

Subcommittee Members: Mitch McVickers, Thomas Brunson, Martin Burdick, Chris Collis, Jani Ahlvers, Gracian Uhalde, Jr., Matt Rajala, Justin Rozich

Department Representative: Kody Menghini
Moir Kolada

**Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners
Mule Deer Enhancement Oversight Committee
Mule Deer Enhancement Program Subcommittee
White Pine County; Management Area 11 and 12
Nevada Department of Wildlife
1218 North Alpha Street
Ely, Nevada 89301**

Tuesday, August 29, 2023 / 6:00 p.m.

DRAFT Minutes

1. Call to Order – Department Representative

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

In Attendance:

Jani Ahlvers, Subcommittee Member
Martin Burdick, Subcommittee Member
Mitch McVickers, Subcommittee Member
Justin Rozich, Subcommittee Member
Moir Kolada, Department Representative
Kody Menghini, Department Representative

Absent:

Gracian Uhalde
Chris Collis
Matt Rajala
Thomas Brunson

2. Approval of Agenda – For Possible Action

Department Representative Kolada made a motion to approve the agenda.

Subcommittee Member McVickers seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

3. Approval of Minutes (January 31, 2023) – Department Representative – For Possible Action

Member Mitch McVickers made a motion to approve the minutes.

Member Martin Burdick seconded the motion.

Motion passed.

4. Member Announcements and Correspondence – Informational

Subcommittee Member McVickers stated that Subcommittee Member Collis is still communicating with Hank Vogler about spring fencing, who is still interested in having some of his springs fenced for protection if the fences are metal.

5. Area 11 and 12 Project Proposals – For Possible Action

The Subcommittee discussed last year's project proposals, the status of those proposals, and reviewed the 5-year plan. Department Representative Menghini gave an overview of the previous year's proposals. The Area 12 mule deer collaring had been supported, but only received funding for half of the requested collars.

Subcommittee Member Rozich thought it would be a good idea to submit a proposal for the remaining collars. Department Representative Kolada stated that the BLM might have funds for collaring. The Subcommittee discussed submitting another proposal for Area 12 mule deer collaring. Mr. Menghini stated that the predator projects had been supported and that the proposals were written for a 3-year time period. The Subcommittee did not support another predator proposal. The Subcommittee discussed the Queen Springs Pinyon Juniper removal project that was submitted last year, which the Subcommittee still wants to pursue as well as expand it to US Forest Service land between Duck Creek Basin and Queen Springs on the west side of the Schell Creek Range. Mr. Rozich stated that NEPA is completed for hand-thinning, but that a cultural inventory would need to be conducted. The Subcommittee discussed the wild horse research project. The Subcommittee believed the wild horse research project was a worthwhile project, but declined to pursue it, preferring to see if larger scale research was done in this area.

Department Representative Kolada gave an update on the Cooper Canyon Pinyon Juniper project and the Smith Valley Pinyon Juniper project in the 5-year plan. Ms. Kolada also gave an update on the South Spring and Hamlin Valley Watershed Environmental Assessment. Ms. Kolada stated the NEPA had been signed but was in litigation. Ms. Kolada stated she understood that hand-thinning projects could still occur. Ms. Kolada stated that the Department was waiting for the BLM to sign a CX that the Department had submitted for the spring restoration package, and that it could be signed in September or October, 2023. Subcommittee Member Rozich stated the US Forest Service had funds to work on springs in the south Schell Creek Range in the next 5 years.

Department Representative Menghini gave an update on the Great Basin National Park mountain lion project. Department Representative Kolada gave an update on a potential energy development in White Pine County. Mr. Menghini said that the Department planned to build or rebuild a few water developments in White Pine County next year. Subcommittee Member Rozich commented that the Miller Basin guzzler would be good to rebuild.

The Subcommittee discussed proposing an Area 12 mule deer collaring project, a south Spring Valley (Shoshone Bench) Pinyon Juniper removal project, and a Queen Springs Pinyon Juniper removal project.

Department Representative Kolada motioned that a mule deer collaring project in Area 12, a Pinyon Juniper removal project in south Spring Valley, and a Pinyon Juniper removal project at Queen Springs be proposed to the Oversight Committee and that allow the Department Representatives would write and submit these proposals by the September 1, 2023 deadline.

Member Mitch McVicars seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

6. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

7. Future Subcommittee Meetings – For possible Action

The Subcommittee discussed setting a meeting date after the Oversight Committee approves projects for this year. No date or time was set.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm.