a joint hunting and fishing license at a discount, and since hunting seasons all end the last day of February, the fishing license also needs to be valid until the end of February.
  - Kensen Lee noted joint hunting/fishing license needs to be valid through February since hunting seasons go into new year.
  - Chairman Paul Dixon asked for public input on proposed regulations/limits.
  - Motion made and seconded to recommend approval of the proposed fishing limits and seasons as written. The motion passed unanimously.
- 2. Commissioner General Regulation 427, Trapping Visitation Limit, LCB File No. R018-13- - (For Possible Action)** The Clark CABMW Board will review and discuss recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about a regulation relating to trapping; interpreting the phrase “visit or cause to be visited” for certain purposes relating to trapping; specifying the minimum period during which a person must visit or cause to be visited certain traps, snares or similar device; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.
- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic. He noted that the Trapping regulation committee is scheduled to meet Saturday at 6pm.
  - John Sullivan reviewed status of "visitation" issue. Commissioner Robb to put in place 96 hours as has been in past and have committee establish new regulation for future years. Committee needs to establish definition of visiting trap.
  - Mike Maynard, NDOW, stated that NDOW will enforce whatever the Commission decides. There has been confusion in courts, etc. over what constitutes visitation.
  - Vice Chair Reese stated that he is sympathetic to trapper views on visitation. If an animal is caught in a trap, it must be removed per existing NRS. He would like to make it easier for trappers to be successful for predator control.
  - Mike Pergola shared his experiences with mountain lions in his yard. He further noted that in most cases trappers are trying to make a living or supplement their income by trapping. Why wouldn't they check their traps frequently?
  - Bill DeJuncker suggested the Committee focus on what "visit" means: being present or observing from what distance.
  - Tracy Truman noted that SB213 said that visitation of traps in a congested area was required not visitation in general.
  - Chairman Paul Dixon stated that the Commission will vote on the proposed regulation before the Committee meets again to discuss the definition of "visitation".
  - Ryan Anderson stated that whatever decision is made, it has to be made quickly, otherwise there will be no regulation. Secondly, he feels that if you can clearly see your trap (by whatever means available) and determine if there is an animal in the

trap or not, that should constitute visitation. Further, he is in favor of increasing penalties not increasing regulations.

- John Sullivan agreed with Tracy Truman that having Wardens monitor empty traps is a waste of resources. An animal left in a trap is a violation. A trapper can make a mistake and not see a trapped bobcat, for instance, due to their camouflage. Close inspection of coyote traps is counterproductive; no coyotes will be caught.
  - Jana Wright endorses definition of visitation in proposal. Recommends setting the visitation time limit at 24hr. She feels that common sense would dictate that visitation means close physical presence, like within 3 feet. She feels that in the proposal, "mammal" should be changed to "animal since birds also could be caught in a trap.
  - Ryan Werner believes that the time frame should remain 96 hours otherwise it becomes cost prohibitive to check traps daily. He also endorses stiffer penalties for violations.
  - Stacia Newman agrees with Jana Wright on changing mammal to animal and on setting the visitation period to 24 hours. She further noted that inspecting traps requires physical presence. No other industry permits inspection via binoculars or telescope.
  - Stephanie Meyers agrees with Jana. Trappers must check traps within 24 hrs within 3 feet. She objects to trapping as killing animals and feels that an animal in a trap for 96 hours is animal cruelty.
  - John Sullivan observed that the methods and techniques needed to trap various animals vary widely. Beaver, muskrat, bobcat, and coyote all require different strategies. Some require close inspection while others can be inspected from a distance.
  - Commissioner McBeath asked about enforcement of trapped animal.
  - John Sullivan offered possible methods to mark a trapped animal to assist in enforcement. He recommends letting the Trapping Committee set the definitions.
  - Vikki Werner asked for one year to discuss this issue. She feels the proposal is too much regulation. If she does something wrong, fine her.
  - A motion was made and seconded to strike section 2 of the proposal. Motion passed unanimously.
- 3. Commission General Regulation 429, Trapping Registration Number, LCB FILE No. R017-13- (For Possible Action)** The Clark CABMW Board will review and discuss recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about a regulation relating to trapping; revising provisions governing the registration of a trap, snare or similar device; setting forth the requirements for affixing a registration number to the trap, snare or similar device; and the issuance of trap registration numbers and established the manner of marking traps or snares.
- Chairman Paul Dixon read the proposed regulation. In summary, traps must be registered. Registration number must be affixed to the trap.

