

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:  
CHAIRMAN TOMMY CAVIGLIA  
COMMISSIONER DAVE MCNINCH  
COMMISSIONER RON PIERNI  
CABMW REPRESENTATIVE GLENN BUNCH

STAFF TO THE COMMITTEE:  
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**DRAFT MINUTES**  
NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS  
**REGULATION SIMPLIFICATION COMMITTEE**  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021 @ 5:30 PM

Nevada Department of Wildlife personnel in attendance: Management Analyst Kailey Taylor, Management Analyst Megan Manfredi, Game Warden Captain Jake Kremer, Game Division Administrator Mike Scott, Deputy Director Jack Robb, Diversity Division Administrator Jen Newmark, Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne, Administrative Assistant Ali Medina

County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Members and public in attendance: Joel Blakeslee, Rex Flowers, Jana Wright, Fred Voltz

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

Chairman Tommy Caviglia called the meeting to order at 5:39 PM. Commissioner Ron Pierini led the pledge. Management Analyst Megan Manfredi conducted the roll call. Chairman Tommy Caviglia, Commissioner Dave McNinch, Commissioner Ron Pierini, CABMW Representative Glenn Bunch were present.

2. Approval of Agenda – Committee Chairman Caviglia – For Possible Action  
The Committee will review the agenda and may take action to approve the agenda. The Committee may remove items from the agenda, continue items for consideration or take items out of order.

No public comment.

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED, SECONDED BY CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA. MOTION PASSED 4-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes – Committee Chairman Caviglia – For Possible Action  
Committee minutes may be approved from the January 19, 2021 meeting.

No public comment.

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PIERNI. MOTION PASSED 4-0.**

4. Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence – Commissioner and Committee – Informational  
Committee members may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Committee. Any item requiring Committee action may be scheduled on a future Committee agenda. The Committee will review and may discuss correspondence sent or received by the Committee since the last regular meeting and may provide copies for the exhibit file. Correspondence sent or received by the Department will also be discussed.

Chairman Caviglia shared that the Committee members received an email from Joel Blakeslee that would be forwarded to the Department for the record.

Dear committee members,

I'd like to send a follow-up email regarding the conversation about suitcase traps that was heard in the last regulation simplification meeting and the last commission meeting. I'd like to simplify my request since this kind of got out in the weeds during the last discussion.

I think there are three choices here. 1-Recognize the suitcase trap as a cage trap. 2-Don't recognize it as a cage trap. 3-Do nothing.

Frankly, I think doing nothing is a great choice followed by recognizing it as a cage. Not recognizing it as a cage is ludicrous. The definition of a cage trap covers the device just fine without tweaking. The trap is clearly not "**designed, built, or made**" to close on any part of an animal's body and that is all that the definition requires. Let's not make this the regulation complication committee. lol

Thanks for your time,  
Joel Blakeslee

5. County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Member Regulation Simplification Items - Informational  
CABMW members may present their recommended regulation items they wish to be discussed for simplification and clarification.

CABMW Representative Glenn Bunch and Management Analyst Manfredi confirmed that no correspondence had been received from the CABMWs.

No CABMW members were in attendance.

6. Discussion of proposed changes to NAC 503 – Committee Chairman Caviglia – For Possible Action  
The Committee and staff will discuss the proposed changes from the Department, Commission and County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife of NAC 503 to be submitted to the Legislative Council Bureau (LCB) and heard at the next available Commission meeting.

Chairman Caviglia stated that the only remaining item to discuss in NAC 503 regarded the suitcase trap.

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor confirmed Chairman Caviglia's statement and said she completed the changes that were approved for NAC 503 by the Commission in January's meeting. Those changes were reflected in the support materials.

Chairman Caviglia added that there has been substantial discussion regarding suitcase traps at the last Commission meeting. He asked if the Department had any further discussion since the Commission meeting.

Deputy Director Jack Robb answered that the Department has spent a lot of time discussing the issue with staff from all divisions as well as individuals of the public. Most of the topics were

public safety concerns. From those discussions, the Department has drafted proposed language for the Committee to review.

Game Warden Captain Jake Kreamer stated that the Department's proposed language was chosen to be permissive yet cautious. NAC 503.165 is specific to trapping within a half mile of certain residences in counties with a higher population. The new language clarifies trap definitions. The proposed suitcase trap definition verbiage was chosen because the nature of the trap encases the animals being trapped. Additional language allows the trap to be used outside of the general trapping season under the authority of a governing agency.

