



# Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

## MEETING MINUTES

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Date: March 17, 2015  
Location: Clark County Government Center  
Pueblo Room  
500 S. Grand Central Pkwy.  
Las Vegas, NV 89155-1111

Time: 5:30 pm

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

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 12, 2015

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### 1. Call to Order

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

### 2. Pledge of Allegiance

- Vice Chair Reese requested all stand and asked William Stanley to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
- William Stanley led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 3. Approval of Minutes of February 3, 2015 CCABMW Meeting (*FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*)

- Vice Chair Reese asked the Board and attendees for any comments or corrections.
- Stephanie Myers requested the wording of her statement during Public Comment be amended to state that during the County Commission Meeting in October, an unnamed member of CAB board stated that he represented the Board and recommended both Paul Dixon and Joe Luby. The Minutes as drafted only mentioned Paul Dixon.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on February 3, 2015 as amended. Motion passed 6-0.

#### 4. **Approval of Agenda for March 17, 2015– (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)**

- Vice Chair Reese introduced this topic and asked for comments on the proposed Agenda.
- Hearing none, a motion was made and seconded to approve the Agenda for the March 17, 2015 Board Meeting as written. The motion passed unanimously. 6-0

**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.

- Vice Chair Reese introduced this item.
- John Sullivan noted that he has been following the legislature for 20 years and has never seen so much action concerning wildlife issues and fire arm issues. Several bills are related to both topics.
- Chairman Paul Dixon stated that he had received a request from Brian Cimperman asking that an item be added to a future agenda to discuss for input to NDOW and the Commission a proposal that turkeys be captured in Units 114 and 115 and translocated to Mt. Charleston.

#### 6. **Recap of February 2015 Las Vegas Commission Meeting Actions (Informational)** – A recap of actions taken by the Wildlife Commission will be compared to CCABMW Recommendations.

- Vice Chair Reese introduced this topic and highlighted actions taken by the Commission.
- Vice Chair Reese noted a long discussion was held regarding hunting elk into January. The result was a 7-2 vote with Chad Bliss and Commissioner Layne dissenting. Further, water device issues all passed unanimously, the Bear Committee Report accepted by Wildlife Commission, the Predation Management Report was given, showing that \$5.447 million has been collected since the inception of the \$3 predator fee.
- Belk /Delk were very successful in both hunts. Over 80% success in the cow-Elk hunt. Almost every hunter took advantage of situation.
- Commissioner Valentine noted that he feels it is a great program and agreed they should increase tags.
- Commissioner Karen Layne voted on January hunt, listened to comments made at CCABMW meeting where people expressed they did not want a hunt in January.

#### 7. **Action Items:**

**Discuss & make recommendations regarding the following Action Items from the Board of Wildlife Commissioners March 20-21, 2015 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 are located at

[http://www.ndow.org/Public\\_Meetings/Commission/Agenda/](http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Commission/Agenda/).

- A. **NDOW Seeks Input on Restoration Project for Comins and Bassett Lakes (For Possible Action)** – Brandon Senger with NDOW, will lead a discussion about the Comins and Basset Lakes Draft Project Proposal released by NDOW Fisheries Division. The Draft Project Proposal will be available public comment for thirty days beginning on March 5, 2015. The document can be

viewed at NDOW offices or you can download it from the NDOW web site at <http://go.usa.gov/3xHvJ>.

