**14. PETITION – Don Molde and Fred Voltz** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify a proposed Petition submitted by Don Molde and Fred Voltz requesting that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners take action to ban coyote killing contests in Nevada.*

Chair Shea opened public comment.

Joel Blakeslee stated that, in his opinion, this petition has nothing to do with hunger or coyotes or contest, but is about the culture of sport and is an attack on sport. Mr. Blakeslee noted that while it appears that it is okay to have fun while hunting or fishing it appears that it is not okay in this instance. Mr. Blakeslee drew attention to an article on cultural bigotry pointing out that nearly every sport has some form of betting, including football, which is a very brutal sport. Mr. Blakeslee asked that the board recommend denial and explained he does not apologize for having fun at his sport of choice.

Chair Shea closed public comments.

Chair Shea read correspondence (copy on file) from Rex Flowers who does not support the petition.

Member Spencer commented that she did not see a need for action since the petitioners were not present.

Member Smith suggested that she would not expect petitions to have to travel to each of the County Advisory Board meetings

Member Humphreys, Jr. stated that he believes the petition should be denied as the contest, in his opinion, helps to manage coyote populations in more congested areas where pets, children and property are damaged by coyotes.

Member Smith explained that she takes a different view noting that predator management must have clearly defined goals and scientific analysis which is not currently present. Studies indicate there is no data to support the use of a contest to control the population and noted that females will increase litter size with hunting.  Member Smith pointed out that the public does not have a negative perception of fishing or hunting animals for food.

Chair Shea noted that there are a minimal number of coyotes taken and that it appears the activity is mostly individuals getting together socially. Chair Shea explained that he would rather see a requirement to have a hunting license for the State of Nevada for all persons wishing to hunt in the State of Nevada.

***It was moved by Member Tamblyn, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners deny the Petition submitted by Don Molde and Fred Voltz to ban coyote killing contests in Nevada. The motion carried: Members Humphreys, Jr., Spencer, Tamblyn and Chair Shea assenting; and Member Smith dissenting.***