

# Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

## **DRAFT OF MINUTES**

**Thursday ~ June 12, 2014 ~ 6:00 p.m.**  
**Nevada Department of Wildlife**  
**Conference Room B**  
**1100 Valley Road, Reno, Nevada**

### **MEMBERS**

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

#### **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** [Non-action item]

Member Flowers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **2. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** [Non-action item]

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

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

**ABSENT:** None.

**VACANT:** One.

#### **3. PUBLIC COMMENTS** [Non-action item]

Trish Swain – Trailsafe, explained that she was speaking under public comment since she is no longer able to drive after dark. Drawing attention to her earlier correspondence (copy on file) Ms. Swain encouraged the board to advocate and support the findings of the Trapping Regulation Committee.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF MAY 1, 2014, MINUTES** (For possible action)

Member Flowers asked for minor modifications to: Page 2 change “Vice-chair Shea” to read “Chair Shea”; Page 8 under Black Bear paragraph 4 change “pointed out there NDOW” to read “pointed out that NDOW”; Page 9 first paragraph change “which has resulted” to read “which have resulted”; Page 14 under Rocky Mountain Big Horn first paragraph change “32 lambs and 100 ewes” to read 32 lambs to 100 ewes”; Page 14 paragraph 6 change 58 lambs to 200 ewes” to read 58 lambs to 100 ewes”; and Page 16 paragraph 4 change “without having the participation to warrant” to read “without having the population to warrant”.

Hearing no public comment Chair Shea asked for a motion.

***It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Chair Shea, to approve the May 1, 2014, minutes, as amended. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., Spencer and Chair Shea assenting; and one position vacant.***

#### **5. 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) June 20 and 21, 2014, meetings in Tonopah, Nevada; and 2). August 15 and 16, 2014, meetings in Fallon, Nevada.*

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

DRAFT OF MINUTES

June 12, 2014

Page 2 of 17

Members Flowers and Humphreys, Jr., will attend the June 20 and 21, 2014, meetings in Tonopah, Nevada.

Chair Shea will attend the August 15 and 16, 2014, meetings in Fallon, Nevada.

Member Spencer will attend the August 16, 2014, meeting in Fallon, Nevada.

## **6. COMMITTEE, MEMBER AND LIAISON UPDATES (Non-action items)**

**6-1. Correspondence (including sportsmen's concerns) and Announcements** – Chair Shea announced that the Heritage and Finance Committees would meet on Monday, June 16, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. respectively. Chair Shea noted that correspondence had been received (copies on file) from Elaine Carrick and Trish Swain of Trailsafe, which will be heard under agenda item 18.

In response to Member Flowers' inquiry about a position paper on Sage Grouse by Nevada Coalition for Wildlife, Joel Blakeslee commented that he believed an email had been sent out (a copy was not available nor submitted for the record).

**6-2. Overview of the May 9 and 10, 2014, meetings of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners** – Member Flowers outlined actions taken by Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners during their May 9 and 10, 2014, meeting including approval of all forms of black powder and minor modifications to tag allocation recommendations. Member Flowers stated that this would be his final meeting as a member of the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife.

## **7. RECOMMENDATION OF A CANDIDATE FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS REPRESENTING WASHOE COUNTY [For possible action]** – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend a candidate for appointment to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to fill the vacancy Washoe County position on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners. [Continued from May 1, 2014]*

Chair Shea opened the agenda item and asked for public comment.

Member Flowers stated he would recuse himself, as he had applied to serve and allow an opportunity to ask questions of other candidates.

Member Flowers left the meeting.

Joel Blakeslee, Mike Cassidy and Tom Enewold expressed support for Rex Flowers to serve on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

Chair Shea noted that there had only been two (2) applications, Rex Flowers and Chris Syverson. However, additional applications may have been filed directly with Governor Brian Sandoval's office.

Hearing no further public comment Chair Shea asked Ms. Syverson to address the board.

