

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners'
Draft Minutes – June 29 and 30, 2018, Meeting
The meeting has been videotaped and may be viewed in its entirety at NDOW.org

Agenda
Dyer Community Center
Highway 264 at Blue Bird Road
Between Mile Marker 11 and 12, West Side of Highway North of Dyer
Dyer, NV 89010

#5

Public comment will be taken on every action item after discussion but before action on each item, and is limited to three minutes per person. The chairman, in his discretion, may allow persons representing groups to speak for six minutes. Persons may not allocate unused time to other speakers. Persons are invited to submit written comments on items or attend and make comment during the meeting and are asked to complete a speaker card and present it to the Recording Secretary. 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.

Forum restrictions and orderly business: The viewpoint of a speaker will not be restricted, but reasonable restrictions may be imposed upon the time, place and manner of speech. Irrelevant and unduly repetitious statements and personal attacks that antagonize or incite others are examples of public comment that may be reasonably limited.

Please provide the Board of Wildlife Commissioners ("Commission") with the complete electronic or written copies of testimony and visual presentations to include as exhibits with the minutes. Minutes of the meeting will be produced in summary format.

Note: Public comment is allowed on each action item, each regulation workshop item, and at the end of the meeting.

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners present for meeting and field tour:

Chairman Grant Wallace	Vice Chairman Brad Johnston	Commissioner John Almberg
Commissioner Tom Barnes	Commissioner East	Commissioner Kerstan Hubbs
Commissioner David McNinch	Commissioner Paul E. Valentine	

Secretary Tony Wasley	Deputy Attorney General Bryan Stockton
Management Assistant III Kailey Taylor	

Nevada Department of Wildlife personnel in attendance:

Deputy Director Jack Robb	Deputy Director Liz O'Brien
Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling	Habitat Staff Biologist Mark Farman
Chief Game Warden Tyler Turnipseed	Data Technology Services Administrator Chet VanDellen
Fisheries Division Administrator Jon Sjöberg	Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne
Wildlife Staff Biologist Shawn Espinosa	Habitat Staff Biologist Mike Zahradka
Administrative Services Officer Gabe Pincolini	Conservation Educator Doug Nielsen

Public in Attendance for the two day meeting:

Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW	Cory Lytle, Lincoln CABMW
Shane Scott, Dyer	Trista Scott, Dyer
Aiden Scott, Dyer	Leland Wallace, Dyer
Rob Jacobson, Lyon CABMW	Dave Burns, Lyon County
Steve Marquez, White Pine CABMW	Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW
Craig Burnside, Douglas CABMW	Arthur Johnson, Esmeralda CABMW
Trisha Wallace, Dyer	Marlene Wallace, Dyer
Devon Scott, Dyer	Mike Cassidy
Marty Harsin, Northern Nevada Chapter Safari Club International	Chris Cefalu, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited-Reno
Matt Sweitzer, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited-Reno	Trish Swain, Trailsafe Nevada
Joel Blakeslee, Nevada Trappers Association	Linda William, Member Esmeralda Public Lands Board
Jeri Sjöberg	Owen Hildenbrand
Gary Johnson	Cindy Johnson
Sonja Almberg	Pete Mori
Jeanette Hughes	Gil Yanuck, Carson CABMW
Nic Bliss	Chad Bliss
Eric Johnson, Inyo	Daniel McCreery
Mike and Caren Bechtold	

Friday, June 29, 2018 – 10 a.m.

- 1 Pledge of Allegiance, Call to Order, Introduction and Roll Call of Commission and County Advisory Board Members to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) – Chairman Wallace

Chairman Wallace called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Roll call was conducted and all Commissioners were present: Chairman Wallace, Commissioners Johnston, AlMBERG, Barnes, East, Hubbs, McNinch, and Valentine.

- 2 Approval of Agenda – Chairman Wallace – 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.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR FRIDAY'S MEETING. COMMISSIONER VALENTINE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 3 Approval of Minutes – Chairman Wallace – For Possible Action
Commission minutes from the May 4 and 5, 2018, meeting.

COMMISSIONER BARNES MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY MINUTES. COMMISSIONER ALMBERG SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 4 Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence – Chairman Wallace – 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.

Commissioner AlMBERG said he received correspondence in regards to the shed season. He said there has been some misunderstanding as to what that regulation was supposed to accomplish.

Commissioner Johnston said he received a call from Rachel Buzzetti expressing frustration over the Department's saleable lists.

Commissioner Barnes received the same call and message from Ms. Buzzetti as well.

Commissioner Valentine received a phone call from Gerald Lent about not being able to attend the draw. Chairman Wallace said he received same call.

Secretary Wasley received same correspondence as Commission, and the Department has continued to engage in conversations with those persons. He said the entire draw process was attended by a representative from the Nevada Attorney General's office with the complete draw process being recorded; the recording will be forwarded to auditors. In past years the draw was

a public process; however, with the new vendor there were several aspects that made that a problem this time because their facility is not open to the public. The concerns from the guides have resulted in an ongoing conversation. Secretary Wasley said currently there is a Public Lands meeting occurring right now in Lincoln County where both parties, guides and Nevada Department of Wildlife staff, are discussing those concerns with the saleable list. Information for people who opted in is still being sent to guides. Staff sent the contact information of guides and outfitters to successful tag applicants. Secretary Wasley said under this agenda item he will acknowledge NDOW's tenured employees along with announcing the Ted C. Frantz employee of the year award. In this room today are several employees who are past recipients of the award. This year's recipient is Administrative Services Officer Gabe Pincolini who has been with the Department a month shy of 30 years, and was promoted at every opportunity that he expressed the desire. Mr. Pincolini was presented with a plaque, and the Division Administrators shared their positive experiences working with Mr. Pincolini.

Chairman Wallace thanked Mr. Pincolini for his service on behalf of the Commission.

- 5 County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Member Items – Informational
CABMW members may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action will be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.

Craig Burnside, Douglas CABMW, said every member on his CABMW heard from sportsmen who were disappointed they could not get or see a list of their friends who drew tags. Also, many said they could not find what tags were available for second draw.

Steve Marquez, White Pine CABMW, said some of his fellow CABMW members were approached by citizens about a tag transfer program. Arizona has a tag transfer program that seems to be exactly what these sportsmen were asking for where tags may be transferred from a parent to their minor child, by a non-family member if they want to donate their tag to a child with a life threatening illness, or a disabled veteran. He said his board is in total agreement to do something similar here in Nevada. Mr. Marquez said to Commissioner AlMBERG that the White Pine CABMW has received a lot of correspondence from a family in White Pine County, and they are corresponding with them.

- 6 Duck Stamp Request – Wildlife Staff Specialists Mark Farman and Mike Zahradka
For Possible Action

The Commission will review and may take action to approve up to \$128,510 for projects submitted for FY 2019 funding from the Duck Stamp account. The specific Duck Stamp projects that may be approved are listed below.

- Technician Support for Nevada Waterfowl Projects - Project # 384 (\$13,910)
- Ducks Unlimited Wetlands Conservation Support - Project # 352 (\$10,000)
- Mason Valley WMA Moist Soil Food Plots - Project # 382 (\$10,000)
- Key Pittman WMA Food Plots - Project # 330 (\$2,600)
- Overton WMA Pipe Replacement Project - Phase 2 - Project # 360 (\$7,000)
- Eastern WMA Complex Weed Control - Project # 349 (\$10,000)
- Overton WMA Pintail and Wilson Pond Leveling - Project # 351 (\$60,000)
- Mason Valley WMA Salt cedar Treatment - Project # 381 (\$15,000)

Staff Specialist Mark Farman reviewed the support material that was sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the NDOW web site for the public. Staff has requested \$128,510 for the new projects listed above. The Duck Stamp account balance at the end of FY19 is projected to be \$253,675, assuming the \$128,510 of new projects is approved and given the other assumptions defined in the related summary table reviewed by Staff Specialist Farman.

