

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Meeting Approved Minutes

Due to National and State-declared emergencies as a result of COVID-19, the Commission Meeting scheduled for March 20 and 21 has been rescheduled to April 10, 2020. The agenda for this meeting has been amended to include only essential business items. Please note the change in time and location.

Pursuant to Governor Sisolak's March 22, 2020 Declaration of Emergency Directive 006, the requirement contained in NRS 241.023 (1)(b) that there be a physical location designated for meetings of public bodies where members of the public are permitted to attend and participate is suspended in order to mitigate the possible exposure or transmission of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Accordingly, anyone planning to participate in the meeting must participate via the web link provided below.

Friday, April 10, 2020 – 10:00 am

The meeting will be broadcasted at the following website:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrFHgHLM0Mza2Hx7og8pFcQ>

Meeting materials are available at: http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Agenda/

Public comment will be taken on each action item following Commission discussion and before any action is taken. The content of written comments should be consistent with the three (3) minute public comment period allowed during normally conducted meetings. If a comment is excessively lengthy, the Commission reserves the right to review only that portion that is consistent with this policy. Persons are invited to submit written comments to wildlifecommission@ndow.org, so they may be included as exhibits with the minutes. Minutes of the meeting will be produced in summary format. Public comment will not be restricted based on viewpoint. To ensure the public has notice of all matters the Commission will consider, Commissioners may choose not to respond to public comments in order to avoid the appearance of deliberation on topics not listed for action on the agenda.

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners present for the meeting:

Chairman Brad Johnston
Commissioner Jon AlMBERG
Commissioner Tommy Caviglia
Commissioner Casey Kiel
Commissioner Paul E. Valentine

Madam Vice Chairwoman Tiffany East
Commissioner Tom Barnes
Commissioner Kerstan Hubbs
Commissioner David McNinch

Secretary Tony Wasley
Recording Secretary Brandy Arroyo

Senior Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett

Nevada Department of Wildlife personnel in attendance for the meeting via Zoom:

Deputy Director Liz O'Brien
Management Analyst Kailey Taylor
Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne
Diversity Division Administrator Jen Newmark
Conservation Education Division Administrator Chris Vasey
Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kim Munoz
Fisheries Division Administrator Jon Sjöberg
IT Professional Eric Dugger

Deputy Director Jack Robb
Administrative Assistant III Megan Manfredi
Game Warden Chief Michael Maynard
Game Division Administrator Mike Scott
Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme

Public in Attendance via NDOW YouTube channel:

Robert Boehmer, Carson CABMW
Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW
Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW
Craig Burnside, Douglas CABMW
Bert Gurr, Elko CABMW
Ted McElvain, Lander CABMW
Rex Flowers, self
Darin Elmore, self
Tom Fennell, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited

Jim Cooney, Elko CABMW
Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW
Joel McConnell, Elko CABMW
Therese Campbell, Clark CABMW
Gene Green, Carson CABMW
Josh Vittori, self
Dave Stanley, self
Paolo G. Della Bordella, self
Chris Cefalu, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call of Commission and County Advisory Board Members to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) – Chairman Brad Johnston
CABMW members who are present and viewing the meeting through the YouTube link should send an email to wildlifecommission@ndow.org indicating their presence.

Chairman Johnston called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Roll call was conducted, and the Commissioners present were: Chairman Johnston, Madam Vice Chairwoman East, Commissioners Almberg, Barnes, Caviglia, Hubbs, Kiel, McNinch, and Valentine.

CABMW members present via YouTube broadcast: Robert Boehmer, Carson CABMW; Jim Cooney, Elko CABMW; Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW; Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW; Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW; Joel McConnell, Elko CABMW; Craig Burnside, Douglas CABMW; Therese Campbell, Clark CABMW; Bert Gurr, Elko CABMW; Gene Green, Carson CABMW; Ted McElvain, Lander CABMW.

2. Approval of Agenda – Chairman Brad Johnston – For Possible Action
The Commission will review the agenda and may take action to approve the agenda. The Commission may remove items from the agenda, continue items for consideration or take items out of order. *Once the Commission members have discussed this agenda item, a recess of a specific duration will be taken in order for the public to provide input at the following email address: wildlifecommission@ndow.org. Before reconvening the meeting, public comments will be shared with the Commission prior to taking any action.

Chairman Johnston stated that he discussed this agenda item with Senior Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett and that based on the circumstances for today's meeting, the Commission does not need to take public comment for this agenda item.

No comment or discussion from the Commission.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 9-0.

3. Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence – Chairman Brad Johnston – Informational
Commissioners may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action may be scheduled on a future Commission agenda. The Commission will review and may discuss correspondence sent or received by the Commission since the last regular meeting and may provide copies for the exhibit file (Commissioners may provide hard copies of their correspondence for the written record). Correspondence sent or received by Secretary Wasley may also be discussed.

Chairman Johnston stated he has received correspondence regarding the Heritage Auction Tags and that has also been shared with the Commission. He thanked members of the Department and Senior Deputy Attorney General Burkett for putting this meeting together. He stated that it may seem trivial to have a wildlife commission meeting with what is going on in the world, but he thinks it is vitally important that this

Commission continue with its business. He thanked the Commissioners for being available for this meeting. He stated that thoughts and prayers are with those on the front lines of the pandemic and with those who have lost their jobs; he hopes everyone is safe given these unusual circumstances.