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

DRAFT OF MINUTES

June 12, 2014

Page 3 of 17

Chris Syverson commented that she had lived in Nevada since the age of 6 and has been active in hunting and fishing for about 30-years. Ms. Syverson pointed out that expansion of women in the field over the past several years and stated that she believes it is important to have women involved as they are instrumental in bringing forward a family perspective. Ms. Syverson noted that she has served on several different committees at the state level (e.g. Vocational Rehabilitation) and that she believes her 30-years of experience will be valuable in listening to all sides of an issue. It is Ms. Syverson's understanding that the board could recommend two individuals to serve on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners. Ms. Syverson noted that wildlife and its management is a somewhat contentious issue and that she is interested in finding the common ground among and between the various groups. As a mother of two children ages 23 and 20, Ms. Syverson pointed out that no one in her family had drawn a tag. However, her daughter had been active in the youth hunt until she had "run-out" of tags. Her son and husband are both Eagle Scouts and her daughter a member of UNR's (University of Nevada, Reno) Rifle Team.

Member Flowers rejoined the meeting to address the board as a candidate for the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners position.

Rex Flowers explained that his top priority is wildlife with sportsmen interest second. Mr. Flowers stated that he was applying for the Sportsman's position and that he had held those priorities during his six years on the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife.

Chair Shea reopened public comments.

Caron Tayloe commented that Mr. Flowers had handled difficult situations and confrontational issues calmly and that she is impressed with Ms. Syverson's willingness to hear both sides of an issue.

Chair Shea closed the public comment and asked for board discussion or a motion.

There was some discussion about whether more than one person could be recommended to serve on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners. It was noted that while Washoe and Clark Counties may have two (Washoe) and three (Clark) some representatives from several rural counties could not serve. It is thought that the agenda item limits the number of recommendations to a single individual.

***It was moved by Member Humphreys, Jr., seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that Rex Flowers be appointed to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners and that in the event Mr. Flowers is unable fulfill that appointment that Chris Syverson be considered as the representative for Washoe County. The motion carried: Member Humphreys, Jr., Spencer and Chair Shea assenting; Members Flowers abstaining; and one position vacant.***

**8. CHANGE OF JULY 31, 2014, MEETING DATE** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to move the July 31, 2014, meeting to August 7, 2014, due to a change in the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meeting calendar.*

Chair Shea opened the agenda item and hearing no public comment asked for board discussion or a motion.

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

DRAFT OF MINUTES

June 12, 2014

Page 4 of 17

Member Flowers noted that the National Flyway Council did not meet until the beginning of August to develop the quota and season recommendations.

Chair Shea noted that the draft agenda for the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meeting would not be available until after the July 31, 2014 meeting, and recommended that the date change be approved.

***It was moved by Member Spencer, seconded by Chair Shea, to approve the change in the meeting date from July 31, 2014 to August 7, 2014. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., Spencer and Chair Shea assenting; and one position vacant.***

- 9. FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 BIG GAME RELEASE PLAN AMENDMENT** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) approve, deny or otherwise modify a request amend the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 (through June 2015) Big Game Release Plan to add a Desert Bighorn augmentation for the Garfield Hills in Mineral County (Nevada).*

Chair opened the agenda item and noted that the Gillis Range had been added to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners agenda item after the Washoe County agenda had been posted.

***It was moved by Member Humphreys, Jr., seconded by Chair Shea, to approve the fiscal year 2014-2015 Big Game Release Plan Amendment, including the Gillis Range, as written. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., Spencer and Chair Shea assenting; and one position vacant.***

- 10. DUCK STAMP FUNDING REQUESTS** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) approve, deny or otherwise modify projects submitted for funding from Duck Stamp funds.*

Chair Shea opened the agenda item and hearing no public comment asked for board discussion or a motion.

Member Flowers commented that while he concurred with the \$33,000.00 for the project on page 14, he questions the \$10,000.00 of in-kind services being provided by NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) for equipment and operator time. Typically, in-kind services are provided by volunteers.

Chair Shea suggested that any motion include a request that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners seek clarification from NDOW.

***It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the Duck Stamp Funding Request with the following modifications: 1) a clarification and definition of the Carson Lake and Pasture Spring Pond project's \$10,000.00 in-kind for NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) equipment and***

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

DRAFT OF MINUTES

June 12, 2014

Page 5 of 17

**operators; and 2) Clarification of the 3-percent overhead contribution to Nevada Water Fowl for the Wood Duck project.**

*The motion and second were withdrawn and the motion restated as follows.*

Member Humphreys, Jr., questioned the additional 3-percent overhead funding to Nevada Water Fowl for the geo-locators shown on page 49.

