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**MINUTES**  
**NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS**  
**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2021 AT 5:30 PM via ZOOM

Committee Members Present: Chairwoman East, Commissioner McNinch, Commissioner Pierini and Member Smith (arrived at 5:38pm)

Commissioner Rogers was absent.

Department Staff Present: Deputy Director Jack Robb, Management Analyst Kailey Taylor, Chief Game Warden Michael Maynard

Public in Attendance: Judi Caron, David Ricker, Karen Boeger, and Dr. Gerald Lent

**Call To Order and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 5:35pm.

**Approval of Agenda**

There were no questions on the agenda. There was no public comment on the agenda.

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. COMMISSIONER PIERINI SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED 3-0. COMMISSIONER ROGERS AND MEMBER SMITH WERE ABSENT.**

**\*Approval of Minutes**

The Committee had no questions on the Minutes from the March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Public Comment: None

**CHAIRWOMAN EAST MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED 3-0. COMMISSIONER ROGERS AND MEMBER SMITH WERE ABSENT.**

\*Break for two minutes to allow Member Smith to arrive\*

**\*Review of Bill/Bill Draft Request (BDR) Tracking List**

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor updated the Committee on changes to the tracking sheet and explained which BDRs now had bill language.

**Assembly Bill 286 - Revises provisions governing firearm safety.**

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor explained that this bill prohibits a person from possessing a firearm under a covered premise after being warned. The warning could consist of a sign on a door or a verbal warning at the time of entering the building. The bill also provides for penalties if the provisions are violated. This bill has already been heard in the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

Commissioner Pierini explained that he has had multiple conversations on this bill since the last committee meeting. He noted that it is extremely difficult for a lay person to be able to interpret the nuances and that it would be much easier if every business was required to post signs at all entrances. He noted that he will not be supporting the bill.

Commissioner McNinch explained that since the bill is so complicated, the Committee or Commission could establish some sort of platform.

There was no public comment on the bill.

The Committee decided not to take a position on the bill at this time.

**Senate Bill 344 - Enacts provisions relating to the importation, possession, sale, transfer and breeding of dangerous wild animals.**

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor explained that this bill recently came out. She explained that it is extremely similar to the dangerous wild animal bill from the 2019 Legislative Session. She noted that the bill from last session died after the First Committee Passage Deadline and that the Committee had not taken a position last session.

Commissioner McNinch asked what prompted this bill.

Chief Game Warden Michael Maynard explained that this bill was brought forward in 2017 by the National Humane Society. Both Chairwoman East and Kailey were in the hearing in 2019 when I testified to it regarding the Department's abilities to enforce. Warren Hardy was the lobbyist at the time working with the Humane Society on the bill. I helped to draft the version you are looking at now to address some of our concerns. The bill did die last year.

Chairwoman East asked if the Committee took a position on the bill last session.

Commissioner McNinch asked what we would gain or not gain should this bill move forward.

Chief Game Warden Maynard explained that this is a fairly intricate bill. There are only three species of concern to the Department: Grey wolves, black bears and mountain lions. The black bears and mountain lion have language specific to them being born in captivity. The intent of the bill was to regulate the importation and possession of dangerous animals in the state. They wanted to make sure that if you possess a dangerous animal, that you are held to a standard of care for the animal and a plan on what happens if the animal gets lose. The Department has to look at the enforcement side, which is not something Wardens have the ability to enforce. The only proper enforcement is to have the County Sheriffs oversee this because there is no other mechanism to handle it. The bill is not in Title 45 so it does not fall under NDOW but it does reference some portions of NRS that would involve us but the burden falls under municipal police departments to enforce the majority of the bill. Bill does not give us any less or more authority but it gives law enforcement the ability to euthanize when it is necessary.

Commissioner Pierini reiterated the fact that County Sheriffs will play a major role in the enforcement of this. He appreciated Chief Maynard's clarifications.

Management Analyst Taylor noted that the Committee did not take a position on the bill last session.

Public Comment: None

Chairwoman East explained that she would like to wait and watch this bill before the Committee takes a position. No members had anything to add.

The Committee decided not to take a position on the bill at this time.

**Assembly Bill 433 - Revises provisions relating to the Sagebrush Ecosystem Program.**

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor explained that AB 433 allows for the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council (SEC) to establish a reasonable fee for participation in the program. She spoke with Director Wasley and he explained they have had discussions about this bill during SEC Meetings. Originally SEC was getting General Fund money but after COVID-19 hit general fund dollars were re-directed so they need a means of cost recovery.

Commissioner McNinch explained he would support this bill because it would shore up the work of the council which is a good thing at this point in time. It is important to the conservation of sage grouse and other sage brush obligates.

Public Comment:

Karen Boeger, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, said that it is very encouraging to see how much the Council has accomplished and that they are very important to our State and Wildlife and that she is very supportive of their work.

Chairwoman East said she would be inclined to support the bill because the Council has done great work.

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO SUPPORT AB 433. CHAIRWOMAN EAST SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED 4-0. COMMISSIONER ROGERS WAS ABSENT.**

**Assembly Bill 84 - Revises provisions relating to wildfires.**

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor explained that AB 84 had already been heard in Committee. She explained that this was another bill aimed at wildfire prevention and restoration. This bill is scheduled for a work session on March 31.

Commissioner Pierini asked about private industries participation.

Management Analyst Taylor explained that the bill allows for public-private partnerships and that it does not speak to any payments.

Commissioner McNinch asked how this would affect what NDOW is already doing in terms of fire prevention and management plans?

Management Analyst Taylor responded that NDOW already works very closely with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and that she didn't envision that changing but that she would get an opinion from Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne.

Public Comment: None

The Committee decided not to take a position until hearing back from the Department.

**Assembly Bill 2 - Revises provisions relating to appointments to public bodies.**

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor reminded the Committee that they briefly discussed this AB 2 at the last Committee meeting but that the members did not have the language at that time. The bill would remove the provision stating that a person can only serve on one board or commission at a time.

Member Smith confirmed that would mean that someone currently serving on a board could serve on a second board, which was correct.

Commissioner Pierini added that about 10 or 15 years ago you used to be able to sit on more than one but then they took it down to only serving on one. He thought that was a great move because it gives more people the opportunity to serve on boards and spread out the workload.

Commissioner McNinch did clarify that it was changed about 10 years ago.

Deputy Director Robb explained that about 10 years ago there was a member sitting on both the Wildlife Commission and the Agriculture Commission until they made the change which came from a targeted bill.

Public Comment:

Dr. Gerald Lent explained that the statute currently in place was brought by Member Smith's late wife, Former Assemblywoman Debbie Smith.

Chairwoman East added that she would not be able to handle two boards at once and Commissioner Pierini agreed and added that they are very time consuming. Chairwoman East asked if there is any benefit or downside to this bill regarding the Department.

Deputy Director Robb responded that he could not see a cost or benefit to the Department but that people serving on Boards and Commissions do gift their time to the State because compensation is minimal.

Commissioner McNinch suggested waiting to take a position on this bill. The Committee decided not to take a position on the bill at this time.

#### **Assembly Bill 234 - Revises provisions relating to charitable lotteries.**

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor explained that Chairwoman East requested AB 234 be added as a topic of discussion. She explained that in the 2019 Legislative Session, a bill was put forward putting extreme restrictions on charitable games and lotteries. After the passage of that bill many small charitable organizations, including conservation organizations, were restricted in their ability to hold games, raffles, and lotteries at their events. Assembly Bill 234 was brought as a means to rectify that situation.

Chairwoman East noted that Nevada Bighorns Unlimited makes more in one dinner than the dollar amount listed in the bill. Member Smith also noted that this bill specifically mentions lotteries so he would like to follow the bill.

Public Comment: None.

The Committee decided to add the bill to their tracking list but did not take a position.

#### **Future Committee Meetings**

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor reminded the Committee that their next meeting would be April 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm and that she suggested a Meeting on April 30 before the May Commission Meeting. The Committee decided on a 9am start time for April 30, 2021.

#### **Public Comment Period**

David Ricker, Policy Chair for Nevada Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, asked how the fiscal note for AB 299 was determined. He also noted that every Western State has a roadkill salvage bill in place except for Nevada. Wyoming just had the bill pass through both chambers. He explained there have been no public health threats. He urged the Committee to change their position on the bill because he did not understand the strong sentiment against it at the Commission meeting.

Karen Boeger, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers and Nevada Wildlife Coalition, explained that they support AB 299 and that she was hoping the Committee would support AB 299 as well after the Department concerns were addressed. She also urged the Committee to do all they could to round up support for SJR 3 before it is up for work session on Thursday.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:49pm.