

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: CHAIRWOMAN AND
COMMISSIONER TIFFANY EAST
COMMISSIONER DAVID MCNINCH,
COMMISSIONER MARIO WALTHER,
PUBLIC REP. PAUL YOUNG

STAFF TO THE COMMITTEE:
ALEJANDRA MEDINA,
PROGRAM OFFICER I
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MINUTES

NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 8:00 AM

Washoe County Administrative Building A

Commission Chambers

1001 E. Ninth Street

Reno, NV 89512

**1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call of Committee Members –
Committee Chairwoman Tiffany East**

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m. All committee members were present.

2. Approval of Agenda – Committee Chairwoman Tiffany East – 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 at any time.

There were no questions or changes to the agenda.

Public comment: None

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. COMMISSIONER WALTHER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. *Approval of Minutes – Committee Chairwoman Tiffany East – For Possible Action

The Committee will review and may approve the DRAFT Minutes from the November 5, 2022, meeting.

There were no questions or changes to the minutes.

Public comment: None

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE PAUL YOUNG SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. *Legislative Process and Schedule Review – Program Officer Alejandra Medina – Informational

The Committee will review the legislative process, the proposed 2023 Legislative Session 120-Day Calendar and the Assembly and Senate Committee Schedules.

Program Officer Alejandra Medina reviewed the 120-day calendar, the Senate/Assembly committee schedules, and the legislative process for first and second house passage. In accordance with the Nevada Constitution the Legislature must be held during each odd-numbered year, beginning on the first Monday of February for 120 consecutive calendar days. Key dates were provided from the 120-day calendar for the 2023 legislative session. Session begins February 6 and returns to in-person. April 14 is the deadline for first house committee passage. April 25 is the deadline for first house floor passage. May 19 is the deadline for second house committee passage. May 26 is the deadline for second house floor passage. June 5 is the last day of session. If a bill does not meet any of the outlined deadlines it is considered dead.

As a general overview of first and second passage, all bills are assigned a first house, a house of origin. First committee passage means any bill originating from its first house must pass through the first house committee passage deadline (April 14) and the first house floor passage deadline (April 25) to be transferred to the second house where it must pass the second house committee passage deadline (May 19) and the second house floor passage deadline (May 26).

In respect to the Committee Calendars the Senate Natural Resources Committee will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3:30 PM in Room 2144. The Assembly Natural Resources Committee will meet Monday and Wednesday at 4 PM in Room 3143.

Program Officer Alejandra Medina provided information on meetings and events the Department would hold. There will be an in-person meeting scheduled for the first week of session with Assemblywoman Cohen who is the chair of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee. There will be an in-person meeting scheduled for the first week of session with Senator Pazina and Senator Scheible who are the chair and vice chair, respectively, of the Senate Natural Resources Committee.

Lastly the Department will be holding a Legislative Breakfast on February 17, 2023, from 7:30 am to 10:00 am. The event will be held in room 3100 of the legislative building.

Chairwoman East questioned if the Department had been scheduled to present informational material on the Department to both Senate and Assembly Natural

Resource committees.

Secretary Jenne responded that such presentation had yet to be scheduled but that the Legislative Committee would be informed of the presentation date.

5. Designation of Spokesperson(s) – Chairwoman East – For Possible Action

The Committee will elect a spokesperson(s) for the 82nd Legislative Session.

Chairwoman East expressed her desire to see other legislative committee members volunteer to be the primary and secondary spokesperson to provide testimony when pertinent bills are heard.

Commission Walther volunteered to be the primary spokesperson, provided availability based on his work schedule.

Public representative Paul Young volunteered to be the secondary spokesperson.

Commissioner McNinch added that he too would be available and thanked Chairwoman East for her work in the previous legislative session.

Chairwoman East thanked the legislative committee. She noted that she would be departing the Commission in June and would like to see others take the lead and gain experience for future sessions. She recommended that a commissioner be the person who provides testimony on pertinent bills.

Public comment: None

CHAIRWOMAN EAST MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSIONER WALTHER AS THE COMMITTEE SPOKESPERSON FOR THE 82ND LEGISLATIVE SESSION WITH COMMISSION MCNINCH AS THE SECONDARY SPOKESPERSON AND PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE YOUNG AS THE THIRD SPOKESPERSON. PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE PAUL YOUNG SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. *Review of Bill/Bill Draft Request (BDR) Tracking List – Program Officer Alejandra Medina – For Possible Action

The Committee will review the Department's bill/BDR tracking list and may take action to add or emphasize bills/BDRs to be recommended to the Commission. The Committee will create a separate tracking list for the Commission.

Program Officer Alejandra Medina presented the Department bill/bill draft request tracking list.

Chairwoman East sought Secretary Jenne's opinion in respect to tracking legislation relating to energy, water, livestock, or habitat.

Secretary Jenne recommended they be tracked.

Chairwoman East selected various BDRs that were currently on the Department's tracking list to be placed on the Legislative Committee tracking list. BRD 30, 32, 48, 48-79, 93, 128, 168, 54-206, 208, 246, 294, 338, 35-340, 45-342, S-345, S-347, 20-460, 19-560, 628, 743, 744, 816, 861

Commissioner McNinch asked that the Department provide updates on impactful changes.

Public comment period.