***It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Chair Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the Duck Stamp funding requests with the following modifications: 1) clarification and definition of the \$10,000.00 in-kind contribution of NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) equipment and operators for the Carson Lake project; 2) clarification and definition of the 3-percent overhead for Nevada Water Fowl for the Wood Duck and Geo-location projects. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., Spencer and Chair Shea assenting; and one position vacant.***

**11. UPLAND GAME STAMP FUNDING REQUESTS** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) approve, deny or otherwise modify projects submitted for funding from Upland Game stamp funds.*

Chair Shea opened the agenda item and hearing no public comment asked for board discussion or a motion.

Member Flowers commented that he was supportive of the request, but believes that more should be spent.

***It was moved by Member Humphreys, Jr., seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the Upland Game Stamp funding request, as written. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., Spencer and Chair Shea assenting; and one position vacant.***

**12. FISCAL YEAR 2014 AND FISCAL YEAR 2013 HERITAGE PROJECT EXTENSIONS** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) approve, deny or otherwise modify requests for extension of 2013 and 2014 Heritage projects. and*

**13. FISCAL YEAR 2014 AND FISCAL YEAR 2013 HERITAGE FUNDING REALLOCATION** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) approve, deny or otherwise modify the proposed reallocation of unused Heritage funds from a previously approved 2013 or 2014 project to any other previously considered 2013 or 2014 project application.*

Chair Shea combined agenda items 12 and 13 pointing out that no support material was available.

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

DRAFT OF MINUTES

June 12, 2014

Page 6 of 17

Member Flowers commented that without support documentation the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife cannot make a recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

Hearing no public comment Chair Shea asked for a motion to take no specific action due to the lack of support materials.

***A motion by Member Spencer to table agenda items 12 and 13 due to lack of supporting documentation until the August 7, 2014, meeting was withdrawn.***

Member Flowers suggested the motion be to let the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners know that no action could be taken due to a lack of support materials.

***It was moved by Member Spencer, seconded by Member Flowers, to take no specific action on agenda items 12 and 13 (as listed above) due to the lack of support materials. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., Spencer and Chair Shea assenting; and one position vacant.***

**14. FISCAL YEAR 2015 HERITAGE PROJECT PROPOSALS** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) approve, deny or otherwise modify recommendations for project applications for 2015 the Heritage Committee.*

Chair Shea opened the agenda item and hearing no public comment hearing asked for board discussion or a motion.

Member Flowers noted that he had attended the Heritage Committee meeting and that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Chair Jack Robb had developed the proposals, which he believes to be a fair distribution of available funds. Those projects shown in the shaded areas are sponsored by NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife).

There was some discussion about the amount allocated to the seed fund. During the discussion it was pointed out funds are also derived from the Dream Tag as well as partner agencies such as the BLM (Bureau of Land Management).

Chris Hampson – NDOW, explained that BLM and other partners generally provide the bulk of funding for rehabilitation.

***It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the Heritage Project proposals, as written. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., Spencer and Chair Shea assenting; and one position vacant.***

**15. COMMISSION REGULATION 14-07 AMENDMENT NO. 1 - 2015 Heritage Tag Vendors** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that Nevada Board*

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

DRAFT OF MINUTES

June 12, 2014

Page 7 of 17

*of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) approve, deny or otherwise modify vendor recommendations for the 2014 (2015) Heritage tags.*

Chair Shea opened the agenda item and hearing no public comment asked for board discussion or a motion.

Member Flowers commented that he had attended the Heritage Committee meeting noting there had been discussion about not partnering with organizations demanding premiums. Member Flowers pointed out that only one group appears to charge a 5-percent premium while another waives the 3-percent premium when a check is used to complete the transaction. Member Flowers recommended that Rocky mountain Elk tag remain with the Reno chapter of Rocky Mountain Elk.

There was some discussion about the use of a premium. It was suggested that perhaps the premium is used to offset the merchant fees imposed by credit card companies and/or banks. As the discussion continued, it was noted that the Wild Sheep Foundation uses the 5-percent premium collected to cover overhead costs. Other discussion focused on the proceeds from the auctioned heritage Tags from the various organizations in 2013.

