



# Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

## MEETING MINUTES

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Date: May 9, 2017

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

Time: 5:30 pm

Board Members Present: Paul Dixon, Chair J. Michael Reese, Vice Chair  
John Hiatt Brian Patterson 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: May 3, 2017

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### 1. Call to Order

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

### 2. Pledge of Allegiance

- Chairman Paul Dixon requested all stand and asked the attendees to accompany him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 3. Approval of Minutes of the March 21, 2017 CCABMW Meeting (*FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*)

- Chairman Paul Dixon asked the Board and attendees for any comments or corrections to the Minutes of the March 21, 2017 CCABMW Meeting.
- Board Comments:
- Vice Chair Reese asked for a correction of a statement he made with regard to AB101 and the Second Amendment found near the bottom of Page 5: Change " if you want to feed yourself, it is a also a right, not a privilege" to read: "if you want to feed yourself, it is a also a privilege, not a right ".
- Public comment: none

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of March 21, 2017 CCABMW Meeting with noted corrections.
  - Motion passed 4-0 with one abstention (Stanley).
4. **Approval of Agenda for May 9, 2017 – (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)** 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.
- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic stating that he reserves the right to pull agenda items out of order, and he may call for a break as needed.
  - Board comments: none
  - Public Comments: none
  - A motion was made to approve the agenda as posted for the May 9, 2017 Board Meeting.
  - The motion passed unanimously.
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).
- William Stanley shared that the Seventh Annual Southern Nevada Building Trades Union Sportsman's Trap Shoot will take place September 30th, 2017. The beneficiary is the Silver State Clay Breakers.
  - Vice Chair Reese stated that on May 20th the Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn Banquet at South Point.
  - Brian Patterson noted that the Big Game Draw will be held on May 24th with results posted on the 26th.
  - Chairman Paul Dixon stated that he had received an email from Bud Ogan asking the commission set a permanent opening day for Upland Game Bird Season.
6. **Recap of March 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting Actions (Informational)** – A recap of actions taken by the Wildlife Commission will be compared to Clark Recommendations.
- Chairman Paul Dixon summarized the actions of the Commission:
    - Migratory Game Bird Seasons: Clark County recommendations were adopted without changes.
    - Legislative Committee Report: Recommendations were read into the record. Bills are still under discussion. Most of the bills have had significant changes since March.
  - William Stanley commented that the deadline for Bills to move out of Committee is May 12th.
    - Wildlife Damage Committee Report: Many issues raised by this Board were also raised by the Commission. The Plan will be revised.
    - Commission Meeting Schedules: Meeting sites were changed but no dates were changed.
    - Draft Budget Request: Should be accepted minus whatever funds remain from this year.
  - Stacy Matthews noted that when she prepares the budget request, she notes the projected expenses against the current year's funding to ensure they are not counted as remaining funds.
    - Commission Policy 26A: That policy has been suspended until it better aligns with the NRS.
    - Partnership in Wildlife Drawing Changes to Non-Resident: There were changes mad and it is on tonight's Agenda.
    - Big Game Seasons: Most everything we wanted were accepted.
    - Translocating Sage Grouse to Clear Lake, California: Approved by the Commission.

## 7. Action Items:

**Discuss & make recommendations regarding the following Action Items from the Board of Wildlife Commissioners May 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting agenda, as well as additional items brought forth to the 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 17- 13, 2017 Big Game Quotas for the 2017 - 2018 Season (*For Possible Action*)** The CABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about an Amendment to the 2017 - 2018 Big Game Hunting Seasons and Dates, to specifically address nonresident Desert (Nelson) Bighorn ewe hunts that were inadvertently omitted at the February Commission meeting.

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this item noting that the discussion will be by Species.

### **Black Bear**

- Quotas remain unchanged: 41 Resident, 4 Non-resident
- Harvest limit is unchanged: 20, however harvest limits for Units 192, 194, 195, 196, 201, 202, 204, and 206, is six, and for Unit 291, the limit is 8.
- Chairman Paul Dixon read input from Howard Watts III endorsing the proposed quotas and harvest limits.
- Board Comments: none
- Public Comments: none
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed Regulation 17-13 as written.
- The motion passes unanimously, 5-0.