- John Sullivan is opposed to registration. He feels there is not enough time to have traps tagged before trapping season opens. He suggested Wardens issue warnings to trappers without tags since there is little time left before trapping starts. He showed a sample copper tag for attendees to see.
  - Mike Maynard, NDOW, stated that trappers will need some time to fully comply with the new regulation. Chief Robb will be fair with the new regulation.
  - Vice Chair Reese asked if trap registration information is protected or open to the public.
  - Chairman Paul Dixon stated that the information is secure and requires a court order to release that data.
  - Jana Wright read from SB213 Section 3.5 confirming that any trap registration information shall remain confidential and requires court order to be released.
  - John Sullivan noted that a trapped animal can chew off an attached tag.
  - Mike Maynard stated that should a trap be missing a tag, it is usually one of several set similarly in the same area. If the others have tags attached, it is reasonable to assume the suspect trap was initially tagged the same as the others.
  - Vikki Werner raised the question of a family of five trappers: do they each have individual numbers? Is it required that traps are visited by the registered trapper? Is there any concept of a permission slip for visitation?
  - Chairman Paul Dixon believes the Trapping Committee needs to address the concept of a family of trappers.
  - Tracy Truman suggested a permission slip in advance allowing another person to visit your traps in your place.
  - Ryan Anderson asked about registering multiple family members to a single number or set of numbers that they jointly "own".
  - Mike Maynard brought up the question of liability for trap violations. Can a juvenile be liable for trap violations?
  - Ryan Anderson suggested having an adult identified as "primary" for the family group.
  - Ryan Werner asked about missing traps and numbers.
  - Mike Maynard advised that if a trap is stolen, report it to the county Sheriff.
  - A motion made and seconded to accept as written. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **Commission Policy #23 Predation Management - (For Possible Action)** The Clark CABMW Board will review and discuss recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners that they adopt or modify Commission Policy #23 as presented.
- This topic was tabled due to lack of time to discuss.
5. **Review and Update the Draft Fiscal Year 2014 Predator Management Plan – Commissioner McBeath and Staff Specialist Pete Bradley - (For Possible Action)** The Clark CABMW Board will review and discuss recommendations to

the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners that they adopt or modify the FY2014 Predator Management Plan.

- This topic was tabled due to lack of time to discuss.

**6. Proposed Trail Camera Commission General Regulation - (*For Possible Action*)** The Clark CABMW Board will review and discuss recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about promulgating a regulation relating to trail cameras and associated provisions.

- This topic was tabled due to lack of time to discuss.

**7. Commission General Regulation 414, Desert Tortoise, LCB File No. R004-13 – Chief of Wildlife Diversity - (*For Possible Action*)** The Clark CABMW Board will review and discuss recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about regulation relating to desert tortoises which prohibits a person from possessing more than one desert tortoise under certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto. The Wildlife Commission will consider taking action to restrict the number of pet desert tortoises for adoption/possession as approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to *one* per person as of May 1, 2013. Pet desert tortoises in possession prior to enactment are not affected by the regulation (only new possessions of pet desert tortoise). The amendment is needed due to the over breeding of pet desert tortoises in captivity primarily in southern Nevada.

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic and asked Commissioner Layne to go into more detail.
- Commissioner Layne discussed status of issue. This matter is important to Southern Nevada. She corrected recent media announcements that with the closing of the Desert Tortoise Conservation Center healthy tortoises will not be euthanized, but will be transferred to other facilities.
- Chairman Paul Dixon noted a letter from Nancy Lipski, Director, Clark County Comprehensive Planning to Tony Wasley, Director, NDOW, supporting the proposed regulation. He also read the proposed regulation for the attendees and for the record.
- Chris Tomlinson, NDOW, discussed online registration process. Anyone who has a tortoise should go online and register their tortoise. There is an issue with the numbers of rescued tortoises coming in. In the wild, there are some translocations taking place. Pet tortoises should not be released into the wild due to potential diseases.
- A motion was made and seconded to support proposed regulation as written. Motion passed unanimously.

**12. 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.**

- Richard Pabst voiced his belief that while many who attend the CAB meetings regularly are genuinely interested in wildlife issues and want to support efforts to preserve the Nevada resources for sporting activities, there are some who hide behind lawsuits and devious acts rather than openly state their position on wildlife issues.
- Vikki Werner asked about how to dispose of tortoise carcasses. As a taxidermist she is not allowed to work on a protected species due to federal regulations.
- Chris Tomlinson, NDOW, noted that in Nevada, tortoises are co-managed by NDOW and USF&WS because they are protected. He advised that she double bag it and throw it away.
- Commissioner Layne advised she can contact the Animal Foundation.
- Arlene Gawne gave a brief update on the status of the wild horse project in the Spring Mountains and alerted the attendees to a handout available on the back table. Dart volunteers are trained. The plan is to dart the mares and jennys with a contraceptive that is 95% effective to control herd growth looking to have growth to zero in 7 years. Additionally, there will be bait capture with local adoption of captured animals.

**13. Authorize the Chairman to prepare and submit any recommendations from today's meeting to the Commission for its consideration at its September 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> meeting in Las Vegas, 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.

**14. The next Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting is scheduled December 3, 2013 Clark County Government Center to support the scheduled Wildlife Commission meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> in Reno, Nevada.**

**15. Adjournment**

- A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:54PM.