4. County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Member Items – Informational
CABMW members may present emergent items at wildlifecommission@ndow.org; these comments will be shared with the Commission. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action will be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.

No CABMW comment was received.

- 5.* Approval of Minutes – Chairman Brad Johnston – For Possible Action
Commission minutes may be approved from the January 24 and 25, 2020, meeting. *Once the Commission members have discussed this agenda item, a recess of a specific duration will be taken in order for the public to provide input at the following email address: wildlifecommission@ndow.org. Before reconvening the meeting, public comments will be shared with the Commission prior to taking any action.

Madam Vice Chairwoman East provided comments about language in the minutes. She stated that on page 22, Jim Cooney of the Elko CABMW referenced a comment by Commissioner AlMBERG that is not in the minutes; and on page 38, she made a statement about the Nevada Sporting Dog Alliance, and the word “meat” needs to replace the word “need”.

Due to the complications with Chairman Johnston’s internet service and streaming capability, Madam Vice Chairwoman East recessed the meeting at 10:17 a.m. to allow for public comment via email at wildlifecommission@ndow.org.

Chairman Johnston reconvened the meeting at 10:35 a.m. and stated that no public comment was received for this agenda item.

MADAM VICE CHAIRWOMAN EAST MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE CHANGES SHE ASKED FOR ON PAGE 22 TO INCLUDE COMMISSIONER ALMBERG’S COMMENT, AND ON PAGE 38 TO CHANGE THE WORD “NEED” TO “MEAT” IN HER COMMENT. COMMISSIONER HUBBS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 9-0.

6. Commission Regulations – For Possible Adoption / Public Comment Allowed
 - A.* Commission Regulation 20-10, Migratory Game Bird Seasons, Bag Limits, and Special Regulations for Waterfowl and Webless Migratory Game Birds; Public Hunting Limited on Wildlife Management Areas and Designated State Lands – 2020–2021 Season – Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider recommendations for seasons, bag limits, and special regulations for migratory game birds for the 2020–2021 season and adopt regulations consistent with proposed regulations framework for the 2020–2021 hunting seasons on certain migratory game birds established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Commission Regulation will become final pending adoption of federal frameworks. The Commission will also consider rules regulating public hunting on Wildlife Management Areas and designated state lands. *Once the Commission members have discussed this agenda item, a recess of a specific duration will be taken in order for the public to provide input at the following email address: wildlifecommission@ndow.org. Before reconvening the meeting, public comments will be shared with the Commission prior to taking any action.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme reviewed the support material provided in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public.

Discussion ensued between Chairman Johnston and Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme regarding the scaup season and limits.

Commissioner McNinch inquired about the special youth waterfowl hunt open areas for the south zone regarding the Moapa Valley. Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme explained that the south zone includes the Moapa Valley; and that there is a special youth hunt on October 24 that is only held at the management area in Moapa Valley.

Commissioner Hubbs inquired about botulism issues in the waterfowl areas; she further inquired about how the habitat and wildlife are restoring after the botulism events and how is the species doing overall.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme stated that the waterfowl species was one of the two species that has not declined; and that eight of the best counts have happened in the last ten years; he provided statistics found in the support material regarding the continental waterfowl count. He provided further explanation and details about how the habitat has rebounded after the botulism outbreak and that good precipitation has put the habitat in a good place.

Commissioner Hubbs inquired what the Department has in place if a drought happens again to manage the botulism events.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme provided that botulism occurs after large water events and not after a drought; that botulism is a western state problem and it is an ongoing problem that they are mitigating the best they can.

Madam Vice Chairwoman East stated the Commission received a comment from the Elko CABMW to change the waterfowl season for the northeast zone which supports a start date of September 26 through October 20 and then October 30 through January 17, 2021; she inquired whether Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme had any issues with those requested changes.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme stated he has reviewed the dates and they are compliant with the federal framework; that he can make those adjustments to the Departments recommendations; and that he has no issues with them.

Chairman Johnston stated that Eureka CABMW commented in their Action Report about moving Eureka County into the northeast zone; he recalls that there are times it can be done or not be done; he inquired where the Department is at in making this change.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme responded that he had this particular agenda item scheduled for the March Commission meeting; that this is one of those years that the zones can be set and this is likely why it was on the Eureka CABMW's radar. That agenda item was not placed on the April Commission Agenda and was not adequately noticed to be discussed today. He provided that the due date by the federal government was May 1, 2020 to make those changes. He has had discussions with the flyway, and they are understanding with the current health issue that the nation is facing right now, and they would be understanding if the Department brought this up later for discussion.

Chairman Johnston inquired if the Commission could discuss the allowance of Eureka County into the northeast zone today; Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme responded that this would be a decision to be made by DAG Burkett.

Senior DAG Burkett stated he does not see why this would not be a part of the noticed agenda and that it could be addressed today.

Chairman Johnston stated that this topic has come up in the past in terms of setting dates and has been a consistent request by the Eureka CABMW and other stakeholders to have Eureka County a part of the northeast zone, and he would like to see it implemented now if possible. He further stated that the Commission had previously moved the start of the waterfowl season to the first Saturday of October. He has received public comment that the Carson CABMW's position was not accurately represented to the Commission. He has heard time and again that the waterfowl hunters in the northwest zone would like the start of their hunt pushed back one week to the second Saturday of October. He inquired if anyone else, including Mr. Woolstenhulme, has received public comment about this.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme stated that he did a lot of coordinating with various groups this year on the waterfowl season in the northwest. He stated that he gets asked three things; one is to open the season earlier in October; secondly, others want the season to go as late as possible into the framework; and thirdly, others ask that the opener be the second Saturday which coincides with the upland game opening day. He provided further information as to how he came to determine the opening and closing dates; and that his goal is to keep hunter opportunity as the main priority.

Discussion ensued between Chairman Johnston and Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme about the opening date.

Commissioner Alberg stated that the Eureka CABMW has been vocal about their wishes to change the opening date to the northeast zone and he has no issue in making this change for them. He stated that he has no issues with accommodating Elko CABMW's date change recommendations and hope the CABMW's in the northeast zone are listening today to speak up.

Commissioner Hubbs stated that based on her conservative nature she is more inclined to keep it as it is but would like to see what public comment is received today.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme stated that when the agenda item regarding the zones was on the March agenda, he had additional support material that he was going to discuss that the Commissioners do not have today. If the Commission makes changes to the zones, they will not take effect until the 2021-2022 season and they will be in effect for five years. Any changes will not be for this particular season because it has to go through the federal process.

Discussion ensued that the Commission thought the changes made today would go into effect for this season and that the federal government would be willing to work with the Department; that this is the open period where the Commission can make changes for the 2021 – 2025 seasons then it goes through the federal process; and that the Department has been given some leeway for the May 1 deadline.

Commissioner Kiel inquired which zones would be changing and if that included Lander and Eureka Counties moving to the northeast zone, and Esmerelda and Nye Counties moving to the south zone.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme stated that the support material that was originally included in the March Commission meeting agenda included his recommendation and rationale to those changes which is to move the zones in line with the Department's current regions. He provided further explanation as to his recommendations. He stated that today the Commission is changing the dates to meet the needs of the specific hunters.

Commissioner Kiel stated he understands where Russell is coming from and concurred that Eureka CABMW has been supportive of moving to the northeast zone. He inquired if Esmerelda or Nye CABMW has provided any opposition to the change of zones.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme stated that he reached out to specific counties to inquire for some input; he did not see any opposition and Eureka and Lander CABMW's have been asking to

move to a different zone. He reached out to Nye CABMW but did not hear back from them; he provided that Esmerelda CABMW did not have a lot of input because they do not have a lot of opportunity for waterfowl hunting, and they are looking more at upland seasons.

Deputy Director Robb stated that this topic was not put on the agenda because this would affect Nye County and due to the shutdown, they were not able to hold a CABMW meeting, so the Department did not receive any comments from them. Clark CABMW was another county that were not able to meet and provide comment.

Commissioner Alberg stated it seems with the lack of communication and lack of participation of the CABMW's based on the current world situation, he is inclined to agree with Commissioner Hubbs and will follow the Departments recommendations right now.

Deputy Director Jack Robb stated that he has heard from staff across the state that some of the rural areas of the state have a longer lag time than others on the YouTube channel. He requested a longer break to allow for the slower lag time in rural areas.

Chairman Johnston recessed the meeting at 11:20 a.m. to allow for public comment via email at wildlifecommission@ndow.org.

Chairman Johnston reconvened the meeting at 11:45 a.m. and addressed the public comment that was received and is posted below:

From: Dave Stanley
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 11:25 AM
To: Brandy D. Arroyo <bdarroyo@ndow.org>
Subject: Duck and Chukar opener

Commissioners:

I support the Waterfowl and Upland bird season opener occurring on the same weekend in Northwestern NV. For 2020-21, that would put the opener on October 10th. I live in Reno and hunt waterfowl and upland birds in Churchill, Washoe, Pershing, Lyon, Humboldt and Elko counties.

Dave Stanley

From: Rex Flowers
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 11:26 AM
To: Brandy D. Arroyo <bdarroyo@ndow.org>
Subject: Comment on Waterfowl

Looking at the agenda item as written I don't think you can give consideration to moving Eureka County from one region to another. The description is very limited to season date and quotas for migratory birds, no where is a suggestion allowing for input to move counties to new regions. Having said this I am not against what Eureka has requested and fully supportive of them but concerned more with the legality of taking action on an item not agendaized.

