

CHAIRMAN TOMMY CAVIGLIA
COMMISSIONER TIFFANY EAST
COMMISSIONER RON PIERNI
COMMISSIONER SHANE ROGERS
CABMW REP. JOE CRIM
CABMW REP. ARNIE PITTS
PUBLIC REP. MEGHAN BROWN

STAFF TO THE COMMITTEE:
KIM MUNOZ, DATS DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR
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MINUTES
NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS
TAG ALLOCATION AND APPLICATION HUNT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022 @3:00 PM

Please click this URL to join.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84835906913?pwd=bmhvSlh2Nk45QUZXS2lubXgxbElYdz09>

Passcode: 137680

Committee Members in attendance: Chairman Tommy Caviglia, Commissioner Tiffany East, CABMW Representative Joe Crim, Commissioner Shane Rogers, Commissioner Ron Pierini, CABMW Representative Arnie Pitts

Nevada Department of Wildlife personnel in attendance: Data and Technology Services (DATS) Division Administrator Kim Munoz, Management Analyst Megan Manfredi, Management Analyst Kailey Musso, Game Division Administrator Mike Scott, Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee, Deputy Director Bonnie Long, Wildlife Staff Specialist Tom Donham, Conservation Education Division Administrator Chris Vasey

County advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Members and public in attendance: Rex Flowers, Mitch McVicars, Mel Belding, Gustavo Sagrero, Jim

1. Call to Order, Pledge and Roll Call – Committee Chairman Tommy Caviglia

Chairman Caviglia called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. Commissioner Rogers led the pledge. Chairman Tommy Caviglia, Commissioner Tiffany East, Commissioner Shane Rogers, CABMW Representative Joe Crim, CABMW Representative Arnie Pitts were present. Commissioner Ron Pierini and Public Representative Meghan Brown were absent.

2. Approval of Agenda – Committee Chairman Tommy Caviglia – For Possible Action

The Committee will review the agenda and may take action to approve the agenda. The Committee may remove items from the agenda, continue items for consideration or take items out of order.

COMMISSIONER EAST MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED, SECONDED BY CABMW REPRESENTATIVE CRIM. MOTION PASSED 5-0 WITH COMMISSIONER PIERINI AND PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE BROWN ABSENT.

3.* Approval of Minutes – Committee Chairman Tommy Caviglia – For Possible Action

The Committee may take action to approve Committee minutes from the January 26, 2022 meeting.

Commissioner East noted changes on page four in the first paragraph stating that the word “addition” should be “additional” and corrected the spelling of the word “indictment” on the same page.

No public comment.

CABMW REPRESENTATIVE CRIM MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED WITH THE NOTED CHANGES, SECONDED BY CABMW REPRESENTATIVE PITTS. MOTION PASSED 5-0 WITH COMMISSIONER PIERINI AND PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE BROWN ABSENT.

4.* Commission General Regulation 502 – Junior Hunt Program – Management Analyst Megan Manfredi - For Possible Action

The Committee will discuss amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 502 chapters that would update the Junior Hunt Program to allow for increased opportunities and participation of more juniors within the program.

Management Analyst Megan Manfredi opened by stating that the support material is draft language received back from LCB but is still in draft form and changes can be made depending on the direction of the Committee.

DATS Division Administrator Kim Munoz shared data from the number of juniors currently in the licensing system and how many applicants would be removed from applying for the junior hunt if specific changes were made to the program.

Commissioner East asked if per the last discussion if the Committee wanted a change based on the successful draw years or years of applying in the junior program.

CABMW Representative Pitts stated he liked the idea of limiting the amount of successes and not the years a junior can apply in the program as it is better to limit successes opposed to limit participation.

DATS Division Administrator Munoz said that it was her understanding that the intent of the discussion around this change was to get more juniors in the field. She showed numbers from the 2021 draw on how many juniors applied but did not draw a tag. She checked with Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder, and he confirmed that the tag quotas would not change much from 2021 to 2022 on the junior tags. She confirmed that limiting the program to three years of awarded tags would free space in the program to give other kids more opportunities in it.

Chairman Caviglia agreed with Commissioner East that the LCB draft language limits the years of applying and not the years of success in the program. He asked the Committee to share their intent on changing the years to apply versus the years of success.

Commissioner Rogers stated that when reading the minutes of the last meeting, the discussion alludes to a change around success opposed to the number of years one could apply.

Chairman Caviglia asked if the language currently limits the years of application to five years.

Management Analyst Manfredi confirmed.

Public comment:

Rex Flowers stated he would like to see the junior hunt set at the original 18-year age limit and five years of applying but amend the regulation to include a section stating shall not be issued more than three tags. This option would limit the years of receiving a tag while still allowing the maximum ability for a junior to apply in the program.

Mitch McVicars apologized that their CABMW did not discuss this topic at their last meeting. He spoke on behalf of himself stating that he would hate to see an older aged junior have the junior program option

taken away from them. He asked what would happen if this change was implemented to the juniors who have drawn three or more tags already and if they would be out of the system at that time.

Chairman Cavigila echoed Mitch McVicars question.

DATS Division Administrator Munoz answered that once the changes are approved by the Legislative Commission, the change would be implemented in the next application season. It would not be in affect this year. Any junior at the time of implementation with four or more awarded tags would not be able to participate in the junior program if the change limits the awarded tags to three.

CABMW Representative Pitts stated that these meetings were to discuss giving more juniors the ability to apply and gain tags through the program. Limiting the successful tag draws to three allows for room in the program for additional participation and for more juniors to get out and hunt.

Commissioner East agreed and added that juniors also have First Come, First Served opportunities and she has seen a number of juniors take advantage of that program as well. This change would limit the program a bit but agreed to the change of five years participation and three successful tag limit.

Chairman Caviglia asked what the process would be if the Committee wanted to see the change since the language has been drafted by LCB.

Management Analyst Manfredi answered that any changes can be made and workshopped by the Commission before LCB would need to redraft the language and adoption can be made by the Commission. If the changes are minor, and adoption can be made to the draft language.

Chairman Caviglia saw this option as a minor change.

Game Division Administrator Mike Scott asked the Committee for guidance on breaking the weapon class into different categories as was discussed in previous meetings as that change would affect the following agenda item.

Discussion ensued around this possible change and the Committee members agreed to keep the change as simple as possible.

COMMISSIONER EAST MOVED TO APPROVE THE REGULATION WITH THE NOTED CHANGES OF KEEING THE YEARS OF PARTICIPATION AT FIVE YEARS, THE AGE LIMIT AT 18 YEARS OLD, AND ADD A LIMIT OF THREE SUCCESSFULLY AWARDED TAGS. THE REGULATION WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE COMMISSION. SECONDED BY CABMW REPRESENTATIVE CRIM. MOTION PASSED 5-0 WITH COMMISSIONER PIERINI AND PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE BROWN ABSENT.

5.* Commission Policy 24 Changes – Management Analyst Megan Manfredi and Game Division Administrator Mike Scott – For Possible Action

The Committee will review proposed changes to Commission Policy 24 and may take action to recommend revising, suspending or repealing the policy. Any revision will be provided to the Administrative Procedures, Regulations, and Policy (APRP) Committee for review and approval.

Management Analyst Manfredi opened by stating the Department incorporated the changes as directed by the Committee during the last meeting and have included additional changes found by the Department since the last meeting.

Game Division Administrator Scott explained the changes as noted by the Department.

Commissioner East stated that because policies are guidelines for the Commission, she wanted to leave number three a) under the mule deer section in relation to the junior hunt program.

CABMW Representative Pitts asked how the fixed demand rates are decided in the varying weapon classes under the mule deer section in number two.

Game Division Administrator Scott explained that these rates were determined by the Department in attempt to increase the number of hunting participants without reducing buck ratios or the number of animals harvested.