- Brandon Senger, NDOW Southern Region Fisheries Supervisor, outlined the plans to remove Northern Pike from Comins and Bassett Lakes . The plan is to start treatment with rotenone in late August. This will kill all fish in both lakes by inhibiting their cells ability to use oxygen from the water. A copy of the draft proposal at the NDOW office. Currently holding a 30 day comment period, where comments should be sent to John Elliot out of Elko Office.
- John Sullivan asked where are lakes are located. They are near Ely, NV.
- Bill De Junker asked how long it will be before the lakes can be restocked. Brandon answered that it is not clear at this time. Restocking will not take place if there are still Northern Pike in the waters.
- Brian Cimperman asked if the rotenone will have any effect on wildlife. Brandon answered no. Rotenone only affects gill-breathing animals.
- Commissioner Karen Layne asked what is to keep this from happening again. Brandon responded that it is not possible to prevent Northern Pike from appearing again. The Northern Pike is a banned species in Nevada. It is illegal to possess, carry, or release Northern Pike into any body of water in Nevada. We can't prevent pike coming from other states. We're trying to eradicate the Northern Pike population within the state.
- Brian Patterson asked if both populations were illegally introduced.
- Joe Luby shared a comment from a friend, George Sunvick: "I see two sides to issue. What about the mercury? Why not add forge fish and keep the pike in Comins. Comins is a terminal lake, nothing can get out. Would be good to drain and dredge Basset and make it a great fishery."
- Brian Patterson noted that the number of "fisherman days" (days x fishermen) has dropped dramatically for both lakes. Eradicating Pike and put species Fisherman will predominately fish for will increase the use of those lakes.
- Paul Dixon stated that since the Pike have killed off all of the trout and bass, they have started cannibalizing themselves. Most Pike are now in the 16-18 inch range.
- Brian Patterson stated that it makes sense to eradicate an illegal species and repopulate the lakes with acceptable game fish.
- William Stanley asked if there are any other lakes that are the sources of the problem? Is Bassett a source for Comins?
- Comins was eradicated in 1989, but Bassett was not. This time both will be treated. Notable, Basset has many streams and marsh area so it is harder to kill.
- William Stanley asked how do you eradicate.
- NDOW will survey before treatment with follow-up surveys to determine success.
- Commissioner Karen Layne asked what can we do to avoid doing this again?
- John Sullivan suggested that Public education is the best way. Explain why dumping Pike into a lake is not good. We have limited law enforcement in this state. People doing dumping know they are doing something wrong. The Public could help NDOW.
- The rotenone is available as a liquid and powder. They will use a Pump System into lake bed. 1900 gallons for both lakes. Then they must clean up dead fish by netting all floating fish. Fish that sink will decompose. Any dead fish will not be toxic to other wildlife.
- Vice Chair Reese expanded on the Education bill. He envisions environmentalists advocating letting nature take its course. But that's what has happened since 1989. Now there are no trout or bass left, only Pike and that is a stunted population. He asked what would happen if Pike were dumped into Lake Mead.
- Brandon predicted that it would be bad, a much bigger scale than Comins. there would be no way to deal with Pike in Lake Meade. Educate the public.
- Jana Wright noted the several comments about educating public. She feels it is a good idea, but NDOW can do that now without waiting for any Legislative action.

- Closed Public Comment.
- John Sullivan noted for the kids in attendance that the Northern Pike looks like big ugly fish with teeth like barracuda. It is a predator fish, not a native fish. It is not good for Nevada or fish. Someone illegally dumped fish into the lake and the Pike took over. We don't want Pike in our lakes or fisheries.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the Draft Project Proposal for Comins and Basset Lakes as proposed. Motion passed 6-0.

**B. Commission Regulation 15 - 09 – Amendment #1 – Emergency Depredation – Big Game Seasons (*For Possible Action*)** The Clark CABMW board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about an amendment of 2015 – 2016 and 2016 – 2017 hunting seasons and dates for elk emergency depredation hunt structure and quotas.

- Vice Chair Reese introduced this topic. It amends CR 15-09 to permit NDOW to institute an emergency depredation hunt for Mule Deer, Pronghorn Antelope, and Elk. The total number of tags statewide is not to exceed 2000 tags per species. Legal Weapon is to be determined by hunt.
- Chairman Paul Dixon added that this is simply a tool to be used to manage herds as a depredation hunt by NDOW.
- Joe Luby noted that tags would still be issues through an application process not over the counter. Elk and Antelope populations are both high.
- Brian Patterson explained for those in attendance what an emergency depredation hunt is: when wildlife interfere with or damage a landowner's crops or land, NDOW can issue tags to help eliminate some of the animals in that region. It can also help when fire or drought impact the habitat and there are too many animals in the affected area. This type of hunt can start in July 1st and go through February 28th of the following year.
- A motion was made and seconded to support CR15-09 as written. Motion passed 6-0

**C. Commission General Regulation 453 – LCB File No. R113-14 – First Come First Serve Bonus Point Program Amendment (*For Possible Action*)** The Clark CABMW board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about a regulation relating to wildlife; regarding making an exception in the bonus point program and not have the loss of bonus points occur in the bonus point categories if the applicant is successful in the “first come, first serve” draw for a tag; and providing other matters properly relating thereto. The regulation was work shopped on February 6, 2015 and was moved forward to take action at the March 2015 Commission meeting. Tags in the “first-come, first-serve” draw are unissued tags which are remaining tags after the big game tag draw (i.e., the Main Draw) and the subsequent remaining tag draw. Currently, bonus points are reverted to zero for those species categories when an applicant draws a tag for any of these draws. This regulation amendment would exclude an applicant from having their bonus points revert to zero on species categories if they draw a remaining tag in the “first-come, first-serve” draw.

- Vice Chair Reese introduced this item.
- Vice Chair Reese this has been work shopped.
- Brian Patterson stated that he believes this is a good policy. Since the hunter is doing a favor to department, it seems silly to be penalized for it.
- A motion was made and seconded to support CGR 453 as written. Motion passed 6-0.

**D. Feral Cat Discussion (*For Possible Action*)** The Clark CABMW board will review, discuss and possibly make a recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners and the Department of Wildlife on Feral Cat issues in Southern Nevada.

- Keith Williams, Central Sponsor for the Feral Cat Colonies under Clark County Ordinance 10.06 and Las Vegas City Code 20.22. His is a Volunteer position under the direction of the County Commission.
- In 2008, Clark County passed Managed Feral Colony Ordinance. Keith's directive was to manage the cats, mitigate problems and reduce the numbers.
- Feral Cats are an Exotic species. Two basic ways to manage the free roaming cat: trapping, taking to shelter to be euthanized (T&R-Trap and Remove); trapping, taking to shelter to be sterilized, and release back into the environment (TNR-Trap/Neuter/Release). In TNR, the cat is not replaced by young once they pass on. Both methods are in use today. Keith handles all calls involving free roaming cats for animal control.
- Keith's graph shows dramatic positive results. The number of cats going into the shelter is going down, as is the number of cats being euthanized. We are not discouraging people from trapping and removing problem cats. The goal is to reduce the number of cats in the community. There is probably an appropriate number of free roaming cats where they are not a nuisance, but the community is not overrun with rodents.
- There have been wildlife concerns raised, and some studies about what cats are eating. We don't know what they are eating. Keith would like to see someone fund a study that examines the stomach contents of DOA cats and cats requiring immediate euthanizing. His guess is that they are probably eating commercial cat food. Such a study would be enlightening.
- The Community is mostly not fond of free roaming cats. Whether it's T&R or TNR, if someone wants something done, it is incumbent on them to step up and do it.
- Keith stated that he will help remove nuisance cats.
- Dave Stowater asked if caretakers are held responsible for getting shots, and by whom? If there are 200,000 free roaming cats in Clark County, who is responsible for see that Feral cats are free of disease?
- Keith confirmed that there are close to 200K free roaming cats in Clark County. Colony caretakers are held accountable. The problem is that the vast majority of the 200K cats are not cared for. There are not enough people who want to trap and take to the shelter or TNR. Keith needs more resources, but the program is making progress. The situation is much better than it was in 2008.
- Paul Dixon reminded the Board members that unless a question is directed to a specific Board Member, the board should not respond to public comment. Please be respectful.
- Jana Wright stated that she was not sure what action the Board is thinking of taking.
- James Warner asked who is providing commercial cat food. Keith responded that the caretakers are private citizens and as such are providing food and shots from their personal funds or through a sponsoring non-profit group or agency.
- Brian Cimperman asked what is the average colony size? Do the Caretakers have to have a Fancier License?
- Keith responded that the average Colony is 11.8 cats. Colony Caretakers manage free roaming unowned cats. They do not have many of the rights or responsibilities of an owner. This is a tool to manage unowned cats, free roaming.
- Ryan Warner asked if the SPCA and the Humane Society are assisting in dealing with domestic animals turned feral?
- Keith responded that the free roaming cat issue is 99.9% an urban issue. Impact on wildlife: where there are wildlife sensitive areas, like the wetlands, no feral cats colonies are allowed there.
- Close public comment.
- Board
- Brian Patterson asked if there are 200K feral cats with an average of 11.8 cats per colony, how many colonies are registered?
- Keith replied that there are 900-1000 registered colonies.