Staff Specialist Mike Zahradka described some of the proposed projects at the Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in more detail and answered questions from the Commission.

Public Comment – None

VICE CHAIRMAN JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE FY19 DUCK STAMP PROJECT REQUESTS. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7 Upland Game Bird Stamp Request – Wildlife Staff Specialists Mark Farman and Shawn Espinosa – For Possible Action

The Commission will review and may take action to approve up to \$252,234 for projects submitted for FY 2019 funding from the Upland Game Bird Stamp account. The specific Upland Game Bird Stamp projects that may be approved are listed below.

- Greater Sage-grouse Statewide Monitoring – Project # 373 (\$55,000)
- Upland Game Translocation and Monitoring – Project # 368 (\$14,264)
- Dusky Grouse Ecology and Management in Nevada – Project # 365 (\$3,100)
- Monitoring the Effects of Landscape-Level Treatments on Greater Sage-grouse within the Desatoya Mountains – Project # 369 (\$15,000)
- Measuring Corticosterone Metabolites in Greater Sage-grouse - Project # 393 (\$25,000)
- Estimating Sage-grouse Vital Rates within Nevada's Most Novel Habitats - Project # 367 (\$53,470)
- Effects of Conventional Raven Control and Wildfire on Greater Sage-grouse within the Virginia Mountains – Project # 370 (\$25,000)
- Mason Valley WMA Upland Food Plots – Project # 383 (\$10,000)
- Key Pittman WMA Food Plots - Project # 330 (\$3,900)
- Edwards Creek Lek Pinyon Juniper Hand Removal Project – Project # 282 (\$25,000)
- Eastern WMA Complex Weed Control – Project # 349 (\$10,000)
- Eastern Nevada Properties Restoration – Project # 390 (\$12,500)

Staff Specialist Mark Farman reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the NDOW web site for the public. Staff has requested \$252,234 for the new projects listed above. The Upland Game Bird Stamp account balance at the end of FY19 is projected to be \$466,041, assuming the \$252,234 of new projects is approved and given the other assumptions defined in the related summary table reviewed by Staff Specialist Farman.

Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa provided further details and highlights of some of the proposed upland game projects for the Commission, and also answered their related questions.

Public Comment – None

COMMISSIONER EAST MOVED TO APPROVE THE FY 19 UPLAND GAME BIRD STAMP PROJECT REQUESTS. COMMISSIONER HUBBS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8 Wildlife Heritage Committee – Commissioner and Committee Chairman Wallace

A Heritage Committee Report – Chairman Wallace – Informational
The Commission will hear a report on the Committee's recent meeting.

Chairman Wallace said the Heritage Committee met this morning, and reviewed the tentative recommendations previously made at its May meeting. The Committee is recommending those same recommendations to the Commission today. There are no funds to reallocate this year, and he briefly reviewed the project proposals.

B Heritage Project Extension Requests – Chairman Wallace – For Possible Action
Pursuant to NAC 501.340, the Commission will review Committee recommendations and may approve extension requests from projects approved in previous fiscal years.

Staff Specialist Mark Farman discussed the Heritage Project table containing financial data regarding the unspent balances of existing and uncompleted Heritage projects. There are roughly 15 existing projects that are uncompleted and he gave a brief explanation of why each of them have requested an extension. In addition to these uncompleted projects that are expected to use all of their remaining funds, there were no unspent balances from projects completed during FY18. Therefore, when it comes to the next agenda item 8 C, there are no reallocation situations this year.

Chairman Wallace said one project was removed from extensions, Project 17-06, as it was completed and paid in full after it was identified as needing an extension request in the related support material table. The Committee approved all of the other extension requests from existing projects. The Committee's recommendation to the Commission is to approve the extensions.

Public Comment –

Rob Jacobson, Lyon CABMW, asked if the unused funds could be spent on fire rehabilitation for wildlife.

Chairman Wallace noted that there are only certain places that money can be reallocated to.

Staff Specialist Farman explained that these projects will be using their own unspent balances after their extension requests are approved, which will allow project managers to carry over their unspent balances into FY19. There will not be money left unspent.

COMMISSIONER VALENTINE MOVED TO APPROVE THE HERITAGE PROJECT EXTENSION REQUESTS AS PRESENTED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF REMOVAL OF PROJECT 17-06. COMMISSIONER EAST SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

C Heritage Funding Reallocation – Chairman Wallace – For Possible Action

The Commission will review Committee recommendations and may approve reallocation of any unused Heritage funds from previously approved projects to other previously approved projects from the same fiscal year.

Chairman Wallace said this year there is no funding to reallocate, as further explained under agenda item 8 B above.

Public Comment - None

D Fiscal Year 2019 Heritage Project Proposals – Chairman Wallace – For Possible Action

The Commission will hear recommendations from the Committee and may take action to approve up to \$887,474.01 for projects submitted for FY 2019 funding from the Wildlife Heritage account. The preliminary funding recommendations from the Committee are listed below and may be approved by the Commission. These recommendations may change at the 8am, June 29 Heritage Committee meeting.

- Bighorn Sheep Capture, Transplant and Monitoring – Project # 19-01 (\$75,000)
- NDOW Helicopter Acquisition – Project # 19-02 (\$200,000)
- Wildfire-Related Restoration and Seed Purchase – Project # 19-03 (\$100,000)
- Overton WMA Pintail and Wilson Ponds Leveling – Project # 19-04 (\$60,000)
- Willow Creek Reservoir Habitat Structures and Other Improvements – Project # 19-05 (\$21,500)
- South Steptoe Watershed Restoration – Project # 19-06 (\$35,000)
- Kern Mountain Habitat Improvement Project – Project # 19-07 (\$30,000)
- Izzenhood Basin Habitat Improvement Project – Project # 19-08 (\$30,000)
- Bighorn Sheep Gene Transcription Analysis – Project # 19-09 (\$84,500)
- Comins Lake Boat Ramp – Project # 19-10 (\$55,000)
- Rebuild of Last Chance #6 Hanging Basin Water Development – Project # 19-11 (\$25,100)
- Survey and Maintenance of Existing Big Game Water Developments – Project # 19-12 (\$36,700)
- Simkins/Doc Pass PJ Chaining Maintenance Project – Project # 19-13 (\$75,000)
- Cave Valley Ranch PJ Removal Project – Project # 19-14 (\$59,674.01)
- Delineation and Nutritional Value of Desert Bighorn Lambing Habitat – Project # 19-15 (not recommended for funding)

Chairman Wallace said that at their meeting this morning the Heritage Committee did not change any of the recommendations listed above from its May meeting.

Commissioner Alberg disclosed for the record that his brother's engineering firm designed the Comins Lake boat ramp project.

Public Comment - None

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HERITAGE COMMITTEE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019 PROJECT PROPOSALS AS PRESENTED, TOTALING \$887,474.01. (ALL OF THE PROJECTS LISTED ABOVE FOR THIS AGENDA ITEM.) COMMISSIONER VALENTINE SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

E Heritage Project Completion Update – Wildlife Staff Specialists Mark Farman – Informational
Department staff will provide a summary of Heritage projects that have been completed.

Staff Specialist Farman said the Heritage Program first started awarding funds in 1998. In the summary table he handed out, it took 17 pages to list all of the projects that have been approved. The last page shows the grand total of the amounts awarded. Keep in mind that this money is often used as match for federal grant money, and in many cases was used to access a lot of federal funds for beneficial wildlife projects. This is the first time we have put together a comprehensive list of previously approved Heritage projects. The second document Staff Specialist Farman passed out was an example of three recent completion reports, one for bighorn sheep work, a water development project report, and the State Route 160 big game crossing project which is the subject of a presentation by Staff Specialist Cody McKee.

