

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

DRAFT of Minutes

Thursday ~ January 29, 2015 ~ 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
Cathy Smith
William Tamblyn

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE [Non-action item]

Chair Shea 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: Miles Humphreys, Jr., Sean Shea, Cathy Smith, Michelle Spencer and Butch Tamblyn.

ABSENT: None.

Jen Gustafson – Deputy District Attorney, was also present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS [Non-action item]

Jen Gustafson – Washoe County Deputy District Attorney, introduced herself as the legal counsel for the board noting that the WCDA (Washoe County District Attorney) is reviewing whether or not legal counsel should be present. Ms. Gustafson asked that an agenda item for a presentation on the Nevada OML including ethics be placed on the March meeting agenda. Ms. Gustafson explained that she would cover ethics as well as OML requirement such as when a member of the board should disclose or be recused from a discussion or vote. Ms. Gustafson provided business cards to the member and explained that they may contact her directly with any questions on OML that may arise.

Chair Shea reordered the agenda.

18. SPORTSMAN'S EDUCATION BILL (Bill Draft Request 616) [For possible action] *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners support the proposed Sportsman's Education Bill BDR 616. Sportsman's Education Bill (Bill Draft 616).* [Taken out of agenda order]

Chair Shea played a video concerning the Sportsman's Education Bill sponsored by Senator Hammond. Chair Shea believes the video will provide background of the positive aspects of hunting and fishing in the State of Nevada. A link to the video is included below.

Video link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bw37_leE2dFFME9tSWMzRFFuWkE/view?usp=sharing

Chair Shea opened public comment.

Bob Brunner commented that a representative had provided positive feedback and outlined issues that had been resolved with the Michigan and Colorado educational programs so that a better job can be done here in the State of Nevada.

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

Chair Shea explained that he had asked for this agenda item to explore whether the concept could be supported. Chair Shea believes this is a great idea and something to share with the general public.

Member Humphreys, Jr., commented that he thought the “Hug-A-Hunter” concept was funny and if comedy can bring sportsmen and non-sportsmen to a meeting of the mind it is an awesome idea.

Member Spencer drew attention to the scientific component of the video, which she believes is an important component to remember.

Member Tamblyn stated that he thinks it is a great idea as well.

Member Smith commented that she does not believe these ads would broaden support and pointed out that the Colorado ads began after almost all contentious issues had been banned by voter initiative: hunting bears with hounds, spring bear hunt, and body gripping traps. The public was more supportive of the department, hunters, and anglers after these contentious issues had been resolved. If the department wants to thank hunters, they should also bring in the Nature Conservancy, the Sierra Club, and others who help wildlife to broaden support.

Chair Shea commented that he believes the public has been misled by a number of groups and that this may be a way to address those issues.

Member Smith stated that she also believes that education is always good.

It was moved by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners support BDR (Bill Draft Request) 616 concept. The motion carried: Members Humphreys, Jr., Spencer, Tamblyn and Chair Shea assenting; and Member Smith dissenting.

Member Smith explained that she would like to see who would be on the board were the concept to move forward.

4. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 6, 2014, MINUTES (For possible action)

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

Chair Shea asked that page 6, fourth paragraph be modified to read “Chair Shea noted that this had been reviewed previously and that the modifications make it easier for taxidermist and others to conduct business both in and out-of-state.”

It was moved by Member Tamblyn, seconded by Member Smith, to approve the November 6, 2014, minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

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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) February 6 and 7, 2015, meetings in Las Vegas, Nevada; and 2). March 20 and 21, 2015, meetings in Reno, Nevada.*

Chair Shea will attend the February 6 and 7, 2015, meetings in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Members Smith, Tamblyn and Chair Shea plan to attend the March 20 and 21, 2015, meetings in Reno, Nevada.

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

6-1). Correspondence (including sportsmen's concerns) and Announcements – There was no correspondence.

6-2). Overview of the November 14 and 15, 2014, meetings of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners – Member Tamblyn drew attention to the written report previously distributed (copy on file) and that while this board had recommended against approval of carrying a hand gun during the archery season Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) members supported a regulation that would allow a hand gun without a scope with a barrel length of not more than 8-inches. Additionally, the Commission had modified the shed regular to allow landowners to grant permission to pickup sheds on private property.

Chair Shea noted concern that there had been no report on Bald Mountain and explained he would seek a presentation by NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) for the March 12, 2015, meeting.