### **Antelope**

- Board Comments:
- Vice Chair Reese noted that the quotas for Antelope have gone up again this year as they have been since 2000.
- Public Comment: none
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed quotas for Antelope Hunts 2151, 2171, 2161, 2181, 2251, and 2261 as written.
- The motion passes unanimously, 5-0.

### **Bighorn Sheep**

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic and invited Pat Cummings, NDOW, address the proposed quotas.
- Pat Cummings, NDOW, stated that statewide there is a quota increase, that the Desert Bighorn population has surpassed the 10,000 milestone, and that a disease infestation in the south, that is especially lethal for lambs, will result in fewer harvestable rams in 2018-2019.
- In response to questions from Chairman Paul Dixon regarding the movement of sheep, susceptibility to pathogens, and health of herds, Pat Cummings stated that for this year the quotas are up and ewe hunts are scheduled to help reduce herd density, but that he expects the quotas to drop for 2018-2019 primarily because of the pathogen infestation, especially in the south.

- Stephanie Myers asked if there a drug that can treat it.
- Pat Cummings responded that it is very difficult to treat, especially, how do you treat in wildlife? This is still under study, but there is no treatment yet.
- Brian Patterson noted the increase for the McCullough's from 5 to 9 while the Bears and the Muddies decreased by a good amount.
- Pat Cummings, NDOW, explained that they have encountered class 4 rams in the Bear Mountain area. Because of special conditions associated with specialty tags, the PIW tag holder is the only hunter in 2017 that will be allowed to hunt in the Bear Mountain Unit. Because of that, the quota was reduced for that unit. In the Muddies, a friend of Jeremy Drew hunted Unit 268 and championed an increase of tags by 3 over the department's recommendations. The decrease for this year is to reset that increase.
- Vice Chair Reese offered kudos for the increase in quotas. Since 2014 there has been an increase of 40. Given it takes 5 years before a lamb matures to be huntable.
- Pat Cummings corrected saying the goal is 6 years for the average age of sheep.
- Vice Chair Reese continued with kudos to NDOW, Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn, and Nevada Bighorns Unlimited for all they've done to grow the population in spite of the disease events.
- Brian Patterson asked about the Rocky Mountain Bighorn quotas for the Mount Moriah Unit being split into early and late. Is that in hopes that some of the rams will come down off of the mountain in the late hunt? Pat Cummings said yes.
- John Hiatt asked Pat Cummings about the genetic bottleneck that is coming, due to almost no lamb survival, and if he is concerned about less genetic diversity? If there is 70-80% lamb mortality that would mean a less genetically diverse population."
- Pat Cummings responded that if this were a long term problem, it would be a reason for concern, but he is optimistic that it will turn around sooner. That should avert the scenario John is talking about.
- Chairman Paul Dixon noted that some states eradicated whole herds when they became diseased. We tended to manage around things. What are they doing with fresh herds like in Idaho and Oregon? When they had disease event they wiped out the herd. Is it known how that worked, compared to the way we managed it?
- Pat Cummings responded that it's too soon to tell. It is further complicated by Nevada's topography. If you look at the terrain in Nevada, that is the ideal terrain for bighorn sheep. In terms of dispersal, it facilitates that. In general, to wipe out sheep herd, you would have to know exactly what is going on to be effective.
- Public Comment:
- Ralph Willits asked if "Survival of the fittest" is going to play out with the disease events. Will weak ones die and other ones get stronger?
- Pat Cummings responded that the severity of the disease infestation will only be fully realize in 10 years from now, optimistically. Disease in Big Horn herds will be over by now. We won't see bottlenecking that could happen. Selective pressure on the population cannot answer that question.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept quotas for Hunts 3151, 3251, 3181, 3281, 8151, 8251, 8181, 9151 as written.
- Motion passes 5-0

### **Mountain Goats**

- Brian Patterson asked, with the reduction in quotas for resident Mountain Goat Hunt 7151 from 13 to 8, why do we have 1 quota for non-resident? Are we supposed to stay at 10%?
- Chairman Paul Dixon  $10\% \text{ of } 8 = .08\%$  rounded would be quota of 1. In this case, a non-resident season has already been set, so there has to be a quota of at least 1.
- Brian Patterson, AZ, Utah are different with a cap of 10%.
- Pat Cummings said that we try to stay at 10%.

