



# Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

## MEETING MINUTES

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Date: August 9, 2014  
Location: Overton Community Center  
320 North Moapa Valley Blvd  
Overton, Nevada 89040

Time: 9:00 am

Board Members Present: Paul Dixon, Chair      J. Michael Reese, Vice Chair      John Hiatt  
William Stanley      Brian Patterson

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: August 5, 2014

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### 1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am 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 led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 3. Approval of Minutes of June 17, 2014 CCABMW Meeting - Action

- It was brought to the Chairman's attention that the minutes needed to be amended.
- On page 6, 3rd to last bullet under item 6. C., "bring" should be changed to "bringing".
- On page 7, second bullet under 6. I. text that reads "The maps proposed changes to the firearms area in Clark County were made at the Reno Meeting..." should be changed to read "The proposed maps change the trapping areas to match the restricted firearms areas in Clark County. The proposed maps were made at the Reno Meeting..."
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on June 17, 2014 as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

#### 4. Approval of Agenda for August 9, 2014 – Action

- It was noted that Agenda Item 6. A. may be premature since the Governor has not announced his selection(s) for new members of the Wildlife Commission.
- Vice Chair Reese suggested 6.A. be tabled.
- John Hiatt agreed that it was best to wait for a decision.
- A motion was made and seconded to Table item 6.A. and accept the Meeting Agenda as written. 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 noted the Safari Club banquet is tonight at the Henderson Convention Center.
- The Union Sportsmen's Alliance will have a Trap Shoot on Sept. 27th at the Clark County Shooting Park.
- There are two upcoming vacancies on the CCABMW. The vacancies are for a hunter, trapper, angler or person engaged in ranching or farming in Clark County. Applications are being accepted information has been posted to the Clark County Department of Air Quality website. Applications are due no later than close of business September 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Overton-WHIN will have feed plot planting on August 16th.
- Nevada Sportsmen Unlimited has built several new duck blinds - Tim Wood (NDOW)

#### 6. Action Items:

**Discuss & make recommendations regarding the following Action Items from the Board of Wildlife Commissioners August 15th and 16th, 2014 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 at [http://www.ndow.org/Public\\_Meetings/Commission/Agenda/](http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Commission/Agenda/)

##### A. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman (*For Possible Action*)

- The Governor has not made a selection at this time therefore, this item was tabled.

**B. Final comments on the Overton Conceptual Management Plan (*For Possible Action*)** The Clark CABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about Overton CMP.

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this item asking if there are further questions or comments.
- John Hiatt asked if there will be an update to the CMP in response to comments received.
- Chairman Paul Dixon answered no.

- Vice Chair Reese stated that the finished product was a very comprehensive management plan. They address all issues that were brought up during the comment period and at the two meetings that were held. Reese stated he appreciated the fact that they put everything into writing for all to see.
- Chairman Paul Dixon - Appendix A summarizes the proposed actions on the WMA and time tables for those actions to be implemented.
- Tim Wood noted that there is a copy of the Overton CMP on the NDOW site.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the CMP as written. Motion passed unanimously.

**C. Commission Regulation 15 - 01 Migratory Waterfowl and Webless Bird Seasons, Bag Limits, and Special Regulations for Waterfowl and Webless Birds, Public hunting limited on Wildlife Management Areas and Designated State Lands – 2014-15 Season (*For Possible Action*)** The Clark CABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about recommendations for seasons, bag limits, and special regulations for migratory waterfowl and webless game birds for the 2014 - 2015 season and adopt regulations that comply with the proposed regulations framework for the 2014-2015 late and early hunting seasons on certain migratory game birds established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Commission may also adopt changes to rules regulating public hunting on Wildlife Management Areas and designated state lands and may take action to change the current regulations for the Controlled Goose Hunting Zone within the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area.

