

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

MINUTES

Thursday ~ September 12, 2013 ~ 6:00 p.m.
Regional Emergency Operations Center
Conference Room
5195 Spectrum Boulevard, Reno, Nevada

MEMBERS

John Reed, Chair
Sean Shea, Vice-chair
Michelle Spencer, Secretary
Rex Flowers
Miles Humphreys, Jr.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE [Non-action item]

Chair Flowers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL and INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER(s) [Non-action item]

Chair Flowers called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

PRESENT: Rex Flowers, Miles Humphreys, Jr., John Reed, Sean Shea and Michelle Spencer.

ABSENT: None.

Chair Flowers noted that Member Reed appointed for another 3-year and is filling the general public position with Miles Humphreys, Jr., being appointed to fill the vacant position.

Member Humphreys, Jr. noted that he has been a resident of Nevada for nearly 38-years and is an avid outdoorsman and sportsman as well as an employee of UPS (United Parcel Service) for nearly 20-years.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS [Non-action item]

There were no public comments.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS [For possible action] – *Chair, Vice-chair and Secretary*

Chair Flowers opened the meeting to nominations for the position of Chair.

Chair Flowers nominated Member John Reed to serve as Chair. Member Shea seconded the nomination.

Member Reed accepted the nomination.

The nomination to elect John Reed as Chair of the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife carried unanimously.

Chair Flowers turned the meeting gavel to incoming Chair John Reed at 6:03 p.m.

Chair Reed opened nominations for Vice-chair.

Member Shea nominated Rex Flowers to serve as Vice-chair. Chair Reed seconded the nomination.

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Member Flowers declined the position and asked that someone else be elected to work with Chair Reed. Member Flowers reiterated his offer to continue to attend the out of area meetings at the pleasure of and on behalf of the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife.

Chair Reed commented that he would request Member Flowers' continued mentorship.

Member Flowers stated that he would assist Chair Reed or any other member in any way possible.

Member Flowers nominated Member Sean Shea to serve as Vice-chair. Member Spencer seconded the nomination.

Member Shea accepted the nomination.

The nomination to elect Sean Shea as Vice-chair of the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife carried unanimously.

Chair Reed opened nominations for Board Secretary.

Member Shea nominated Michelle Spencer, to serve as Board Secretary, Mile Humphreys, Jr., Jr. seconded the nomination.

Member Spencer accepted the nomination.

The nomination to elect Michelle Spencer as Board Secretary of the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF JULY 30, 2013, MINUTES (For possible action)

It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Member Shea, to approve the July 30, 2013, minutes, as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

6. BOARD MEMBER MEETING ASSIGNMENT (Non-action item) – *A discussion and selection of member(s) to attend the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meetings on: 1) September 20 and 21, meetings in Las Vegas, Nevada; and 2). December 6 and 7, 2013, meetings in Reno, Nevada.*

Member Flowers will attend the September 20 and 21, 2013, meetings in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Member Shea will attend the December 6, 2013, meeting in Reno, Nevada.

Chair Reed will attend the December 6 and 7, 2013, meetings in Reno, Nevada.

7. COMMITTEE, MEMBER AND LIAISON UPDATES (Non-action items)

7-1). Correspondence (including sportsmen's concerns) and Announcements – Member Flowers read correspondence from former Board Member Troy Lane into the record (copy on file).

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Other correspondence (copies on file) included the announcement of the NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) Certificate for new anglers as well as the revised Wildlife Action Plan that stated in 2003 and was approved in September 2012.

Chair Reed commented that he had been reappointed to the board as the "Public Representative" and that he is reviewing Roberts Rules of Order on meeting protocols.

7-2). Overview of the August 2 and 3, 2013, meetings of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners – Chair Reed, Members Flowers and Spencer also attended the August 2 and 3, 2013, meetings.

Member Flowers noted that most of the issues addressed at those two meetings were on tonight's (September 12, 2013) agenda.

8. PROPOSED 2014 WASHOE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE MEETING CALENDAR [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to approve or otherwise modify a proposed 2013 meeting calendar.*

Chair Reed opened the agenda item and noted that the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife typically meets the Thursday week prior to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meetings.

Member Flowers explained that the Monday, January 31, 2014, date was on the proposed calendar as he is typically attending a national sales meeting the last week of January. However, the date of the sales meeting has not yet been announced. Therefore, Member Flowers believes that the proposed Thursday meeting date is acceptable.

It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Member Flowers, to approve the 2014 meeting calendar with the January 2014, meeting being held on Thursday, January 23, 2014. The motion carried unanimously.

Member Flowers reminded Member Spencer to contact Gayle Gregg at NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) to reserve the conference room for 2014.

9. FIRST READING OF A NEW COMMISSION POLICY, ENTITLED, No. 23 Predation Management – [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify new Commission Policy No. 23 Predation Management.*

Chair Reed outlined the agenda item.

Member Flowers noted that this particular item did not need LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) review and that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners is slated to do the first reading on Friday and the second reading at the Saturday meeting.

Chair Reed opened public comment.

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Joel Blakeslee commented that in the past the board has taken public comment before and after the board has made comment.

During the discussion it was noted that Section 4 should be the same as Section 3 under Predator Management Plan and that Citizen Organizations should read Conservation Organizations.

Responding to Member Shea's inquiry about Corvids, Chris Crookshanks – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), explained that all aquatic predators or prey, native or non-native were handled by the Fisheries Bureau. Additionally, there are a number of different species both aquatic and terrestrial that feed on aquatic species. Mr. Crookshanks noted that Corvids are a family of birds (Corvidae) that includes Ravens, Crows and Magpies and that a permit can be obtained for certain federally protected birds when needed (e.g. Cormorants).

Chair Reed noted that Policy 23 relates to the \$3.00 Predator Fee and is a hunting issue, in his opinion. Chair Reed then outlined his concern about transplants or introductions of other plant and animal species that can be detrimental to the natural balance. Therefore, he has some concern about the use of the term "introduction" without some form of definition of what may or may not be introduced.

Joel Blakeslee noted Elk, Sheep and Antelope were introduced into the State and would not otherwise be here.

Chair closed public comment

It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Member Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Policy 23 with the following modifications: Under B Paragraph 5 change "allude" to read "elude"; D under the Predation Management Plan, Paragraph 4, change CAB (Citizen Advisory Board) to read CABMW Citizen Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife; and change citizen organizations to read conservation organizations to read the same as Section 2.

Member Flowers explained that, in his opinion, a citizen organization could represent a variety of issues whereas a conservation organization could not.

The motion carried unanimously.

10. DRAFT FISCAL YEAR 2014 PREDATOR MANAGEMENT PLAN [For Possible Action] – A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify the draft Fiscal Year 2014 Predator Management Plan.

Chair Reed outlined that agenda item and asked for board discussion

Responding to Member Shea's inquiry about the additional \$35,000.00 for Project 18, Member Flowers explained that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners had only provided \$35,000.00

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for the project to allow Wildlife Services an opportunity to find another position for the individual that could be displaced. During the public and Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners discussion it was suggested that Project 18 be continued for another year with annual reviews thereafter.

Member Humphreys, Jr. concurred with annual reviews and explained that he had no issues with the plan.

Member Spencer concurred and pointed out that Project 18 has had good results in that area.

During the discussion it was noted that Project 21-02 had been approved and that U. S. Fish and Wildlife Services had indicated a need for \pm \$1-Billion for Sage Grouse habitat restoration. It was noted that the Nevada Congressional delegation would need to support such funding for the Great Basin as other Congressional delegations had supported funding for Chesapeake Bay (Massachusetts) and the Everglades (State of Florida) restorations. Other discussion noted that \$40,000.00 had been approved for the use of poisoned chicken eggs to combat Common Ravens along with the collection and disposal of poisoned birds. As the discussion continued it was noted that there is \$60,000.00 in unobligated funds that could be used on Project 20, the Statewide Muledeer Project that would also benefit Northern Nevada.

Chair Reed opened public comment.

Bob Brunner noted that support materials did not include anything on Predator Control.

Chair Reed closed public comments.

It was moved by Member Flowers. seconded by Member Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the Draft Fiscal year 2014 Predator Management Plan with the following modifications: 1) increase funding for Project 22 from \$50,000.00 to \$90,000.00 using \$40,000.00 from the unobligated \$60,000.00 balance. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting recessed at 6:57 p.m. and reconvened at 7:07 p.m.