- Public Comment: none
- A motion was made and seconded to accept quotas for Hunts 7151 and 7251 as written.
- Motion passes 5-0

### **Elk**

- Chairman Paul Dixon requested to cover Elk quotas by weapon class.
- Elk Hunt – Depredation Hunt 4102 Elk Antlered – Any Legal Weapon hard to eliminate Elk in Ruby's 101-103. Hunt 4107 reducing numbers in other places around state in 2017 – 2018 season. He noted that the bull to cow ratio is out of whack drop in tags 101-103 more bulls than cows in that area. Any legal weapon hunt slight drop not much across board.
- Resident Elk-Spike Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4651 increase Spike 56 tag increase 33.
- Resident 4181 Resident 4481 quota dramatically down. Dramatic shifts hunt tied to Mule Deer people were not harvesting in those areas. Hunt 4176 down people not successful Muzzleloader. He noted the Jr. Antlerless Elk Hunt – quota of 170 good.
- Nonresident – Elk – Antlered – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4251 down.
- Brian Patterson noted that we manage our Elk herds more than any other hunts.
- Paul Dixon we have an Elk Management Plan. We manage them through a depredation hunt. Elk are extremely successful in the state. Success with Cows, remove Spike population we are trying to not overharvest. Some best bull hunting of 370 class bulls.
- Public Comment: None
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed quotas for Hunts 4102, 4107, 4151, 4156, 4651, 4181, 4181, 4481, tied to Mule Deer 1331, 4176, 4476, 4407, 4251, 4256, 4281, 4481, option Mule Deer 1331, 4276, and 4476, with mule deer option 1371 as written.
- Motion passes 5-0
- Chairman Paul Dixon then addressed Archery Elk hunts. Elk – Antlered – Muzzleloader Hunt 4156 Unit Group 061, 071 and Nonresident Elk-Antlerless – Archery Hunt 4211
- William Stanley
- Pat Cummings noted that so many Elk are spending time in Idaho. The effective population, if they are on an Indian Reservation or in Idaho, they are unavailable.
- Paul Dixon reducing resident tag to increase non-resident. Decrease resident by 12% and increase nonresident by 20%.
- Public Comment: none
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed quotas for Elk Archery Hunts 4161, 4111, 4261, 4211 as written.
- Motion passes 5-0.

### **Mule Deer**

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic looking at the Youth Hunt - Any Legal Weapon Hunt 1107. Increased the number of tags by 55. We always have youth tags left over. Increased tags where there is more interest. Such as Units 111-113, the Ely area, also Units 141, 151, areas with more hunter interest with children.
- Public Comment: none
- A motion was made and seconded to approve quotas for Hunt 1107 as written.
- Motion passes 5-0.
- Chairman Paul Dixon noted that quotas for Mule Deer have dropped especially in the Ruby's. Numbers are stable for the most part for archery and muzzle loader. The decrease in nonresident is less than the decrease for resident tags percentage wise. Chairman Paul Dixon will be asked at Commission why residents are decreasing vs non-resident. Maybe there is something in guidelines.
- Pat Cummings stated that the goal when setting quota recommendations was to keep them consistent with last year.

- Chairman Paul Dixon is looking for proportionality and not seeing it. There's something different there.
- Bill Stanley asked if there could be some sensitivity to issue about lawsuits in other states regarding non-resident tags.
- Pat Cummings responded that is where 10% came from.
- Bill Stanley being preventative helps you not be a sitting target.
- Chairman Paul Dixon will ask question at Commission meeting.
- Vice Chair Reese noted that since 2000 we have had a steady decrease in the mule deer population. In the last four years, the doe tags have dropped 79%. The Mule Deer any legal weapon quotas have been cut by 30%, 10986 to 7500. If deer population is lower, we cannot increase tags.
- Chairman Paul Dixon agreed stating there are slight increases in some areas.
- Vice Chair Reese stated that overall, the harvest rate is 42%, but some areas the rate is close to 70%. Why is that? Is it what weapon, what time of year, what type of hunt? What is the decrease in the population attributed to? Is it horses? Is it areas over hunted? Why is the trend changing? You can say it is a prolonged drought, but there are more guzzlers, more water put on mountain than ever before, so drought is not the whole reason.
- John Hiatt responded that from studies, it always gets back to habitat: food, forage, cover, etc.
- Paul Dixon added that drought, fire, urbanization, and manmade changes to the environment.
- Vice Chair Reese offered if a fawn cannot live beyond 2 weeks what good is water or habitat? In March Fawn to Doe ratio always lower than December. Mortality rate is higher.
- Pat Cummings referenced the Big Game Status Book, page 13, subsection Population and Trends: Kaleb, the Area 10 biologist for NDOW, came to realize that the population of Mule Deer in area 10 was overestimated. This explains why there is such a dramatic decrease in hunt quotas.
- Brian Patterson asked what the quota for is guided.
- Chairman Paul Dixon responded that it is set statutorily.
- Brian Patterson noted that about 350 drew tag for guided hunts.
- Bud Ogen related a fact he had heard relative to Range Management: when range is in poor condition coming out of winter, fawn births tend to spread out due to lack of good feed. Predators will follow Fawn's dropping. But, if range is in good condition, fawns will drop at the same time, and the coyotes don't have chance to go after the fawns.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the quotas for Mule Deer Hunts 1107, 1181, 1331, 1371, 1341, 1331, 1371, and 1341 as presented.
- Motion passes 5-0.

**B. Presentation of Fiscal Year 2018 Draft Predation Management Plan (Final Draft) (For Possible Action)** The CABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about the proposed Fiscal Year 2018 Predator Management Plan.

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic. Paul read the Projects on page 6 into the record. There is only one study, because of 80% rule under statute. This plan may be overtaken by events if AB101 goes through. There are some wording changes that need to be made in AB101. He stated that this is the most lethal Predator Management Plan he has seen. Most projects are for the removal of raven, coyotes or mountain lions. Paul feels the Mesopredator removal to protect waterfowl, turkeys and pheasants is the most important.
- John Hiatt added that a small area for prey makes a higher predation ratio. Predators take them out.
- Board Comments:

- Bill Stanley we have beat this to death.
- Vice Chair Reese stated that we are at a decline of our Mule Deer population. We have a steady declining trend in deer population, if this study shows it has leveled out, he will welcome that, and it will show that these predator removal projects have done some good. He referenced a Power point on the NDOW website addressing lion kills across the State. Most of the lion kills on the Power point were in the Tahoe Basin. He then addressed Project 42 that is only \$2500. The fact that this is us going to private contractor to do a new model on lion harvest makes him question what is our predator guy doing and why is this going out to someone else? Why is biologist not doing this? We have data on Mountain Lions for 40 years. Why are we sending the data out to be analyzed?
- Chairman Paul Dixon responded that you need expertise in mathematics and analysis. In the past, we spent \$120K on a data analysis. There is a dramatic difference when you need their specific methods. He further stated that building a statistical analysis is a specialty.
- Brian Patterson asked if this money is going to get spread out over three years or will additional funding be requested the next two years?
- Chairman Paul Dixon said what is listed is annual budget.
- Vice Chair Reese asked are we putting him on a retainer.
- Chairman Paul Dixon stated that the contractor is asked to come up with a predictive model. It could be that the NDOW person lacks the skills to do that, or he may be looking for an independent model to compare with his.
- William Stanley stated he sees a couple of issues here: a rub about \$3 predator fee, and the way it is being spent. Is there some linkage between deer population decline and predators? Is it that the \$3 predator fee is the issue and we are not doing enough? Is it that we just don't like the type of programs that are being outlined? Is it the programs or is it that not enough of \$3 fee is going toward the animals that are impacting deer?
- Vice Chair Reese responded that the \$3 fee is for predator control.
- William Stanley Said that the \$3 fee should be directed at programs designed to reduce predator impact on game animals. We should drive that conversation with the state board.
- Chairman Paul Dixon offered that the current statute says the \$3 fee will go to lethal removal, education, studies, and habitat. The last legislative session mandated that 80% would go to lethal removal, but did not block the other three. This legislative session with AB101 is an unknown. We don't know what we will get. Since \$3 fee is the balancing of those and the 80% for lethal. 20% can be the other three things. Changed wording so you could only do big game. Only large meso predators. No sage grouse, etc.
- William Stanley said he was there in 2015 when the legislature helped sportsmen who were pressing heavily to have 80% lethal. If you believe the Predator fee should be used to eradicate predators, we should have that conversation with the Commission and the Legislature.
- Chairman Paul Dixon noted that legislature changes every two years. Instead of changing 80%, they changed the whole bill. It becomes the issue. Predator Management needs education, removal, habitat and studies.
- Vice Chair Reese summarized the legislative discussions around the creation of an evolving restrictions of the \$3 predator fee. Each new Legislature brings new sensitivities and attempts to balance the allocation of funds between lethal and nonlethal programs Every year it bounces back in forth in the legislature
- Chairman Paul Dixon added unless you get a more balanced plan.
- Bill Stanley suggested changing the name by removing Predator from the name of the Plan.
- Chairman Paul Dixon stated that Michael McBeath tried to change the name to something like Game Management Plan, but that got changed. He added that this plan is true to the current NRS. It will undoubtedly change, based on what happens with AB101. What comes

out of AB101 will determine what happens with the Predator Management Plan Fiscal Year 2018.

- John Hiatt read from the Big Game Status Book quoting information from Page 15: Since 2009 61 Mountain Lions have been removed... with no appreciable impact on the deer population. It's habitat. Habitat is critically important for deer.
- Vice Chair Reese added that habitat is controlled by BLM, not NDOW.
- John Hiatt noted there is a lot of opportunity to raise funds for BLM to support habitat.
- Public Comment:
- Bud Ogen asked if predator control is only toward coyotes.
- Chairman Paul Dixon responded that Mountain Lion removal is also a main target. Mostly general nuisance Mountain Lion removal.
- Bud Ogen further asked what the current Mountain Lion population is.
- John Hiatt responded that it varies greatly.
- Bud Ogen stated that in the early 1980's, he wrote NDOW for an estimate of the lion population. The answer he got was 2500. Most studies say lions take about a deer a week. Do the math, plus what hunters are taking, and you're looking at 110K deer killed each year. If there's not a real problem with lions, then there's a real problem with somebody's math.
- Chairman Paul Dixon responded that it depends on the area. Some lions eat wild horses. They also eat smaller game. Deer is their food of choice. When deer populations are large, so are the lion populations.
- Bud Ogen said he was just curious what estimated numbers are today. He had asked NDOW how many lions in Area 024. At that time they said 2, but he had seen 3.
- John Hiatt noted that the US Geological Survey had done a fairly extensive study of mountain lions in the Sheep Range. They found that there were 2 resident females living there a no males. But they do have kittens but do not survive. One of the questions explored in the study was what the impact of lions on big horn sheep is. Big Horn sheep make up about 30 % of diet, Deer 60% of diet, the rest of the diet was other animals. The discrepancy between Sheep and Deer percentages was explained by the fact that both deer and lions are nocturnal while sheep are only active during the day when lions are not out.
- Vice Chair Reese pointed out that the populations of deer are down to nothing. The quota in the Sheldons this year is 20. Four years ago it was 68.
- William Stanley noted that AB101 will be work-sessioned in the Senate on Thursday and will go to floor then back to Assembly to be ratified with the Senate changes. It will make it out. They removed "big game".
- Jana Wright stated that if she understood Director Wasley with respect to AB101, she thought he said that past predation plans were doing 75% lethal removal. If this Plan passes the Commission on Friday, this plan will be accepted. If the Governor will sign AB101, this Plan will be in effect, and a revised plan will not be in place until 2019.
- Public Comment closed.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve as written.
- Vice Chair Reese again raised the objection that there needs to be better back up on projects. Made a point at the last Commission meeting to add comments instead of none.
- Brian Patterson said there is a perception that the funds are going to kill coyotes.
- Bill Stanley stated that if AB101 passes, it goes into effect 7/1/2017. So they will change the Predator Management Plan for Fiscal Year 2018
- Jana Wright this plan will be approved Friday, they will not be able to change.
- Chairman Paul Dixon said the Plan can be changed after it is approved. It has happened before.
- Bill Stanley added based on the effective date of AB101, the intent is to change the Plan. NDOW can change the plan.
- Jana Wright agree to disagree.