CABMW Representative Pitts stated that the demand for any legal weapon hunts is much greater than the primitive weapon tags and this change would take away tags from that higher demand.

Game Division Administrator Scott confirmed that the change will reduce the any legal weapon tags but increase the primitive weapon tags to allow for more people to hunt. The change was proposed for Committee discussion and can be removed should the Committee choose.

CABMW Representative Pitts asked if there was a trend of more people applying for primitive weapon classes.

Game Division Administrator Scott answered that with the change, the Department anticipates that participation would increase for the primitive weapon classes.

Discussion continued around the current process of finding the percentage by using a three-year weapon class application average opposed to forcing a percentage into those categories. An estimated breakdown of the proposed change was offered based on the 2021 proposed quotas.

Game Division Administrator Scott continued with explaining the proposed changes to Commission Policy 24 including a language change to the demand and success formula and defining hunter success and harvest success.

Wildlife Staff Specialist clarified the reasoning behind the changes to the hunter success and harvest success.

Game Division Administrator Scott continued explaining changes proposed by the Department within the First Come, First Served (FCFS) section, and adding the language "in the main draw" to the resident and nonresident tag allocation section.

Chairman Caviglia asked if a note was needed in the Commission Policy noting that the rocky mountain bighorn sheep and mountain goat tags will stay offered to only residents in the FCFS program.

Management Analyst Manfredi stated that it would not be needed in policy as it is specified in the Application and Eligibility Commission Regulation.

Chairman Caviglia stated that the tag allocation addition can be added but he anticipated additional discussion on that at the Commission level.

Public comment:

Rex Flowers stated that he had concerns with the fixed demand proposed change on the standard hunts. He hoped that is not accepted as the any legal weapon hunters make up the vast majority of the financial wellbeing of the Department. He offered some percentage projections. The fixed demand is only on the standard units as well. The program has worked so far as it is, he would like to see it stay the same.

Commissioner East added that she was thinking the same as what was stated in public comment. She asked the Department to review the policy for the use of the term years and ensure the appropriate tense is being used. She disagreed with the apportionment in number two under the mule deer section and anticipated additional discussion at the commission level regarding the FCFS discussion.

Chairman Caviglia stated he liked the current process of determining demand percentages and would not like to see that change made. He cautioned that the change could be a prime example of the public pointing fingers at the Department for just wanting to issue additional tags to receive more funding.

CABMW Representative Pitts agreed with previous Committee members on the apportionment and added he would like to keep both a) and b) options for the junior hunters under the mule deer section.

COMMISSIONER EAST MOVED TO FORWARD COMMISSION POLICY 24 TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES, REGULATIONS, AND POLICIES COMMITTEE WITH THE NOTED CHANGES BY THE DEPARTMENT ON DEFINITIONS OF DEMAND, HUNTER SUCCESS, TAG SUCCESS, FCFS WORD CHANGE, RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT TAG ALLOCATION, KEEP THE APPORTIONMENT FOR TAGS UNDER NUMBER TWO OF THE MULE DEER SECTION AS IT WAS IN THE PAST AND KEEP A) AND B) UNDER NUMBER THREE OF THE MULE DEER SECTION. SECONDED BY CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA. MOTION PASSED 5-0 WITH COMMISSIONER PIERINI AND PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE BROWN ABSENT.

6.* Commission General Regulation 501 - Tag Transfer Program – Management Analyst Megan Manfredi – For Possible Action

The Committee will the Legislative Council Bureau's (LCB) drafted language of Commission General Regulation 501 that would allow the transfer of game tags to non-profit organizations and determine the status of a tag if the holder is deceased. This regulation was created after the passage of Assembly Bill 89 of the 81st Legislative Session.

Management Analyst Manfredi opened the agenda item but summarizing the proposed changes that have been included in the LCB draft language as provided in the support materials. She asked the Committee for direction regarding the chance that a beneficiary is not designated on a tag holder's account and explained the current process the Department uses when notified of a death of a tag holder, stating that the tag would be assigned to the next eligible alternate or then offered for sale to the public in the FCFS program if no alternate is available.