- 11. FISCAL YEAR 2014 HERITAGE PROJECT MODIFICATION** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify a request to transfer approved Heritage Project No. 14-13, Conservation Planning Tool for Greater Sage-grouse in the Mount Grant Population Management Unit from the management of the U. S. Geological Survey, Michael Casazza to the Nevada Chukar Foundation pursuant to NAC (Nevada Administrative Code) 501.300.*

Chair Reed outlined the agenda item noting that funding had to be provided through a non-profit organization rather than USGS (United States Geological Survey). Chair Reed commented that this request covers the bi-state Sage-grouse population and that the State of California may be considering a reintroduction of the hunt. Chair Reed pointed out that NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) has a long standing association with the Nevada Chukar Foundation and this particular branch of the USGS.

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Hearing no one wishing to speak, Chair closed public comment and asked for board discussion or a motion.

It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Member Flowers, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the modification to Project 14-13 Conservation Planning Tool for Greater Sage-grouse in the Mount Grant Population Management Unit, as presented.

Chair Reed noted that the Nevada Chukar Foundation Treasurer had submitted a letter states that the Foundation was willing to undertake the project.

The motion carried unanimously.

- 12. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR RECIPROCAL FISHING AND WATERCRAFT REGISTRATION ON THE WATERS OF THE COLORADO RIVER IN COMMON TO THE STATES OF NEVADA AND ARIZONA** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify an amendment to an agreement with the State of Arizona, which is in the process of restructuring their licenses and will require a fishing license for 10-year old children. The State of Nevada does not require a license until age 12. This amendment will address the issue for Nevada youth fishing on those waters and the Aquatic Invasive Species decal issue.*

Chair Reed outlined the agenda item and asked for board comment.

Member Flowers commented that the State of Arizona had reduced the age to 10 while the State of Nevada remained at the age of 12 before a Fishing License was required. The memorandum acknowledging that the two (2) states (Arizona and Nevada) will respect the regulations of the other in shared water.

Chair Reed noted that he found the agreement to be well written.

Member Shea expressed his support.

Chris Crookshanks – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), explained that the State of Arizona had reduced the age from 14 to 10 and that the revised memorandum was needed to that the two (2) states could abide with the new regulations including the requirement of AIS stickers on Nevada based watercraft, which is not required in Arizona.

It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Member Flowers, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Reciprocal Fishing and Watercraft Registration on the waters of the Colorado River in Common to the States of Nevada and Arizona, as written. The motion carried unanimously.

- 13. PROPOSED TRAIL CAMERA Commission GENERAL REGULATION** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife*

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Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise direct that NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) to promulgate a regulation relating to trail cameras and associated provisions.

Chair Reed outlined the agenda item and noted that there was significant discussion on both sides of the issue. Chair Reed noted that the 1999 prohibition of trail cameras in the State of Montana had been widely endorsed and that the main concern is the real time information from satellite feeds. He also feels this is a hunting ethics issue.

Member Flowers noted that the issue was a 50/50 split among Nevada Counties and that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners had been directed to develop a regulation with significant input from the public as well as the CABMW's (County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife). Member Flowers commented that the proposal had not yet been reviewed by the LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau). He believes that it is difficult to prove any impact on wildlife unless herds are being funneled in a specific direction. Additionally, it is also difficult to determine whether the camera being used is static or using real time satellite imagery.

Member Shea concurred with Member Flowers and stated that he believes additional information and discussion is needed.

Member Spencer agreed, noting that technology will continue to advance and that it is unknown what technology her children may have available to use in the future.

Member Humphreys, Jr. commented that while he is "not a fan of trail cameras," he concurs with previous statements that animal need a fair chance and that the use of real-time trail cameras may have some effect on wildlife.

Chair Reed concurs that one needs to be an expert in camera technology to readily identify those that download in real time.

During the discussion it was noted the regulation could be modified to prohibit the use of trail cameras without exception. As the discussion continued, it was noted that a regulation similar to that used for fly-overs, which places specific timeline in which flying before a hunt is prohibited might address many of the concerns. Other discussion suggested that perhaps NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) should be asked to bring tangible evidence on the effects/use of trail cameras before writing a regulation for LCB review. Discussion then noted that once the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners takes action the regulation proposal will be rewritten, if needed, and submitted to the LCB for review. Therefore, there will be another opportunity to review the proposed regulation before final adoption.

Chair Reed opened public comment.