- Motion passes Ayes: 3 Nays: 2 (Reese and Stanley - Opposition to Project 42, lack of back up in Plan document)

C. **Commission General Regulation 466, Partnership in Wildlife (PIW) Drawing, Changes to Nonresident Restricted Deer Tag, and Changes to Big Game Return Card Questionnaire Deadline, LCB File No. R140-16 (*For Possible Action*)** The CABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about a regulation relating to amending Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation defines the term “main drawing;” revises the order in which the Silver State Tag drawing, PIW tag drawing and main tag drawings are conducted; authorizes an applicant for a nonresident restricted deer tag to apply for a nonresident deer tag in the PIW tag drawing and the Silver State tag drawing in the same year; and revises the big game return card questionnaire deadline from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
- Vice Chair Reese stated that this is just a formality defining the order of draws.
- Chairman Paul Dixon added that this has been discussed and reworked. It is back for final approval. Looks good.
- Public Comment: None
- A motion was made and seconded to approve as written.
- Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

D. **Heritage Committee (*For Possible Action*)** The CABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about their 2018 Heritage proposals.

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this item. The backup was on the committee web page. Link on Heritage Committee agenda link. He summarized the proposed Heritage Projects. He noted that heritage focused on habitat. Good studies two projects for Fraternity \$36K, Spruce Mountain on range how are they going to remove them. How are they going to change the habitat? Juniper thinning. This is how we should spend money. Interest rates rising.
- Bill Stanley asked why we are spending money on restoration on the Ruby Valley pipeline.
- Chairman Paul Dixon responded that the Ruby Valley pipeline is a mitigation fund.
- John Hiatt agreed it is mitigation not restoration.
- Chairman Paul Dixon stated that there is close to \$600K to purchase seed for fire restoration. We had a lot of fires and burns. He thought they were all really good. Requested from Heritage: \$819K, with \$785K available, we are short \$34k. We have matching funds so we could find rest of the money. We can make great impacts with these projects.
- Brian Patterson stated it is a simple math problem. We can cut all 13 projects by 4.3%. But there are four small projects: Project 3, 6, 11 and 12. Fund those four fully and cut the others by 4.5 % since they have matching funds available.
- Chairman Paul Dixon said that if the Board is not comfortable voting or making a recommendation, he can make a recommendation on a personal level.
- Public comment:
- Commissioner Paul Valentine, in past meetings for Heritage Funds we have received extra money from NGOS to make up for the shortfall.
- Chairman Paul Dixon noted that he believes this is smallest delta we have seen. \$34K shortfall is easy to fix.
- Chairman Paul Dixon decided to table this item since board members did not see back up.

- Chairman Paul Dixon read the Heritage Tag Vendor Proposal & Fundraising Summary into the record. Many new vendors this year. He noted that there are a lot of vendors requesting tags with only a handful for distribution. The size of banquet and who they draw to banquet for bidding can be a factor. He sees a need to continue to support WHIN with Mule Deer and Turkey Tag. Turkey Heritage Tag goes for \$1400+. Big Horn Unlimited is the biggest show for wildlife. Meadow Valley has deep pockets at their events. Rocky Mountain Elk should get Rocky Mountain Elk.
- Bill DeYoung the other Mule Deer is in Salt Lake City at the Mule Deer Foundation banquet.
- Chairman Paul Dixon closed this topic.

E. **Deer and Antelope Compensation Tag Program (*For Possible Action*)** The CABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about the existing Landowner Deer and Antelope Compensation Tag Program, recent history, and management options. The Commission will discuss and may direct the Department to develop a draft Commission Regulation regarding options regarding the Landowner Deer and Antelope Compensation Tag Program.