Commissioner East asked if language should be added that a qualifying organization apply to the Department between September 1 and October 31 of each year for the following year's hunting season. She added that she would prefer to leave the current process as is around the Department being notified of a death.

CABMW Representative Pitts agreed with Commissioner East about leaving the current Department process as is. He asked what would happen to the beneficiary if they were in a current waiting period for a species such as bighorn sheep with a long waiting period and if that person receive the tag in ten years when their waiting period had ended.

DATS Division Administrator Munoz answered that current waiting periods were not included in a discussion had by the Department.

CABMW Representative Pitts added for that reason, he did not care for the option for the beneficiary to defer the tag as stated in section two (b).

Chairman Caviglia agreed that he did not care for the deferred option either. He asked if section nine (a) referring to the ability of an organization or cooperate with a licensed master guide was a requirement of the original legislative bill or if it was added by the Department.

Management Analyst Manfredi answered that it was not a requirement out of Assembly Bill 89 but was included by the Department. The language states the ability for an organization to cooperate with a guide and is not a mandate for an organization to do so. She stated that the wording can be changed, or the language be struck all together if the Committee chose.

Commissioner Rogers echoed the other Committee members on not caring for the deferral option in item two (b) and keeping the current process as is if no beneficiary is named.

Public comment:

Rex Flowers stated he would like item two (b) be removed all together. Tag holders should be happy for having a tag and deferring tags for trophy animals and waiting periods would cause extra work for the Department by having to anticipate who has deferred a tag and for how long and it would be simpler to remove the option all together. He added that he agreed with adding clarifying language that organizations who qualify would qualify for the next hunt season. He offered a change to section 12 by changing "may" to shall and adding for the remainder of the current year to conduct business at all times as a qualifying organization. The Sportsmen in Wheelchairs organization have volunteer guides but organizations new to hunting who want to get into this program might not have that option. He asked the Committee if they wanted to leave the language for those new organizations who do not have a hunting foundation to show their ability to care for the tag recipients.

Chairman Caviglia added that he did not want to exclude organization without the use of a licensed master guide, but others might need that option.

CABMW Representative Pitts stated that the language is very benign as anyone has the ability to cooperate with a guide.

Commissioner East agreed and through of the Boys and Girls club or organizations who do not have a relationship with a guide. The language is not excluding it but encouraging the cooperation and is not a must but an option.

COMMISSIONER EAST MOVED TO FORWARD THE PROPOSED REGULATION TO THE COMMISSION WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES OF ADDING LANGUAGE FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR OR SEASON TO SECTION NINE, CHANGE THE WORD MAY TO SHALL UNDER SECTION 12 AND ADD LANGUAGE FOR THE REMAINDER FO THE CURRENT YEAR, AND ELIMIATE THE TAG DEFERAL OPTION IN SECTION TWO (B). SECONDED BY CABMW REPRESENTATIVE PITTS. MOTION PASSED 5-0 WITH COMMISSIONER PIERINI AND PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE BROWN ABSENT.

7. Future Committee Meeting – Committee Chairman Tommy Caviglia – For Possible Action
The committee will discuss possible future agenda topics set a date and time for the next committee meeting.

Chairman Caviglia and the Department had no additional items for this Committee at this time.

Public comment:

Rex Flowers stated that when reviewing items regarding the results from last year's data, he noticed that return cards have not been received in a timely manner and lack of this data skews the data used

by the Department when setting quotas. He would like to see a harsher penalty than the current 50-dollar fee.

Mel Belding agreed with what Rex Flowers stated. The change would help the biologists and added that the information from the hunter to Kalkomey to the biologists needs to be streamlined as the biologists are getting the information too late.

Chairman Caviglia closed the agenda item with no action.

8. Public Comment Period

This period is for general comment on anything not on the agenda. No committee action will be taken but may be scheduled on a future committee agenda. The 3- and 6-minute time limits still apply.

No public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.