Joel Blakeslee commented that the general public cannot be told what to do and that if a number of cameras were observed by a Game Warden how does the Warden ascertain which, if any, of the cameras belong to a sportsman. Mr. Blakeslee pointed out as analogy that trapping had been prohibited due to two dogs being caught in illegal traps with a possibility that trapping in the Sierra Front could be next. Therefore Mr. Blakeslee believes it prudent to conduct a study on the use of trail

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cameras and determine if there have been specific instances of abuse before “hunting witches and chasing phantoms”.

Pamela Gartin questioned what the repercussions had been in the State of Montana, which she believes may answer a number of questions.

Chair Reed closed public comment.

Chair Reed noted that technology will continue to improve and that he believes this is more of a hunting ethics issue. Chair Reed recalled attempts to put scopes on muzzle loaders and that there are a significant number of issues that have not yet been addressed or discussed, but that may have to be regulated.

Member Flowers pointed out that, in his opinion, this was more of a social issue given the age differential as the older generation(s) did not have the technology that is available to today's generation. Member Flowers concurs that additional information is needed before moving forwards and believes that NDOW may already be discussing the issues with the Montana Fish and Wildlife staff.

Chair Reed pointed out that a lack of action by the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife would result in Washoe County not having any voice.

It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Member Humphreys, Jr., to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners direct NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) to seek additional information and bring the information back to the CABMW's (County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife) for additional review and comment before forward a recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners. The motion carried unanimously.

14. BEAR MANAGEMENT [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify a report on the letter authorized at the last meeting soliciting involvement of additional entities to assist with Bear Awareness Education and may include an amendment to the letter to address other Bear Management related issues.*

Chair Reed outlined the agenda item and asked for board discussion.

Member Flowers noted that an agenda item in late July/August to discuss regulations on trash disposal and bear awareness education had been pulled by the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners who did not want to take action without having all entities involved, including but not limited to NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), WCSO (Washoe County Sheriff's Office) and the Cities of Reno and Sparks.

Members Humphreys, Jr. and Shea stated that they did not have sufficient information to make an informed decision.

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Chair Reed opened public comment.

Pamela Gartin read a prepared statement into the record (copy on file) emphasizing the need for public education that goes beyond brochures, fliers and other printed material that is often discarded or filed away until there is an incident with a bear. Ms. Gartin noted that while Incline Village (Nevada) has ordinance on trash enclosure, they are not uniformly enforced. Ms. Gartin noted that previous studies indicate that a proactive approach to education and uniform enforcement of regulations is more effective in altering human behavior.

Responding to Member Flowers' inquiry about the issues at Incline Village, Ms. Gartin noted that those responsible for trash management are part of the community and not comfortable in being firm with the community.

Bob Brunner expressed his support for Ms. Gartin's comments and suggested that perhaps the recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners should be to recommend that NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) provide training to elected officials so that the issue is better understood. In this manner it may be possible to reduce the number of bears that are euthanized due to sloppy human behavior, lack of or spotty enforcement of existing regulations. Mr. Brunner believes that the first offense should be a warning citation with fines levied for subsequent offences.

Chair Reed closed public comment,

Member Flowers noted that he was aware of an enforcement program in West Yellowstone and that with the population further encroaching on wilderness areas, interactions with wildlife will continue to escalate. Member Flowers believes that regulation should be County-wide rather than just specific areas.

Member Humphreys, Jr. concurred that funds should be used for things other than negligent individuals that do not keep a lid on their trash containers.

Chair Reed noted that any regulation should not exclude another area. For example, bear incidents inside of the IVGID (Incline Village General Improvement District) jurisdiction and one just outside their boundary. The bears cannot tell the difference and the first introduction of an easy food source can make a problem bear.

Member Flowers recalled that he believe the IVGID regulation allows for the first offence and subsequent offences being subject to fines.

Ms. Gartin explained that she believes the third violation requires that the individual get an approved bear proof receptacle.

Member Flowers commented that he believes it should be countywide with a warning on the first infraction of the regulation with more stringent penalties for subsequent infractions.

Chair Reed stated that it needed to be an all or nothing and emphasized the need to get the situation with bears under control.

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Member Flowers believes there may be an issue with Waste Management and that he is unsure of the City of Reno or Washoe County has a contract for waste disposal with them.

Ms. Gartin also noted that counties in other states deal with similar issues by designating high conflict areas that require specific bear proofing techniques.

Member Humphreys, Jr. commented that postal zip codes could be used in the determination of high conflicts areas.