From: Rob Boehmer
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 11:28 AM
To: Brandy D. Arroyo <bdarroyo@ndow.org>
Subject: Carson City CAB Response AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Chair and members of the Commission,

I would like to clarify that based on communications had through our Carson Recorder over the past 10 minutes, none of the Carson City CAB members have been contacted by Russell on the Northwest Zone seasons for Ducks and Mergansers and the Geese seasons. I just reached out to members of Canvasback Duck Club and they are primarily the ones requesting the early season start due to the fact that they can hunt their club sooner where all of the local ducks flock to when the hunting pressure at the public areas in Stillwater and Carson Sink. This is such a small demographic of sportsman and hunters and according to feedback we have received, are not the opinion and desire of the greater portion of the sportsman and waterfowl enthusiasts in our zone. My concern is that it is apparent that the greater portion of the waterfowlers that hunt the public areas have expressed that they would like the season started later and pushed back, and this proposed season does not reflect that. In fact, what I found interesting and didn't take into consideration is two of the waterfowl enthusiasts (non-hunters) that sent me email correspondence said they would much rather have the opportunity to take pictures and shoot video of waterfowl later in the season, when birds plumage is more brilliant, their thoughts are that hunters are push the different species of ducks that they desire to get photos and video of different species which isn't as prevalent if there is not much pressure pushing birds around.

From: dmelmore
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 11:29 AM
To: Brandy D. Arroyo <bdarroyo@ndow.org>
Subject: Northwest Zone Duck Opener - Agenda Item #6

NVBOWC-

I live in Reno and am a passionate waterfowl and upland hunter in the Northwest Zone. I object to the proposed October 3rd date and I would ask that the Commission approve a Duck season opener for the Northwest zone of October 10th, 2020.

Last year, the CABs and public in this zone asked for a later opener than was proposed by NDOW and an opener on the 19th (3rd Saturday in Oct.) was approved given the sentiment from applicable sportsmen. How can this be the case and then now the department is suggesting "these groups" want an opener two weeks earlier under similar marsh conditions? This doesn't make sense. October 10th is a sound compromise between late and early desires...and sharing the waterfowl and upland opener on the same weekend will only limit hunter congestion in both the marsh and the hills as was the case for many years prior.

Thank you, Darin Elmore

From: jcooney4
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 11:32 AM
To: Brandy D. Arroyo <bdarroyo@ndow.org>
Subject: Waterfowl seasons

I would respectfully ask the Commission to support the date changed for the Northeast zone to begin Sept 26th thru October 20th closed thru October 29th. Reopening October 30th thru January 17th.

Thanks, Jim Cooney. Elko Cab

From: Glenn Bunch
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 11:32 AM
To: Brandy D. Arroyo <bдарroyo@ndow.org>
Subject: Mineral County Remarks

Mineral County would like to try the later season, as proposed. It could be tried for a couple of years to see what impact it is on the sales of license. I can remember when it was split off, some hunters didn't want a problem with upland game hunters interfering with waterfowl hunters. we believe there wouldn't be a problem.

Glenn

From: Joe Crim
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 11:37 AM
To: Brandy D. Arroyo <bдарroyo@ndow.org>
Subject: Item #6

We voted as a CAB to not support. We felt the split seasons would create confusion in the field for sportsmen and wardens.

From: Paolo Della Bordella
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 11:38 AM
To: Brandy D. Arroyo <bдарroyo@ndow.org>
Subject: Seasons

Hello, I am an avid waterfowler living in Reno and in terms of the northwest zone for ducks, I would like to see October 10 as the opening date. This would also spread out the pressure of hunters like chukar hunters who would have other options. Thank you.

Best, Paolo G Della Bordella

From: Tom Fennell
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 11:47 AM
To: Brandy D. Arroyo <bдарroyo@ndow.org>
Subject: Waterfowl and Upland Season Openers

I am a longtime upland hunter in Nevada, and it would make sense to open the seasons later in October, especially for Chukar which are water dependent and found concentrated on water sources early in the season.

Opening weekend for upland already puts a ton of people in the field, so why exacerbate this with a staggered season that puts even more potential sportsmen on top of each other over the course of two weekends?

I support opening the Northwest zone on October 10th for both waterfowl and upland, as it will limit congestion and pressure on wildlife, and is better for both resources.

Sincerely, Tom Fennell

From: Vittori, Josh
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 11:45 AM
To: Brandy D. Arroyo <bदारroyo@ndow.org>
Subject: Migratory Game Bird Seasons Northwest Zone - Public Comment

Good morning, Commissioners,

I understand you're currently on a break and may not have voted on the proposed migratory game bird seasons so wanted to share my opinion on the matter. Please consider the following for public comment. I'm an extremely avid waterfowler throughout Nevada and I've seen a number of arguments for and against early and late season openers over the years. This year I think an opener of October 10th for the Northwest Zone would be a sound compromise between what NDOW would like to see and what the waterfowlers and wetland managers would like to see.

Regarding opening on the same date as upland seasons and especially chukar, I do not think this will impact the department of sportsmen negatively. In fact, I believe it will aid in reduced hunter congestion both in the marsh and on the mountain. I have hunted both types of birds in the same day in years past when they opened on the same day and my observation was that the guys that really wanted to be hunting a certain type of bird did so and the guys that wanted to do both also did so.

Thanks, Josh Vittori

Commissioner Almborg inquired about Mineral CABMW because their comment was to move opening day forward to September 10 or September 17; now Mr. Bunch has stated that he is okay with moving it to a later date so Commissioner Almborg is unsure of what their wishes are at this time.