7. **REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF THE BLACK BEAR SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT ENTITLED "A Three-Year Comprehensive Review of Black Bear Harvest through Regulated Hunting in Nevada" – Commissioner David McNinch [For Possible Action] – A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify a report submitted by the Black Bear Subcommittee entitled "A Three-Year Comprehensive Review of Black Bear Harvest through Regulated Hunting in Nevada." On approval, the Commission may forward this report on to the Nevada Legislature to fulfill the request included within 2013 Senate Bill 82.**

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

Rex Flowers recommended that the subcommittee report be approved and suggested that the correct name of the body be included in the document by changing "Black Bear Commission" to read "Bear Committee" on: 1) the cover page; 2) page one where there are two (2) instances; 3) page four two (2) instances; 4) page seven one (1) instance; and 5) page 12 one (1) instance.

Joel Blakeslee suggested that the Bear Committee be disbanded as the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners has met the legislative mandate regarding the 3 year review of the bear hunt. Mr. Blakeslee pointed out that bears are a single species and can be managed as such without the additional drama that a committee generates.

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Bob Brunner explained that while he could not attend the entire Bear Committee it is his recommendation that this be moved forward and applauded the plan to hold the TRPA accountable for adopting and enforcing a conflict bear plan. He said that after 3 years he hoped that everyone now understands that 'Conflict Bear Management' and 'Bear Hunt Management' are separate and unique on the same population of bears. The NRS states that the Commission is to report on the "3 year Bear Hunt" only.

Chair Shea closed public comment.

Member Smith recommended that the report be approved and drew attention to the number of hours and compromise that resulted in the final report.

Member Tamblyn concurred.

Chair Shea noted the number of meetings and wordsmithing involved in the development of the report.

It was moved by Member Humphreys, Jr., seconded by Chair Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the three year comprehensive review of Black Bear Harvest with the following modification: change "Black Bear Commission" to read "Bear Committee" on: 1) the cover page; 2) page one where there are two (2) instances; 3) page four two (2) instances; 4) page seven one (1) instance; and 5) page 12 one (1) instance. The motion carried unanimously.

8. COMMISSION REGULATION 15-04, 2015 Big Game Application Deadline Information [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify language regarding the 2015 big game application deadline information.*

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

It was moved by Member Tamblyn, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 15-04, Big Game Applications Deadline Information, as written. The motion carried unanimously.

9. COMMISSION REGULATION 15-05, 2015 Big Game Tag Application Eligibility [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify language regarding the 2015 big game tag application eligibility.*

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

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It was moved by Member Smith, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 15-05, 2015 Big Game Tag Application Eligibility, as written. The motion carried unanimously.

- 10. COMMISSION REGULATION 15–06, Silver State Tag and Partnership in Wildlife 2015 Season and Quotas** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify recommendations for the 2015 Silver State Tag and Partnership in Wildlife hunt species, seasons and quotas.*

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

Chair Shea outlined his concerns about the number of tags that could cause an issue with Muledeer populations in Units 194 and 196.

It was moved by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Smith, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 15-06, Silver State Tag and Partnership in Wildlife 2015 Seasons and Quota, as written. The motion carried unanimously.

- 11. COMMISSION REGULATION 15–07, Dream Tag 2015 Seasons** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify recommended 2015 Dream Tag seasons.*

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

It was moved by Member Tamblyn, seconded by Member Humphreys, Jr., to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 15-07, Dream Tag 2015 Seasons, as written. The motion carried unanimously.

- 12. COMMISSION REGULATION 15–08, 2016 Heritage Tag Seasons and Quotas** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify recommended 2016 Heritage Tag hunt species, seasons and quotas.*

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

It was moved by Member Smith, seconded by Member Spencer, to approve Commission Regulation 15-08, 2016 Heritage Tag Seasons and Quotas, as written. The motion carried unanimously.

- 13. COMMISSION REGULATION 15–09, Big Game Seasons** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify recommended 2015–2016 and 2016–2017*

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hunting seasons and dates for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat, including limits, hunting hours, special hunt eligibility, animal sex, physical characteristics and legal weapon requirements, hunt boundary restrictions, and legal weapon requirements, and emergency depredation hunt structure and statewide quotas.

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

Responding to Chair Shea's inquiry the change in resident tags but not non-resident tags, Mike Scott – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), explained that they should be the same.