- Russell Woolstenhulme, NDOW, reviewed the proposed Commission Regulation, season dates, bag limits, etc. He stated that the US Fish and Wildlife Service held a Flyway meeting in March for the early season, and in July for the late season. The season is 107 days this year with two days for Youth Hunt. A Breeding Survey in May showed 49.2 million birds, an all-time high. There was a slight decline in Canvas Backs and Pintails. Bag limit for Canvas Back was reduced from 2 to 1 per day, but increased from 3 to 4 for Canada Geese and from 6 to 10 for White-fronted Geese.
- Vice Chair Reese asked about the size of the Flyway Committees.
- Russell Woolstenhulme gave numbers for the various committees.
- Chairman Paul Dixon asked about the special hunt within the 105 day season, particularly flooding the fields in the middle of Dove season.
- Gerald Swanson, a chef at Caesars said he eats Coot, in response to Chairman Dixon's question of who eats coot!
- John Hiatt asked where are the numbers that support a 10/30 bag limit on white-fronted geese.
- Russell Woolstenhulme replied that these were the objectives for white fronted goose from the flyway meeting. He added that Canada Geese in Nevada are from are two distinct flyway populations, Pacific and Rocky Mountain, and their harvest numbers have been increased to match management objectives.
- John Hiatt stated that there are large surpluses of snow geese in Canadian breeding grounds and in the central flyway but that the limits being sent don't make sense for Nevada. We have very few snow geese in Nevada.
- Russell Woolstenhulme Snow Geese are different population than we get.
- Chairman Paul Dixon noted the rest of the country has had greater moisture than Nevada and the west and their geese populations that are larger.
- John Hiatt asked if wintering areas will be able to support birds.
- Russell Woolstenhulme replied that the Northern California rice fields in the Central Valley will be flooded after harvest. There is some concern over lack of food is harvest objectives are not met for wintering birds. Hopefully, El Nino will fill the ponds.

- Chairman Paul Dixon asked if this is in the migratory birds' route.
- Russell Woolstenhulme answered yes.
- Russell Woolstenhulme noted that for Mason Valley, the goose hunt will change. People want to use the land in Mason Valley for other purposes. There is a proposal to eliminate the hunt or reduce the hunt area to successful harvest areas from previous years. The Overton Reservation Draw is in place and will be conducted in Reno.
- Vice Chair Reese questioned the conflict with Dove season.
- Tim Wood, NDOW, replied that it will be worked out well in advance of the opener. The Youth Hunt is for hunters 15 and younger at time of license purchase.
- Bennie Vann asked the ages for youth/pre-adult.
- Russell Woolstenhulme replied the youth must be under 16. No duck stamp required.
- Russell Woolstenhulme also noted that Mason Valley requires a reservation for a blind to hunt in. Removing all restrictions would affect the hunt.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept CR 15-01 season dates and bag limits as written. The CAB also supported Mason Valley alternative #2 being added to regulation 11-15. Motion passed unanimously.

**D. Commission Regulation 14 - 11 Amendment #1 – Application Procedures/Dates - Turkey Hunts (*For Possible Action*)** Clark CABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about the regulation that will establish the 2015 – 2016 application procedures for the resident and nonresident turkey hunts.

- Commissioner Karen Layne noted that there was an issue with getting tags to the license holders in time for hunt planning, therefore the application and tag issuance dates were moved back.
- Steve Windish, from Logandale, asked whether the 2 dog training days per month was still active during turkey season. He recommended that during turkey hunting that the WMA be closed and access control during the turkey hunt. He stated that it can take over 6 years to get a tag. Steve expressed concerns about closed areas during turkey hunting season and other users on the Overton Management Wildlife area.
- Chairman Paul Dixon advised to read the section of the OVM report on page 56 that deals with duck season.
- Tim Wood, NDOW, shared that the south end has very little activity. The gate has to be open for UPS shipments, etc. Leave gate open and put up signs. NDOW spent \$4K on signs.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept CR 14-11 as written. Motion passed unanimously.

**E. 10 min break**

**F. Commission General Regulation 450, Trap Visitation, LCB File No. R087 - 14 (*For Possible Action*)** The Clark CABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about the new regulation relating to trapping; increasing the required frequency of visitation to certain traps, snares or similar devices used in the taking of wild mammals. The regulation will require a person who places a trap, snare or similar device in close proximity to one of the populated or heavily used areas which are set forth in regulation to visit a trap, snare or similar device at least once every second calendar day; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

- Bill Stanley noted that the emphasis here is for Kyle Canyon, Coldcreek Canyon and Lee Canyon. The OVM Plan has a conflict model we should try to use in other areas. By taking a similar approach, it could alleviate a lot of issues.