Staff Specialist McKee provided a PowerPoint presentation on the State Route 160 (SR 160) Heritage project in the Spring Mountains. This project provided critical data to support a wildlife safety crossing and other improvements on the highway between Las Vegas and Pahrump. The scheduled improvements have gained support from the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT). Staff identified highway crossing locations in the known ranges of desert bighorn sheep, mule deer, and elk in the Spring Mountains using radio-collars fitted on 58 animals. Staff would like to improve safety for motorists and minimize impacts to ungulates on SR 160. The incorporation of wildlife safety features will improve access to suitable habitat, facilitate intraspecific conditions, and improve genetics. There are more collisions in May and November probably due to migration patterns. Once we took a look at crash data, discussions ensued with the NDOT. NDOW submitted findings to NDOT to negotiate with NDOT and generate support for a wildlife overpass at milepost 18.2 to be built by NDOT. At mile Post 20, the speed limit will be reduced and there will be wildlife crossing signs.

Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling added that there are many innovative ideas for improving safety that are being considered. Not all wildlife collisions are reported in each situation; for instance collisions that occur with semi-trucks may not result in financial loss and may not be reported. Several resolutions under consideration can be expensive to implement.

Secretary Wasley noted that there has been a long history of working with partners. We are realizing how much of a challenge some of these corridors can present. In the bigger picture of Heritage Funding, roughly \$40,000 was awarded to this project as well as federal funds.

Commissioner East asked the Nevada Bighorns Unlimited (NBU) representative about coordinating the construction of a water guzzler near Hawthorne.

Chris Cefalu, NBU, said they are looking at a possible guzzler site on the other side of the highway so that sheep do not have to try to cross the highway in order to get to the guzzler. There is also talk of a presentation to residents regarding drawing sheep down near the highway to possibly alleviate the problem.

Chairman Wallace closed this agenda item.

9 Commission Regulation Workshop – For Possible Action – Public Comment Allowed

Commission General Regulation 477, Landowner Deer and Antelope Compensation Tag Program, LCB File No. 096-18 – Game Division Administrator Brian F. Wakeling – For Possible Action

The Commission will hold a workshop to consider a regulation relating to amending Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation would provide direction for equitably allocating landowner deer and antelope compensation tags if the statutory limit is reached.

Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling explained that this is an issue we have been looking at for about one year. We had some issues in June 2017 because the number of qualifying tags would have exceeded the statutory limit. We were able to work with ongoing open legislation to adjust the statutory cap. We have yet to address a mechanism by which to allocate tags should we ever reach the statutory limit again. The regulation and NRS provide that for every 50 animals documented on the property makes the landowner eligible for a single tag. The Department shared possible language with the Commission in March, following that, we sent the draft regulation to LCB for their language. That language has been provided to the Commission. The Washoe CABMW caught two inverted words. The Commission also asked that the Department continues to share this with landowners in the system. The Department asked participants again for additional comments and have received no feedback. Administrator Wakeling gave more information on the background of the landowner compensation tag program. Existing Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) allows the Commission to promulgate the addition of Nevada Administrative Code (NAC).

Commissioner Barnes commented that if the cap were reached, there could be an outcry. He believes people are comfortable with the 2.5 percent right now. Some people would like more clarity in the letters when presented to them.

Game Division Administrator Wakeling said that he certainly understands the way this language came back can be confusing. He said that this is the fifth letter sent on this issue but he knows that just because he hasn't received feedback does not suggest unanimous support. He said these meetings were used to provide clarity. Without this regulation, if the statutory limit is reached, there is no authority to address it.

Commissioner Hubbs said that the way she read this is that the individual landowners who would be given priority for the remaining tags would be determined by looking at the year in which they entered into an agreement and the number of tags they would qualify for. There could be years after the trigger event happens in which the owner is not awarded tags. She asked if the Department would still use the date in which they entered into an agreement in that instance.

Game Division Administrator Wakeling said that if there is a better way to address this it can be discussed. The wording may not have captured the intent of the Commission directly. If someone has been in the program a long time, their longevity would be awarded.

Commissioner Almborg noted that some owners have multiple properties.

Game Division Administrator Wakeling said that each individual agreement would be treated separately.

Commissioner Barnes said he was hearing the same concerns.

Game Division Administrator said the language can be clarified when it comes to multiple properties.

Secretary Wasley said that the department is seeking clarity from the Commission because the language is not clear. The Department could have more meetings to translate the regulation to the owners. One issue is what constitutes longevity. However, there are a small number of tags remaining. If there is a tie, we will need to break down longevity in order to find the most qualified candidate, however, that may not need to be in the language; it could be a policy that states the tie breaker.

Commissioner Johnston wanted to understand how that math was working. It would not be a proportionate reduction for all landowners. It would be helpful to spell out the math so landowners understand.

Game Division Administrator Wakeling explained that the mathematical formula may appear complex. To find the appropriate proportion, you must use an interactive process while trying to maximize the tags awarded. Using the example in the presentation, you have to drop the proportion to 0.8 (or 80 percent) before the rounding conventions with the number of tags present drops the total below the hypothetical total of 200, which illustrates the statutory limit in this example. With that proportion and rounding conventions, it reduces the total from 222 to 195, which is five tags below the statutory limit. The remaining five would then be awarded based on longevity.

Commissioner Johnston said that there will always be a number in which those who qualify for the most tags still see the most reductions. He said he does not know how to fix it.

Chairman Wallace said the people receiving the most tags are also the people seeing the most damage. Maybe the reductions need to be happening more towards the bottom of the list. He also said that any route is going to be difficult for a landowner but as a Commission we are going to have to decide where to draw the line. There is not a clean answer to make everyone happy.

Commissioner Barnes said that when you start making reductions someone will be upset. The main thing is making sure cooperators understand. He would like to see the participants have a better grasp and see more clear language.

Secretary Wasley said that there is a temporal component. There is a scenario where 300 deer may move across a field and a few antelope may. When we fill out the form we could potentially describe an estimated amount of damage. This is intended to offset damages to the land. If there is an opportunity for us to acknowledge those efforts as part of a tie breaker, that can be incorporated.

Chairman Wallace said that that is going to be a tedious process and that it will be difficult to make everyone happy.

Commissioner AlMBERG said that some of this goes back to the basis of the program and does not address the emergence. He pointed out that there has been a lot of discussion about this and that more may not help. He said he feels comfortable that that there has been a lot of discussion and that everyone has had the opportunity to comment on this.

Commissioner Hubbs stated that she agrees with Secretary Wasley. She asked if there could be a random draw for those tags left at the end.

Commissioner Johnston said that his biggest issue is the wording of the proportional reduction. It is a proportional award. It could say something similar to "If reached, we are going to award the maximum number of tags allowed..." That way, you are not talking about a proportional reduction. You can still see the math play out, but it is making it clearer.

Game Division Administrator Wakeling said that it is up to the Commission.

Public Comment –

Steve Marquez, White Pine CABMW, discussed the regulation and liked it as is. There is a little confusion. In Section 3, it says "the proportionate reduction of awards....agreements." We thought "on that property" should be added to the end of that sentence.

Commissioner Johnston said that he likes the longevity component because this program is designed to buy tolerance. It is not that the Department improves damages. He said he is fine with going with the mathematical direction but his preference would be to see language that speaks to it and clarifies it. The proportional reduction is not truly accurate.

Commissioner Barnes agreed with Commissioner Johnston. He likes the longevity. He suggested using the owner with the most damage as a tie-breaker.

