

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

MINUTES

Thursday ~ March 13, 2014 ~ 6:00 p.m.
Nevada Department of Wildlife
Conference Room B
1100 Valley Road, 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 Reed led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Chair Reed 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.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS [Non-action item]

Darrell Harwell recalled his previous requests to have an agenda item on Washoe Lake and the Scripps Wildlife Management area. Mr. Harwell noted that NDOT (Nevada Department of Transportation) is not maintaining the 300 acre feet of water as required in their permit and that wild horses are damaging nesting areas in the Scripps Management area.

4. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 27, 2013, MINUTES (For possible action)

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

It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Member Spencer, to approve the January 27, 2014, minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

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) March 21 and 22, 2014, meetings in Reno, Nevada; and 2). May 9 and 10, 2014, meetings in Reno, Nevada.*

Chair Reed and Member Flowers will attend the March 21 and 22, 2014, meeting. Chair Reed encouraged all members to attend the March 22, 2014 CAB (County Advisory Board) training.

Chair Reed will attend both the May 9 and 10, 2014, meeting.

Member Shea will attend the May 9, 2014, meeting.

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

6-1). Correspondence (including sportsmen's concerns) and Announcements – Chair Reed drew attention to the press release issued by the Nevada Cattleman's Association to Director Wasley and a letter to the editor of the Reno Gazette Journal from Gerald Lent regarding Sage Grouse.

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

Minutes

March 13, 2014

Page 2 of 8

Chair Reed noted his concern about the position being taken by the Nevada Cattleman's Association encouraging members to not cooperate with NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) by limiting access due to Alternative D in the recommendations on Sage Grouse which indicates cattle grazing is part of the problem with Sage Grouse. Conversely, alternative E considers grazing in a more positive light. Chair Reed recommended that members having interaction with ranchers, farmers and other agricultural interests, work with them to identify common areas of agreement and begin a dialogue to reach consensus on how best to resolve Sage Grouse issues to help avoid having Sage Grouse being listed as an endangered species.

6-2). Overview of the January 31 and February 1, 2014, meetings of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners – Member Flowers noted that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) had approved NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) recommendations with little to no consideration of other recommendations. Member Flowers noted that the Commission had not taken a firm stance on the Heritage tag for California Bighorn. However, it is thought that when the seasons are set there may be some consideration of excluding Unit 041 from specialty tags since the hunt is limited. Member Flowers then outlined the actions taken on trapping regulation that leaves the state at 96-hours except in certain Units in Nevada. It was pointed out by Chairman Jack Robb that trapping regulations approved at the Committee meeting was a starting point.

7. INFORMATIONAL OVERVIEW OF BAT SPECIES IN THE STATE OF NEVADA [Non-action item] – *An informational presentation on Bat species in the State of Nevada.*

Chair Reed commented that he is considering a presentation about the impact of feral cats on Nevada's Wildlife and may have a representative of the Nevada Humane Society and an NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) Biologist present to discuss those issues with the board.

David Catalano – Nevada Department of Wildlife, narrated a PowerPoint® Presentation (copy on file) covering the 23 species and respective habitats in the State of Nevada. Mr. Catalano explained out that bats are the only mammal capable of flight as Flying Squirrels glide rather than fly. Mr. Catalano noted that bats make up about 25-percent of all mammal species in the worlds and that while there may be other species in Nevada they have yet to be identified. Mr. Catalano outlined the difficulties in survey and study of the nocturnal mammal that is in decline worldwide. The loss of bats worldwide will have devastating effect on the worlds food supply as bats are among the world's best insect controllers. Mr. Catalano explained why the use of volunteers to assist in the study of bats is not a viable option as it takes specific training and equipment and could actually harm bats if disturbed. Mr. Catalano then outlined the protective measure being taken to keep predators and humans away from roosting bats. Mr. Catalano noted that a variety of tracking mechanism can be used to assist in research on bats including Doppler Radio, night vision equipment, anabats recordings and certain types of tracking devices that can be attached to a bat without harm. Mr. Catalano noted that the transmitters are generally lost in about 14-days during normal grooming habits. Mr. Catalano explained that bats hibernate and that any disturbance during the hibernation period has disastrous effects on the populations as they generally only reserve so much energy for hibernation and any excessive activity may result in there death. Drawing attention to wind turbine farms that are being developed in Nevada and nationwide, the rotation of the turbines cause changes in the barometric

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

Minutes

March 13, 2014

Page 3 of 8

pressure surrounding turbine blades that causes bats internal organs to basically explode. A review of bats found adjacent to wind turbines did not reveal any external injury only extensive internal organ damage. Mr. Catalano then showed photographs of the various types of bats and their physical characteristics. Mr. Catalano noted that he does provide presentations and participate in field trips with local schools.

8. **SNOWSTORM BIGHORN SHEEP DONATION to Captive Management Disease Research Station in Brookings, South Dakota [For Possible Action]** – *A review, discussion and possible action to approve, deny or otherwise modify a proposal to provide California Bighorn Sheep from the Snowstorm Mountains of Elko and Humboldt Counties (Nevada) for an investigation of the role of super-shedders in respiratory disease persistence and transmission in Bighorn Sheep.*

Chair Reed noted that this particular item had been pulled from the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meeting agenda.