- Vice Chair Reese shared that trapping meetings were held at the Department of Forestry. Changes can be made as needed. They must rely on science not emotions.
- Russell Woolstenhulme discussed bobcat tags and harvest information, how many traps and how many days the proposed regulation states.
- Vice Chair Reese brought up the lack of data regarding pets caught in traps. He asked why pets were allowed to run loose and why they are far from the owner. He added that more pets are lost to coyotes in the city but the numbers caught in traps are not that high. He stated his belief that SB226 went too far.
- Brian Patterson stated we are chasing after changes for the entire State where we have people. We should be making changes only to those areas of high congestion, which SB 226 accomplished. There is no need for further regulation on visitation.
- John Hiatt emphasized that the trapping issue is real for dog owners. Traps in large numbers are needed to catch anything leading to traps everywhere. He voiced his support for more frequent trap visitation time. It is his expectation to be able to walk his dog and not have them caught in a trap. The issue needs to be dealt with not ignored.
- Chairman Paul Dixon shared that it is a reasonable expectation to be able to walk a pet knowing there are traps in the area. Visitation does not have anything to do with how long a dog (or pet) sits in a trap. Trap visitation is about animal welfare of the trapped target or non-target animals. He would like to see statistics, but believes the number of non-target species captured vs. number of traps set pales by comparison. Trail use, picnic areas, roads, etc., the setback distance were made larger by SB226. People getting off the beaten path should be notified by signage that trapping is occurring. We need to continue to educate trappers and the public. Also, this is the social issue, there are more pets is eaten in the owner's back yard by coyotes than caught in traps.
- Bill Stanley - Regarding the trapping issues we should collect real information about domestic animals and wildlife then we can have an informed discussion. Three canyons in Clark County are the focus of trapping and spotlighting. It is a 45 minute drive to view Elk from Las Vegas and this area of Cold Creek is a popular hunting area. The real answer, follow CMP example from Overton and come up with a plan that addresses the concerns of the residents of Kyle, Lee and Cold Creek Canyons.
- Gerald Swanson noted at Sunrise Mountain it's been 15 years since a dog was trapped. Punishing trappers based on low number of pets being trapped by shortening visitation does not make sense.
- Steve Reiter shared that he had a dog caught in a trap with no damage to the dog. He trapped as a kid and never captured any non-target animals. Visitation time does not change a dog getting caught. The owner should be there to release the dog not the trapper.
- Pete Hamilton added that there are all kinds of predators. In Overton there are coyotes, and posters for lost pets. He cautioned hunters to be careful with firearms.
- Shannon Ireland noted dogs getting caught in trap should have owner nearby. Dog typically removed quickly. Urban coyotes and missing pets is a SB213 issue statewide. There are a record number of coyotes taking pets. She warned that if we continue down this path Nevada will be like California. Trapping is safer than firearms.
- Commissioner Karen Layne shared that during her tenure on the Trapping Committee, it was a lengthy one year, but it leads to a compromise. The Tonopah meeting resolved the demerit and education issues. Proposals were put aside by Commissioner McBeath. SB213 ordered

the Wildlife Commission to look at congested areas. The Senate Natural Resource Committee is coming forward with their own bill at the upcoming Legislative Session. Clark County congested fire arms area doesn't include all of Mt. Charleston, but only small areas of it. SB213 requires registration and visitation proposals. If Trappers are unwilling to make changes then the Legislature might do it for them. The issue of pervasive pet loss by predators is something NDOW deals with to control. EW is not hearing NDOW saying predators eating pets is out of control. So maybe it's not that big a problem and trappers want no change to visitation and demerits.

- Chairman Paul Dixon voiced his concern that visitation has to do with target animals and non-target animals in the field not pets. Does the number of traps days and trap visitation in the firearms restricted impact pets being caught? NO! If the concern is non-target animals, do we make the wrong decision now to correct later? Chairman Dixon agreed with Bill Stanley's suggestion to follow the Overton CMP conflict example.
- Commissioner Karen Layne stated that it is too late. The Commission has to approve something at the meeting. No one can say they were not heard at this point.
- Bill Stanley noted that a regulations approved must be completed prior to the 90 day deadline imposed by the Nevada Administrative Act. Having a domestic animal caught in a trap, just say sorry and stop blaming the pet owner. Human and congested area. Target species vs non-target species. Regulations forbid an individual from euthanizing an animal caught in a trap. Rainbow Canyon residents don't want to see trapping in their neighborhood. Since 2011 the residents have tried to end trapping. Trappers want no changes; we should work in the problem area, the three canyons in Clark County, and find a compromise.
- Brian Patterson feels that SB213 discusses visitation, and it is convoluted. Visitation is not the issue, trapping is the issue. He does not agree with the issue.
- Bill Stanley views this as coming back with nothing.
- Commissioner Karen Layne - Registration and Visitation were given to the Commission to determine how registration should be handled. Senator Aaron Ford was frustrated that the Commission did not accomplish what was needed. The Commission loses out. This is a huge loss for the Commission and now the Senate Natural Resources Committee will bring this forward in the upcoming Legislature.
- Vice Chair Reese added that SB213 was to discuss trapping but had no clear cut results.
- John Hiatt noted that politicians do not like conflict. With 95% of Nevada' population being urban, it is easy to predict that the trappers will lose.
- A motion was made, amended, and seconded. The resulting vote was two members recommending approval of the proposed regulation and three against.
- The two CABMW members who supported the trap visitation regulation changes as written felt that inaction by the Commission to implement restrictions in congested areas was a mistake and it would force the Legislature to take action on its own that no one will be happy with.
- The three CABMW member who did not support the trap visitation as written felt that the changes did not address some of the key issues in the areas of highest conflict:
  - 1) Pets and kids being caught in traps is a red herring. Visitation will not stop that from happening.
  - 2) SB226 did address setbacks so that a number of items would be accomplished such as not seeing animals caught in traps, pets wouldn't as easily get caught etc. Also, SB226 needs

to collect a few trapping seasons worth of data (and not keep adding items to it) to determine if it is having the intended impacts.