Chairman Wallace agreed. He suggested the Department bring more clarifying language to Lincoln County.

Commissioner AlMBERG said he agrees with everything said.

Secretary Wasley said the Department will review this discussion, have a simpler representation in language, and delve into the longevity piece.

10 Commission General Regulation Adoption – For Possible Action – Public Comment Allowed

Commission General Regulation 474, Trap Registration, LCB File No. R038-18 – Chief Game Warden Tyler Turnipseed – For Possible Action

The Commission will consider adopting a regulation to amend Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 503.150. This regulation revises provisions relating to the registration of traps as mandated by Senate Bill (SB) 364 of the 79th Legislative Session. SB 364 states that with certain exceptions, each trap, snare, or similar device used by a person in the taking of wild mammals must be registered with the Department before it is used. It also states that for each trap, snare, or similar device registered with the Department, the person registering the device shall pay a registration fee of \$5. This proposed regulation provides a mechanism for the Department to register traps and charge \$5 per trap registered. The Commission held a workshop on May 4, 2018 and

directed the Department to clarify the first sentence of the regulation as it relates to SB 364. The Commission also directed the Department to gain clarity on the transfer of trap registration numbers.

Chief Game Warden Tyler Turnipseed said that the above agenda item description details everything in the CGR. Trappers are mandated to identify their traps. This regulation allows a mechanism to do that. There are two processes. The first part is to have a trapper registration number where one number will be assigned to one trapper. Second, there is a \$5 charge per registration. The regulation says that each trap registered will have a stamp that is essentially a receipt. The regulation does not have many changes since the workshop. The language was clarified in the first sentence so that it is a clear a person does not have to register if they stamp their name and address on the trap. In regards to transferring trap numbers, it says that registration numbers may be transferred by the Department. That way, the Department has the authority to transfer numbers.

Commissioner Johnston noted that there needs to be an “and” before “shall submit an application.”

Commissioner East asked if the tags showing the \$5 payment will have a seal on them because she wants to be sure they are unique.

Chief Game Warden Turnipseed said the Department can order a tag with some sort of identifier to where it would not be duplicated.

Commissioner Valentine said for the record that the \$5 payment is a one-time fee.

Public Comment -

Joel Blakeslee, Nevada Trappers Association, said they do not want to get out in the weeds with this. The longer the number is, the bigger the tag has to be. The best way to do it is a sequential number. The Department can cross-reference those tags. He said Chief Game Warden Turnipseed has done a good job with this regulation.

Commissioner East agrees with Mr. Blakeslee but she would like to see a tag with a seal with sequential numbers that can be tracked.

Administrator Van Dellen said if the Department were to number those seals, it would exponentially increase the accountability of the Department for a \$5 tag.

Commissioner East said she does not want to put more work on the Department but wants to see a compromise on both sides.

Commissioner Johnston clarified that trappers need to put their numbers on the trap and then they need to put the widget on the trap to show they paid the fee. He would like to keep that widget as simple as possible so it cannot be counterfeited. The registration number already identifies the trap. He said he likes the regulation as drafted and trusts the Department to come up with a widget.

Commissioner Hubbs understands there will either be a registration number or name and address affixed. She asked if it would be possible to use a barcode on the widget.

Chief Turnipseed said a barcode would not be able to withstand everything a trapper does to eliminate human scent on traps.

Commissioner Barnes said he supports the regulation and is pleased that the Nevada Trapping Association supports the regulation as well.

COMMISSIONER BARNES MOVED TO ADOPT CGR 474 AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER VALENTINE SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Johnston wants to include the word “and.”

COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION: CHAIRMAN WALLACE, COMMISSIONERS JOHNSTON, ALMBERG, BARNES, HUBBS, MCNINCH AND VALENTINE. COMMISSIONER EAST WAS OPPOSED. THE MOTION PASSED 7-1.

11 Reports – Informational

- A Department Activity Report – Secretary Wasley
Secretary Wasley will provide a report on recent Department activities.

NDOW hosted the Wildlife Human Attack Response Training in Verdi on behalf of the Human Wildlife Conflicts Committee as sanctioned by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) May 7–11, 2018. Ninety-two participants from 15 federal, state, provincial, and county agencies across the United States and Canada attended this training, with 16 instructors primarily from British Columbia and Alberta that often deal with 25 to 35 attacks on humans annually. The Department was able to have almost 20 percent of our workforce attend this training, representing all three regions and Game, Diversity, Habitat, Law Enforcement, and Conservation Education Divisions and Director's Office. This was a substantial undertaking, and based on the reviews from the participants, one of the best training opportunities offered through WAFWA. The training focused on coordinated responses among agencies to a variety of wildlife attacks on humans.

The Department and the Nevada Chapter of The Wildlife Society hosted the Mule Deer Migration and Movements – CHAT Workshop in Mesquite. Forty-five people registered for the event, which was tailored for personnel from Arizona, Utah, and Nevada. The workshop also had representation from the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Geological Survey, and University of Nevada, Reno. Casey Stemler, the individual tasked with coordinating Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke's Secretarial Order (SO) 3362 – Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors, attended and spoke to the participants.

Speaking of Secretarial Order 3362, the Department has been encouraged to submit a grant for funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) associated with SO 3362 that may provide up to \$300,000 for marking and delineating additional corridors where data is lacking. Through another outside fund source, the Department is also working on statistical analyses of existing movement data in Management Areas 6, 7, and 10. Matt Kauffman at the Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit has been coordinating with Game Division staff to complete this analysis.

The Interim Finance Committee approved the acquisition of a Bell 407 HP helicopter to replace the aging Bell 206 ship recently retired from the air operations fleet on June 20. This will be the second Bell 407 HP the Department will have, and this will greatly simplify repairs, maintenance, training, and certification for pilots and mechanics. The Bell 407 HP operation costs are under \$800/hour and the performance substantially exceeds that of the Bell 206. In five years costs will be recovered

Dyer

The first mysterious death of a radio tagged elk occurred on June 6, 2018, due to causes that continue to elude Game Biologists and Wildlife Health Specialists. The area where these deaths routinely occur each spring has been termed the "Tuscarora Trapezoid" due to its proximity to the local town. New technology was employed this year in addition to frequent-location GPS collars to include a transmitter placed within the rumen that helps detect motility and earlier detection of mortality events. Other transmissions include body temperature, which rapidly increased during the 48 hours prior to death. Fine-scale movement data and correlations with habitat, forage, and body temperature are being evaluated to determine if insight may be obtained into the cause of death. The new mortality notification technology worked exceptionally well and aided a rapid response by Eastern Region game biologists, the Wildlife Health Lab, and Air Operations. Results of tissue analysis are pending. Special thanks to Cody "Voo Doo" McKee for sifting through the electronic data to determine these relationships!

Game Division staff attended the Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council Meetings in Whitefish, Mont., during May 21–24, 2018 and Sage and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Workshop in Billings, Mont., during June 18–21, 2018. The Department made presentations at both workshops concerning ongoing research and management activities in Nevada.

The annual goose roundup in the greater Reno and Lake Tahoe area was held. Western Region staff assisted with capturing 396 geese. The geese were released at Overton Wildlife Management Area, Lahontan Reservoir, Carson Lake, and Wildhorse Reservoir. This number is similar to the 15-year average of geese relocated annually. This relocation effort is generally successful in that relatively few relocated geese return to the point of capture in subsequent years.

Staff received a report from Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP) on May 9 of a major contaminant spill into the Carson River near Woodfords, Calif., in Alpine County. A truck accident resulted in the release of at least 4,900 gallons of sodium chloride solution into the river. Although there appeared to be a significant kill of fish and invertebrates near the crash site we monitored extensively downstream in Nevada and weren't able to document any effects. Due to high river flows it appears the dilution effect was enough to mitigate any impacts in Nevada, but we will continue periodic monitoring through early summer to be sure.