- 1000 individuals are caretakers, required to feed, water and vaccinate. Why aren't they responsible. If caretakers stop taking care of them, the cats are left without care.
- Keith stated that it is very rare when a cat has only one source of food. Sometimes, we need to get everyone to stop feeding cats so caretakers can catch the cats. Further, each caretaker has sponsor organization to they are required to work with. The sponsor supplies all of the equipment needed to capture, vaccinate and care for the colony. They also supply training for the caretaker.
- Brian Patterson asked what kind of training? Keith ensures they are trained to handle conflicts with neighbors, and how to mitigate conflicts.
- Brian Patterson asked can they be anonymous, and why would they need to?
- Keith responded that when the program first started, there was mistrust with community and animal control. To get cats sterilized, colony registration is confidential. Animal control can ask if a certain location is a colony but the caretaker remains anonymous. Another reason these records are confidential is to keep people from looking up a colony name or location so they can dump their cat there. If your yard is becoming a colony, that is your property. As property owner, you have the right to not have this in your yard.
- Brian Patterson asked if 900 or 1000 folks are trapping free roaming cats, doesn't that fall under trapping regulations?
- Keith stated that feral cats are classified as domestic animals by NDOW.
- Brian asked what is the visitation requirement on these traps?
- Keith responded the standard procedure is to visit every 30 minutes, but there are no regulations stating visitation times. Traps owned by Keith are marked.
- Brian Patterson asked how many non-target animals caught in trap... 2 small dogs.
- William Stanley raised a Point of order: This discussion involves a County Ordinance and not NDOW. This board has no authority over Feral Cat population.
- Brian Patterson pointed out that with 200K cats in the valley, and each cat will likely catch and kill 2 - 5 birds a week, that means 20.8 million birds per year in Clark County.
- Keith strongly objected to that assumption given that most colony cats are incompetent hunters and would have little success trying to kill a bird.
- Joe Luby, asked if Keith could cite an NDOW document in classification of cats as domestic animals. Keith does not.
- Joe Luby stated that he believes trapping regulations should apply. Trapping license should be required. The feral cat fits the classification of an unprotected mammal. Each trap needs to be registered to NDOW ( \$10 fee per trap). To legally transport, a trapping license is required. Minimum trap visitation is required. Releasing a trapped animal back into the "wild" is not permitted. Apparently there are 900 to 1000 people ignoring the trapping regulations.
- Keith will speak with NDOW and discuss issues.
- Joe Luby pointed out that AB261 is being discussed to allow counties and municipalities to enact ordinances for animal control. Current NRS statutes do not allow counties to enact these ordinances.
- John Sullivan stated that he agrees with Bill except where the two connect this is the CABMW. If cats are not having any interaction with wildlife then no problem. but after some research he discovered an immense interaction with wildlife. Impact 6 billion birds and mammals killed every year in America. Exotic birds, endangered species, sometimes go extinct. In Nevada between 141 million and 400 million birds and mammals are being killed by feral cats. NDOW's principal issue is threat to native wildlife animals, our jurisdiction does not cover regulating feral cats, but the problems need to be addressed.
- Keith agrees with impact on wildlife, issue is lack of resources. Keith wants to tap into every resource he can to manage these cats and reduce their numbers. Two sides of house (T&R vs. TNR), disagree on technique agree on goals. Both sides have a 50% solution. Keith will work with you.