9. **FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 DRAFT PREDATION MANAGEMENT PLAN (Second Draft)** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to approve, deny or otherwise modify the second draft of the proposed Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Predator Management Plan.*

Chair Reed opened the agenda item.

Member Flowers outlined the discussions at the recent meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, during which it was explained that some of the projects have matching funds. Member Flowers noted that he had met with Director Tony Wasley who had suggested that it might be the end of May before a final draft was ready for review. Member Flowers pointed out that a Predator Control Plan that only calls for “whack and stack” would not be eligible for matching fund. Member Flowers explained that, in his opinion, this was an improvement over what had been reviewed previously.

There was some discussion about a previous Fish and Wildlife Service study of Cormorants in the early to mid-1990’s in which field personnel had went into nesting areas to either remove eggs or make them infertile. As the discussion continued, it was questioned whether a similar process could be used to reduce the number of Ravens. It was pointed out that Ravens do not nest communally as do Cormorants. Discussion then turned to Project 22-01, which calls for the removal of Mountain Lions that are in close proximity of relocated sheep. It was suggested that the language be modified to require removal of Mountain Lions after monitoring to determine whether the resident Mountain Lion population has any detrimental effect on the released sheep. It was noted that the removal of the alpha or dominant male or female in an area could result in an influx of younger animals that might have a more profound negative effect on the sheep population. Discussion then turned to Unit 22 that indicates there is good lamb recruitment without any noticeable increase in population. Other discussion noted the presence of domestic sheep in the Hays Canyon Area that has had far more profound effect on sheep populations than predators. It was noted that a single Mountain Lion can lay a large number of tracks making it appear that there is a large population of cats in a specific area. Other discussion suggested that the subtitle of 22-074 include Protection of Big Horn and Mule deer. It was suggested that this might not be the final Predator Management Plan and may come back at a future meeting. Other discussion noted that there have been some photographs of lions in

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

Minutes

March 13, 2014

Page 4 of 8

areas where herd populations are not expanding even with positive fawn recruitment, and may indicate a predation problem.

It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Member Flowers, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the draft 2014-2015 Predator Management Plan with the following modification: Page 14 Sub Project 22-01 and Sub Project 22-205-207 by removing the predator removal action to remove lions in close proximity of Big Horn Sheep populations.

Member Spencer suggested that the language be modified to require monitoring of newly released populations before any removal of lions and remove only those lions that have a direct impact on the Big Horn populations.

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

It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Member Flowers, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the draft 2014-2015 Predator Management Plan with the following modification: to Page 14 and 18 Sub Project 22-01 and 22-205-207 by changing the removal of lions in close proximity to read removal of lions in close proximity of recently release Big Horn Sheep as warranted through monitoring of the recently released Big Horn Sheep population. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting recessed at 7:29 p.m. and reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

- 10. DUCK STAMP COMMITTEE REPORT AND FIRST READING OF COMMISSION POLICY No. 50, Duck Stamp Procedure [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to approve, deny or otherwise modify the first reading of Commission Policy No. 50 with the proposed updates.***

Chair Reed opened the agenda item.

Member Flowers noted that he had attended the meeting and outlined the proposed modifications to the process that provides greater flexibility to determine the number of stamps produced based on the previous year's demand. Member Flowers noted that since this is the First Reading that it will come back at a future meeting for final recommendation and approval.

Chair Reed opened public comment.

Darrell Harwell suggested that the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the proposed modifications and asked that the board also recommend that the Nevada Water Fowl be named as the sponsor for the next two (2) years.

Member Flowers pointed out that the agenda item did not include action to recommend a sponsoring agency.

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

Minutes

March 13, 2014

Page 5 of 8

It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Member Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Policy 50, Duck Stamp procedure: with the following modifications: Page 1, Section 2 to read “agreement to develop art contest rules jointly with NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), including the number of Conservation Edition Reproductions required; and after stricken paragraphs pages 3 and 4 include Committee recommendations that NDOW shall be responsible for determining the total number of stamps to be printed each year and shall be responsible for the handling, redistribution and disposal of license agency stock and mint stock based on previous years demand. The motion carried unanimously.

11. **BLACK BEAR COMMITTEE REPORT** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to approve, deny or otherwise modify report from the Black Bear Committee meeting on February 21, 2014, and may take action relative to recommendations from the Committee.*

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

Member Flowers commented that he did not believe the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) would take any action other than to direct that the Department (Nevada Department of Wildlife) and Committee move forward. Member Flowers pointed out that one Committee member consistently abstained from voting as it had been made clear that that member would not vote in the affirmative for anything that did not benefit Black Bears. Member Flowers also noted that the Committee was recommending that the use of shotguns be allowed.

No specific action was taken.

12. **COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 416, Shed Antlers, LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) File No. R155-12** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to approve, deny or otherwise modify a regulation relating to shed antlers; requiring a hunting license for the taking of shed antlers from the field; providing for a shed antler collection season; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.*

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

Member Flowers outlined the creation of a season for Shed hunts that would require a license, which would eliminate any new fees under the current no new tax directive from the Governor's Office.