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this item. We did counts for land owner tags. Many land owners pre-sold tags based on what they thought they would get. The result, they sold 50 more tags than will be available.
- Pat Cummings stated that the maximum number that can be allotted is only 1½% of deer and antelope quotas adopted annually.
- Chairman Paul Dixon asked how this can be resolved.
- John Hiatt clarified that the overall number of tags is down and when they apply 1.5%, the land owners are short 50 tags. We have a one size fits all, but the northern part of state was hit hard and the herds are smaller so the quotas are down. Lincoln County has more deer than ever. 50 deer give you 1 tag. If you have 90 deer you only have one tag. Look at the economics of ranching it is cash for no work.
- William Stanley added that the reason for the program was to compensate landowners for destruction of crops. They have become so popular, they are brokered. Ranchers and Farmers pool tags and broker them. The dollar value today far outstrips the damage to the crop. We are taking a State's resource. NDOW could determine what the number of tags is for deer and antelope and broker them to pay rancher for depletion of crops. The rest of the money could go back into wildlife restoration. Ranchers are profiting from tags. They are brokering them out. That state resource there is a tremendous amount of wealth that could be used for different things. The original compensation was for the destruction of alfalfa.
- Vice Chair Reese this is in NRS, so it will need to be changed by legislatures.
- William Stanley stated if this group got together and said what is the tag worth, vs what the loss of crop, the funds could go back to restoration and other projects. This is a lost opportunity to compensate NDOW.
- Brian Patterson said that for a farmer to get one tag farmers might not be coming out ahead. Are the animals there for months, preventing him from using other crops?
- John Hiatt noted this also involves access. What's the compensation for the far north part of the state vs south part of the state? This is a complicated issue that is not one size fits all.
- Vice Chair Reese said his ranch has 1000 acres, and at least five months out of the year, there are about 100 head. They have been in there day and night. If I fenced it in, how much would they eat in a day?
- William Stanley deer can eat a lot in a day. There should be a study done to determine if the farmer being under or over compensated. All for keeping the farmer and rancher on the land. Is there a resource that is being properly managed? Purchasing and brokering tags today is turning into a business and the state is not getting a part of their resource.

- Chairman Paul Dixon stated it is a for profit business.
- Brian Patterson added that the farmer could have been taking it in the shorts for years and now it might be profitable.
- Chairman Paul Dixon commented that the deer would bed down outside of the farm 1.5 miles from alfalfa fields. They wouldn't go farther since there was no water, it was desert.
- Bill DeJuncker stated that a fourth generation family in Lincoln County that he knows had over 1100 deer when they came to count. He agrees with Brian.
- Chairman Paul Dixon pointed out that the current Chairman of the Wildlife Commission is an alfalfa farmer. Even he knows that he can make more from compensation tags than he can from alfalfa. The profits help farmers.
- John Hiatt stated that the program needs to be more flexible. The difference between alfalfa field vs grass pasture, how long is the season, how many cuttings can you get, all weigh in.
- Bill Stanley whatever the allocation.
- John Hiatt noted that fences could be damaged too, by Elk.
- Chairman Paul Dixon stated there is an Elk incentive program for people who build the habitat.
- Brian Patterson asked where are we going to get 50 tags.
- J Michael Reese – spot lighters can push herd out. Who is closest to getting cut?
- Public Comment:
- A motion was made and seconded to recommend that the compensation program be made more flexible based on type of land use and location in state, and adjust the program to take into account that the compensation tag today has value and in many cases exceeds the value of the damage occurring.
- Motion passed 5-0.

F. **Commission Regulation 17-14, 2017 Landowner Deer and Antelope Compensation Quotas (*For Possible Action*)** The CABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about Landowner deer and antelope compensation quotas per NRS 502.145 (1.5 percent of the total deer and antelope quotas.) The 1.5 percent is generated from the total deer and antelope quotas, which are established in CR 17-13. As a result of this cap being established the deer and antelope damage compensation tag allocations for the 2017 season may exceed the 1.5 percent statutory cap. The Commission may vote to adopt a regulatory model that changes the allocation of the tags to meet the statutory cap.