- William Stanley agreed that we have a feral cat problem. How you deal with the problem is the question. Not sure it's an NDOW problem, without the resources, the ordinances has done a good job. Continue to do everything you can to reduce feral cats in the County. These two methods are being used effectively.
- John Sullivan replied that if the numbers are truly getting reduced, then the problem should be going away in 5 to 10 years. But he heard experts who testified that agree that the numbers are going up.
- Chairman Paul Dixon noted that when original county ordinances passed, the estimate given was 100K cats. The number now is higher, which contradicts the statements earlier that the numbers are coming down. With the T&R program in place one would have expected a dramatic drop in cat colonies.
- Keith stated that the estimate when the program started were 400K plus. Census tools were highly inadequate. Keith's estimate is a population of about 300k at the start of the program. Use tools to estimate population.
- William Stanley asked what other tool is available besides TNR and capture and euthanize? Enclosure?
- Commissioner Karen Layne stated that in 2008, the issue of trapping was looked at. Trapping is not allowed incorporated areas. One of the issues that was addressed is that we are not taking any animal. Licensed trapping removes the animal from the landscape. Feral cats are put back exactly where they came from. In the testimony NDOW gave, they never brought up trapping as an issue. As far as AB261, Clark County contends it has the authority as the Cat Colonies. Abandonment, was an issue. Washoe County does not feel it has the authority to have a program. Clark County has resolved issues and is moving ahead. NDOW's issues center on having feral cats on public lands. Ordinance 10.06 clearly states that you cannot have a Colony in wildlife areas.  
Vicki Warner asked that since you are trying to manage by neutering or spaying, when you vaccinate is it for rabies only? When I take my cats to the Vet, there are a whole number of shots that are required. Do any of these other diseases spread to other wildlife?
- Keith replied that in addition to rabies, the cats are given a 3-in-1 inoculation for common respiratory ailments.
- Brian asked about worms and fleas. Keith responded that in the TNR program, some places de-worm all cats. If fleas are seen, they are also treated for them.
- Dylan Spenser noted that coyotes all over the news. Are Feral cats contributing to that?
- Keith disagrees cats are drawing them in. He feel predators are coming down exploiting whatever they can find due to drought. Wildlife moving to edge of town will continue to be a problem as the drought continues.
- Bill De Junker has noted a large population of quail, mostly around golf courses. That is why coyotes and birds come in. Feral Cats get quail there.
- Keith said he has been working with golf courses. Call County Animal Control if in their jurisdiction.
- Joe Luby restated his objection to the program because it appears to ignore trapping regulations. NRS 501.088 defines take as capture. Nevada Administrative Code 503.140 states that all felines shall not be released into the environment unless authorized by NDOW in writing. Ignoring state law, is a major issue. Trapping law is the law, follow them, period.
- A motion was made for the CCABMW support Clark County's ordinance 10.06 as written. No second. Motion dies.
- A new motion was made and seconded that states that the CCABMW recognizes a problem with Feral Cat Colonies and the impact on wildlife, and recommends that new releases of cats be halted and alternatives be studied.
- John Sullivan added that the T&R process can continue, but releasing neutered cats should stop until it can be determined if TNR is effective in reducing numbers of feral cats.

- Motion was amended to state that the CCABMW recognizes a problem with Feral Cat Colonies and the impact on wildlife, and recommends that new releases of cats be halted and alternatives and legality of TNR be studied.
- Motion withdrawn.
- A new motion was made and seconded to recommend NDOW to seek affirmative legal response from the Attorney Generals Office as to the legality of Clark County Ordinance 10.06 to see if the TNR program falls under the definition of trapping and therefore is subject to trapping laws and regulations of the state.
- John Sullivan stated his belief that the Ordinance will be determined to be legal and the program will go on.
- William Stanley agrees that the legal issue will be determined quickly that Clark County is operating within the law. He feels the Board needs to make a recommendation to take care of issue. It is disingenuous to twist the argument to further your position that you believe in trapping. If you don't want feral cats released in population, there's no money to do anything other than euthanize. No one is going to build a house to shelter and feed cats.
- Keith Williams added that if trapping is illegal, it would in turn imply that TNR and trap and remove through animal control would be illegal. Broad brush. If NDOW wants to stop trapping then Animal Control would be shut down.
- John Sullivan stated that there are 900-1000 citizens allowed to trap and release. If 1200 trappers have to follow the rules, why don't 900 people have to follow the rules.
- Brian Patterson NDOW does not support TNR. Peregrine Wolffe does not believe it serves the purpose.
- Vice Chair Reese noted that there are two Commissioners in audience who are listening to all of the discussion.
- A vote was called for. Motion passes unanimously.

**E. Commission General Regulation 457 T-15 (Temporary LCB File) – Awards, Issuance, and Use of Tags – Proposed Changes to NAC 502.42279 (For Possible Action)** The Clark CABMW board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about a temporary regulation amending license issuance and use clarification for elk incentive tags. Elk incentive tags were designed to be issued in association with “bull” hunts and seasons. Subsequent to initial NRS and NAC adoption, “spike” hunts have been developed, and “antlered” tags do not clearly denote the appropriate quota or season for which the incentive tags are intended. The Department will propose language that clarifies the original intent of the legislation and rule promulgation to clearly articulate the association between the incentive tags and “bull” seasons, excluding any “spike,” “antlered,” or “antlerless” seasons.

- Vice Chair Reese introduced this item. It clarifies the formula for the number of Elk that use the land and number of days using land excluding spike, actually for bulls. The formula determines the number of Elk tags given out.
- Board no comments
- Public Comments - none
- Vice Chair Reese stated that this proposal cleans up the language.
- A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of CRG 457 LCB File No. T-15. Motion passed 6-0

**F. Wildlife Damage Committee Report and Fiscal Year 2016 Draft Predation Management Plan (Second Draft) (For Possible Action)** The Clark CABMW board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about a report from the Wildlife Damage Management Committee chair and the second draft of the proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Predator Management Plan will be presented and the Commission may take action to provide recommendations for modification of the second draft for the May Commission meeting.

- Vice Chair Reese noted that this is the 2nd draft. He does not have the current copy.

- A motion was made and seconded to table this item since the Board members do not have access to the revised version. Motion passed 6-0
- 6-0

**G. Commission General Regulation 456 T-15 (Temporary LCB File) – Elk Arbitration Process (For Possible Action)** The Clark CABMW board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about a proposed processes describing the newly amended arbitration NAC 502.42283 by which the Commission may facilitate decisions should arbitration of elk incentive tag awards become necessary.

- Vice Chair Reese read from the CGR 456 T-15
- No public comments
- A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of CGR 456 T-15 Elk Arbitration process as written. Motion passed 6-0

**H. SB163 – Senate Bill No. 163 – Senator Hammond February 16, 2015- (For Possible Action)** The Clark CABMW board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about the creation of an Advisory Council on Nevada Wildlife Conservation and Education. (BDR 45-616).

- Vice Chair Reese introduced this item. The overview is this bill will allow the Governor to appoint members to an advisory Council whose purpose is to advise and prepare educational and promotional materials and/or media for Conservation and Wildlife programs in the State of Nevada.
- John Sullivan noted a similar program had great success in Colorado - "Hug a Hunter". Also, all 50 states follow the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. The public is oblivious to how NDOW and many of the conservation programs work. Television and radio spots will educate the public. Big Horn Sheep is a huge success story. Public does not know about groups help with putting water on hill. Conservation groups working with NDOW. Educating the public will pay great dividends. \$3 a hunter is an insurance policy for hunting, fishing, and trapping. If more funds are needed, he would support doing away with predator management fee and fund this program.
- Vice Chair Reese shared that there are a number of "commercials" on YouTube under Hug-a-Hunter.
- Stephanie Myers stated that trapping is not legal in Colorado, so their program would only promote hunting and fishing.
- John Sullivan clarified that Colorado permits trapping, but only using cages. No other trapping devices are allowed.
- Stephanie Myers asked if there has been a follow-up study to assess the success of the program?
- Vice Chair Reese responded yes, and it was found to be quite successful.
- Stephanie Myers asked why do only hunters do this? Why are the appointees all supposed to be sportsmen?
- Vice Chair Reese answered that the people who have been the most involved in wildlife and habitat conservation are the most knowledgeable on what should be advertized.
- Stephanie Myers asked won't the \$3 and \$10 fee discourage people from buying a license?
- Vice Chair Reese replied no, sportsman have always found ways to fund things like this.
- Ryan Warner stated his concern with the panel being appointed by governor. Governor should not appoint sportsmen without going through NDOW.
- John Sullivan reminded everyone that the council is only charged with developing a marketing program to promote wildlife management in Nevada. How much damage can they do when the mission is to do marketing.

- Vice Chair Reese clarified from the proposed Bill that candidates for appointment to the council will be nominated by sportsmen's groups throughout the State and each nominee must meet further residency and sportsman requirements.
- Vicky Warner stated that she appreciates that conservation groups are doing this. But she feels there should be something that documents the marketing fee that explains the fee when you get your first tag. Something that explains why are we doing this and what is the fee going towards. Sportsmen have paid dues and should be able to have a say. If marketing does not get it right that is a waste of money.
- Bill De Junker stated he would pay triple for a program like this. He asked if there be a youth education component to this marketing in the schools.
- Brian Patterson stated he feels this is fantastic program. The guys who benefit from it are paying for it. Sportsmen are picking up the tab on educating the public on what Hunters, Fishermen and Trappers do for the State. Everyone gets to recreate, interact with wildlife. He wholeheartedly supports it.
- Joe Luby noted that he probably won't support it since he did not have adequate time to review it.
- Chairman Paul Dixon shared that Governor appointments can go south depending on Governor. He is concerned language could allow a governor to appoint people with unintended consequences.
- Vice Chair Reese encouraged everyone to monitor to SB163, as it goes through. The legislative website allows you to voice concerns and post comments.
- A motion was made and seconded to support creation of an advisory council on Nevada wildlife conservation and education. SB163 - BDR 45-616.
- Motion passed Yeas:5 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 1

**I. SJR11- Senate Joint Resolution No.11- Senators Hammond, Goicoechea, Gustavson; and Settlemeyer March 6, 2015- (*For Possible Action*)** The Clark CABMW board will review, discuss and possible make a recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners regarding the Senate Joint Resolution SJR111– Proposing to amend the Nevada Constitution to preserve the right to hunt, trap and fish in this State.

- Vice Chair Reese read SJR 11. It proposes a Nevada State Constitutional Amendment to grant the right to Hunt Fish and Trap in the State of Nevada.
- William Stanley voiced a concern that someone may interpret this as a right to hunt on the BML land adjacent to his property. Does it trump existing rules and regulation?
- Vice Chair Reese answered no, the proposed bill stated that all existing laws and regulations remain in effect.
- Brian Patterson feels that members of public could be confused by the Right to hunt, fish and trap in state.
- Joe Luby noted that change to Nevada Constitution goes through two legislative sessions and then the public has their say.
- John Sullivan agreed, a change to the State Constitution takes time. This is a constitutional amendment to establish the right to hunt, trap and fish. This is similar to the basic constitution right to bear arms. He said he wishes it wasn't needed, but recent serious attacks on hunting fishing and trapping makes this necessary. He is grateful to Senator Hammond for sponsoring this.
- Vice Chair Reese echoed what John said and added that this bill lets businesses know hunting trapping and fishing will be around for a long time.
- Stephanie Myers noted there are 18 states that have the right to hunt and fish, but only 5 have the right to trap, and she feels that is the downfall of this bill. She added that the Right to Hunt, Trap, or Fish does not rise to the level of a true Constitutional Amendment. Constitutional Amendments are freedoms like the Right to Assemble, like the right of freedom of religion, the right to express your opinion. The right to hunt, fish, or trap does not rise to that same

level. Further, this Bill stated that trapping is preferred method of wildlife management. She feels that is patently untrue. She also predicted that unless the Bill is amended to remove trapping as one of the guaranteed rights, there will be an aggressive PR campaign that will include gruesome pictures of trapping and trapped animals and trapped companion animals.

- Ryan Warner noted as an avid conservationist and hunter, he is very grateful for Senator Hammond. We, as sportsmen have been under attack. We need to get this to a vote. He does not ask for amendment to take out trapping.
- Shannon Ireland stated that she and her family are grateful for this Bill as a way to preserve rights for children.
- Bill De Junker stated that the time has come when we need to preserve way we want to use our land, our animals. Need to educate the youth so they can decide what is to follow.
- James Warner stated that regardless the outcome if and when it comes to public vote, The public should decide, so this Bill should be moved along so the public can vote.
- Vice Chair Reese commented, that if this does not pass we can still apply for tags, fish and hunt. This adds a level of protection.
- William Stanley offered a word of advice that when you move this forward and if you loose with the public, be careful what comes in the next session of the legislature.
- Brian Patterson noted that changing the constitution of state should not be taken lightly. Let it go to public and let public decide.
- Vice Chair Reese shared that the last state to pass this was Alabama passed by 78% vote. Idaho, took seven times to pass.
- A motion was made and seconded to recommend the proposal to amend the Nevada State Constitution to preserve the right to hunt, trap and fish in this state.
- Motion passes Yeas: 5 Nays: 1 (William Stanley)

**9. 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.**

- Ryan Warner asked to ascertain William Stanley's position on the Board. Sportsman.
- Closed public comment.
- Joe Luby wanted to reiterate his feeling on Feral Cats as fur bearing mammals and that they do exist in wild areas. If any trapper set traps in wild areas to catch Feral Cats and caught a fox or a bobcat, without a license, that person would be cited and fined. The public outcry would be tremendous. But 900-1000 people in the Las Vegas valley are trapping without a license every day.

**10. Authorize the Chairman to prepare and submit any recommendations from today's meeting to the Commission for its consideration at its March 20-2, 2015 meeting in Reno, Nevada. (For Possible Action)**

- A motion was made and seconded to authorize that Chairman to prepare and submit recommendations to Wildlife Commission. Motioned passed 6-0

**11. The next Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting is scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the Clark County Government Center to support the scheduled Wildlife Commission meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>st</sup> in Reno, Nevada.**

## **12. Adjournment**

- Meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.