Chris Hampson – NDOW, noted that the late season had been discontinued due to extremely low demand (3 or 4 tags annually) with no success. Mr. Hampson commented that once the weather turns cold the Antelope begin to herd and move to other areas. Additionally, the Doe hunt was discontinued for the same reason.

Jack Robb – NDOW, noted that the rotation among weapons classes was always meant to be on an annual basis.

Mike Scott – NDOW, pointed out that seasons were set in two (2) year cycles. Mr. Scott then noted that he believed agreements had been reached with large property owners and that Carl Lackey was working on getting those agreements in place if they weren't already.

During the discussion it was explained that certain landowners had reached agreements with NDOW for hunting access on their private land only to revoke access without notice. As the discussion continued, it was explained that 10-percent non-resident hunt allocation is on a statewide quota basis and can result in allowing two (2) non-resident tags in a single unit. Other discussion noted that the allocation per unit has some correlation with the herd population in larger hunt units. It was emphasized that the board could make a different recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners on how the resident and non-resident tags are distributed among the hunt units. Other discussion noted the need to change "3014" to read "2014" and move the season close to August 22 rather than the September date.

It was moved by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 15-09, Big Game Seasons with the following modifications: 1) Pronghorn change the rifle Buck Hunt in Unit 205-208 and 211-213 so that non-resident matches resident season dates; 2) Elk continue to rotate the rut bull hunt on a two year cycle (e.g. 2 years rifle, two years archery and two years muzzleloader); 3) Correct Muledeer date from "3014" to "2014" in the second paragraph. The motion carried unanimously.

- 14. COMMISSION REGULATION 15–10, Big Game Mountain Lion Harvest Limits for 2015–2016** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify recommended 2015–2016 mountain lion hunting season open units, harvest limits by unit group, hunting hours, and special regulations.*

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

It was moved by Member Tamblin, seconded by Chair Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 15-10, Big Game Mountain Lion Harvest Limits for 2015-2015, as written. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting recessed at 7:04 p.m. and reconvened at 7:11 p.m.

- 15. COMMISSION REGULATION 15-11, 2015 Black Bear Seasons** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify recommended 2015 hunting season dates, open management units, hunting hours, special regulations, animal sex, legal weapon requirements, hunt boundary restrictions, and dates and times for indoctrination courses for black bear.*

Chair opened the agenda item and asked for public comment.

Don Molde recalled an earlier recommendation by Jack Robb to eliminate the month of December from the Black Bear season and recommended that the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife make that recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

Bob Brunner recommended that the month of December be retained and the quota increased as data indicates there is not a balance in the population base.

Joel Blakeslee believes December hunt should be retained.

Caron Tayloe suggested that the December Hunt be discontinued to allow the Black Bears an opportunity to forage in preparation for hibernation.

Chair Shea closed public comment,

Member Smith recalled her issues with the Black Bear Hunt since its inception. Member Smith expressed her concern about a lack of population data in specific units and noted that nearly 50-percent of the bears harvested were in one unit. Member Smith pointed out that Nevada is one of the few states that does not have specific quotas for different hunts. Member Smith voiced her support for the elimination of December from the hunt season.

Member Smith recalled her issues with the Black Bear Hunt since its inception. Member Smith expressed her concern about a lack of population data and drew attention to a similar hunt in the State of Kentucky that restricts hunting in areas that may have females and their cubs. Member Smith voiced her support for the elimination of December from the hunt season.

Member Humphreys, Jr., stated he supported the recommendations for the hunt and retaining the month of December to achieve harvest objectives as well as additional hunter opportunity.

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Chair Shea noted that, in his opinion, it is easier to stay away from females with cubs and that he typically does not hunt a unit if there are cub prints. Chair Shea stated that he supports the recommendations as written.

It was moved by Member Spencer, seconded by Member Humphreys, Jr., to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 15-11 2015 Black Bear Seasons, as written. The motion carried: Members Humphreys, Jr., Spencer, Tamblin and Chair Shea assenting; and Member Smith dissenting.

