

# Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

## Minutes

**Thursday ~ June 11, 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]

Member Spencer 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, Michelle Spencer and Butch Tamblyn.

**ABSENT:** Cathy Smith.

Jen Gustafson – Deputy District Attorney, was also present.

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

There were no public comments.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF MAY 7, 2015, MINUTES** (For possible action)

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

***It was moved by Member Tamblyn, seconded by Chair Shea, to approve the May 7, 2015, minutes, as submitted. The motion carried: Members Humphreys, Jr., Spencer, Tamblyn and Chair Shea assenting; and Member Smith absent.***

#### **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 19 and 20, 2015, meetings in Eureka, Nevada; and 2). August 7 and 8, 2015, in Fallon, Nevada.*

Chair Shea will attend the June 19 and 20, 2015, meeting in Eureka, Nevada.

Member Tamblyn will attend the August 7 and 8, 2015, meetings in Fallon, Nevada.

Chair Shea noted that he would be unable to attend Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meeting after the June 19 and 20, 2015, meetings due to other commitments.

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

**6-1). Correspondence (including sportsmen's concerns) and Announcements** – Chair Shea noted that the only correspondence had been from Member Smith indicating that she would not be present at tonight's (June 11, 2015) meeting.

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Chair Shea noted that company currently holding a permit in the Ruby Mountains for heli-skiing has applied for a permit to put heli-pads on private property within the Rubies that they purchased. The intent is to be able to helicopter people, supplies, etc. in as well as helicopter meat and whatever out during hunting seasons. These small private holdings are location both inside and outside wilderness areas,

**6-2). Overview of the May 15 and 16, 2015, meetings of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners** – Chair Shea noted that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approved County Game Board recommendations along with a further reduction in tag allocations beyond what was recommended.

**7. LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION UPDATE** [Non-action item] – *An informational update on activities and programs of the Nevada Division of Wildlife (NDOW) Law Enforcement Division.*

Western Division Game Warden Supervisor Mike McCusker narrated a PowerPoint Presentation (copy on file) and highlighted the associated with the limited number of Game Wardens for the State. Warden McCusker noted the number of retirements over the past few years and loss of personnel to other agencies. Warden McCusker pointed out the impacts on available personnel needed to recruit and train new hires. Although Game Wardens are often taken to task over certain regulations, it must be remembered that a Game Warden can only enforce regulations developed and enacted by others. Warden McCusker also provided an overview of the types of calls for service including loaded weapons in a vehicle, poaching, boating violations and hunting or fishing without a license. Warden McCusker encouraged the members and public to report any and all poaching activities as it affects everyone. Warden McCusker noted that there was limited involvement by federal agencies and emphasized that other enforcement agencies are asked for assistance when and as needed. Warden McCusker noted that it is difficult to recruit female Wardens and that recent recruitments have indicated a number of females that may be suitable for the open positions.

**8. CHANGE OF MEETING DAY AND TIME** [For possible action] – *An ongoing review, discussion and possible action to change the day and start time of the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meetings from 6:00 p.m. on Thursdays to 2:00 or 3:00 p.m. on Fridays effective July 30, 2015.*

Chair Shea outlined the request and recalled previous testimony provided at the May 7, 2015, meeting.

Chair Shea opened public comment.

Rex Flowers stated that he stood by his May 7, 2015, comments reiterating that no other County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife holds mid-afternoon meeting. Additionally, Members Humphreys, Jr., and Smith indicated that their work schedules would preclude the attendance. Mr. Flowers then outlined the duties of the County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife as stated in NRS 501.297.

Bob Brunner concurred with Mr. Flowers' comments stating that he did not see any benefit to a Friday afternoon meeting.

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Chair Shea closed public comments.

Responding to Chair Shea's inquiry, Jen Gustafson – Deputy District Attorney, suggested that the matter be tabled explaining that an agenda item could be added to a future agenda to reflect additional discussion and possible action to choose a different day and time.

This item was tabled without further discussion or action.

- 9. COMMISSION REGULATION 15–08 AMENDMENT 1 - 2016 Heritage Tags Organization/Vendor Selection** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify the organization/vendor recommendations for the 2016 Heritage Tags.*

Chair Shea opened public comments.

Dan Shoupe commented that Nevada Water Fowl had submitted an application and wanted to be sure that their past contributions are recognized.

The meeting recessed at 6:40 and reconvened at 6:45 p.m.

