



# Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

## MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 10, 2016  
Location: Clark County Government Center  
500 S. Grand Central Parkway ODC-1 Room  
Las Vegas, NV 89155

Time: 5:30 pm

Board Members Present: Paul Dixon, Chair J. Michael Reese, Vice Chair Joe Luby  
Howard Watts III John Hiatt 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: May 4, 2016

### 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

- Chairman Paul Dixon requested everyone stand and asked Brian Patterson to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Chairman Paul Dixon clarified for the attendees the three minute limit for any public comment. Each person will get one opportunity to speak on each action item during public comment. Anyone who can't give enough testimony in three minutes can speak also during the Public Comment period at the end of the meeting or submit testimony in writing.

### 3. Approval of Minutes of March 22, 2016 CCABMW Meeting (*FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*)

- Chairman Paul Dixon asked the Board and attendees for any comments or corrections.
- Stacy Matthews informed the Board of a correction noted by John Hiatt to Item 5 change "and Open" to "an Open".
- A motion was made and seconded to that the minutes be approved as corrected.
- Motion passed 5-0

4. **Approval of Agenda for May 10, 2016 – (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)**

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the Agenda for the May 10, 2016 Board Meeting as written. The 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).

- Vice Chairman Reese mentioned a new book written by a sportsman, *Conservation or Preservation*, geared at non-consumptive user. Chris R. Kleinburger is the author. Also, he noted that the Southern Nevada Collation for Wildlife met with NDOW to be brought up to speed with items such as pricing fee restructure, questionnaires, etc. A good discussion was held. It was well attended.
- Brian Patterson alerted everyone that June 11<sup>th</sup> Nevada free fishing day, and that on May 21<sup>st</sup>, The Fraternity of the Desert Big Horn will hold their banquet at the South Point.
- Chairman Paul Dixon announced that the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation will hold their Banquet on June 4<sup>th</sup> at the South Point.
- Howard Watts III noted that the Back Country Hunters and Anglers are having a Happy Hour at Tenaya Creek Brewery, 831 W Bonanza Road, and Thursday, May 12th.

6. **Recap of March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Commission Meeting Actions (Informational)** – A recap of actions taken by the Wildlife Commission will be compared to Clark Recommendations.

- Chairman Paul Dixon summarized actions taken at the Commission meeting:
  - Predator Management Plan: many revisions to the plan from input from CABs and Commissioners, including dropping Project 22-16, the coyote issue.
  - Proposed changes to Policy 23 are going forward for approval at the June meeting in Elko.
  - License simplification and harvest management guidelines, American wildlife values questionnaire, NDOW Director Wasley and Vice Director Robb are going around the state to collect input. Consumptive and Non-Consumptive user input from around the state is crucial. In the rural areas, there are more consumptive users, down here there are more non-consumptive. NDOW is reviewing multi-year licenses, license simplification, mobile apps having license on phone, etc.
  - Administrative policies and procedures are being reviewed. Tonight we discussed policy 23 and Policy 1, recommendations were made to either canceling or updating policies where needed.
  - Furbearer bag limits no changes noted, the CCABMW had no changes.
  - Special Wildlife Management Areas - feeding one week before or one week after the hunting season on private land near the WMAs. One person feeding turkeys causing issue. Seen 40 turkeys in a tree. It might have to go to the Legislature.
  - Electronic triggers, drones, lots of discussion. These topics should be back on the June meeting agenda or the meeting after that. Electronic trigger got tricky with wording. Starting to infringe on ADA Acts. ADA hunter can still hunt, with a manual process. Working on wording.

## 7. Action Items:

**Discuss & make recommendations regarding the following Action Items from the Board of Wildlife Commissioners May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting agenda, as well as 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. Commission Regulation 16-12, 2016 Big Game Quotas for the 2016 - 2017 Season** (*For Possible Action*) The Clark CABMW Board will discuss and make recommendations about regulations for the numbers of tags to be issued for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, black bear, and mountain goats for the 2016 - 2017 seasons.
- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this item.
  - **Antelope**
    - Pronghorn antelope
    - John Hiatt noted that quotas overall are down slightly from last year. Is that due to range conditions?
    - Chairman Paul Dixon replied that antelope and mule deer numbers across the State are down due to conditions of the herds. Elk are down close to the management numbers in some areas.
    - Antelope Seasons open to public no comment.
    - Brian Patterson referenced information in the backup materials describing the reasons for lower quotas.
    - Vice Chairman Reese added that there were six consecutive years of record setting harvests.
    - No public comment.
    - A motion was made and seconded to accept the quotas as written for Hunts 2151, 2171, 2161, 2181, 2251 and 2261.
    - Motion passes 6-0.
  - **Big Horn Sheep and Mountain Goats**
    - Chairman Paul Dixon noted that it looks like the numbers increase by 1, but are stable from last year. He read the quota changes from last year for Big Horn Sheep and Mountain Goats.
    - Vice Chairman Reese asked Pat Cummings, NDOW, do we have a better grip on *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*?
    - Pat Cummings, NDOW, replied no. Some herds in Southern Nevada have now been confirmed to not only have the Nevada Strain of *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*, the also have the Mojave National Preserve Strain. He listed the herd locations where this has been found. The Mohave Strain not only shows high mortality among lambs, it is now killing adults. This is a polybacterial or polymicrobial disease process, with multiple strains that may or may not produce lucotoxins that attack white blood cells. In any given herd, you don't know what hand a population of sheep is going to be dealt. NDOW is very active in disease surveillance program to monitor the health of the herds.
    - Vice Chairman Reese stated that we've been tracking this for 2 years or so, and the ewe hunts were an alternative to transplanting animals, because no one wanted them and we can't transplant. Are we transplanting from herds that have *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*?

- Pat Cummings, NDOW, answered in some cases, yes. In central Nevada, animals from Lone Mountain with strain in common with animals near the Excelsiors. Due to the similar strains of *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*, it was like an experiment.
- Vice Chairman Reese they have not moved the tags in last five years. Are the proposed quotas still conservative given the disease expectations, etc.?
- Pat Cummings, NDOW, noted that in the past five years, the Ram quota has been very high.
- Vice Chairman Reese is the quota taken into consideration by NDOW for these quotas due to *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*?
- John Hiatt restated Vice Chairman Reese's question: if we have animals dying of disease and hunting, should hunting quotas be the same?
- Pat Cummings, NDOW, noted that a Big Horn tag for the Bear Mountains is probably the most Coveted Big Horn tag in state. Over the last two years, *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* is severely impacting that herd. Sarcoptic mange caused by a mite has also impacted the herd. Individuals may have a profound response to mite infestation. Animals that are coping with infestation of mites it tends to be in the ears. You can have population of sheep that are impacted. Where the infliction goes further, it can result in significant hair loss. The Bear Mountain herd is being attacked in multiple ways. The 2015 hunt results had 3 rams 170 and above and another just below. We have Ram resource, the herd is not in good shape, but if we have the ram resource, take the ram. He added that in the McCullah's, NDOW has noticed a drop off in the quality of the herd, so the quotas are down slightly.
- Brian Patterson noted that in the Bears, the quota increased from 6-9
- Pat Cummings, NDOW, noted there is a good chance of dropping tags in the future in the Bears.
- Brian Patterson agreed as we won't have mature rams.
- Pat Cummings, NDOW, said that's what happens when you have multiple years of negligible recruitment.
- Vice Chairman Reese asked how many years in are we on *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*?
- Pat Cummings, NDOW, It will probably be five years out maybe more. Diagnostic improvements will come with time too.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve proposed quotas for Hunts 3151, 3181, 3251, 3281, 8151, 8181, 8251, 9151, 7151
- Motion passes 6-0
- **Black Bear**
  - Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic. The 2016 quota is 41 for Resident, 4 for non-resident, Harvest objective is 20 same as 2015. We have not reached the harvest objective for any of the last three years.
  - Brian Patterson leave status quo, 9 bears removed by agency, more hit by cars.
  - Joe Luby added that in 2015 21 bears were hit by cars and 14 taken in the hunt.
  - Chairman Paul Dixon noted that NDOW in the past acted on bears if it was a safety issue and they took care of it. NDOW was seen as bear killers because they only went to bears that were problems. NDOW has now started bear education and management process to take a more favorable leadership role. No Bear Hunt of Nevada is important, but NDOW needs to take ownership of bear issues. There was a Heritage project started years ago about nutrition and to learn about our bears in Nevada.
  - Joe Luby cited info from NDOW that in 2015 there were confirmed sightings of black bears south of Caliente and up near Cave Lake. Bears in that area are unbelievable. They are spreading.
  - Public Comment:
    - Ralph Willits asked: Do we know where bears are being relocated?
    - Chairman Paul Dixon answered that the location is undisclosed.
    - Ralph Willits asked further, do they know where the bears near Caliente come from?

- Pat Cummings, NDOW, added we don't know it's too early. Could be Utah.
- Chairman Paul Dixon stated that bears will move a long distance.
- Jana Wright shared that she feels that the bear hunt is a trophy hunt, nothing said to say it manages bears, we do not know if bears are increasing. She recommends a quota of 1 and no hunting of females.
- Karen Layne stated that in the Commission meeting there was a lot of discussion when setting the season that the Bear Hunt should be done away with. She would like to see a move in that direction. In answer to where are the bears being relocated, they have been sent to the Pine Nuts. A lot of bears have killed in Pine Nuts. We have done the bear hunt and it has generated a lot of public dissatisfaction. It has created problems for NDOW with future funding. A Commissioner mentioned that there are very few bear tags come from Southern Nevada. She supports a move to have only 1 bear tag this year and do away with it in the future and no females.
- Stephanie Myers stated that many people are outraged over killing bears. She supports a quota of 1 if there has to be a bear hunt, and no females.
- Richard Pabst noted that we have clearly seen public comment driven by anti-bear hunt proponents using rhetoric towards emotional responses to eliminate the bear hunt in Nevada. Science shows that we have growing population of bears in Nevada. If groups that wish to save bears should focus money and efforts on not having cars hit bears.
- Julius Fortuna, Las Vegas Woods and Waters, noted that science says we should have the hunt. These hunts have been going on in multiple western states for decades.
- John Hiatt asked what information we are getting about each bear killed by a hunter.
- Chairman Paul Dixon answered: age, sex, size, weight, body condition, liver, brain, location of kill. Signs of injury from other animals, cars, injured bears.
- John Hiatt added that bears are complicated, they eat anything practically. We need more information on how to manage bears. We don't understand the competition between Bears and Mountain Lions. He stated that he can only support bear hunting if we are getting significant information out of this. Public relations are significant in this state.
- Chairman Paul Dixon noted that the sample size is small 14 bears.
- John Hiatt asked are we coordinating with California, in particular Tahoe, and looking at all bears in that area.
- Chairman Paul Dixon responded that the California side is giving out hundreds of tags. Harvesting a lot of animals. No Bear Hunt Nevada does not want to tie into this.
- Brian Patterson noted that they have been studying bears for 10 years. 209 bears hit by cars and 93 taken for nuisance bear. 19 bears relocated three times. Hunting harvested 71 bears. There is a Bear problem. To deny that, is a problem. There were 270 bear complaint calls last year alone. Hunting helps and is a good tool to alleviate some of the issues.
- Howard Watts III stated that he agrees there is a problem. Severe drought pushing bears on urban land which caused car and safety issues. Does hunting in these units reduce these issues? He's not sure. The data still out. He doesn't see the overall numbers for bear population, if we were seeing decline, he'd be concerned. He sees the need to gather more information. There is momentum at State Legislature. In terms of looking at quotas he would like to see information continue and to have debates about hunt to continue or discontinue hunt at the Commission or Legislature level.
- Joe Luby noted that the 270 complaints mentioned by Brian Patterson were only for the months of September thru November. There were over 500 complaints for year. To suggest there is not enough scientific information is not true. They have been studying bears in Nevada since 1997. At the time the bear hunt was started in Nevada, it was stated that the bears in Nevada were the most studied bears. Bear hunt has additional five years of data which seems to further the notion that a hunt is successful and warranted. Bear nuisance calls have increased since we have been studying bears. The data show we should increase the quota for the bear hunt.

- Chairman Paul Dixon noted that since 2010 tagged 494 bears. Tagged bears killed on road or taken were less than 50. We have a viable population here.
- Howard Watts III added that 89% of successful bear hunters harvested the meat from bear hunt. It's not a trophy hunt.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept proposed quotas for black bear hunts 6151 and 6251 as written and recommends increasing harvest objective to 30. Second
- Howard Watts III stated that we have not met the harvest objective so we should leave it at 20.
- Joe Luby feels this should be looked at as a way to increase quota and objective.
- John Hiatt said that he cannot support a harvest objective of 30 bears.
- Brian Patterson stated that he sees the desire to send a message to the Commission. There is plenty of population to support quota. 500 bears being taken out over a period of time.
- Vice Chairman Reese added that the quota that is set is usually 50%. 75% successful will not be detrimental to herd. We won't hit 30 if it is a perfect storm and everything lines up.
- Motion passes Ayes-4 Nays-2 (Watts/Hiatt)
- **Elk**
  - Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic, noting that Elk in Rubies is causing an issue. Delk and Elk tags together. Herds across the state with a couple of exceptions Elk Management is around the number we want. If we can manage to the Humboldt Elk management plan, we can show ranchers we know how to manage the herds and that will allow us to move animals into other areas.
  - Joe Luby noted that there is a quota not listed for Resident Elk- Antlered – Archery Hunt 4161 hunt 076, 077, 079, 081
  - Pat Cummings, NDOW, responded that the 2016 quota should be 40. The number is missing in the document.
  - Vice Chairman Reese comment that Elk have thrived well. He is waiting to see getting Cow Elk Tags across the counter.
  - Chairman Paul Dixon responded that if they cannot meet harvest objectives, that could happen.
  - Brian Patterson added that with season dates August – January, maybe shorten the season and get more animals removed.
  - Vice Chairman Reese envisioned a time when a hunter has a mobile app for licenses could spark more participation, when we catch up with technology. In Utah you can go on line and get fishing license.
  - Chairman Paul Dixon noted that the difference is that Utah has 50% more staff and animals.
  - Bill DeJuncker stated that last year he was awarded a Deer Tag, applied for Delk tag but didn't get it. There was no indication in the proclamation on how many Delk Tags were to be awarded. Rifle deer
  - Chairman Paul Dixon responded that this year they are giving out 3000 Delk Tags.
  - Bill DeJuncker asked if you know 100 deer tags are to go for a particular unit, how many Delk Tags are going with them. Setting quotas then we will know. Use last year's quota so you have some idea on the odds.
  - Richard Pabst stated that if the idea is reducing Elk population, perhaps letting proven successful hunters back into game sooner is an answer. Waiting a decade if successful in a hunt is punitive and not realistic.
  - Brian Patterson agreed that with the increase in herds, get rid of unsuccessful time, and reduce waiting period for successful hunters to 5 years.
  - Chairman Paul Dixon added that the current tactic is to let you get bonus points while waiting.
  - Commissioner Valentine, as a member of the TAAC Committee, said that they are looking at 5 year successful or non-successful and increase number of Elk bulls.

- Wayne Bliss noted that for those in advancing age, 10 years is a long waiting period.
- Julius Fortuna added his support for a five year instead of 10 year waiting period.
- Chairman Paul Dixon noted that Vicki Werner has been a proponent of having a Jr. Cow Elk Hunt.
- Joe Luby agreed that 10 years is a long time to wait, 5 year is better.
- A motion was made and seconded to recommend acceptance of the proposed quotas for Elk hunts 4102, 4107, 4151, 4481, 4156, 4161, 4651, 4181, 4181 wilderness only, 4481, 4716, 4476, 4411, 4411, 4251, 4256, 4261, 4281, with the added caveat to look into youth only antlerless elk hunt 4181.
- Motion passes 6-0
- **Mule Deer**
  - Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
  - Chairman Paul Dixon stated he has had some calls from guides.
  - Vice Chairman Reese noted that for Lincoln County that in Area 22 for Rifle after hunt there were 45 bucks per 100 does. In Area 23 it was 24 per 100, and in Area 24 it was 48 per 100 does. He asked if this may be because there are some 90 Land Owner tags given out in the area. Ask if any concern with after hunt survey hunt 1331.
  - Brian Patterson noted we don't set guided quotas,
  - Chairman Paul Dixon stated no, the Legislature sets those.
  - Public Comment – no comment
  - A motion was made and seconded to recommend the quota for Jr. Hunt 1107 be set at the number of youth applicants that apply.
  - Motion passed 6-0.
  - A motion was made and seconded to recommend acceptance of quotas for hunts 1101, 1181, 1331, 1371, 1341, 1331, 1371, 1341 approved as written.
  - Motion passed 6-0.
  - Compensation Tags 318
  - Vice Chairman Reese noted that the owner of the 1000 acres around Mike's ranch, allowed cows in early and he got compensation tags cut in half.
  - Chairman Paul Dixon explained that compensation tags compensate land owners for damage to property. 10K for deer tag, 4K for other tags. Land owners sell tags to a third party vendor who sells them. Should the Commission figure out how to address third party vendors. Not sure how you manage that. No way of registering what land owner gets for tags.
  - Richard Pabst emotions, public wildlife, private land owners. We need to be vigilant, state land becoming private, erosion like we see over time. State mishandles funds and makes legislative decisions.
  - Ralph Willits proposed licensing and fee to license for guides to compensate for astronomical prices.
  - Chairman Paul Dixon added that the quality of hunt tag goes is affected by the hunt unit the tag is for.
  - Julius Fortuna stated that it is difficult for landowners to find the higher bidding client. It was easier to give a third party a cut.
  - John Hiatt asked if the names of people getting compensation tags public.
  - Steve Reiter suggested that landowner tags to pay back landowner, when it goes to third party selling tag. Once it hits third parties hands it should be taxable income. Landowner is tax free. Develop clearing website to track the tag. Relatively easy to accomplish. Third party is making a profit. It should be regulated in some manner.
  - Joe Luby asked why we are talking about this. This is not a wildlife issue. Why does the State of Nevada care about how much a land owner is making? This tag is sellable. If to compensate it landowner, why do we care from wildlife viewpoint. Unless we say NDOW says we need a cut.
  - Vice Chairman Reese land owner not forced to use third party.

- John Hiatt said there is more incentive for land owner to use land.
- A motion was made and seconded to recommend acceptance of quotas for hunts 1115, 1215, 2115 and 2215 as proposed.
- Motion passed 6-0.

**B. Commission Policy 26** (*For Possible Action*) The Clark CABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners that there are currently two existing Commission Policies that are numbered “26.” One is entitled “Transparency (2011),” and the other is entitled “Re-establishing, Introducing, Transplanting and Managing Pioneering Rocky Mountain Elk (1995).” The Department is recommending that “Re-establishing, Introducing, Transplanting and Managing Pioneering Rocky Mountain Elk (1995)” be reaffirmed as Policy 26 and that “Transparency” be renumbered as Commission Policy 26A.

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
- Vice Chairman Reese commented that this appears to be a housekeeping issue.
- John Hiatt stated that one should be numbered separately, not 26A.
- Howard Watts III agreed.
- John Hiatt added the policies should be related or else two different policy numbers.
- Chairman Paul Dixon said he can ask should it be given a unique number. It is bookkeeping and needs to be asked.
- John Hiatt felt that logically it should be changed. Why not use Policy 28?
- Steve Linder, LVWWC, noted that there may be historical records tied to Policy 26 that might be hard to find if you change the number to 28.
- Chairman Paul Dixon added that is why they want to keep the one as 26 as it is part of the Elk Management Plan.
- A motion was made and seconded that what is referenced as Policy 26A be numbered with number in line with policy numbering.
- Joe Luby noted that the Transparency policy was adopted as 26A back in 2011. Now they are asking for it to be written in as 26A. Right from the start, the A got dropped, now asking for it to be 26A. In 2011 intent to be 26A.
- Chairman Paul Dixon reviewed the motion: should be to number policy as a whole number.
- Brian Patterson questioned how much confusion this will cause later on.
- Chairman Paul Dixon summarized the purpose of the Transparency Policy.
- Commissioner Valentine. 26A is probably to be consistent with what is adopted.
- Howard Watts III stated since the second policy was adopted in 2011 and was probably not referenced extensively, it is not much of an issue to change the numbering/lettering which is clearly referenced as 26 in some places.
- Motion passed 5-1 (Reese objects to spending more sportsmen dollars to fix this issue).

**C. Consideration of Revisions to Existing Commission Policy 23 on Predation Management (Second Reading)** (*For Possible Action*) The Clark CABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about revisions to Commission Policy #23.

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this item noting that the revisions to Commission Policy # 23 are for the removal of predation policies in subsection B.6. to exclude habitat management.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the revision to Commission Policy 23 as written.
- Motion passed 6-0.

**D. Fiscal Year 2017 Draft Predation Management Plan (Final Draft) (For Possible Action)**

The Clark CABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners on the third and final draft of the Fiscal Year 2017 Draft Predation Management Plan.

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this item noting that this is the third revision and the revisions are substantial this time.
- Howard Watts III noted that from the last draft, for Project 41, biology has been added and the funding was increased by \$300K. Project 38 had funding increased by \$25K. Project 37 had funding increased by \$25K. Controversial project 22-16 was removed. Project 21-02 had funding decreased by \$25K.
- Chairman Paul Dixon stated that 80% of the predator (\$3) fee has to be toward lethal removal.
- Howard Watts III added that the new draft clarified the budget to show what the surplus has been, etc.
- Chairman Paul Dixon stated that the Pittman-Robertson is a 3 to 1 match.
- Vice Chairman Reese objected to Project 41 dealing with Ravens. \$100K to do a study. What more can you learn. Whenever you can get a grant, great. The Raven population is large in Nevada indigenous and not migratory. NDOW has a federal permit to take 2500 ravens.
- Chairman Paul Dixon stated that Ravens in Nevada have not been shown to be indigenous so are considered migratory.
- Vice Chairman Reese said it is his belief that they do not migrate. On any given day of the year, you will find Raven's overhead.
- Chairman Paul Dixon offered that a study like Project 41 will begin to give you information for Ravens versus Federal Law. We need data not beliefs. If ravens can be shown to be indigenous to Nevada, then we can go to the Federal Government for an exemption to the raven protection laws.
- Vice Chairman Reese stated that he contacted Wildlife Services who gave him a conservative estimate that there are 190,000 ravens in Nevada, and the population is growing.
- Chairman Paul Dixon countered that the raven population has to be managed as a federally protected migratory species. We need a study to prove they are not migratory so we can get a permit to reduce the population by 75,000 or 100,000 due to threats to sage grouse and tortoises. We need to get it so it is not being managed as a migratory bird.
- John Hiatt noted that it is not being managed at all. Migratory bird act, neo-tropical migrants. Raven population in Mojave was almost non-existent until european-american settlers came on the scene and provided food in various ways. Rest stops, garbage, highway carrion feeds the Raven. Are they growing out of control?
- Vice Chairman Reese added ravens are affecting tortoises, calves, one of the top three predators for sage grouse. Wants to see Ravens under control. What proof do we have that we took 2500 Ravens out? He is all for studies, 110%. How do we know how this is affecting Sage Grouse? It is hard to swallow \$400K for Ravens. Get NDOW to get us a tangible deliverable, what did we get for it. For the last 10 years taking 2500 Ravens out, this is not working. Sportsmen dollars.
- Howard Watts III noted that to certain extent our hands are tied. We have to spend 80% on lethal removal with a limit on 2500 Ravens. How do we benefit tortoises and sage grouse? Get some more information like Paul said. It would be great to have summary of 2015 results. This project is going to be peer reviewed, maximize effectiveness of lethal control and hopefully lead to hard data to make recommendations in future.
- John Hiatt added that Ravens are smart and adaptable. What effects prey choices and how they operate. They counter everything we think of doing to them.

- Vice Chairman Reese further noted that it did not take \$500K to decide they would eat Mc Donald's. The total funding for all raven projects is \$503K. Take that money and put it into the Diamonds.
- Chairman Paul Dixon stated that we kept the sage grouse as threatened not endangered. If we don't do anything they will go away.
- Vice Chairman Reese countered that the Sage Grouse is not on the threatened list.
- John Hiatt offered that the Desert Tortoise is.
- Vice Chairman Reese said that if this was a \$10,000 project, he wouldn't be concerned.
- John Hiatt responded that studies cost money, cars, people, equipment, etc.
- Joe Luby said that is a problem with all of these projects, we have no idea of what it costs; they should be able to justify expenses. All we see is a round number. Also, quoted Ravens as the primary predator of Sage Grouse. The intent of the project is to benefit Sage Grouse
- Chairman Paul Dixon countered that putting out eggs Sage Grouse
- If you put out a certain number of eggs. Is there a back fill. Sit out there and do basic science and study. You put out eggs and you hope reduce the raven population.
- Joe Luby asked why eggs are the only way to remove ravens. Why not shoot them?
- John Hiatt responded that you can shoot one raven, but you'll never shoot another one. They are that smart.
- Joe Luby why spend \$400K cannot take more than 2500. He read page 34 regarding the population growth of as much as 1500%. The numbers from Wildlife Services indicating a growth from 110K to 190K seems to corroborate that. Why are we wasting money instead of getting increase number of Ravens we can remove?
- Vice Chairman Reese said he can back the other raven projects because we need to save the sage grouse.
- Joe Luby added that the project proposal does not specify how many years this request is for.
- Ralph Willits stated we are a Prisoner of Migratory Bird Act. Spend money on tickets to Washington DC. We will have this conversation in this state, in Wyoming, in South Dakota, and in Idaho. There is a Club of National Wildlife Managers that meets every year. Bird act needs to be fixed. Mention this to our Commission. 20 years from now we'll be having the same conversation. The Bird Act is an antiquated piece of crap.
- Julius Fortuna distributed a chart from Tony Wasley. In 1931 Mule Deer, 94,000 is the lowest population in 85 years. We have has a catastrophic Mule Deer population decline. The one area we can affect is the predator situation. He has concerns with Project 22, the Mule Deer Game Enhancement Project. Sage Grouse is listed as NDOW #1 priority. Mule Deer is the #1 species of big game, budget and manage wildlife. 65% reduction. There is \$577,000 raised by Big Game hunters to go for these projects. He enumerated facts and requests for Project 22 sub 21-01, 22-16 22-07. Project 22 started in 2009. Over \$1M has been spent on Project 22. It calls for the enhancement of mule deer. Last year this project was to continue until 2019. This year it is being phased out. Why are we phasing out project 22? It is intended to primarily enhance mule deer. Project 22-01, Lion Removal for Desert Big Horn Sheep units 11, 12 and 13, should not be part of project 22 if goals and justifications are around sheep. Project 22-16 Coyote Den Density on mule deer fawns. The proposal says it is for coyotes and mule deer only, so why are we not listing other species. If we are not spending time to develop projects to spend \$577K, and keep Project 22 strictly for mule deer, it is wrong. The other projects are good. Projects to collar sheep should not been in with the mule deer projects. This matter needs to get back to commission.
- Jana Wright stated that it seems that no one really likes most of the Predator Plan. Why not change how \$3 predator fee is spent? Lobby the legislature to get rid of it. Should be used to enhance habitat for sage grouse. With the mandate to spend 80% on predator removal, it seems as though NDOW is trying to spend money on things, most of which are not making many people happy. She is in favor of eliminating the \$3 fee.