Chairman Caviglia asked what the authority would look like.

Deputy Director Robb answered that the Department might require a trapper to produce written authority while conducting patrols. Authority could be from any state, local or federal governing agency if the timing of the trapping falls under the trapping season. If the trapping falls outside of the general trapping season, the permission by the Department through a depredation permit would be needed by the trapper.

Commissioner McNinch stated he understood the need to trap in the waterways that were being discussed and appreciated the proposed language from the Department. He asked if the Department had concerns that outside governing agencies would not fully understand the history of the regulation and why the need for the regulations was originally presented.

Deputy Director Robb answered that most of the trapping conflicts heard by the Department occur outside the general trapping season, mainly due to the animal activity of the yearly season. In those situations, the Department would be controlling the depredation permits being issued and aware of the trapping activities.

Commissioner McNinch stated that he would like to see the mandatory depredation permit be extended to year-round. He shared concerns about public transparency.

Deputy Director Robb added that when the Department receives notice of nuisance wildlife, the personal identifiable information of the individuals who notify the Department are protected by Nevada Revised Statute (NRS). That statute was put in place a handful of Legislative Sessions ago.

Joel Blakeslee stated that this is the first time the public is seeing the proposed changes to the regulation. He noticed a few things he would like changed and discussed further but agreed that the change is moving in the right direction.

Rex Flowers stated that he would like to see the suitcase trap included in the cage trap definition. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) have had multiple discussions about the suitcase traps. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has written about them in their peer review paper. That paper was provided to the Commission a few years ago. Those agencies define a suitcase trap as a cage and box trap. He has an issue with the Department wanting to differentiate a suitcase trap from a box trap when most Department personnel do not have background knowledge and experience with a suitcase trap. He would like to see a suitcase trap follow AFWA's standards.

Chairman Caviglia added that there has been confusion in the past regarding what definition would cover the suitcase trap. He did not see an issue with providing the suitcase trap its own definition.

Commissioner Pierini asked if the average person understood the different types of traps and their definitions since there has been multiple changes throughout the years. He added if this was something the public should be provided additional education for.

Chairman Caviglia confirmed that the process of the suitcase trap definition was brought forth by the public seeking clarification on the definitions.

Deputy Director Robb added that the NAC being discussed is very specific and narrowly focused to counties with populations at a certain degree, mainly Washoe and Clark, which is a very small area compared to the rest of the state.

Commissioner McNinch understood the public comment wishing that the state regulations fall in-line with the AFWA standards. He did not have concerns with a suitcase trap being handled differently than a box trap. The NAC regulations could be reviewed again and changed to align with the AFWA recognizable standards if that is the wish of the public and the trapper's association.

Chairman Caviglia concluded that he did not see any problems with the proposal and added that additional people will be able to review and discuss the change at March's Commission meeting.

**CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA MOVED TO BRING THE PROPOSED LANGUAGE AS PRESENTED TO THE COMMISSION IN MARCH, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCNINCH. MOTION PASSED 4-0.**

7. Discussion of Regulation Items Proposed by Committee Members or CABMW Members – Committee Chairman Caviglia – For Possible Action  
The Committee and staff will begin discussion of remaining regulation items presented by the Committee members and CABMWs to decide direction in which to provide the Department.

Management Analyst Taylor stated that the Committee has completed its review of the Department's proposed changes to NAC. She asked for Committee, CABMW and public members to state any proposed changes they may have.

Joel Blakeslee added that he would like to have additional public input and discussion regarding the suitcase trap regulation that was discussed by the Committee.

8. Future Committee Meetings – Committee Chairman Caviglia – For Possible Action  
The Committee will discuss potential agenda items for future committee meetings. The Committee may schedule its next meeting and may choose to recommend a meeting date or timeframe that corresponds with the next Board of Wildlife Commissioners meeting.

Chairman Caviglia stated that the need for another Committee meeting would need to come from Commission deliberation. Until that time, there will be no future Committee meeting scheduled.

No public comment.

9. Public Comment Period

Persons wishing to speak are requested to sign in. Public comment will be limited to three minutes. No action can be taken by the Committee at this time; any item requiring Committee action may be scheduled on a future Committee agenda.

No public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM.

**DRAFT**