***A motion by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Flowers, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 14-07, Amendment No. 1, 2015 Heritage with the following modifications: 1) move the California Bighorn from NBU (Nevada Bighorns Unlimited) Fallon Chapter to NBU Reno Chapter; and 2) Nelson Bighorn from the Wild Sheep Foundation to NBU Fallon Chapter, with no changes to Rocky Mountain Elk was withdrawn by the motion maker and second.***

***It was moved by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Flowers, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 14-07, Amendment No. 1, 2015 Heritage Tag Vendors with the following modifications: 1) move the California Big Horn from NBU (Nevada Bighorns Unlimited) Fallon, to NBU Reno; move one (1) Desert Bighorn Sheep from the Wild Sheep Foundation to NBU Fallon Chapter; and one (1) Rocky Mountain Elk from NBU Reno Chapter to Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., Spencer and Chair Shea assenting; and one position vacant.***

- 16. COMMISSION REGULATION 14-11 – UPLAND GAME, MIGRATORY UPLAND GAME AND FURBEARER SEASONS AND LIMITS [For Possible Action] – A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) approve, deny or otherwise modify regulations for seasons, bag limits, and special regulations for upland game birds, rabbits, wild turkey, furbearers, American Crow, Mourning dove, falconry seasons, and White-winged dove for 2014-2015 seasons.**

Chair Shea opened the agenda item.

Chris Hampson – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), pointed out that Unit 015 to Sage Grouse had been closed due to the continuing drought and extensive wildfires on the California side. Mr.

## *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

DRAFT OF MINUTES

June 12, 2014

Page 8 of 17

Hampson emphasized that the prolonged drought continues to have detrimental effects on the Sage Grouse populations and their habitat.

Joel Blakeslee – Nevada Trappers Association, explained that in the 1970's a change was made in the regulations due to increases prices on Bobcat and the endangered status of the Gray Fox. Mr. Blakeslee noted that Bobcats and Gray Fox habitats overlap and that there was concern that hunters from the State of Utah would take Gray Fox while poaching Bobcats. Mr. Blakeslee explained, that, in his opinion, the science does not support a shortened season on Gray Fox and that the Nevada Trappers Association has agreed to a shortened Bobcat season. Additionally, most of the Gray Fox populations are found in Southern Nevada. The suggestion is to make no change to the Gray Fox since there is no science to warrant the shortened season. Mr. Blakeslee noted that the Clark County Health Department had conducted some tests on the Gray Fox and found that it carries many diseases, including plague.

Mr. Hampson responded to Chair Shea's inquiry about the youth Rabbit Season, stating that it should have the same limit as other rabbit seasons.

Chair Shea opened public comment.

Caron Tayloe explained that she does not concur with Mr. Blakeslee's assessment and that the anecdotal evidence cited by Mr. Blakeslee was not, in her opinion, scientific. Ms. Tayloe noted her concern that there were no bag limits.

Trish Swain commented that she believes this points out that trapping is indiscriminate as it is hidden thus making it possible for anything to be caught in the trap. Ms. Swain noted that data has been developed that quantifies the number of non-target animals trapped annually.

Joel Blakeslee noted that Nevada has the best data on Bobcat's nationally as the age and sex information has been collected for nearly 40 years. The data allows the management of Bobcats by season adjustment rather than bag limits which can skew data based on the sex of the animal taken. Mr. Blakeslee noted that science, in his opinion, is adhered to in the setting of the season in a manner similar to that used for other species that uses the number of bucks to does and fawn recruitment.

Chair Shea closed public comment and asked for board discussion or a motion.

Member Humphreys, Jr., concurred with Mr. Blakeslee's comments based on his knowledge and expertise.

Member Flowers commented that he believes this will be pursued as it has in the past at the Commission (Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners) and department (Nevada Department of Transportation) level. Member Flowers explained that he could not dispute the department's recommendations at this point.

Member Spencer explained that as a trapper herself it is hard agree and believes the two species should be kept separate.

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

DRAFT OF MINUTES

June 12, 2014

Page 9 of 17

Mr. Hampson noted that there is concurrent on other portions of the regulation other than Bobcat and Gray Fox.