Karen Boeger, Nevada Back Country Hunters and Anglers, provided public comment, stating that BDR 678, revises provisions relating to off highway vehicles, and should be tracked. Nevada Back Country Hunters and Anglers were part of stakeholder groups that set up the OHV registrations bill and therefore they maintain a careful eye on OHV related legislation as it may impact wildlife. Speaking on behalf of the Coalition for Healthy Nevada Lands, Karen Boeger expressed her gratitude for BDR 19-560 being placed on the tracking list. It would be used as an educational opportunity for the impacts it may have on other species such as bighorn sheep.

Patrick Donnelly, Great Basin Director for the Center for Biological Diversity, provided public comment. He brought to the committee's attention BDR 339 for tracking. BDR 339 would authorize the management of non-pest insects. The Nevada Department of Agriculture manages pests like grasshoppers and Mormon crickets, but no one is managing butterflies, bees, and other species of importance to pollination. This bill would authorize the Nevada Department of Wildlife to give them management authority over species of insect designated as species of greatest conservation need in the wildlife action plan. This would not be a broad mandate, it would be narrowly tailored to a few dozen species that are outlined in the wildlife action plan as being of greatest conservation need, for example the monarch butterfly. He has been in discussions with the Department of Wildlife and wanted to ensure the Commission was aware. He wanted to have a bill that was positive and addressed a need.

Commissioner McNinch recommended BDR 339 be added to the tracking list. He went on to comment that the issue BDR 339 seeks to address is not limited to Nevada, it is international, and it effects the overall health of the ecosystem.

Program Officer Alejandra Medina asked if the Legislative Committee would want to include BDR 678 to the tracking list.

Chairwoman East indicated that BDR 678 would be added.

7. Future Committee Meetings and Agenda Items – Committee Chairwoman Tiffany

East - 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 February or March meeting date or timeframe for the Board of Wildlife Commissioners related to legislative matters if needed.

Chairwoman East stated that the Commission would meet March 10 and 11, 2023. Provided that first house passage was April 14, 2023, the legislative committee could hold the next meeting in March. Should there be any introductions prior to the March meeting and the legislative committee has yet to have taken a position then members would have to listen or testify in neutral and let it be known that the legislative committee is tracking the bill.

Chairwoman East asked the legislative committee to share future ideas.

Commissioner Walther suggested moving forward as is.

Commissioner McNinch explained that previously the legislative committee had been proactive at developing platforms. A platform would allow for guidance on where the legislative committee stands up until being able to take a position.

Commissioner McNinch suggested a meeting be scheduled in February to develop a platform.

Chairwoman East agreed to meet prior to the March Commission meeting to develop a platform that could then be voted on by the Commission in March.

Public comment period

Larry Johnson, President of Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife, provided public comment, stating that in past sessions they have been very disappointed that the Commission and committee had not reviewed/taken positions and therefore had been unable to testify at committee hearings as to their actual position. This being due to committee meetings not occurring at sufficient time and therefore have been forced into a neutral position on very significant items in the past. Normally not much happens in February so the March 10 date may be appropriate. His Coalition board, in the heat of session meets weekly because things happen fast close to deadlines. He urged the Legislative Committee to set a schedule to where as soon as bill wording is available the committee meets and takes a position that can be advanced to the Wildlife Commission as soon as possible so that your testimony in this legislature is as meaningful as possible.

Chairwoman East agreed with public comment provided by Larry Johnson. She suggested a late February meeting to develop a platform but noted that meetings

could not be immediate due to open meeting law. She noted that there would be a meeting in April, prior to first house passage.

Public Representative Paul Young asked if in the past the legislative committee sought to have a meeting monthly during session, surrounding deadlines.

Chairwoman East answered that previously there have been no meetings in February which could lead to lost opportunities. She added that the Chair of the Commission can schedule an emergency meeting but that most importantly there needs to be communication with bill sponsors to stay informed and to educate them on wildlife matters.

Program Officer Alejandra Medina offered that open meeting law for the legislative committee is three business days which would allow for some flexibility on short notice meetings.

Commissioner McNinch suggested setting a tentative meeting for the last week of February 2023 and a tentative meeting for April 2023. If something is needed earlier, it can be scheduled at that time.

8. 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; however, the Committee may consider items brought up to be scheduled on a future Committee agenda.

Larry Johnson, President of Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife, provided public comment, he congratulated Alan Jenne for his appointment and looks forward to working with him. He stated that sportsman have been unsatisfied with the testimony and the conclusions of the Department of Wildlife in past legislative sessions. He acknowledged some if it was due to scheduling but too often on critical issues that have been in a neutral position when they needed them most. He urged the new administration and Commission to remember who brought them to the dance.

Jana Wright, Private Citizen, provided public comment, stating she hoped all the legislative committee meetings would be available via zoom for remote participation.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 a.m.

*Support material provided and posted to the NDOW website (www.ndow.org) including updates. Support material may be requested from Program Officer Alejandra Medina (775-688-1514; amedina@ndow.org). Supporting material for this meeting is available for the public at the Nevada Department of Wildlife, 6980 Sierra Center Parkway, Suite 120, Reno, NV, 89511. In accordance with NRS 241.020 this agenda closes three days prior to the meeting date and has been posted online at www.ndow.org and at the following Department of Wildlife offices: 1100 Valley Road, Reno, NV, 89512;

380 W. "B" Street, Fallon, NV, 89406; 815 E. Fourth Street, Winnemucca, NV 89445; 60 Youth Center, Elko, NV, 89801; 1218 N. Alpha Street, Ely, NV 89301; and 3373 Pepper Lane, Las Vegas, NV, 89120.

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