Discussion ensued that the zone changes will not be made today on this agenda item, but they can be discussed later and will need to go through the federal framework first to take effect in the 2021 season.

Commissioner Kiel moved to approve Commission Regulation 20-10 with some exceptions.

Discussion ensued that if the Commission moves the start date in the northwest zone to October 10, 2020 as the regulation proposes, Mr. Woolstenhulme could make those changes to every season within those zones; and that the motion could include the move to October 10 and all other dates will be modified to maximize hunter opportunity.

Commissioner Keil stated it was his intention to change all of the start dates to October 10 for the northwest zone and maximize the available hunting days under the federal framework; Madam Vice Chairwoman East agrees.

Commissioner Almborg states he agrees with the changes; he does not feel comfortable because the Commission is missing comments from some of the CABMW's who cancelled their meetings and were not able to address this agenda item.

Commissioner Hubbs wants to follow a conservative approach and in light of the current situation and that the numbers are a little down she would prefer to keep with the Department's recommendation.

Commissioner Barnes inquired with Commissioner Kiel about the motion and Elko CABMW's recommendation; discussion ensued regarding the Elko CABMW's northeast zone changes and Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme confirmed that the dates requested by the Elko CABMW of September 26 to October 20 and October 30 to January 17, 2021 are compliant with federal frameworks.

Chairman Johnston confirmed that Commissioner Kiel's motion was to adopt Elko CABMW's recommendation; and Madam Vice Chairwoman East is clear and is supportive of the motion.

Chairman Johnston inquired with Mr. Woolstenhulme that last year, duck season started on the third Saturday of October; Mr. Woolstenhulme concurred. Chairman Johnston stated that he sees Commissioner AlMBERG's concern about CABMW input but the Department's recommendation is a significant change from last year and what they are hearing from the public is to request an opening date of October 10 for the northwest zone to coincide with the upland season. The best compromise is to have an opening date in the northwest zone of October 10, 2020 and the ending should be that which maximizes hunter opportunity under the federal framework, which is consistent with the motion.

Discussion ensued between Commissioner Hubbs and Chairman Johnston that there is always an overlap between the waterfowl and upland game seasons; and that there is less congestion when the opening of the waterfowl season coincides with the opening of the upland game season because the upland birds are hunted in a different area than the waterfowl birds.

Commissioner Hubbs stated that she would be open to the compromise to move the opening date to October 10 as long as there is no risk and it does not lead to excess congestion in certain areas; and that it does appear that the CABMW's want this change.

Recording Secretary Brandy Arroyo notified the Commission that two more comments had been received through email and inquired how to handle them since this was not an open comment period.

Senior DAG Burkett stated that the comment period is closed; Chairman Johnston concurred and that the public comment will not be received.

COMMISSIONER KIEL MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 20-10, MIGRATORY GAME BIRD SEASONS, BAG LIMITS, AND SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR WATERFOWL AND WEBLESS MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS; PUBLIC HUNTING LIMITED ON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS AND DESIGNATED STATE LANDS, 2020-2021 SEASON, AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS: THAT SCAUP LIMITS APPLY TO THE DUCK AND MERGANSER LIMITS IN BOTH OF THOSE SECTIONS OF THE REGULATION AND TO INCLUDE THE NORTHWEST ZONES IN ELKO CABMW'S RECOMMENDATION OF MOVING THAT LATER SEGMENT OF THE SEASON FROM OCTOBER 30, 2020 TO JANUARY 17, 2021; AND THE START DATES FOR THE NORTHWEST ZONE TO START OCTOBER 10, 2020. MADAM VICE CHAIRWOMAN EAST SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 9-0.

7. Wildlife Heritage Auction Tags – Deputy Director Jack Robb – for Possible Action
Three of the Commission approved vendors for the 2020 Heritage Auction Tags canceled or may cancel their scheduled fundraising events due to COVID-19. The Commission may select an alternate method by which to auction these tags. Options may include, receiving sealed bids or working with the current vendor or other vendors that possess the ability to administer a live internet auction. The remaining unsold tags consist of One Antelope, One Desert Bighorn Sheep, One California Bighorn Sheep and One Rocky Mountain Elk. *Once the Commission members have discussed this agenda item, a recess of a specific duration will be taken in order for the public to provide input at the following email address: wildlifecommission@ndow.org. Before reconvening the meeting, public comments will be shared with the Commission prior to taking any action.

Chairman Johnston stated that he has received two letters regarding this agenda item; one is from Nevada Bighorns Unlimited (NBU) where they set out a proposal to use a platform called onlinehuntingauctions.com to auction the Heritage Tags given to them as vendors; they noted that this would be part of a broader auction where they intend to auction off other items that they had intended to auction at their banquet. He stated that he did speak with Mr. Tom Fennell of NBU to obtain clarification of the auction specifics. He received a second letter from Wild Sheep Foundation (WSF) who will also use the same platform.