- 3) In heavily used public areas, the fact is that you just don't want to see animals target or non-target, caught in a trap suffering. This is a problem because a person cannot euthanize or release a legally trapped furbearing animal in a trap.
- 4) The proposed visitation time change does not address all three key canyons on Mount Charleston that SB226 identified.
- 5) Finally, the regulation puts visitation restrictions in areas where there were no issues and have very low usage by the public.

**G. Commission General Regulation 451, Demerit Points for Trespass and Trap Visitation**

**Violations, LCB File No. R088 - 14 (For Possible Action)** The Clark CABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the regulation relating to increasing the number of demerit points that the Department of Wildlife must assess for certain wildlife violations; expanding the wildlife violations for which the Department must assess demerit points. This regulation increases from three to 12 the demerit points that the Department of Wildlife must assess for a conviction for fishing in non-navigable waters on private property without permission; and from six to 12 demerit points for a conviction for hunting or trapping on private property without permission. The regulation also adds the imposition of six demerit points against a person for a failure to visit a trap, snare or similar device 48 or more hours after the prescribed period for visiting the trap, snare or similar device. Finally, this regulation requires the Department to double the demerit points assessed against a person if the person is convicted of committing the same violation within 60 months; providing other matters properly relating thereto.

- Chairman Paul Dixon read into the record an email he had received from Judy Caron.
- Chairman Paul Dixon further noted the proposed regulation sets increased demerits for 12 trespass. He feels a lot of money and time has been spent on a small issue and the result does not address the problem.
- Vice Chair Reese sees it as a problem getting a conviction to stick. The land owner can press charges, confront you, but you show up again and you are trespassing.
- John Hiatt supported six demerit points for 48 or more hours late visiting a trap.
- Gerald Swenson noted 48 hours after 96 hours requires fine plus 3 demerits. Trying to increase to 6 demerits.
- Brian Patterson expressed that to lose your license for one infraction is wrong. It's similar to losing your driving privilege for one speeding ticket or running a stop sign. There have only been 22 citations for trespass in the past 10 years; is this really an epidemic that needs a heavy handed change? The current 3 demerits and fine are appropriate.
- John Hiatt asked what the history is.
- Vice Chair Reese – Answered per set. What if another county's rules are vague? What if multiple traps involved?
- Chairman Paul Dixon said trespass should not result in a loss of license look at the statistics.
- A motion was made and seconded to recommend the Commission oppose R088-14. Motion passed unanimously.

**H. Trapper Education (For Possible Action)** The Clark CABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations about options for implementation of a trapper education program. Program items for consideration may include among others; statutory/regulatory authority, course content development and objectives, course delivery, and associated costs and budget. The Commission may take action to provide guidance on the development of related regulations to the

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve projects submitted for funding from Upland Game stamp funds.

- Motion was made and seconded to table this item. Motion passed unanimously.

**I. Update on Bighorn Herd Status and Disease in Mineral and Esmeralda Counties and Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2014 – 2015 Big Game Release Plan (*For Possible Action*)**

The Clark CABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about A request to amend the Fiscal Year 2014 – 2015 (through June 2015) Big Game Release Plan to add a desert bighorn augmentation for the Garfield Hills and Gillis Range in Mineral County.

- Motion was made and seconded to table this item. Motion passed unanimously.

**J. Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) Wild Horse Lawsuit (*For Possible Action*)** The Clark CABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about the NACO wild horse lawsuit.

- Motion was made and seconded to table this item. Motion passed unanimously.

**7. 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.**

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this item.
- Shannon Ireland discussed the need for transparency between NDOW, LV, and NLV. There should be a system to track all dispatch animal calls. Domestic, exotic, indigenous. No real way to research this data, spent \$2K for events on predators trying to gather data.

**8. Authorize the Chairman to prepare and submit any recommendations from today's meeting to the Commission for its consideration at its August 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> meeting in Fallon, Nevada. (*For Possible Action*)**

- A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Chairman to prepare and submit any recommendations from today's meeting to the Commission. Motion passed unanimously.

**9. The next Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting is scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the Clark County Government Center to support the scheduled Wildlife Commission meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> in Las Vegas, Nevada.**

**10. Adjournment**

- Meeting was adjourned at 12:28 pm