Member Shea stated he could not support the policy that would require a license to collect shed antlers, which would preclude a child under the age of 12 from collecting a shed.

Member Humphreys, Jr., commented that he could see the need to have licenses for adults that are collecting sheds commercially and suggested that the license requirement exempt children within a specific age range.

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

Minutes

March 13, 2014

Page 6 of 8

During the discussion it was pointed out that Coyotes can be hunted without a license and that the regulation is being driven by Eastern Nevada.

Chair Reed noted that the issue is alleged to be coming from the State of Utah with individuals harassing Elk to collect shed antlers for commercial purposes. Chair Reed emphasized that there are already regulations in NRS (Nevada Revised Statutes) dealing with wildlife harassment and pointed out that Elk populations in Lincoln and White Pine County are doing well. Chair Reed stated that he could not support the additional regulation as it is his belief that this, in his opinion, is an unnecessary and unacceptable overreach of authority, same as similar previous attempts to restrict flight operations in that area, which is solely within the purview of the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration).

Member Shea noted concern that since there are already regulations in place to deal with harassment that it appears that existing regulations are not being properly enforced to the detriment of those minding their own business.

Member Spencer noted that if the supposed routes used to collect sheds are known that perhaps an action similar to that of traffic enforcement should be implemented in areas where such actions are known to occur.

Chair Reed noted that the State of Wyoming has had a regulation in place since 2009 and that he does not think this is relevant to Nevada.

Member Humphreys, Jr., commented that he had changed his opinion based on the board's discussion and that he now sees this in a much larger context. Therefore, he cannot support the regulation.

It was moved by Member Spencer, seconded by Member Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners deny Commission Regulation 416, Shed Antlers, LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) File No. R155-12. The motion carried unanimously.

- 13. COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 430, Guide License Changes, LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) File No. R053-13** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed revisions relating to the issuance and renewal of a license as a master guide or sub-guide; permitting a master guide to use the services of another master guide or a sub-guide licensed under another master guide in certain circumstances; removing territorial limitations imposed by the state on the operation of master guides; revising the grounds for denying an application for a license or for revoking or suspending a license; extending the period within which a master guide must notify the Department of Wildlife after terminating the employment of a sub-guide; revising provisions governing the licensure of habitual violators and the submission of records relating to the clients of a master guide; expanding the circumstances under which a client must physically accompany the master guide or sub-guide during the entire pursuit and taking of an animal; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.*

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

Minutes

March 13, 2014

Page 7 of 8

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

Member Shea recommended that the phrase “be a competent person of good moral character” be removed from page one.

Member Flowers suggested that when the motion is made to remove that phrase that it be contingent that if left in the document that the definition must be defined in existing NRS (Nevada Revised Statutes).

Member Shea pointed out that if there are issues with a particular guide, a complaint can be filed with NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife).

Chair Reed drew attention to page 7, Section 3 NAC (Nevada Administrative Code) 504.661 and page 8 NAC 504.66 and Page 10, Section 6 which defines the grounds upon which a guide license can be revoked. Of particular concern is that the multiple governing bodies for public lands make it nearly impossible to be fully versed on agency specific regulations.

Member Flowers noted that guide license suspensions/revocations can be appealed to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission), whereas a conviction for violation of other regulations cannot since such violations are handled by the judicial system. Member Flowers also noted that applications for guide licensure may be denied if a license issued in another state is revoked.

Discussion then suggested that the language about the last day or date of each month be amended throughout the document so that it is consistent. For example, either use the phrase “last day of whatever month” or be date specific such as “June 30”. It was noted that Leap Year would be the only one that would have a different month end date for February, either the 28 or 29. Discussion then turned to the use of the word “kill”. It was pointed out that the words “harvest” or “take” are generally used in lieu of the word “kill”.

It was moved by Member Spencer, seconded by Member Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission General Regulation 430, Guide License Changes, LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) File No. R053-13 with the following modifications: 1) Remove the requirement “a competent person of good moral character” unless specifically defined in NRS (Nevada Revised Statutes); 2) all dates should be consistent in format, either using the term “end of month” or ending date specific for each month; and 3) where the word “kill” is stricken that it be reinserted and the phrase “killing/taking/harvesting” inserted on Page 15, Section 11. The motion carried: Members Humphreys, Jr., Shea, Spencer and Chair Reed assenting; and Member Flowers dissenting.

14. 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 May 1, 2014, meeting.

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

Minutes

March 13, 2014

Page 8 of 8

During the discussion it was noted that the issues at Washoe Lake/Scripps Management Area should be kept before the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission). It was pointed out that the issues must be jointly addressed by NDOT (Nevada Department of Transportation), NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) and the Department of State Parks. Other discussion noted the need to arrange for NDOW representative to be present at future meetings to address any questions that may arise.

15. PUBLIC COMMENTS [Non-action item]

There were no public comments.

16. ADJOURNMENT [Non-action item]

Chair Reed adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

**AS APPROVED BY THE WASHOE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE IN
SESSION ON MAY 1, 2014.**