Deputy Director Jack Robb presented information in support of having an online auction for these tags which is supported by NRS 502.250(5), and that this is the only guidance the Commission is given in the statutes. There is no guidance to the Commission in the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC), but there is some guidance in Commission Policy No. 10 that allows the auction, resale, barter or trade with the approval of the Commission. He explained that due to the COVID-19 shutdown, various events have been cancelled which was the venue for tags to be auctioned at live events. He provided that there are other options to sell the tags; one would be to receive a sealed bid for the tags, but this is not a good option because the buyer gets the item at a discount and this process is not good for those looking to make money. Another option is to have the tags sold by the state approved auction vendor, TNT Auction; Mr. Robb provided how this option could work and how it could gain a lot of money, but there is a cost of 18 percent of sales to use their services. The Department was also contacted by the Wild Sheep Foundation (WSF) which offered to sell the tags through the same platform as NBU, and the WSF offered to do it at no cost to the Department.

Commissioner Hubbs inquired as to why there are just a few tags to auction off; Deputy Director Robb explained that some events had completed their auctions prior to the closure of events due to the COVID-19 shut down, but other events have been cancelled. He requested that the group that is awarded the bid to sell or auction the tags be given the flexibility to auction the tags in a time frame that best represents the tags. He also provided that the tags need to be sold sooner than later because the people that are looking to buy big game tags will buy them at their first opportunity and the Department wants the tags sold before tags are sold in other states.

Discussion ensued regarding which platforms would allow the Department to earn the most money for these tags; that NBU and WSF have both offered to cover the fees for the Department to maximize the amount of money earned; and they both have agreed to accommodate the auction of all four tags.

Chairman Johnston provided his thoughts on the matter and stated he appreciates NBU and WSF for being proactive in coming to the Commission to offer their services in maximizing the value of these tags and he agrees that the online auction platform is the best route over a sealed bid. He further stated that the 18 percent off the top with TNT Auction is not a viable option. He likes that WSF and NBU have offered up a venue and are covering the costs so that 100 percent of proceeds go to the Heritage account; and that NBU is offering to do the auction with other items to gain the most funds. His personal view is to have NBU proceed with the auction of all four of the remaining Heritage Tags through onlinehuntingauctions.com.

Madam Vice Chairwoman East concurs with Chairman Johnston's thoughts and wants to know if NBU can be flexible on the dates. She inquired if the turkey tag could be sold as well; Deputy Director Robb responded that it is not a viable solution because the turkey hunts have already begun.

Commissioner Caviglia commented that WSF provided in their letter that all proceeds will go back to the Department and that NBU did not spell that out in their letter; he wanted to make sure there were no hidden costs if NBU was selected. Deputy Director Robb provided that he spoke to representatives of NBU and they have confirmed that all proceeds will come back to the state of Nevada even though it is not in their letter; Chairman Johnston concurred that is the same information he gained when speaking to Mr. Fennell.

Commissioner Almborg stated that he agrees with using NBU and if they needed help, they could reach out to WSF to market it.

Commissioner Hubbs inquired if the reach is the same if we go through NBU versus TNT Auctions. Deputy Director Robb stated that NBU has about 900,000 people who follow them and are willing to buy tags and TNT Auctions has a different group of followers because they sell heavy equipment and surplus items.

Commissioner McNinch stated he agrees with voting for NBU. He inquired if the three-minute countdown could be included or just let them maximize things the way they see fit. Deputy Director Robb responded that there would need to be some flexibility to let NBU work with onlinehuntingauctions.com on how to use the countdown and what date to use to get maximum exposure and asked the Commission to allow for flexibility in the motion to regarding the countdown clock and the date of the auction.

Chairman Johnston stated that if this is what onlinehuntingauctions.com does, then we should let them use their procedures and allow them to coordinate with NBU; they will maximize it and we do not need to dictate to them on how they do it.

Commissioner Barnes concurred with Chairman Johnston's comments; he stated that he works with an online cattle sale company and they have addressed these issues to not cut someone off that wants to bid higher; he agrees that the online auction is the best way to go and that the people who want these tags will find the auction to bid on them.

Commissioner Valentine stated that he is comfortable utilizing NBU with the four tags in the online auction.

Chairman Johnston recessed the meeting at 12:37 p.m. to allow for public comment via email at wildlifecommission@ndow.org.

Chairman Johnston reconvened the meeting at 12:50 p.m. and addressed the public comment that was received and is posted below:

From: Paul Dixon
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 12:21 PM
To: Brandy D. Arroyo <bdarroyo@ndow.org>
Subject: Heritage tags

I support the online auction proposal presented by the wild sheep foundation.

Paul Dixon, Chair Clark CABMW

From: Paul Dixon
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 12:37 PM
To: Brandy D. Arroyo <bdarroyo@ndow.org>
Subject: Heritage tags

Revised comment.

If NBU is not gonna charge any fees and the cover all auction fees I have no problem with them being the NGO to auction here tags.

Paul Dixon, Chair Clark CABMW

From: Joel McConnell
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 12:39 PM
To: Brandy D. Arroyo <bdarroyo@ndow.org>
Subject: Agenda item 7

I would recommend the use onlinehuntingauctions.com in conjunction with NBU. Hunters do NOT go to ntauctions to look for tags/hunts for sale. Plus the 13% buyer's premium is excessive.