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this item. Because of declining herd we take 1.5% of quotas. Property has same usage but there are fewer tags to allocate. Landowners assume, based on past years, they will have tags to allocate and broker. Property owner assumed they were going to get x. What is the fairest way to cut down on the over 50 allocated tags.
- John Hiatt suggests a sliding scale based on highest to lowest.
- Brian Patterson said you can't blame land owner or state. You can't blame land owner.
- Chairman Paul Dixon said the land owner should not act on unofficial direction. Landowners have put themselves at risk.
- John Hiatt asked how much of this a landowner issue is.
- Vice Chair Reese suggested adding the animal count across all who applied and divide up.
- John Hiatt again suggested change the allocation based on sliding scale.
- John Hiatt 1.5% can be changed in legislature.
- Chairman Paul Dixon asked how you determine number of tags. # of deer and antelope divided by number of applicants.

- Brian Patterson that is unfair too because deer can eat the same amount. Ranchers may want to get in game. It may raise the ratio.
- John Hiatt stated we need a more flexible program in the future.
- Public Comment: none
- A motion was made and seconded to recommend due to the delta this year, we change the ratio of the number of tags / number applicants. We look at flexibility of plan going forward.
- Motion passed Ayes: 4 Nays: 1 (Patterson - not changing compensation for land owner's property)

**G. Allowing access to public land per NAC 502.42276: Land owner compensation program for elk (*For Possible Action*)** The CABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about a petition to the State of Nevada Wildlife Commission to hear and take action as to a policy, handling of complaints and investigation process for complaints concerning access to the public land under NAC 502.42276.

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic, stating that two years ago, Ken Wellington denied access on Ellison Land. Ken Wellington made complaint to Tony Wasley. Tony said he would take this up in house. Chairman Paul Dixon thinks highly of NDOW, but this issue does not add up. Ken Wellington gave testimony and asked why they could not enforce the NAC 502.42276. Answer: contract is unenforceable. Ken asked for copy of contract. 2014 pulled compensation contract. When you write a compensation agreement that goes against NAC it is a problem. They re-wrote the 2017 agreement and took out that clause, and put in that you have to give two weeks' notice. You can shoot an animal that is on public land from public land, but you cannot get to the animal. Took away public access. If you get compensation tag you need to provide access to surrounded public lands. The system was not evenly allocated. Want NRS to be enforced to make people accountable. The Department knowingly wrote contracts that did not comply with NRS. They were asked if the contract for 2017 was signed. They were told no. Signatures were dated before the 23<sup>rd</sup>. He was told it was not signed but it was misleading. NDOW has no reason to lie, process unevenly applied. When Ken persisted, NDOW pulled back offering no more cooperation, NDOW requested everything in writing.
- Chairman Paul Dixon sent out to CABS to see if they have support. Deer went from 4400 to 2500. All tags went down. Ellison gets two more tags this year because we have too many bull elk. Reduced for resident but increased for land owner. Collared deer was done on 365 days of deer use and data shows not 365 days.
- Public Comment:
- Kevin Stinley stated his brother was harmed in first episode. He appreciates hard work, we want issue fixed.
- Vice Chair Reese it should be pursued.
- A motion was made and seconded to support a petition.
- Motion passed 4 -0-1

**8. Public Comment -Members of the public may provide public comment (*Informational*)**

Comments will be limited to three minutes; unless you represent a group then you will be limited to six minutes. Any item requiring Board action not on this agenda may be scheduled on a future agenda.

- None

**9. Authorize the Chairman to prepare and submit any recommendations from today's meeting to the Commission for its consideration at its May 12th and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting in Reno, Nevada. (*For Possible Action*)**

- Public comment: None
- A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Chairman to prepare and submit any recommendations from today's meeting to the Commission for its consideration at its May 12th and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting in Reno, Nevada
- Motion passed unanimously 5--0

10. **The next Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting is scheduled for June 20th, 2017 in the Clark County Government Center Pueblo Room, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway to support the scheduled Wildlife Commission meeting on June 23rd and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in Las Vegas, Nevada.**

11. **Adjournment**

- Meeting was adjourned at 9:02pm.

DRAFT