- Richard Pabst offered that the Migratory Bird act needs to be changed. The Federal Government is not inspired to change it. There are those who feel it would be a good thing if the Sage Grouse is declared endangered. That would limit access to public lands. Mule Deer are a dwindling population, not just in Nevada. He suggested putting a bounty on coyotes, pay hunters.
- Steve Linder, Las Vegas Woods and Water, feels that the amount of money spent could be better allocated. We already know where the Sage Grouse are breeding. If you can eliminate 2500 and the other 2500 from landowners, etc., and focus raven removal from Sage Grouse breeding grounds, that would be the biggest bang for the buck. Put resources where it has most benefit.
- Joe Luby the one project that kills Ravens costs \$25K.
- Vice Chairman Reese agreed with Jana Wright that the \$3 fee should go away. It has been misspent over the past 10 years. NDOW would not spend 100K on Raven study if it was coming out of their budget.
- Joe Luby added that the \$400K will not buy us any additional opportunity to take any more ravens.
- A motion was made and seconded to adopt Predator Management Plan for FY 2017 as written with the following changes: Modification of project 21-02 to increase budget to \$50K, decrease the budget of Project 41 to \$25K in Predator and \$75K in Pittman-Robertson Funds.
- Brian Patterson noted that the Predator funding changes will leave \$50K left over.
- Joe Luby said he sees no reason to increase budget on 21-02 because they determined they only need \$25K.
- Howard Watts III said he will take a friendly amendment.
- New motion is to reduce project 41.
- The amended motion is to accept the Predator Management Plan for FY 2017 as written except the funding for project 41 should decrease from \$100K to \$25K and the matching funds from \$300K to \$75K.
- Motion passed 5-1 (Reese - cannot support Project 41).

**E. First Reading, Policy 1, General Guidelines for the Commission** (*For Possible Action*)

The Clark CABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Commission about revisions to Policy #1. Recommendations will review changes to reflect current practices and standards, including a section on Commission Policy record-keeping, and spacing the number of a Commission Policy's "first and second readings" from one meeting to the next before a change to a policy is adopted.

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this item noting that the changes are editorial cleanups, any concerns?
- Howard Watts III noted there are some minor typos...
- Chairman Paul Dixon stated that lawyers will catch those.
- A motion was made and seconded to recommend adoption of Commission Policy #1 as written.
- Motion passed 6-0.

**F. Duck Stamp Contest Sponsor** (*For Possible Action*) The Clark CABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about selection of a sponsor for the 2017 and 2018 duck stamp contests.

- Paul Dixon introduced this item stating that the one group who has asked for that is the Nevada Waterfowl Association.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept Nevada Waterfowl Association for the Nevada Duck Stamp Contest sponsor.
- Motion passed 6-0.