Rex Flowers commented that the Heritage Committee may have a late proposal from WHIN (Wildlife and Habitat Improvement Nevada) and suggested that one (1) Muledeer tag be taken from NBU (Nevada Bighorns Unlimited) and given to WHIN as he believes their late application will be accepted. Additionally, Mr. Flowers recommends that the one (1) Wild Turkey tag be taken from Bristlecone Family Services and moved to Nevada Sportsmen Unlimited giving them two (2) tags, which is the same as what is recommended for the Wild Turkey Foundation.

Closed public hearing

Chair Shea concurred with Mr. Flowers suggestions.

***It was moved by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Humphreys, Jr., to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 15–08 AMENDMENT 1 - 2016 Heritage Tags Organization/Vendor Selection as written with the following modifications: 1) move one (1) Wild Turkey tag from Bristle Cone Family Services to Nevada Sportsmen Unlimited; and 2) in the event the WHIN (Wildlife and Habitat Improvement Nevada) application is accepted move one (1) Muledeer tag from NBU (Nevada Bighorns Unlimited) to WHIN. The motion carried: Members Humphreys, Jr., Spencer, Tamblyn and Chair Shea assenting; and Member Smith absent.***

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

Chair Shea explained that a single motion would be taken on this agenda item and that each item would be opened individually for public comment.

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Carson Lake and Pasture Vegetation Management – There were no public comments.

Responding to Chair Shea's inquiry about horses in this area, Dan Shoupe pointed out that the wild horses were located in the Scripps Management Area.

Kirsch Wildlife Management Area Food Plots – There were no public or board comments.

Key Pittman Wildlife Management Area Food Plots – There were no public or board comments.

Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area Vegetation Control – There were no public or board comments.

Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area Joggles Pump Station – Responding to Dan Shoupe's inquiry about whether the pump station services the hatchery or field, Member Spencer explained that the Joggles well provides water to the wetlands and food plot on the eastern portion of the WMA.

Mason Valley (Wildlife Management Area) Prescribed Burns – There were no public or board comments.

Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area Redhead Pump Station – There were no public or board comments.

North American Waterfowl Management Plan Implementation Support – Rex Flowers explained that the \$10,000.00 donation is used for wetlands within Canada, which fly through the State of Nevada. Mr. Flowers emphasized that Ducks Unlimited spends money on the Nevada habitat as well.

Overton and Key Pittman Wildlife Management Areas Westland Enhancement (Phase 2) – There were no public or board comments.

Overton Wildlife Management Area Farming – There were no public or board comments.

Overton Wildlife Management Area Irrigation System Repair – There were no public or board comments.

Overton Wildlife Management Area Water Outlet and Pipe Replacement – There were no public or board comments.

Overton Wildlife Management Area Weed Control – There were no public or board comments.

Fallon Wood Duck Project – During a brief discussion it was pointed out that the 3-percent Overhead cost is actually used to pay for assistance provided by UNR. It was pointed out that this will be the final year of the project which has taken about 20-years. Other discussion emphasized that the study fee general runs 8 to 10-percent but is significantly less if done through an NGO (Non-government Organization).

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Geolocators for Waterfowl Dispersal Patterns Project – There were no public or board comments.

Eastern Region Wildlife Management Areas Weed Control – There were no public or board comments.

***It was moved by Member Spencer, seconded by Member Humphreys, Jr., to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Duck Stamp Funding requests, as submitted. The motion carried: Members Humphreys, Jr., Spencer, Tamblyn and Chair Shea assenting; and Member Smith absent.***

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

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

Responding to Chair Shea's inquiry about who pays for removal of abandoned poles, Mike Scott explained that once the poles are abandoned the owner no longer bears any responsibility for removal cost. Mr. Scott explained that he had dealt with similar abandonment issues in the past and that typically the public is allowed to remove abandoned poles.

***It was moved by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Humphreys, Jr., to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Upland Game Stamp Requests, as submitted. The motion carried: Members Humphreys, Jr., Spencer, Tamblyn and Chair Shea assenting; and Member Smith absent.***

Chair Shea pointed out that agenda items 12 and 13 did not have any support materials and that there was no descriptions available on agenda item 14.

- 12. FISCAL YEARS 2015, 2014 AND 2013 HERITAGE PROJECT EXTENSIONS** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify pursuant to NAC (Nevada Administrative Code) 501.340, requests for extension of 2015, 2014 or 2013 Heritage projects.*

There was no discussion or action taken due to lack of support materials.