Thank you, Joel McConnell, Elko CAB

From: Craig Burnside
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 12:33 PM
To: Brandy D. Arroyo <bdarroyo@ndow.org>
Subject: Heritage tags

Craig Burnside, speaking for myself. I think you should allow NBU to auction off the tags previously allotted to them and have the Wild Sheep Foundation auction off the remaining tags.

From: Joe Crim
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 12:39 PM
To: Brandy D. Arroyo <bdarroyo@ndow.org>
Subject: Item #7

I personally agree with NBU as the online vendor for all 4 tags

Joe Crim

From: Glenn Bunch
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 12:40 PM
To: Brandy D. Arroyo <bdarroyo@ndow.org>
Subject: Re: Mineral County is here

Support the recommendation of the Chair, with going to auction on-line.

From: Christopher Cefalu
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 12:41 PM
To: Brandy D. Arroyo <bdarroyo@ndow.org>
Subject: Heritage tag auction

Chris Cefalu NBU for the record.
To be very clear NBU will give 100% of the proceeds from the Heritage tags to NDOW with no fees. Also, NBU is willing to be flexible with the dates.

Thank you, Chris Cefalu, NBU Director

From: Tom Fennell
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 12:46 PM
To: Brandy D. Arroyo <bdarroyo@ndow.org>
Subject: Comment on Heritage Tags

Just to confirm, NBU will donate all proceeds back to Nevada, with no cost to the state for the auction. We have already paid the vendor for this year as we had planned on using them for the banquet. We can absolutely be flexible on the dates and can conclude the auction at whatever date the Commission prefers.

Tom Fennell, Vice President, NBU

From: dmelmore
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 12:44 PM
To: Brandy D. Arroyo <bdarroyo@ndow.org>
Subject: NV Heritage Tags Online Auction

NVBOWC-

NBU-Reno absolutely deserves the opportunity to auction off these heritage tags online. Not only were these tags already previously directed to them by this Commission, the organization's track record in the handling of these tags suggests that they are more than capable of facilitating the sale of these tags via the online platform.

I do not believe that these tags will be sold for any reduced value by NBU-Reno and that including these tags with their other online auction goods ensures that the greatest amount of money is raised that will benefit Nevada's wildlife.

Thank you, Darin Elmore

From: Rex Flowers
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 12:45 PM
To: Brandy D. Arroyo <bdarroyo@ndow.org>
Subject: Heritage tags

It sounds as though all are in favor of using NBU and their resources and I feel they should get the opportunity. NBU has always stood with NDOW and Nevada's wildlife and once again they are stepping up to do all they can.

Rex

CHAIRMAN JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE WILDLIFE HERITAGE AUCTION TAGS TO BE SOLD BY NEVADA BIGHORNS UNLIMITED – RENO TO SELL THE REMAINING FOUR HERITAGE TAGS THAT CONSIST OF ONE DESERT BIGHORN TAG, ONE CALIFORNIA BIGHORN TAG, ONE PRONGHORN ANTELOPE TAG AND ONE ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK TAG THROUGH ONLINEHUNTINGAUCTIONS.COM; AND IT WILL BE LEFT TO NBU AND THE ONLINE HUNTING PROVIDER TO SET THE DATE TO GIVE ADEQUATE TIME TO PUBLICIZE THE AUCTION TO GAIN PUBLIC INTEREST WITH THE UNDERSTANDING AND DIRECTION THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD LIKE THE TAGS SOLD AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO MAXIMIZE THEIR VALUE. MADAM VICE CHAIRWOMAN EAST SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 9-0.

Chairman Johnston thanked those who are participating in the meeting and providing public comment in an unorthodox way since we are currently living under unique circumstances.

8. Future Commission Meetings and Commission Committee Assignments – Secretary Tony Wasley and Chairman Brad Johnston – For Possible Action
The next Commission meeting is scheduled for May 1 and 2, 2020, in Reno. The Commission will review and discuss potential agenda items for that meeting. The Commission may change the time and meeting location at this time. The chairman may designate and adjust committee assignments and add or dissolve committees, as necessary at this time. Any anticipated committee meetings that may occur prior to the next Commission meeting may be discussed. *Once the Commission members have discussed this agenda item, a recess of a specific duration will be taken in order for the public to provide input at the following email address: wildlifecommission@ndow.org. Before reconvening the meeting, public comments will be shared with the Commission prior to taking any action.

Chairman Johnston stated that the most pressing issue for the May Commission meeting is quota setting.