**G. Commission General Regulation 456, Special Incentive Elk Arbitration Panel, LCB File No. R031-15** (*For Possible Action*) The Clark CABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 502.42283 by which the Commission may facilitate decisions by appointing or serving as the arbitration panel should arbitration of elk incentive tag awards become necessary.

- A motion was made and seconded to reaffirm the Board's previous stance of support for it.
- Motion passed 6-0

**H. Commission General Regulation 461, Industrial Artificial Pond Permits (IAP), LCB File No. R014-16** (*For Possible Action*) The Clark CABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about regulation changes relating to amending Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). It revises provisions relating to artificial industrial ponds; adds a provision on the purpose of permits; adds definitions for permanent closure and stabilized; adds new provisions and revises existing provisions relating to application, compliance, modification, renewal, and transfer of permits; and modifies provisions relating to assessment fee structure and payment tiers.

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this item noting that this is basically language clean up. They had not updated the fees in a long time. Language added designed to add ponds that were not originally covered. The cost is to cover the cost of what the department is doing, this is dipping into ponds.
- Joe Luby stated that he cannot stand increasing fees on citizens. Some ponds fall under radar, sportsmen funds are being used to fund other \$325K. Will support it.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve CR 461 Industrial Artificial Pond RO14-16 as written.
- Motion passed 6-0.

**I. Commission General Regulation 462, Issuing and Verifying Hull Numbers of Vessels, LCB File No. R015-16** (*For Possible Action*) The Clark CABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about regulation changes to address federal regulatory changes the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) has requested states to implement pertaining to hull numbers for vessels and the verification and issuance of these numbers; the processing of certificate of number applications for vessels to include language definitions, standardization of terminology regarding vessels and personal identification information of owners.

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this item stating it is to bring the regulation up to date with USCG regulations.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve CGR 462 LCB File No. R015-16 as written.
- Motion passed 5-0-1 abstain (Luby).

**J. Commission General Regulation 460, Definition of "Spike Elk," LCB File No. R013-16**  
*(For Possible Action)* The Clark CABMW Board will discuss and make recommendations about amending NAC 502.104 and 502.1045 to define "Spike Elk" in a manner that limits inadvertent errors in the field. The intent is to consider and possibly broaden the definition of spike in a manner that is consistent with the management objective of defining a spike while reducing the likelihood of errors in harvest identification.

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this item.
- Vice Chairman Reese stated he is fine with it.
- Brian Patterson mentioned broken antlers.
- Howard Watts III countered with no branching above the ears.
- Richard Pabst asked that given our Elk numbers, is there no consensus on definition of Spike elk in neighboring States?
- Chairman Paul Dixon answered that they all do it different.
- Howard Watts III said this conforms with Utah.
- Chairman Paul Dixon said the goal was to give easy identification in low light conditions. That was a concern from the public.
- A motion was made a seconded that we adopt CRC 460 R013-16 as proposed.
- Motion passed 6-0.

**8. 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; unless you represent a group then you will be limited to six minutes.

**NOTE: Please complete the Public Comment Interest - Card and submit to Vice Chair Reese.**

- Ralph Willits noted that Sage Hen habitat is important. If we made the entire state a refuge, it will never increase by a square foot. Also, with respect to Bears, He grew up in Reno and spent time in Little Valley. Bears loved it. Bears came back from California, but eventually there was not enough food, so they ended up getting hit by cars because they were looking for food. If there's not enough food, the bears will keep moving. We have to have an intelligent management plan to take care of each other and justify the bear hunt. He also noted that when we volunteer to help NDOW, NDOW gets paid matching funds through Pittman-Robertson.
- Julius Fortuna voiced his concern for Project 22. Currently, 70% of the project's goals have nothing to do with Mule Deer. He will continue to voice this concern.
- Chairman Paul Dixon announced that the live video feed from the Commission Meeting will be at the Crawford Extension 8050 Paradise Road / off 215 and Windmill. The Commission will meet at 9am Friday and 8am Saturday. Predator plan on Friday.

**9. Authorize the Chairman to prepare and submit any recommendations from today's meeting to the Commission for its consideration at its May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 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 unanimously. 6-0.

**10. The next Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting is scheduled for June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 in the Clark County Government Cent Center Pueblo Room, 500 S. Grand Central**

**Parkway to support the scheduled Wildlife Commission meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting in Elko, Nevada.**

**11. Adjournment**

- Meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.