In May 2.75 million walleye fry were received from Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery and stocked into Lahontan, Rye Patch and Chimney Reservoir. In June White Bass fry from Keo Fish Farm in Arkansas were shipped via Southwest Airlines to Reno and stocked in Rye Patch (550,000) and Washoe Lake (650,000). In addition the Western Region e-boat was used on Lahontan Reservoir to collect pre-spawn white bass for transport to Washoe Lake. Eleven large, mature white bass were moved to Washoe Lake. The effort also resulted in the capture of many good sized wipers including two fish weighing about 17 pounds each.

Willow Creek Reservoir is not expected to fill this year but we are continuing efforts to construct fish habitat structure in the empty reservoir with assistance from Barrick Gold Corporation. In addition a total of 24 habitat structures were placed in Wildhorse Reservoir and another 30 will be placed in South Fork Reservoir within the next week.

The new Winnemucca community fishing pond is finally nearing completion and staff hope to have it operational by later this summer. The Habitat Division guzzler crew has been a great help get the pond finished. Humboldt County is hauling rip rap to the pond and the crew has assisted placing the rip rap and constructing catfish spawning/artificial habitat structures which have been placed throughout the pond.

All AIS stations are now fully operational for the summer boating season. This year has already shown increased traffic from watercraft users. For example the staff at Lake Mead conducted over 600 inspections and more than 20 fully infested boats decontaminations this past week alone, a typical level of activity this summer so far.

Dyer

Drilling by Hydro Resources for the new wells has started on site at Mason Valley fish hatchery. After more than a year and a half of engineering to find better quality water at the site, we feel we have found that source and hope to be able to tap into that water and pipe it to the hatchery facility in the next few months.

Monitoring of the Walker Basin LCT population recently established in Cottonwood Creek on Mount Grant is ongoing. This spring numerous adults were found, all in excellent body condition, with many paired up and staging to spawn. A number of Young-of-Year LCT were also collected which is the first evidence of successful reproduction since the establishment of that population in 2016.

Staff is working with Nye County residents to identify opportunities for small stream fish stocking in the central part of the state. Four priority streams identified include Cottonwood Creek, Mosquito Creek, and North and South Twin Rivers. The intent is to stock upper reaches of these streams with fingerling trout using pack stock with local assistance, hopefully by sometime this summer. Some of these waters haven't been stocked in over 20 years.

Staff is continuing to work with BLM, USFWS and the developers of the Dixie Meadows geothermal plant for development of a project monitoring and mitigation plan (MMP). The Dixie Valley toad which occurs adjacent to the project site was petitioned for ESA listing in 2017 and we anticipate USFWS to publish a 90-day finding that listing may be warranted by early July.

WMA staff are working with Truckee-Carson Irrigation District and Ducks Unlimited (DU) Engineers to design a more efficient method to deliver NDOW's prime water to the Carson Lake Wetlands. Current delivery of water to the wetlands uses canals with many other users creating inconsistent delivery and makes it hard to obtain accurate readings. Utilizing the L-8 Lateral Canal would alleviate these issues but would require excavation and installation of several water control structures. NDOW and DU plan on including this project as part of a North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant application administered through the USFWS later this fall.

Nevada Partners for Conservation and Development's (NPCD) vegetation and soil survey crews began training on April 20 and have begun project survey work in May 2018. This season's sampling includes plots in Great Basin National Park, Bi-State sage grouse PMUs, private land and NDOW properties. Additionally, NPCD participated in the Nevada Native Seed Increase project in Ely in April. The purpose of the project is to bring native seed production to Nevada's farmers/producers so that restoration work across Nevada can make use of the most appropriate genetic materials.

Habitat Division staff have brought forward a large number of beneficial Wildlife Heritage, Duck Stamp, and Upland Game Bird Stamp FY19 projects for Commission approval at their June meeting. A total of around \$1.27 million in new projects is expected to be approved. This in turn, will allow the project managers of these projects to "leverage" these funds with approximately \$6.7 million of other funding sources contributing to these projects.

NDOW is a cooperating agency for the environmental analysis that will be completed for the Fallon Naval Air Station withdrawal renewal and expansion. As part of that effort, NDOW staff continues to work with Navy personnel on drafting a Managed Access Program for hunting on lands proposed for withdrawal by the Navy. Staff has recently provided comments on the Cooperating Agency Draft of the Legislative Environmental Impact Study (LEIS). NDOW is cautiously optimistic that an agreement can be drafted that satisfies the Navy's requirements, while limiting the loss of hunting opportunity to Nevada's sportsmen to the greatest extent possible. The withdrawal spans three major management units that include high priority big game populations including desert bighorn sheep, mule deer, and pronghorn.

Southern Region game wardens are in the middle of a busy boating season, but have several wardens out with injuries. There have been two fatalities at Lake Mead on Memorial Day weekend, a fatality at Kirch Wildlife Management Area, and an Operating under the Influence (OUI) checkpoint on Lake Mohave that netted five arrests, and several other non-injury accidents.

Southern Region game wardens responded June 15 to a report of a man in a vehicle blocking the Hoover Dam bypass bridge. The man was reportedly barricaded in the vehicle with a rifle. Several agencies responded and eventually took the man into custody without incident.

In addition to boat duties, Southern Region game wardens have also been busy with urban wildlife calls, residency fraud investigations, and targeting over-limit fishing at Kirch and Key-Pittman.

Eastern Region game wardens recently filed charges on two trappers in two separate trapping cases: The first was for selling raw furs without a fur dealer's license. This trapper had prior trapping violations for bait and visitation which resulted in the accidental take of big game. In the second case, the trapper trapped and killed a turkey vulture using exposed bait. He was also charged for failing to check the trap 48 hours after the required 96 hours.

Eastern Region game wardens recently charged a Spring Creek resident for the felony killing of a mule deer out of season in Area 6 near Midas in March. This poaching was associated with some drillers operating an exploratory drill rig in the area.

Staff are preparing for a trial with multiple shed antler collectors that were found to have collected several large elk antlers near the Jarbidge Wilderness during the antler season closure. Elko County Sheriff's deputies were of great help in this case.

Charges were also recently filed in Eureka against a non-licensed fisherman that allegedly hid some fish in the nearby brush when the game warden asked to check his creel. The man's father was also cited for "obstructing a game warden" as he allegedly impeded the game warden in his investigation of the case.

Ken Hines, of Reno pled guilty to a gross misdemeanor in Elko District Court for unlawful possession of a cow elk that occurred during the 2015 season on June 6. Sentencing is in September for this case that involved several different big game animals. Another suspect in this case Adlebert Scott pled guilty to a misdemeanor charge of disturbing the peace for his role in the cases.

Western Region game wardens are involved in two different bear poaching cases along the Sierra Front. Bears were killed without tags and out of season in both cases. One of these had a preliminary hearing June 6 and the other is still in charging phases.

The Carson City game warden responded May 29 to a call about a young coyote foaming at the mouth that had a person cornered in their vehicle. The coyote was captured and taken to our wildlife veterinarian. Tests are pending, but there is concern for distemper or rabies.

Operation Dry Water was held June 29 through July 1 on boating waters all around Nevada. Operation Dry Water is a nationwide patrol effort directed at removing boaters under the influence from the nation's waterways. Since the inception of the Operation Dry Water Campaign in 2009, law enforcement officers have removed 3,038 BUI operators from the nation's waterways and made contact with over 1.1 million boaters during the annual three-day event.

In a continued effort to deal with game warden turnover, three new wardens started in June and a fourth just graduated from Southern Desert Regional Police Academy.

Wildlife Diversity biologists recently conducted bat capture surveys in the Pancake Range and at Locke's Ranch. Crews captured 128 bats, representing 10 different species, over the course of several nights. Including, two spotted bats, a species that is rarely caught.

One adult and five nestling ferruginous hawks were banded this past month. In addition, three satellite transmitters were deployed in different territories to monitor movement patterns and habitat use. Five other territories are being observed in order to assess overall breeding success and productivity. This is a

Dyer

Habitat Conservation Fee funded project that will assess occupancy, nesting density, breeding success, and habitat use of Ferruginous Hawks surrounding BLM pinyon-juniper treatment plots. Staff plans to deploy a total of nine transmitters on adults and young this summer. Further breeding monitoring is occurring at select sites throughout the state in addition to this study.

Two satellite transmitters were deployed on breeding adult Northern Goshawks from two territories in the eastern region. This project is supported by the Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, and private industry, along with internal NDOW grants. The project is designed to look at habitat use and seasonal patterns of adult goshawks, and tie movements into territory occupancy and breeding success.

Recovering America's Wildlife Act, House Bill HR 4647 now has 72 co-sponsors – 33 republicans and 39 democrats. Nevada Representative Jackie Rosen co-sponsored the legislation in early June. As the Act continues to gain momentum in the House, the Senate is working on their bill introduction. Both the House and future Senate bill contain very similar language for consistent and adequate funding for wildlife in a bipartisan manner.

Finally, summer field work continues with staff focused on breeding bird surveys statewide, completing nightjar surveys, monitoring southwestern willow flycatcher nests, and conducting secretive marsh bird surveys. For a second year in a row, Ridgway's Rails were documented at Overton Wildlife Management Area. We continue to track Golden Eagles in Dry Lake Valley and have two nest cameras deployed. Gila monster radio tracking continues at Red Rock National Conservation Area, as well as a new desert tortoise tracking project. Six tortoises have been outfitted with transmitters so far.

Conservation Education staff partnered with the Nevada Firearms Coalition and several other groups to host a Conservation and Firearms Safety Camp at the Clark County Shooting Complex Education Center and had 24 youth participate in the event. Nevada Department of Wildlife provided conservation and introductory archery workshops along with training in the safe handling of firearms while in the field.

Conservation Education personnel and volunteers traveled to the newly created Walker River State Recreation Area for the 2018 Outdoor Education Instructor Academy. Volunteer instructors help teach the majority of the Conservation Education classes, workshops and help staff most of the public educational events statewide. Conservation Education personnel provided training workshops for volunteer instructors through a variety of educational sessions and seminars. Education Staff are able to hear constructive criticism during the sessions, and have opportunities to socialize and discuss ways to work together more effectively.

The 2018 Carp Derby at Lahontan State Recreation Area was June 2. There were over 100 participants and the kids had a great time catching more than 95 carp, 55 wipers and countless white bass. The largest fish caught was a 9.5 pound carp. Every kid that participated went home with a prize and wonderful memories.

The Southern Region Angler Education and Volunteer Program Coordinators assisted with the 2018 Carp Rodeo hosted by USFWS personnel at the Pahranaagat National Wildlife Refuge. The duo provided loaner fishing rods, assisted participants with tackle setup, and bait selection. They also helped to net and measure fish. Participants numbered 123, including nearly 80 people who traveled from Las Vegas for the event. Sponsors included Sportsman's Warehouse, Las Vegas Fishing Club and Friends of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge.

All 20 Conservation Education Staff members helped host Free Fishing Day events across the state. Southern Nevada staff held events at Veterans' Memorial Park in Boulder City and provided loaner fishing rods to participants at Floyd Lamb Park in Las Vegas including a bow fishing demonstration using submersible targets. Western Nevada staff partnered with the Sparks Rotary Club to host an event at the Sparks Marina where 7,000 trout were stocked into nets. Staff and Sparks Rotary Club also hosted a special needs fishing day, Wednesday, June 6. Eastern Nevada staff hosted events at Carlin Pond and at Cave Lake with the help of Fisheries and Law Enforcement Divisions and Ruby Mountain Fly Fishers.

Despite high temperatures in the Southern Region, wind factors in the Western Region, graduation and a rodeo in Eastern Region, participants numbered well over 2,000. Live video feeds were provided online via Facebook Live, and several production elements will be used throughout the next year.

NDOW successfully conducted our first big game draw application period on the new Agency Management System (AMS) provided by our contractor Kalkomey. Both Kalkomey and NDOW staff worked to ensure all customer support needs were met, including full phone and email support through the close of the application period. The system handled an increase of over 3,000 new applicants and over 40,000 new applications from last year with no loss or slowing of service.

GIS staff have successfully deployed and tested a new greater sage-grouse lek count mobile data collection app. Biologists across the state had the opportunity to test the app and we are looking to implement it as a standard data collection method next year. The GIS staff is continuing to use mobile data collection tools to improve other aspects of Department data collection, and hope to test a new harvest check-in app this coming hunting season. Staff hope to demonstrate their use of innovative GIS technology at the upcoming ESRI User Conference in July.

The License Office is working to develop and implement a more structure license agent support plan that would seek to improve agent relations, improve Department messaging at agent locations, and increase agent technical support. This plan also hopes to address improved functionality and enhancements in the agent component of the new Agency Management System.

Public Service Recognition Week was celebrated from May 6 - 12. Each region, along with headquarters, held events to recognize employees for their public service. The Department awarded 34 employees with tenure awards: Eleven employees received five year awards, one a 10 year award, three received 15 year awards, and seven received 20 year awards. Nine employees who received 25 year awards: Mike Cox, Tom Donham, Paula Lannen, Ed Partee, Gabe Pincolini, Ivy Santee, Teri Slatauski, Pat Sollberger, and Michele White. Three employees received 30 year awards: Vicky Martinez, David Pfiffner, and Chris Tomlinson.

The Legislative Commission met and approved Commission General Regulation 440 which is designed to protect wildlife and its habitat by prohibiting a person from placing, maintaining or using a trail camera or similar device from Aug. 1 to Dec. 31 of each year; or at any time if the trail camera or similar device prevents wildlife from accessing a water source on May 16, 2018. Transmitting cameras are prohibited during the period of July 1 through Dec. 31.

The Legislative Commission met and approved Commission General Regulation 470 which revises provisions relating to petitions submitted to the Board of Wildlife Commissioners to adopt, file, amend or repeal certain permanent regulations.

The Department continues to hold coordination meetings with partner agencies. Most recently the Department met with California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Topics included: wildlife data sharing, migrations, Secretarial Order 3362, sagebrush ecosystems, fish management in shared aquatic ecosystems, coordinated disease response, wildlife attacks, urban wildlife issues, coordinated wolf response plan/communication, and laboratory capabilities and coordination opportunities. We also met with the Bureau of Land Management. Topics included: bighorn sheep, wilderness coordination, fire season, wildlife and vegetation surveys, oil and gas lease sales, secretarial orders, sage grouse, and mitigation updates.

The Department completed and submitted the annual report for the upcoming WAFWA meeting. This year's meeting is being hosted by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in Eugene from July 12 – 17.

B Litigation Report – Deputy Attorney General

DAG Stockton provided the following updates: Smith/Molde arguments were set for July 26; however the date was moved up to June 26; Smith vs. Wakeling et al case, case did not get picked and did not get denied; and Wichita holdings vs Wakeling is essentially the same case as the previous case, but have added two businesses.

- 12 Nevada Department of Wildlife Project Updates – Director Wasley – Informational
The Commission has requested that the Department provide regular project updates for ongoing projects and programs as appropriate based on geography and timing of meetings. These updates are intended to provide detail in addition to the summaries provided as part of the regular Department Report and are intended to inform the Commission and public as to the Department's ongoing duties and responsibilities.

Secretary Wasley noted that specific to the geography the Department will tour and highlight the water developments in the Dyer area.

Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne provided a presentation on the water development program which began in the 1950s with bighorn sheep development. There are 1,725 guzzlers statewide. The program is developed to the point of natural water protection. There are two crews statewide consisting of a biologist and two crew members. Some seasonal employees also assist with maintenance workload. Volunteers and sportsman organizations are essential to water development.

13 Public Comment Period

Trish Swain, Trail Safe, thanked the Commission for acceptance of the regulation.

Friday, June 29, 2018 – Tour will begin at the Close of Agenda Item #13

Commission Tour – Informational

The Commission will tour an area in southwest Nevada with wildlife significance. Informational presentations will be made at several sites but no action will be taken by the Commission. The public is invited to participate but will be required to provide their transportation. The group will depart from the meeting location.

Saturday, June 30, 2018 – 8:30 a. m.

- 14 Pledge of Allegiance, Call to Order, Roll Call of Commission and County Advisory Board Members to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) – Chairman Wallace

Chairman Wallace called the meeting to order and all eight Commissioners were present. Chairman Wallace; Commissioners Johnston, Almberg, Barnes, East, Hubbs, McNinch, and Valentine. Roll call of CABMW members taken: Glen Bunch, Mineral; Craig Burnside, Douglas; Gene Green, Carson; Gil Yanuck, Carson; Rob Jacobson, Lyon; Joe Crim, Pershing; and Cory Lytle, Lincoln.

- Commissioner Appreciation – Secretary Wasley

Secretary Wasley acknowledged Chairman Wallace's last day on the Wildlife Commission. He said it is bittersweet because we are losing one of the best Commissioners we have already had but we get to acknowledge his work on the Commission. Secretary Wasley presented Chairman Wallace with a plaque from the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

Vice Chairman Johnston thanked Chairman Wallace's family for letting him serve on the Commission. He said Chairman Wallace always had the best interest of Nevada's wildlife.

- 15 Approval of Agenda – Chairman Wallace – 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.

Public Comment – None

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER HUBBS SECONDED. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 16 Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence – Chairman Wallace – 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.

None

- 17 County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Member Items – Informational
CABMW members may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action will be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.

None

- 18 Commission Policy 50, Duck Stamp Procedure, Second Reading – Commissioner and Administrative Procedures, Regulations, and Policy Committee Chairman David McNinch – For Possible Action
The Commission will conduct a second reading of Commission Policy 50 and may take action to officially suspend the policy.

Commissioner McNinch said the committee recommendation after several public hearings is to suspend Policy 50.

Public Comment – None

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO SUSPEND COMMISSION POLICY 50. COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commission Regulations – Adoption – For Possible Action – Public Comment Allowed

- 19 Commission Regulation 18-01, Amendment #1 – Fishing Seasons and Regulations for the Two Year Period March 1, 2018 through February 29, 2020 – Fisheries Division Administrator Jon Sjöberg – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider Amendment #1 of CR 18-01, the Fishing Seasons and Bag Limits for March 1, 2018 through February 29, 2020. The Department is proposing an amendment to the harvest limit for fish in that portion of the Upper Reese River and tributaries from the Arc Dome wilderness boundary south of the Yomba Shoshone Tribe Reservation to its headwaters, and Stewart Creek from its confluence with the Reese River to its headwaters, in Nye County, to remove harvest limits on trout species.

Fisheries Division Administrator Jon Sjöberg explained that the proposed amendment will remove harvest limits on certain waters in Nye County. The memorandum explains the reasoning behind the amendment which is to restore Lahontan cutthroat trout to its historic range. The Department will be removing non-native trout from the designated waters. This is an important project for Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT), and this is an opportunity for the public to maximize their harvest of non-native trout. Removal of non-native trout is estimated to be complete by fall 2019, when success of removal is verified these waters will be restocked with LCT.

Commissioner East asked what happens if they are not all removed.

Division Administrator Sjöberg said there will be treatment monitoring with systems to isolate non-natives.

Commissioner Hubbs asked if there are any LCT in that system now, and what the treatment will be.

Division Administrator Sjöberg said presently no LCT exists in those waters. A natural pesticide that is specific to fish is used, with the appropriate timing of treatment, impacts to native amphibians is avoided because they have matured to adults and are no longer gill-breathing.

Commissioner Johnston noted that the existing regulation does only put that limit on trout but it does mention warm water fish in the regulation as well.

Division Administrator Sjöberg said that is because the regulation encompassed all of the waters for Nye County, there was no specific regulation to just these waters.

Public Comment –

Craig Burnside, Douglas CABMW, said his CABMW had motions to recommend both approval and denial of the CR, both failed. One member thought that USFWS had a mandate to remove all non-native trout in Nevada; one member was against the poisoning. Mr. Burnside said he understands that it is a management decision on those waters.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO CR 18-01 AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER VALENTINE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

20 Commission Regulation 18 - 12, 2018 - 2019 Upland Game and Furbearer Seasons and Bag Limits – Wildlife Staff Specialists Shawn Espinosa and Russell Woolstenhulme – For Possible Action

The Commission will consider and may vote to establish regulations for upland game birds and mammals as well as furbearers for the 2018 and 2019 seasons. This regulation will also include fall wild turkey seasons for 2018 and 2019 and spring wild turkey seasons for 2019 and 2020.

Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa said that in the past, the Commission went through this regulation species by species; however he would prefer highlighting the changes for upland game and then switching to turkey, and then furbearer. The Department is recommending no changes to youth seasons. Sage grouse season changes include a closed hunt for Unit 034 due to low lek attendance and population size; a closed for Unit 164 in Nye County because there are only a few leks; a closure of all of Unit 068 in Elko, Eureka, and Lander Counties; a reduced season length for Units 141, 144, and 145 in Eureka because of low lek attendance and habitat loss. Unit 141 has a lot of anthropogenic disturbance in that unit effecting wildlife. The season would be changed from 16 days to nine days. Some of the language in the special regulations on page 4 should read “unless his or her privilege has been revoked.” Another recommended change for the Sheldon special sage-grouse hunt and the Snowcock hunts is that the Department is attempting a modification of application procedures by the license vendor to apply online.

Commissioner Hubbs asked why not close the units in Eureka County rather than shortening them.

Staff Specialist Espinosa said trends are used with a minimum threshold. Once the population gets down to that level, the population is looked at more closely, but at this time, it has not reached that minimum. The Department is recommending a seven day season as an appropriate choice.

Public Comment – None

Staff Specialist Espinosa said the Department recommends an additional four tags for youth in Pershing County for limited entry hunts, increased tags in Mason Valley, and adding two tags for each hunt period in Pershing County.

Public Comment – None

Staff Specialist Espinosa said for falconry seasons the statewide season is recommended to start Sept. 1 and end on the last day of February.

Public Comment – None

Commissioner Hubbs said that the sage grouse hunts has gotten her attention. She said she understands that at this point in time the population is doing well, but she would like to consider being more conservative in that area versus shortening the season.

Staff Specialist Espinosa noted that harvest levels have been light in the past.

Commissioner Almberg asked when most of the harvest takes place.

Staff Specialist Espinosa said it depends on when the other upland game or big game seasons open.

COMMISSIONER VALENTINE MOVED TO APPROVE THE UPLAND GAME PORTION OF CR 18-12 INCLUDING THE ADDITION OF “HIM OR HER” LANGUAGE PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER BARNES SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner McNinch wanted to note that the Department is very cautious with the birds and he is confident with their recommendation.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY 8-0.

Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme said that the supporting memo explained that there are no changes from last year. There were no significant concerns coming from last year.

Commissioner Hubbs said she saw the bobcat numbers and she wanted to make sure that the season was lengthened last year because of the over-abundance of water. This year there was not an increase in water so why is it the season not reduced back to what it was.

Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme said that favorable precipitation can have a positive influence on recruitment over several years, especially as predators respond to prey populations. The Department looks at reproduction rates, population health, and young to adult ratios. He said he reviewed data from last year's harvest and production was still normal. There is still an abundance of bobcats on the landscape. A longer season will not have any detrimental impact.

Commissioner Hubbs asked if harvest levels increased last year.

Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme said they did increase and that is a result of the longer season as well as the limited amounts of snow coverage which allows more access.

Commissioner Hubbs asked the current status of the pygmy rabbit.

Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme said that pygmy rabbits are not a species that may be lawfully trapped, but they are hunted.

Public Comment –

Joel Blakeslee, Nevada Trappers Association, said that when it comes to lengthening the season, this is not a drastic increase. He said he has been coming to this board for 40 years and he said he has not seen a three year trend better than it is currently. Predators in this state are doing well.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE FURBEAR PORTION OF CR 18-12. COMMISSIONER EAST SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY 8-0.

- 21 Commission Regulation 18-04 Amendment #1, 2018 Heritage Tag Organization/Vendor Selection and Special Regulations – Data and Technology Services Division
Administrator Chet Van Dellen – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider selection of the 2018 Heritage Tag vendors/organization recommendations.

DATS Administrator Van Dellen explained that CR 18-04 Amendment #1 is for the 2019 season.

Public Comment – None

Commissioner Johnston asked if the Heritage Committee discussed the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) situation last year.

Commissioner Hubbs said that there was dialogue about local and out of state vendors but she could not remember the decision.

Commissioner Johnston remembered that last year the elk tag went to RMEF and there was discussion about the tag going out of state versus staying in the state.

Chairman Wallace said in the committee meeting, they discussed the fact that giving RMEF a tag would send it to their Arizona auction.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO CR 18-04 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE. COMMISSIONER ALMBERG SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Species	Class	Unit Group	Season	Quota	Organization
Mule Deer	Any mule deer	Any hunt unit with an antlered mule deer season.	August 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019	2	Mule Deer Foundation
					Wildlife Habitat Improvement of NV
Pronghorn Antelope	Any pronghorn antelope	Any hunt unit with a pronghorn antelope with horns longer than ears season.	August 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019	2	NV Waterfowl Association
					Pershing Co. Chukar Unlimited
Rocky Mountain Elk	Any elk with at least one antler	Any hunt unit with an antlered elk season except for unit 091.	August 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019	2	N. NV Safari Club International
					Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited
Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep Heritage Tag No. 1	Any ram	Any hunt unit with a Nelson (desert) bighorn sheep open season except the unit where the Nelson Bighorn Sheep Heritage Tag No. 1 was filled in the prior year if the tag quota in the prior year for that unit is less than ten (10).	August 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, except for units 252, 280, 281, 282 which will be established by the Commission for Hunt 3151	1	NV Bighorns Unlimited Reno

Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep Heritage Tag No. 2	Any ram	Any hunt unit with a Nelson (desert) bighorn sheep open season except the unit where the Nelson Bighorn Sheep Heritage Tag No. 2 was filled in the prior year if the tag quota in the prior year for that unit is less than ten (10).	August 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, except for hunt units 252, 280, 281, 282 which will be established by the Commission for Hunt 3151	1	Wild Sheep Foundation/Fraternity Desert Bighorn
California Bighorn Sheep Heritage Tag No. 1	Any ram	Any hunt unit with a California bighorn sheep season except the unit where the California Bighorn Sheep Heritage Tag No. 1 was filled in the prior year if the tag quota in the prior year for that unit is less than seven (7) and unit 041.	Aug 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019	1	NV Bighorns Unlimited Reno
Wild Turkey	Any wild turkey	Any hunt unit with a wild turkey season.	March 24, 2019 through May 6, 2019	5	Carson Valley Chukar Carson Valley Chukar Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited Las Vegas Woods and Water Wildlife Habitat Improvement of NV
Total				14	

22 Finance Committee – Committee Chairman Gil Yanuck and Deputy Director Liz O’Brien

A Finance Committee Report – Committee Chairman Gil Yanuck – Informational
The Commission will hear a report on the committee’s recent meeting.

Committee Chairman Gil Yanuck explained that the meeting was held June 15 at the Nevada Department of Wildlife. There were no public members present. The committee reviewed the balances of several county advisory boards. The committee would like to address the problem of recruiting county advisory boards. Maybe teleconferencing would help with the recruitment of county advisory board members. We need to help the counties so they can help us.

Commissioner East asked if working with non-governmental organizations to find members would be an option to find members. Mr. Yanuck said he would be happy to work with her on membership ideas.

B Fiscal Year 2019 County Advisory Board Budget Requests – Committee Chairman Gil Yanuck – For Possible Action

The Commission may approve an estimated amount of \$39,186.01 for County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife budgets for fiscal year 2019. Carson City estimate \$1,742.50; Clark estimate \$9,389.69; Douglas estimate \$2,127.02; Eureka estimate \$373.71; Humboldt estimate \$583.54; Lander estimate \$2,063.99; Lincoln estimate \$2,378.27; Lyon estimate \$1,347.17; Mineral estimate \$5,477.85; Pershing estimate \$4,982.56; Washoe estimate \$3,771.37; White Pine estimate \$4,948.34.

Public Comment – None

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE FY19 COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TRAVEL BUDGET. COMMISSIONER BARNES SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 23 Amendment to the Biennial Upland Game Release Plan for Fiscal Year 2019 – Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme – For Possible Action
The Commission will review and may take action to amend the Department's biennial upland game release plan for fiscal year 2019 to include beavers.

Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme explained that the Department added beavers to the Upland Game Release Plan; however, no beaver releases are being considered it would be in response to requests in recent years to include beavers in the release plan.

Public Comment – None

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO THE BIENNIAL UPLAND GAME RELEASE PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Hubbs asked who requested beavers to be released on their land.

Secretary Wasley explained that this item came about because there have been private landowners concerned about damage caused by beavers but beavers can also be used to restore riparian characteristics. Consistent with Commission policy, we would like to have this option available and it should not be perceived that beavers add the opportunity to take problematic animals in one area to restore characteristics in another area. Secretary Wasley said science supports using beavers in some areas. This is just giving the Department the option to use them if necessary.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 24 Future Commission Meetings and Commission Committee Assignments – Secretary Tony Wasley and Chairman Wallace – For Possible Action
The next Commission meeting is scheduled for August 10 and 11, 2018, in Caliente. 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 as necessary at this meeting.

Secretary Wasley explained that the Department has a possible CABMW workshop, WAFWA conference report, second workshop on CGR 477 Landowner Comp, possible workshop for three other regulations, election of new chair/vice chair, and there will need to be an Administrative Procedures Regulation Committee meeting after the passage of the petition process.

Public Comment –

Craig Burnside, Douglas CABMW, said Caliente may not be the best meeting location for a CABMW Workshop.

25 Public Comment Period

Craig Burnside, Douglas CABMW, noted that Bob Cook will be leaving the advisory board and Mr. Cook thought it would be important that representation on the Douglas CABMW include a member from Lake Tahoe. Mr. Cook attended the Douglas County Commission meeting where he requested Lake Tahoe representation. The Douglas County Commission agreed with that one member of Douglas CABMW will always be from Lake Tahoe.

Meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Note: The meeting has been videotaped and is available for viewing at www.ndow.org. The minutes are only a summary of the meeting. A complete record of the meeting can be obtained at the Nevada Department of Wildlife Headquarters Office in Reno.