Secretary Wasley concurred. He thanked everyone for their flexibility for having their meeting in this format and thanked members of the Department for setting up the meeting by using Zoom, YouTube and a portal for public comment. It was all made possible by the Governor's Declaration and Directive to temporarily remove the requirement for a physical location for public input. That directive expires in the middle of April, but assuming it will be extended, the Department will be using this same venue for the next Commission meeting; however, should it not be extended, the Department will explore other options, such as meeting in person, for conducting the May Commission meeting. The big game quota process is done annually, and the Department tries to refrain from any large changes in off years unless there is a threat to the resource or there is an unutilized opportunity. Out of respect that this is an odd year and the challenge before the Department of getting public comment, there should be no large changes in the big game quota process. Secretary Wasley provided that the potential action items to be heard at the next meeting are as follows: approval of the Draft Predation Management Plan for 2021; big game quotas; review and consideration of possible changes to Waterfowl Hunt Zones for the 2021 – 2025 and provided that this will be a different waterfowl process than what was heard today. There will be a potential workshop for Commission General Regulation (CGR) 490, Party Bonus Points and First Come First Serve; the goal is to have this in place this year to avoid the abuse of party bonus points. The potential adoption hearings would be for CGR 485, Tag Transfer, Deference and Return Program; CGR 490, Party Bonus Points and First Come First Serve; and CGR 491, Notification of Draw Results; however, it is not yet clear of the format of the next meeting and if the meeting will be held on two different days to have a potential adoption on the second day of the meeting; and it is not clear whether Kalkomey can accommodate any changes this year. The potential informational updates that have been requested by the Commission are as follows: an update on the Fallon Naval Range and Training Center and Nevada Test and Training Range and the Mandatory Indoctrination / Seminar for Bighorn Ram Tag Holders. The Department will defer to the guidance of the Chairman on the potential Committees and Reports that could be presented, and assuming that the committees are able to meet, and they are as follows: Status Report on the Application Hunt System is usually heard at the May meeting, but since the application period has been extended, this will need to be heard at a subsequent meeting; Big Game Status Report that usually accompanies quota recommendations; the Wildlife Heritage Committee Report; Wayne E. Kirch Wildlife Conservation Award Committee Report; Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee (TAAHC) Report; Wildlife Damage and Management Committee Report; Regulation Simplification Committee Report; Legislative Committee Report; Landowner Comp Tag Committee Report and Public Lands Committee Report. The Department needs to address the petition that was received from John Zenz regarding the big game tag drawing changes and confirm if he wants to make his presentation at a virtual meeting or if he prefers to do it in person.

Chairman Johnston stated that he has no additional items. He does expect that the same meeting format will be used as today; and if so, there will be a limited agenda. If at the next meeting the Department proceeds with CGR 490, Party Bonus Points and First Come First Serve, then he wants information on whether this will apply to current applications or only apply to future applications because people are already applying for party tags; he further wants to know when it would become available and how many people it would impact.

Commissioner McNinch stated the Coalition for Healthy Nevada Lands, Wildlife and Wild Horses has asked the Commission to look at Commission Policy No. 67, regarding feral horses and burros. He provided that he will talk to Secretary Wasley and Chairman Johnston of when the right opportunity would be to discuss this Commission policy.

Chairman Johnston recessed the meeting at 1:08 p.m. to allow for public comment via email at wildlifecommission@ndow.org.

Chairman Johnston reconvened the meeting at 1:20 p.m. and addressed the public comment that was received, which is posted below:

From: Rex Flowers
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 12:54 PM
To: Brandy D. Arroyo <bdarroyo@ndow.org>
Subject: Public comment

I think that the Commission, Dept. and all others involved in today's meeting did a fantastic job for this minimized agenda. The next Commission meeting is usually a very long and sometimes contentious meeting and is to be held May 1 & 2. I am asking if that meeting can be set for 1 or 2 weeks later. The most important part for most sportsmen will be quotas setting. Realizing that all applications will be in and vetted if the meeting was held as late as May 15 & 16 the draw could still be held May 20 with results posted by May 22 as the Dept. had stated before.

Thanx, Rex

Deputy Director Robb stated that the May Commission meeting has been pushed back as far as possible; that if it was pushed back any more, the Department could not conduct the draw as set; and that a different date cannot be accommodated at this time.

Chairman Johnston stated that there is no action to be taken on this item.

9. Public Comment Period

Persons wishing to speak must put their comments in writing and send them to wildlifecommission@ndow.org.

Chairman Johnston recessed the meeting at 1:23 p.m. to allow for public comment via email at wildlifecommission@ndow.org.

Chairman Johnston reconvened the meeting at 1:30 p.m. and addressed the public comment that was received and is posted below:

From: Rob Boehmer
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 1:08 PM
To: Brandy D. Arroyo <bdarroyo@ndow.org>
Subject: Final Public Comment

Greetings Members of the Commission,

On behalf of 23 different members of the public, all within the Northern Nevada area, that have emailed me in the past thirty-minutes moving through your agenda, wanted to thank the Carson City CABMW and NDOW Commission for listening to them and changing the Northwest Zone Waterfowl season dates. WELL DONE!!!

Additionally, multiple members of the public and especially myself, have also stated they support the Commission's decision and thank NBU, once again, for supporting NDOW and Nevada wildlife the way they do.

Chairman Johnston thanked members of the Department for the work on putting this meeting together. He adjourned the meeting at 1:32 p.m.

*Support material will be posted to the NDOW website, and updates to support material will be posted at http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Agenda/. Additionally, support material for this meeting may be requested from the Recording Secretary Brandy Arroyo at wildlifecommission@ndow.org. In accordance with NRS 241.020 this agenda closes three days prior to the meeting date and has been posted on the NDOW website at: http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Agenda/.

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