16. **COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 455, Temporary LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) File T-14 – Trapping Questionnaire Deadline and Trapping License Valid Dates** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify recommended temporary regulation relating to trapping questionnaires and trapping license valid periods. The regulation will add language to specify the valid period of a trapping license as July 1 - June 30. The regulation amendment will also update the trapping questionnaire deadline language, changing the deadline from April 30 to May 31, making it consistent with other Department questionnaire language. The amendment includes having the Department be responsible for prohibiting the purchase of a subsequent trapping license, instead of the Commission, when a trapper fails to return a questionnaire. This amendment will allow the Department to administer the trapping questionnaire processes effectively in regard to the trapping seasons as established by the Commission.*

Chair Shea opened the agenda item and asked for an overview of the proposal.

Mike McCusker – Game Warden, explained his understanding of the modification in the proposal, which has been on record for many years, but never enforced. The modifications will allow the data to be collected completely after the close of all furbearing seasons and failure to submit the questionnaire would be grounds for not issuing a license the following year.

Chair Shea opened public comment.

Joel Blakeslee – Trappers Association, spoke in opposition to the potential loss of trapping license for failure to submit the questionnaire. Mr. Blakeslee noted that pointed out that other hunts are not subject to similar penalties and that the data contained in the questionnaire is a look backwards without providing any information on population or other data that could be used by biologists. Mr. Blakeslee pointed out that the information provided on Bobcats is used to obtain biological data including age, sex and production rates.

Don Molde noted his puzzlement when he saw the agenda item and recalled that Russell Woolstenhulme had provided additional information to the Trapping Regulation Committee, which indicated that nearly 30-percent of trapper failed to provide the report. Mr. Molde suggested that the board recommend approval.

Bob Brunner noted that data is provided on every Bobcat pelt.

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Chair Shea closed public comment.

Mr. McCusker explained that Bobcat data is collected with the seal and that there are no other mechanisms to track other species such as Fox, Coyotes when trapped in the field with the exception of the questionnaire.

Mike Scott – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), noted that Coyotes are not a protected species and that such data might not have any significant meaning. However, other species such as Fox are regulated by NDOW with the information gained from the questionnaires being used to set season lengths. Mr. Scott noted that Mr. Woolstenhulme would be better equipped to provide such information.

Mr. McCusker commented that he believes the regulation would work much the same as Big Game does by paying the administrative fee to get the license back. Mr. McCusker explained that a fine would be assessed if the questionnaire was submitted late to get the license back, but he is not positive. The questionnaire would still need to be submitted.

Mr. Blakeslee noted his concerns about moving responsibility from the Commission (Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners) to the Department (NDOW) and pointed out that there is 100-percent compliance on Bobcats. Mr. Blakeslee pointed out that the notifications are not forwarded if a trapper's has changed.

Jeremy Drew commented that regulation currently states that the Commission may suspend a license. This modification would move that responsibility to the Department and mirror what is already in place for Big Game.

Mr. McCusker noted that this is an administrative fee that would not be handled by Game Warden. Additionally, the payment of the administrative fee would not be shown on the trapper's record nor would there be any demerit points.

It was moved by Member Spencer, seconded by Chair Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission General Regulation 455, Temporary LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) File T-14, Trapping Questionnaire Deadline and Trapping License Valid Dates, as follows: 1) the trapping date changed to July 1 through June 30; and 2) leave responsibility with the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners rather than changing to NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife).

Member Spencer explained that she agreed with the change in season but not with the change in oversight from the Commission to the Department.

Member Smith noted that the current regulation is not being enforced and that she believes the mailing issue can be alleviated by submitting a change of address to the Postal Service.

Member Spencer commented that she is unsure why the regulation should be "muddied" if the submittal of questionnaires is not being enforced.

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Chair Shea noted that Beavers and Raccoons can be trapped.

The motion failed: Members Spencer and Tamblyn assenting; and Members Humphreys, Jr., Smith and Chair Shea dissenting.

It was moved by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Smith, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission General Regulation 455, Temporary LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) File T-14, as written. The motion carried: Members Humphreys, Jr., Smith and Chair Shea assenting; and Members Spencer and Tamblyn dissenting.

17. COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 454, Temporary LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) File T-14 – Firearm Carry During Archery Hunt [For possible action] – A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify recommended temporary regulation relating to the carry of a firearm in the field while hunting under archery regulations. The regulation will change NAC 503.144 to allow the carry of personal protection handguns while archery hunting. This regulation will be temporary and will require Legislative Commission approval to become permanent after the 2015 Session of the Nevada Legislature.