Mr. Brunner believes that educational programs work in other areas and that NDOW should seek information on successful techniques that are used in other areas before developing a bear conflict program of its own.

Joel Blakeslee commented that the County Commission and NDOW functions should be kept separate as NDOW, CABMW's and the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners do not need to be involved in trash management.

Chair Reed concurred noting that NDOW did not have sufficient personnel to enforce such regulations.

Member Flowers commented that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners would hear the matter at the upcoming meeting and that it is important that this CABMW provide input in urging governing bodies to develop regulations that will effectively reduce/eliminate human/bear conflicts.

Member Shea pointed out that there was no support material for the board to review and that he cannot make an informed decision without supporting materials even when he agrees with the points heard.

It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Member Humphreys, Jr., that while the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife does not have the correspondence or other support materials upon which to make an informed recommendation to approve, deny or otherwise modify correspondence encouraging the County Commissions or Boards of Supervisors to review current regulations pertaining to trash collection in areas prone to human and bear conflict, the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife recommends that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners support the Nevada Department of Wildlife to provide education when and where viable to do so in the management of bear/human conflicts.

Mr. Brunner noted that further education of the County Commissioners or Boards of Supervisors will feed into the community.

Member Flowers amended the motion to recommend that education be provided to elected officials and others. Member Humphreys, Jr. seconded the amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

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15. **COMINS LAKE** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify request by White Pine County to support restoration of Comins Lake and may result in direction to draft a letter of support.*

Chair Reed outlined the agenda item and commented that he understood that this was in response to a Petition from White Pine County (Nevada).

Chris Crookshanks - NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), commented that he had managed the Comins Lake Reservoir that was historically used for irrigation for approximately fourteen (14) years. Mr. Crookshanks commented that the reservoir is in need of restoration and was built in 1953 for irrigation. NDOW purchased the 3C ranch in 1999, which include Comins Lake. The lake was stocked with Northern Pike in 1969 to control Utah Chub. Over time the Northern Pike ate all other species in the reservoir including other Northern Pike. In 1989 after a crash in Northern Pike populations at the lake, the fish were eradicated. The lake dried up during the 1990 drought and was not restocked until about 1996. At some point, Northern Pike were illegally introduced again in 1998 or 1999 to Comins Lake from Basset Lake. Given the reproductive rates of the Northern Pike a decision was made in 2007 to cease trout stocking. White Pine Country is interested in revitalizing Comins Lake as it contributed nearly \$4-million annual to the local economy. Mr. Crookshanks explained that other issues include the nearby state highway and lack of an operating head gate to control water flows, which can contribute to flooding. In approximately 2004 NDOW conducted a study on the cost of rebuilding the lake that would increase storage to ± 800 surface acres of water. During routine testing of fish caught in the lake it was discovered that there are high levels of mercury from an old mill site on the southern shore of the lake. A study conducted by NDEP (Nevada Division of Environmental Protection) and EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) indicates it would be cost prohibitive to remediate/remove the mercury. Mr. Crookshanks noted that there is an Ad Hoc Committee in Ely (Nevada) that is attempting to gain support to encourage NDOW to move forward with the projects and is seeking support from CABMW (County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife). Mr. Crookshanks pointed out that the poisoning of the Northern Pike at Comins would also require a similar project at Basset Lake to reduce the likelihood an another infestation of Northern Pike. Mr. Crookshanks noted that most of the work will be done on private land and not be subject to the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process. The process to warn individuals on the consumption of contaminated fish will be similar to that used at other reservoirs and lakes having similar contaminant issues. Mr. Crookshanks outlined the costs to pump the lake and that White Pine County will most likely seek federal and other grant monies in an effort to get NDOW to move forward with the project. Comins Lake at one time was the 4th most popular fishing area in Nevada.

Member Flowers recalled previous comments by Paul Dixon to assist NDOW in securing assistance with the removal/reduction of heavy metals. Member Flowers believes the message to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners is to support the letter from the White Pine County Ad Hoc Committee to move the project forward.

Chair Reed commented that he saw no reason not to support the request. Hearing no additional public comments, Chair Reed called for a motion.

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It was moved by Member Shea, seconded Member Spencer, to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners support the White Pine County letter to move forward with action on Comins Lake. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting recessed at 8:23 p.m. and reconvened 8:28 p.m.