***It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Member Flowers. to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 14-11 – Upland Game, Migratory Upland Game and Furbearer Seasons and limits with the following modification: change the single and aggregate Youth Hunt Rabbit of Pygmy Rabbits to not more than two (2) daily or four (4) in possession limits, mirroring that of other rabbit limits. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr. and Chair Shea assenting; Member Spencer dissenting; and one position vacant.***

The meeting recessed at 7:24 p.m. and reconvened at 7:37 p.m.

**17. AMENDMENT OF BIENNIAL FISCAL YEARS 2014 AND 2015 UPLAND GAME RELEASE PLAN** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) approve, deny or otherwise modify an amendment to the Biennial Upland Game Release Plan for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 to add an additional release location for wild turkeys along the Humboldt River near Battle Mountain (Nevada).*

Chair Shea opened the agenda item and hearing no public comment asked for board discussion or motion.

***It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the Amendment of Biennial Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 Upland Game Release Plan, as written. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., Spencer and Chair Shea assenting; and one position vacant.***

**18. TRAPPING REGULATION COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) approve, deny or otherwise modify a report from the Trapping Committee. The Trapping Committee has received considerable testimony at various meetings around the state regarding various trapping related issues. The report may contain recommendations regarding the development of regulations related to the frequency of visitation of a trap, snare or similar device, in various areas of the state. Recommendations may also be brought forward on other matters related to trapping such as demerit points, education, trapping on private lands and other matters related thereto. The Commission may take action to provide guidance on the development of trapping related regulations.*

Chair Shea opened the agenda item and asked for public comment.

Member Flowers suggested that the review and motions be done individually, including a proposed LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau). A copy was not submitted for the record.

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

DRAFT OF MINUTES

June 12, 2014

Page 10 of 17

Mel Belding questioned whether the proposed LCB had been submitted to the LCB for review.

## **Visitation**

Bob Brunner recalled that there was significant testimony on the issue in the previous legislature and that most of the outcry against trapping came from outside the State of Nevada and out of the country. Mr. Brunner pointed out that he does not believe there is any need to be pressured in to making a change the trap visitation times. Mr. Brunner explained that there are regulations in place that address trespassing and that more dogs and cats are listed as missing due to predators than trapping.

Caron Tayloe noted that she had attended all the trapping meetings and that a separate statewide map had been submitted for 24-hour visitation. Ms. Tayloe drew attention to the tourist oriented areas as potential conflict areas and Governor Sandoval's goal of keeping money local. Ms. Tayloe noted that there had been significant and unnecessary discussion about the Webster definition of "conflict" and pointed out that there are numerous examples of trapping conflicts on the Trailsafe website.

Joel Blakeslee outlined his opposition to a 24-hour visitation requirement emphasizing that daily schedules are subject to change due to family emergencies, work and other factors. Mr. Blakeslee commented that, in his opinion, the North American model for trapping as is practiced in Nevada is in jeopardy due to politics. Mr. Blakeslee pointed out that the members of this body are appointed by the Washoe County Commission with the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners appointed by the State's Governor. Mr. Blakeslee suggested that like the Black Bear hunt a 3-year study be conducted to develop baseline data along with trapper education and enforcement of the trapper questionnaire. Mr. Blakeslee noted that tooth data is available and that what he believes is needed is Quantify several sets of data to compare before and after results for: a. Trapping violations. b. Non target species. c. Disease records. d. Attacks on pets, personal property and school lockdowns. Mr. Blakeslee also noted that Clark County, school lockdowns went from 1 to 12 in the year following the implementation of SB 226 and that he believes this correlation could be part of the study.

Cathy Smith commented that she believes Mr. Blakeslee is trying another stall tactic and pointed out that she does not believe there is science on how often to visits traps. Ms. Smith noted that there is a wealth of information available on diseases and that many of the target animals feed on rodents that carry disease, actually increasing risk of transmission to humans. There have been very few cases of plague, 5 since 1970 in Nevada. There is no data to confirm indiscriminate trapping decreases transmission. All 20 cases of rabies in Nevada in 2012 were in bats and they are not trapped. Ms. Smith questioned how many thousands of animals need to be killed to prevent these incredibly rare diseases?

Mel Belding concurred with Mr. Blakeslee's suggestion on trapper education and that he does not believe Mr. Blakeslee is using any stall tactics.

Chair Shea closed public comments.

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

DRAFT OF MINUTES

June 12, 2014

Page 11 of 17

Member Flowers noted that the 24-hour visitation maps were presented by Chair Jack Robb and that the maps submitted were supported. However, meeting minutes for the past 90-days were not available on-line, which he believes is a violation of the State's OML (Open Meeting Law). Member Flowers stated he cannot support the proposal and drew attention to a "mock" LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) (copy was not provided for the record and is not available on the NDOW website as of this writing). Member Flowers explained that he believes the push to complete this before the end of the fiscal year June 30, 2014. Additionally, Member Flowers believes that the assumptions that this would be supported "are out of line".

Member Spencer explained that she is not supportive of the 24-hour visitation and pointed out that the areas she traps in are not tourist areas. AA 24-hour visitation requirement would make trap visitation a full-time job. Member Spencer noted that trapping is a way of life and that she does not believe will change as it has been done for hundreds of years.

Member Humphreys, Jr. commented that he did not support the 24-hour trap visitation and pointed out that trapping is legal and has been in effect for many years. The shortened visitation timeline would impose a hardship on the trapper.

***It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners deny the Trapping Committee recommendation of a 1-day trap visitation and maps for northern and southern Nevada. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., Spencer and Chair Shea assenting; and one position vacant.***

## **Trapper Education**

Member Flowers stated that he had attended most of the meeting, which had started at 8:00 a.m. during normal working hours and that others were present at tonight's (June 12, 2014) meeting that are knowledgeable of the education component.

Chair Shea opened public comment.

Joel Blakeslee – Nevada Trappers Association, drew attention to the position paper (copy on file) and explained that he and the Nevada Trappers Association would be happy to participate in a trapping education program and provide funding provided other organizations such as Trailsafe also participate in funding should the education program be approved by NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife).

Caron Tayloe commented that while she is not qualified to talk about education since she had left the Las Vegas (Nevada) meeting early, she believes it was related to the 96-hours inspection and demerits.

Chair Shea closed public comments.

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

DRAFT OF MINUTES

June 12, 2014

Page 12 of 17

Member Humphreys, Jr. commented that he believes trapping education would be beneficial and ease some of the discussion.

Member Spencer explained that education is a good thing and suggested working with partners such as Cabelas that already conduct fishing education for children. Member Spencer noted that such a class in what is being a lost art would perhaps bring more women and children into the sport.

Member Flowers commented that while he supports education, it is necessary to determine where the funding is coming from and how it will be applied. Additionally, Member Flowers believes that any instructor in trapping should be licensed and prequalified to conduct such a course after the program has been reviewed.

Chair Shea concurred and noted that he has learned how to release his dogs from traps that they now know how to avoid.

***It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Chair Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners review the possibility of implementing a trapping education program for trappers and the general public. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., Spencer and Chair Shea assenting; and one position vacant.***

## **Demerits and Private Lands**

Joel Blakeslee - Nevada Trappers Association, noted that demerits had been discussed at length at the Las Vegas (Nevada) meeting. Of particular concern is the proposed 12-demerits for fishing, hunting or trapping on private property, which would make one ineligible for fishing, hunting or trapping licenses for 5-years. Mr. Blakeslee noted that Nevada has specific signage and other requirements to notify individuals of private property. Mr. Blakeslee then turned to trapping demerits for trap visitation, which was increased from 3 to 6. However, there is some concern about how the demerits are applied whether to a single trap or the entire line of traps that might cross jurisdictional boundaries.

Mike McCusker –Game Warden, drew attention to the signage and other requirements landowners must do to prevent trespass on their private property. Mr. McCusker pointed out that a failure to post signage or meet other criteria for no trespass would preclude the issuance of a citation. Mr. McCusker believes it has been reduced from the suggested 12 demerits to 6 demerit points for check time on traps.

Chair Shea opened public comments

Joel Blakeslee commented that extenuating circumstances might affect an individual's ability to check traps such as illness. Therefore, Mr. Blakeslee believes there should be no change as the proposal would make it worse.

Caron Tayloe questioned whether it was a matter of wildlife benefits or trapper convenience and drew attention to multiple experts providing testimony on the ability of animals to experience pain over the

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

DRAFT OF MINUTES

June 12, 2014

Page 13 of 17

96-hours between trap inspections. Ms. Tayloe stated that this is about wildlife not trapper convenience.

Mel Belding stated that he too believes that the demerit points should not be changed and drew attention to the fact that many areas of northern Washoe County and Humboldt Counties are private property and that while he had permission from the previous owner of one parcel it had been sold without his knowledge. Mr. Belding explained that the key to the gate was left in the same place that the previous landowner had kept it. Mr. Belding noted that while he had in fact trespassed it was not intentional as he was unaware that the property had changed owners.

Bob Brunner noted concern about the lack of a provision for extenuating circumstances such as defined by Mr. Belding.

Cathy Smith commented that one would not have to worry about change of ownership if inquiries had been made to make sure that property ownership had not changed. Ms. Smith noted that there is a minimal chance that anyone would get caught trespassing and that private property must be protected.

Chair Shea closed public comments.

Mike McCusker – Game Warden, explained that a traps is considered a series of lines and that only 12 demerits would be applied for once occurrence. Mr. McCusker further explained that if there are issues other than the trap visitation only the offense with the highest number of demerits would be applied of the charges. To his knowledge Mr. McCusker is not aware of anyone having received a citation and demerits if there was a vehicle break-down or death. Mr. McCusker confirmed that only 6 demerits would be applied for a trespassing violation. On traps lines that cross jurisdictional boundaries the line is counted as a single trap line unless it follows a different route when it crosses the jurisdictional boundary.

Member Flowers commented that he believes the demerit system is fine as it is.

Member Humphreys, Jr. concurred.

***It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners not make any changes to the existing demerit system. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., Spencer and Chair Shea assenting; and one position vacant.***

## **Mock LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau)**

Chair Shea opened public comment.

Bob Brunner noted his concern that the LCB appears to have been written without any public or CAB (County Advisory Board) input, which is the same situation as the maps at the last Subcommittee

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

DRAFT OF MINUTES

June 12, 2014

Page 14 of 17

meeting that had five (5) votes with no public comment. Mr. Brunner asked that the LCB be rejected based on how the process was handled.

Joel Blakeslee - Nevada Trappers Association, noted that the subcommittee's agenda was extremely vague and that meeting minutes were not available for the previous three meetings making it difficult to understand what actually occurred. Mr. Blakeslee pointed out that a video conference was not set up for the Las Vegas (Nevada) meeting. Mr. Blakeslee stated that taking this to an LCB is not only premature but also presumptuous.

Mel Belding concurred with Mr. Brunner and Blakeslee and pointed out that the reason County Game Boards exist is to provide an opportunity for public comment. It appears that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners is telling the public that their voice does not matter. Mr. Belding also noted that nearly all of private property in nearly all of northern Washoe and Humboldt Counties is privately owned either by someone in Reno or in another state making it difficult to get permission for access.

Chair Shea closed public comments.

Member Humphreys, Jr. question how this body is supposed to provide input to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners when the information is not shared properly.

Member Spencer commented that she could not support this based on previous non-support of the proposed modifications.

Member Flowers noted that, in his opinion, it was predetermined that the modifications would be approved with the intent of completing the task before the end of the fiscal year which makes the regulation, if approved, permanent. After July 1 the approval would, in his opinion, only be temporary.

***It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Chair Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners reject the mock LCB as written as it appears that the outcome was predetermined. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., Spencer and Chair Shea assenting; and one position vacant.***

The meeting recessed at 8:41 p.m. and reconvened at 8:47 p.m.

19. **REQUEST FOR TRANSLOCATION OF CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP TO SOUTH DAKOTA FOR STUDY PROJECT** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) approve, deny or otherwise modify a project being conducted by principal investigators from Washington State University, South Dakota State University, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and U. S. Geological Survey National Wildlife Health Center to investigate the role of super-shedders in respiratory disease persistence and transmission in bighorn sheep, and are requesting that the Nevada Department of Wildlife provide eight to 15 California bighorn sheep from the Snowstorm herd to the study project entitled "Investigating the role of super-shedders in respiratory disease persistence and transmission in bighorn sheep." The animals will be captured in late November 2014 and will be transported to South Dakota.*

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

DRAFT OF MINUTES

June 12, 2014

Page 15 of 17

Chair Shea opened the agenda item and hearing no public comment pointed out there was no support material for this particular agenda item.

During a brief discussion it was noted that funding for such a program may come from the trap and transplant. As the discussion continued it was pointed out that the Snowstorm herd is in fact an infected herd.

***It was moved by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Humphreys, Jr., to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners take no action on this matter due to a lack of support materials that would allow the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife to make an informed recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., Spencer and Chair Shea assenting; and one position vacant.***

**20. NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO) WILD HORSE LAWSUIT [For Possible Action] –** *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) approve, deny or otherwise modify action on the NACO wild horse lawsuit.*

Chair Shea opened the agenda item and asked for public comment.

Bob Brunner expressed his support for the legal challenge given that wild horse and burro populations are not be controlled.

Mel Belding stated that he too believes the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners should join or support the lawsuit.

Chair Shea closed public comment.

Member Humphreys, Jr. expressed his support for the lawsuit to assure that a thriving natural ecological balance is maintained between wild horse, burro and wildlife.

Member Flowers also support the legal challenge.

Chair Shea concurred and asked for a motion.

***It was moved by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Flowers, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners support the NACO (Nevada Association of Counties) Wild Horse lawsuit. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., Spencer and Chair Shea assenting; and one position vacant.***

**21. CROSSBOW USAGE [For Possible Action] –** *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) approve, deny or otherwise modify the development of a permit to allow the use of a crossbow during a hunt that*

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

DRAFT OF MINUTES

June 12, 2014

Page 16 of 17

*is restricted to archery for certain permanently disabled persons. A “permanent disability” in this application means a person has a permanent disability of the upper torso or has had one or both arms or a part thereof, amputated, and the permanent disability or amputation prevents the person from manually drawing and holding at full draw a bow.*

Chari Shea opened the agenda item.

Tim Thomas – Conservation Education, provided an overview of the proposal noting that after 12-years in Alaska he noticed that the Nevada regulation was somewhat vague on Crossbow hunting, which makes it difficult to enforce. Mr. Thomas then highlighted his work in Alaska and the number of military personnel who are severely disabled after combat and have an interest in hunting. Mr. Thomas explained the need to develop a permit that only needs to be applied for once and ensures that those individuals with missing arms have access to certain types of crossbows that the disabled person can use without assistance.

Member Flowers recalled previous action that allows the use of a crossbow under any legal weapon.

Mr. Thomas concurred and explained that this would provide a permit for the use of a crossbow that can be locked back without assistance and that this is also intended to satisfy an future ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) challenge. To date staff has not reviewed the use of magnifying scopes, which would also require that the user have impaired vision.

Hearing no public comment Chair Shea asked for board discussion or a motion.

Chair Shea stated he could support the recommendation.

Member Humphreys, Jr. stated he was supportive of the language based on the information provided and pointed out this would provide additional hunting opportunities to those that might not otherwise be left out.

***It was moved by Member Humphreys, Jr., seconded by Member spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners direct NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) staff to move forward in the development of a proposed permit process for crossbow. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., Spencer and Chair Shea assenting; and one position vacant.***

**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 September 4, 2014, meeting.***

This agenda item reflects an incorrect next meeting date, which was changed from July 31, 2014, to August 7, 2014 under an earlier agenda item due to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners change in the August (2014) meeting dates.

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

DRAFT OF MINUTES

June 12, 2014

Page 17 of 17

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

Joel Blakeslee thanked the board for listening and noted that he believes this to be a culture war and genocide for the consumptive use of wildlife. Mr. Blakeslee expressed his appreciation to Member Flowers for his 6-years of service and wish him well on his application to serve as a member of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

Chair Shea presented a plaque to Member Flowers for his service and mentoring as a member of the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife.

Member Humphreys, Jr., expressed his appreciation to Member Flowers for his leadership and help for each member of the board.

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

Chair Shea adjourned the meeting at 9:13 p.m.