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

Tim Thomas - Nevada Bowhunters Association, commented that the Nevada Bowhunters Association did not have any issues with handguns being allowed during the archer seas for personal protection and pointed out that the archery and muzzleloader seasons overlap. Mr. Thomas emphasized that the use of a firearm to harvest an animal is already illegal during the archery season.

Joel Blakeslee commented that this appeared to presume guilt since existing regulation already prohibits harvesting an animal with a firearm during the archer season.

Mike McCusker - Game Warden, explained that, in his opinion, this modification will confuse the issue since a firearm would be allowed in the field during archery conditions. Mr. McCusker does not believe that having a smaller caliber handgun in the field would be an issue. Mr. McCusker noted that today's hunters rely more and more on ATV's (All-Terrain Vehicle) , a firearm on an ATV or in a vehicle while someone was road hunting during the archery season would be illegal. Mr. McCusker pointed out that a large caliber weapon is not needed for protection in the field.

During the discussion it was suggested that a shorter barrel length might clarify the issue. However, there is concern that the proposal only serves to "muddy" the issue with the need to measure barrel length and caliber of the weapon.

Chris Severson explained that she had discussed this with a number of individuals that concurs with the current regulation to not carry a gun during the archer season.

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Mike Robinson explained his understanding of current law in Nevada, that open carry is an individual's right and that right would be temporarily suspended while archery hunting. Additionally, while he personally believes concealed carry is a right as well, the "privilege" of concealed carry would be forfeited during an archery hunt. Mr. Robinson stated that he does not believe there is any justification for forfeiture of either right or privilege as no crime or intent to commit a crime has been established.

Bob Brunner pointed out that if one violates the current regulation by hunting with a firearm during the archery season when you have an archery tag is a violation and should continue to be the case.

Chair Shea closed public comment.

Member Smith commented that she could see both sides of the issue from the standpoint of personal protection.

Member Tamblyn recalled previous discussion at the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meeting on the issue and recalled that this board's previous concern was the potential for abuse.

Member Spencer noted her concerns about making additional laws when laws are already in place that prohibit the taking of an animal with a firearm during the archery season. However, she prefers to be able to carry a firearm for personal protection in the field.

Member Humphreys, Jr., explained that one regulation should not override another. However, the current regulation already prohibits the harvesting of an animal with a firearm during the archery season.

Responding to Chair Shea's inquiry about having a rifle in a vehicle, Mr. McCusker explained that while it is legal to have a rifle in the vehicle during the archery hunt the rifle cannot be on carried by the hunter during the archery season. Mr. McCusker pointed out that a large caliber weapon is not needed for protection in the field.

It was moved by Member Spencer, seconded by Member Humphreys, Jr., to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 454, Temporary LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) File T-14, Firearm Carry During Archery Hunt, as written. The motion carried: Members Humphreys, Jr., Smith and Spencer assenting; and Member Tamblyn and Chair Shea dissenting.

- 19. 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 March 12, 2015, meeting.*

The March 12, 2015, meeting agenda may include, but is not limited to: 1) Informational presentations on the effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat and water quality associated with: A. Bald Mountain mining; and B. Authorized locations for fracking in the State of Nevada.

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20. PUBLIC COMMENTS [Non-action item]

Rex Flowers pointed out that the Resident Elk Hunt 4151 any legal weapon opened a hunt in an area that does not have an Elk Management Plan. Mr. Flowers suggested that a committee be established to develop an Elk Management Plan for the western region.

Caron Tayloe drew attention to an article in a recent publication on the impacts of mining on Bald Mountain on the wildlife, habitat and food sources. Ms. Tayloe also noted that a 71 foot tall electronic billboard had been approved near the Mountain Rose Scenic Corridor and questioned what effect such a sign might have on birds and other wildlife based on evidence presented by Scenic Nevada.

Bob Brunner drew attention to the Reid/Heller legislation as it pertains to the Carlin Migration corridor and the transfer of Hungry Valley and expansion of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe reservation.

Mike Scott – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), commented that the Elk Hunt was being proposed to begin managing the elk that have already pioneered into the Santa Rosa Range and pointed out that the development of an Elk Management Plan can take several years. Additionally, biologists do gather information from the trapping questionnaires that provide data on short and long-term trends.

Joel Blakeslee reiterated that the furbearer questionnaire may provide some information on the harvest but not any significant biological data. The questionnaire is, in his opinion anecdotal information that while he finds the information interesting it has limited value.

21. ADJOURNMENT [Non-action item]

Chair Shea adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.