- 16. COMMISSION REGULATION 14-01 AMENDMENT No. 1, MIGRATORY WATERFOWL, SPECIAL YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNT SEASONS AND SPECIAL REGULATIONS** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify changes to seasons and special regulations for the Special Youth Waterfowl hunt for the 2013-2014 season and adopt regulations that comply with the proposed regulations framework for the 2013-2014 late and early hunting seasons on certain migratory game birds established by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

Chair Reed outlined the agenda item and asked for board discussion.

Member Flowers commented that the previous approval had been somewhat different than what was allowed and that the timeline had been modified to stay within federal guidelines.

Hearing no public comment, Chair Reed asked for a motion.

It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 14-01 Amendment No. 1, Migratory Waterfowl, Special Youth Waterfowl Hunt Seasons and special regulations as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

- 17. COMMISSION REGULATION 2013-2014 FISHING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR 2014-2016** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed fishing seasons, bag and possession limits for the period of March 1, 2014, through February 29, 2016.*

Chair Reed outlined the agenda and asked for board discussion.

Chris Crookshanks – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), outlined the modifications pointing out that the intent is to streamline and make things easier for anglers. Mr. Crookshanks noted that no changes were being proposed for Washoe County and that many of the regulations had been standardized for the Western Region. Drawing attention to page 5, Mr. Crookshanks explained that the Western Region regulations had been modified so that White Bass and Wiper regulations are the same with only two (2) White Bass or two (2) Wiper not to exceed 15-inches in length. Mr. Crookshanks noted that Wiper Bass are a sterile hybrid that fights like no other Nevada fish. Additionally, anglers may take up to fifteen (15) game fish with a limit of five (5) Walleye, and five (5) Bass. Mr. Crookshanks also noted regulations on the types of barbs and tackle that may be used under NAC (Nevada Administrative Code) that has yet to be reviewed by the LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau). That part of the regulation will be removed from NRS (Nevada Revised Statutes).

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The ponds in Mason Valley restrictions have been altered to a fourteen (14) inch minimum length on Black Bass. Kuenzli pond and hatchery ponds that are only open for a single day and are limited to a single catch as adults were bringing the larger Bass off the nest during the kids fishing derby.

During the discussion it was noted that a recent Supreme Court decision on water originating in the Bridgeport reservoir would not affect water in Mason Valley. As the discussion continued it was noted that petition to change the number of Trout from five (5) to three (3) would be forthcoming to correspond to the limit for the Washoe County Urban Ponds.

Member Flowers noted a concern about the limitation on the number of fish near the River Bend community, which is comprised of mostly senior citizens and is not located within Washoe County.

Mr. Crookshanks noted that there would be two (2) petitions brought to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners and CABMW (County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife) in December (2013),

Hearing no public comment, Chair Reed asked for a motion.

It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Member Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 2013-2014 Fishing Seasons and Bag Limits for 2014-2016 with the following modification: Truckee River and its tributaries below the I-80 bridge the limits be reduced to three (3) game fish to align with the limits for the Washoe County Urban Ponds to assist Game Warden enforcement.

Chris Crookshanks noted that tackle and certain other restrictions will be in NAC.

Member Flowers withdrew the motion. Member Shea withdrew the second.

Mr. Crookshanks recommended that any change to the regulation (e.g. bag limits) be done when the Petition is reviewed.

It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Member Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 2013-2014 Fishing Seasons and Bag Limits for 2014-2016 with the following modification to align bag limits for the Truckee River, Diversion Ditches and tributaries to align with Washoe County Urban Ponds.

Member Flowers noted that former Member Daryl Harwell had discussed this issue annually and that, in his opinion, this modification will make enforcement easier.

The motion carried unanimously.

18. **COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 414, DESERT TORTOISE, LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) File No. R004-13** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify a regulation relating to Desert Tortoises; prohibiting a person from possessing more than one Desert Tortoise under certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto. The Wildlife Commission will consider taking action to restrict*

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the number of pet Desert Tortoises for adoption/possession as approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to one per person as of May 1, 2013. Pet Desert Tortoises in possession prior to enactment are not affected by the regulation (only new possessions of pet Desert Tortoise). The amendment is needed due to the over breeding of pet Desert Tortoises in captivity primarily in southern Nevada.

Chair Reed outlined the agenda item and noted that those born in captivity cannot be released in the wild and that he believes the regulation requires individuals to have approval from NDOW and register a Desert Tortoise.