- 13. FISCAL YEAR 2015 AND FISCAL YEAR 2014 HERITAGE FUNDING REALLOCATION** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify requests for the reallocation of unused Heritage funds from a previously approved 2015 or 2014 project to any other previously considered 2015 or 2014 project application.*

There was no discussion or action taken due to lack of support materials.

- 14. FISCAL YEAR 2016 HERITAGE PROJECT PROPOSALS** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife*

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*Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify recommendations from the Heritage Committee for 2016 project applications for funding.*

Chair Shea opened public comment.

Rex Flowers commented that support material was available on this particular item and is located on the Heritage Committee's section of the NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) website. Mr. Flowers suggested that he believes some funding should be allocated to the Swanson Project and pointed out that \$300,000.00 in outside funding had been received for Habitat Restoration in Elko County and that the funds have not been used in the past four (4) years. Mr. Flowers believes that \$10,000.00 could be reallocated to Sherm Swanson from what is earmarked for Caleb Macadoo.

Chair Shea closed public comments.

***A motion by Member Tamblyn to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the 2016 Heritage Project Proposals, as written, died due to lack of a second.***

***It was moved by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the 2016 Heritage Project Proposals with the following modifications: 1) reduce Project 16-05 from \$150,000.00 to \$140,000.00 and move the \$10,000.00 to Project 16-12.***

***Chair Shea withdrew the motion. Member Spencer withdrew the second.***

***It was moved by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the 2016 Heritage proposals with the following modification: reduce Project 16-05 to \$126,470.00 and move \$10,000.00 to Project 16-12. The motion carried: Members Humphreys, Jr., Spencer, Tamblyn and Chair Shea assenting; and Member Smith absent.***

**15. COMMISSION REGULATION 14–11 AMENDMENT 2, 2015–2016 - Upland Game and Furbearer Amendments [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify amendments to the 2015-2016 Greater Sage-grouse open and closed hunt units, hunt areas and quotas for wild turkey and certain bobcat pelt sealing dates.***

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

Responding to Chair Shea's question about Sage Grouse, Mike Scott – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), explained that there are a number of planning units as well a different groups providing input in to the process. There, there may be a variety of seasons statewide in different areas with different seasons depending on where the unit is in the schedule.

***It was moved by Member Tamblyn, seconded by Chair Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 14-11 Amendment 2, 2015-***

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**2016 Upland Game and Furbearer Amendments, as written. The motion carried: Members Humphreys, Jr., Spencer, Tamblyn and Chair Shea assenting; and Member Smith absent.**

- 16. BIENNIAL UPLAND GAME RELEASE PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2016 AND 2017** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify the Department's proposed biennial upland game release plan for fiscal years 2016 and 2017.*

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

In response to Chair Shea's question about adding language to indicate whether the release is on public or privately held lands, Mike Scott – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), explained that NODW may release non-native species, such as Chukar, on private lands rather than trying to release them to areas under restrictive regulations, such as wilderness.

Member Humphreys, Jr., commented that the language is in accordance with BLM (Bureau of Land Management) guidelines and that the BLM does coordinate with private land owners.

***It was moved by Member Humphreys, Jr., seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the Biennial Upland Game Release Plan for Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017 as written. The motion carried: Members Humphreys, Jr., Spencer, Tamblyn and Chair Shea assenting; and Member Smith absent.***

- 17. ARBITRATION REQUEST BY WADE WEST REGARDING ELK INCENTIVE TAG AWARDS AS DETERMINED BY THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify a request for arbitration of the recommended Elk Incentive Tag Award as recommended by the Nevada Department of Wildlife.*

Chair Shea opened public comment.

Rex Flowers commented that he does not believe the County Advisory Board would have standing as this is internal to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

Chair Shea commented that since there was no information that no action would be taken.

- 18. 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 next meeting tentatively set for July 30, 2015.*

The July 30, 2015, meeting agenda may include, but is not limited to: 1) Election of Officers: Chair, Vice-chair and Secretary; 2) Update from David Catalano on bats; 3) Update on wild horses in the Scripps Wildlife Management Area; 4) Approval of the Washoe County 2016 meeting calendar.

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

Dan Shoupe stated the he agrees that the wild horses on the Scripps Management Area needs to be addressed given the damage to nesting site, and trampling of fencing owned by NDOT (Nevada Department of Transportation).

Rex Flowers suggested that any item about wild horseS in the Scripps Wildlife Management Area be an action item so that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners can be encouraged to get involved.

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

Chair Shea adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**AS APPROVED BY THE WASHOE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE IN SESSION ON July 30, 2015.**