Hearing no public comment Chair Reed asked for a motion.

It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Member Flowers to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Desert Tortoise, LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) File No. R004-13 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

- 19. COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 424, TRANSPORTATION PERMIT, LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) File No. R003-13** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify a regulation relating to wildlife; setting forth the manner in which a portion of the game tag may be used as a transportation permit; requiring certain signatures and information to be included on a tag or permit; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.*

Chair Reed outlined the agenda item.

Member Shea question whether an individual would have to print their name as well as sign the tag as outlined on page 2, 2a. Member Shea suggested that perhaps date of birth if a driver's license is not in an individual's possession be used.

Chair Reed pointed out that if an individual is transporting game then the driver should have the driver's license in his/her possession.

Member Flowers noted that the holder of a youth permit might not have a driver's license and that any game harvested would need an adult to provide transport.

Member Shea drew attention to page 3, item 7 and the need to hold a tag for a year after the harvest.

Member Flowers explained that an individual is required to keep the tag until such time as all the meat is consumed.

Chris Crookshanks – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), pointed out that the tag should be retained in the freezer with the meat.

Member Shea noted that the transportation tag is already on the permit.

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Chair Reed questioned the need to retain a tag indefinitely and noted that the regulation is somewhat difficult to understand.

Member Flowers pointed out that there is no regulation governing transportation permits although it is a great idea.

Chair Reed noted that he believes the regulation could be written in a more user friendly manner and that he is unsure how to articulate that to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

Member Humphreys, Jr. commented that while this is confusing as written, in his opinion, it is not a significant issue.

Member Spencer stated that she was fine with the proposal.

Member Flowers pointed out that this was written by the LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau).

Hearing no public comment Chair Reed closed public comment and asked for a motion

It was moved by Member Spencer, seconded by Member Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 424, Transportation Permit, LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) File No. R003-13, as written.

Member Flowers commented that, in his opinion, it was bothersome that there was no regulation in place, given that game tags have the Transportation attached at this time.

The motion carried unanimously.

20. COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 427, TRAPPING VISITATION LIMIT, LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) File No. R018-13 [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify a regulation relating to trapping; interpreting the phrase “visit or cause to be visited” for certain purposes relating to trapping; specifying the minimum period during which a person must visit or cause to be visited certain traps, snares or similar device; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.*

Chair Reed outlined the agenda item and asked Joel Blakeslee – President, Nevada Trappers Association, to address the board. Chair Reed noted that Assemblyman Ira Hansen had also submitted correspondence that would be read into the record.

Joel Blakeslee – President, Nevada trappers Association, explained that the intent of the legislation was to move the language from NRS (Nevada Revised Statutes) to NAC (Nevada Administrative Code) as written. Mr. Blakeslee explained that a previous citation for failure to visit a trap was “thrown out” as the trapper stated he had used a spotting scope. Mr. Blakeslee outlined the type of remote sensor (white PVC pipe) he uses on his traps that falls to the ground when something is in the trap. Although a Game Warden indicated that he had seen a similar device fail, he could not name the time and location. Mr. Blakeslee stated that he had never seen that system fail. Mr. Blakeslee

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pointed out that the failure to remove the trapped animal within the prescribed time line should result in a citation and that the regulation should address the time period (96-hours) and removal of animal not a specific distance for trap inspection. Mr. Blakeslee noted that the change from NRS to NAC is supposed to be completed no later than October 1, 2013 and that the intent is to place a maximum 96-hour inspection timeline on trapping.

Member Flowers read the letter from Assemblyman Ira Hansen into the record (copy on file) in which Mr. Hanson supports leaving the language as written in NAC as it is in NRS and to make the regulation effective as of September 1, 2013, thus allowing an opportunity to notify all trappers of the new regulation.

Member Humphreys, Jr. stated he was in favor of Mr. Blakeslee's recommendation.

Mr. Blakeslee noted that NRS 503.570 states that traps need to be checked at least every 96-hours (and) animals removed. Mr. Blakeslee noted that animals notice when traps are disturbed or visited by humans.

Bob Brunner commented that there had been significant public input on the matter at the Subcommittee and Legislature on the matter as well as at the Elko (Nevada) meeting. Mr. Brunner recalled that SB 213 had specific things on what NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) was to do with this portion of the regulation.

Chair Reed closed public comment and suggested NRS 503.570 be changed to NAC as written.

It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Member Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission General Regulation 427, Trapping Visitation Limit, LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) File No. R018-13 with the following modification that NAC 503.150 read the same as NRS (Nevada Revised Statutes) 503.570. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Chair Reed, to reopen agenda item 20 for reconsideration. The motion carried unanimously.

Member Flowers explained that he had referenced the wrong NAC (Nevada Administrative Code) in the previous motion and offered the following motion.

It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Member Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners deny R018-13 as written and instead rewrite the NAC (Nevada Administrative Code) exactly as written in NRS (Nevada Revised Statutes) 503.570.

Member Flowers noted that he had made mention of 503.150 which is not part of the recommendation.

The motion carried unanimously.

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- 21. COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 429, TRAPPING REGISTRATION NUMBER, LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) FILE No. R017-13** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify a regulation relating to trapping; revising provisions governing the registration of a trap, snare or similar device; setting forth the requirements for affixing a registration number to the trap, snare or similar device; and the issuance of trap registration numbers and established the manner of marking traps, snares, or other lawful devices.*

Chair Reed outlined the agenda item and asked for public comment.

Joel Blakeslee explained that the intent is to allow trappers a choice on how traps are marked. For example, traps can be damaged or rendered useless if existing numbers need to be removed, especially heirloom traps that are passed from generation to generation. Therefore the suggestion is to allow the use of a tag or some other form of identification that trumps any numbers stamped on the trap. Mr. Blakeslee then drew attention to the use of the term “rodent” and pointed out that beavers, muskrats and certain other animals fall in the “rodent” category. Mr. Blakeslee stated that he was not in favor of any exemptions to the law and that this was a compromise position taken with the legislature. Additionally, Mr. Blakeslee believes that legally placed traps or traps in transit in the back of a truck or other mode of transportation should not be physically inspected as the human scent renders traps useless, and in any case, the traps are not in operation. Given the short notification time due to the impending season opening of October 1, 2013, Mr. Blakeslee recommends that any violators be issued a warning without demerit or other consequence until the next regular season opening in 2014.

During the discussion it was noted that the intent is to provide a choice between a stamp on the base of a trap or a tag affixed to a chain such that anything else stamped on the trap becomes meaningless with an attached tag. Mr. Blakeslee commented that over the years he has registered and sold a great number of traps that could be traced back to him.

Member Flowers outlined Mr. Blakeslee’s recommendations: 1) legal set traps not to be disturbed; 2) traps in a vehicle or in transit are not to be physically inspected; and 3) a period of time be established in which only warning are issued without penalty or demerit.

Bob Brunner suggested that during the first year the fine be set at zero dollars/demerits as the regulation is being implemented as required under the legislation.

During a brief discussion a consensus was reached that there should be only warning without any fine or demerit during the first season.

It was moved by Member Flowers, second by Member Humphreys, Jr., to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission General Regulation 429, Trapping Registration Number, LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) File No. R017-13 with the following modifications: 1) under Item 4 remove the word “rodent”; 2) Section 1 Item 3 does not apply to persons trapping for protection of property; 3) Section 6 legally set traps shall not be disturbed; Section 2 does not include traps in transit; and 4) during the first season

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through September 30, 2014, citations may be issued but no punitive actions (fines or demerits) will be applied. The motion carried unanimously.

- 22. WASHOE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE MEMBERS AND/OR STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS, REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND SELECTION OF TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS** [Non-action item] – *Selection of additional agenda item(s) for the Monday, December 2, 2013, meeting. **NOTE:** This meeting is scheduled to be held at the Regional Emergency Operations Center on Spectrum Boulevard.*

The December 2, 2013, meeting agenda may include, but is not limited to: 1) Presentation on Wind Turbines and their effect on Nevada's Wildlife.

Chair Reed welcomed Member Miles Humphreys, Jr. to the board and expressed his appreciation to Chair Flowers for his superb service and assistance during his tenure.

- 23. PUBLIC COMMENTS** [Non-action item]

Joel Blakeslee commented that there had been significant discussion about whether a hunter or fisherman could serve as a representative of the public. The legislation that was passed by the legislature allows an individual holding a fishing or hunting license to serve as a member of the general public.

- 24. ADJOURNMENT** [Non-action item]

Chair Reed adjourned the meeting at 9:43 p.m.

AS APPROVED BY THE WASHOE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE IN SESSION ON DECEMBER 2, 2013.