

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

Minutes

Thursday ~ November 5, 2015 ~ 6:00 p.m.
Nevada Department of Wildlife
Conference Room B
1100 Valley Road, Reno, Nevada

MEMBERS

Sean Shea, Chair
Miles Humphreys, Jr., Vice-chair
Michelle Spencer, Secretary
Cathy Smith
William Tamblyn

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Non-action item)

Member Spencer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-chair Humphreys, Jr. noted that Member Tamblyn and Chair Shea were not present and asked that the members present introduce themselves.

2. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (Non-action item)

Vice-chair Humphreys, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Miles Humphreys, Jr., Michelle Spencer and Cathy Smith.

ABSENT: Sean Shea and William Tamblyn.

Jen Gustafson - Deputy District Attorney was also present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-action item)

There were no public comments.

4. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2015, MINUTES (For possible action)

Hearing no public comment Vice-chair Humphreys, Jr., asked for Board discussion or a motion.

It was moved by Member Spencer, seconded by Member Smith, to approve the September 17, 2015, minutes, as submitted. The motion carried: Members Smith, Spencer and Vice-chair Humphreys, Jr., assenting; and Member Tamblyn and Chair Shea absent.

5. BOARD MEMBER MEETING ASSIGNMENT (Non-action item) – *A discussion and selection of member(s) to attend the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meetings on:*

5-1) November 13 and 14, 2015, in Reno, Nevada – Member Smith will attend the November 13 and 14, 2015, meetings in Reno Nevada.

Vice-chair Humphreys, Jr., noted that he would be unable to attend either the November 2015 or the January 2016, meetings due to prior commitments.

5-2). January 29 and 30, 2016, in Las Vegas, Nevada - Vice-chair Humphreys, Jr., believes that either Member Tamblyn or Chair Shea will attend the January meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada.

6. COMMITTEE, MEMBER AND LIAISON UPDATES (Non-action items)

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6-1). Correspondence (including sportsmen's concerns) and Announcements – None.

6-2). Overview of the September 25 and 26, 2015, meeting of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners – Vice-chair Humphreys, Jr., outlined actions taken at the September 25 and 26, 2015, meetings in Las Vegas, Nevada and drew attention to the presentation on Raptors, which he found both fascinating and informative. Vice-chair Humphreys, Jr., noted that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners had made certain modifications to the fishing regulations as recommended by the CAB's (County Advisory Board). Vice-chair Humphreys, Jr., believes that additional information on the Raptor presentation can be found on the NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) website www.ndow.org.

7. PETITION - Don Molde, Fred Voltz, Leah Sturgis and Constance Howard [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioner approve, deny or otherwise modify a petition request from Don Molde, Fred Voltz, Leah Sturgis and Constance Howard requesting a regulation(s) which prohibits wildlife killing contests involving mammals.*

Vice-chair Humphreys, Jr. opened the agenda item and asked for public comment.

Rex Flowers - Coalition for Nevada Wildlife, asked that the petition be denied as it is overreaching in scope and is too open-ended. Additionally, Mr. Flowers believes that it would be a short time before additional species are added to the list as occurred with the Trailsafe petition that resulted in a rewrite of trapping regulations.

Joel Blakeslee also asked that the petition be denied as, in his opinion, the petition deals with consumptive use of wildlife rather than biological issues and is cultural bigotry. Mr. Blakeslee noted that one petitioner identified herself as a California resident.

Mike Cassidy concurred that the petition is too broad and asked that a recommendation to deny the petition be made to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

Clay Belding concurred that the petition should be denied and suggested that while liberals preach acceptance for everyone they are intolerant when it comes to what others may enjoy. Mr. Belding believes that there may be a need to have a Constitutional Amendment to guarantee the right to hunt, fish and/or trap.

Elaine Carrick spoke in support of the petition explaining that, in her opinion, the petition to ban coyote killing contests is not about hunting and trapping. The contests themselves are simply a slaughter. Scientific studies that she has seen indicate that the killing of coyotes tends to increase coyote populations. Ms. Carrick encouraged the board to recommend approval of the petition.

Mel Belding commented that he too had read the petition and pointed out that this petition includes more than just coyotes. Mr. Belding asked that the board recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners deny the petition.

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Hearing no further public comment Vice-chair Humphreys, Jr., closed public comment and asked for Board discussion or a motion.

Member Smith commented that she supports the petition as written and that she is glad no one tried to frame the argument as wildlife management. Member Smith explained that while killing for conservation can make sense; this is a deeper question about who we are as humans and where we think society should be heading. Member Smith noted she believes there is an intrinsic worth of animals beyond their utilitarian value and noted that the indiscriminate killing of a single coyote has an effect on the group's social network. Member Smith drew attention to the killing of Cecil the Lion and the Rhino in Africa that resulted in public outrage and noted that study after study indicates that the killing of coyotes is not worth the time or expense. Member Smith believes this would be the right thing to do and would bring things more in line with current opinion of Nevada's population.

Member Spencer commented that she had expressed her thoughts at the March 12, 2015, hearing of the original petition. Member Spencer pointed out that the hunter success rate on coyote hunts is not very high as the animals tend to move around significantly. Additionally, approval of this petition would negatively impact something that many individuals enjoy and is one of the oldest ways of making money. Member Spencer stated that she has little interest in what other states are doing.

Vice-chair Humphreys, Jr., outlined the various definition of sportsman: 1) active in sports; 2) hunts wild animals as a past time; and 3) one who hunts, races or fishes. Vice-chair Humphreys, Jr., explained that he could not support the petition given the broad brush used in the petition targeting mammals in general.

It was moved by Member Spencer, seconded by Vice-chair Humphreys, Jr., to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners deny the Don Molde, Fred Voltz, Leah Sturgis and Constance Howard petition requesting a regulation(s) which prohibits wildlife killing contests involving mammals. The motion carried: Members Spencer and Vice-chair Humphreys, Jr., assenting; Member Smith dissenting; and Member Tamblin and Chair Shea absent.

- 8. CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE CHANGES TO WATERFOWL HUNT ZONES FOR 2016 - 2020** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed changes to waterfowl hunting zones. The Pacific Flyway entertains changes to waterfowl hunting zones every five years, and potential changes must be noticed by December 1, 2015 to receive consideration. Any changes accepted by the Pacific Flyway will not take effect until autumn 2016 and would remain in effect until autumn 2020, at which time the Department may again suggest changes.*

Vice-chair Humphreys, Jr., opened public comment.

Rex Flowers noted that Lander County had not taken up the issue, Eureka cancelled their meeting and Lincoln and Nye Counties had not scheduled meetings. Mr. Flowers pointed out that the recommendations would have the most effect on those Counties and that he believes that given their lack of action the regulation should remain unchanged.

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Vice-chair Humphreys, Jr., closed public comments.

Member Spencer concurred with Mr. Flowers' comments since other Counties are taking no action.

Vice-chair Humphreys, Jr., noted the lack of public response to the item and concurred that there should be no change.

It was moved by Member Spencer, seconded by Vice-chair Humphreys, Jr., to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners make no change and retain the hunt zones as currently written. The motion carried: Members Smith, Spencer and Vice-chair Humphreys, Jr., assenting; and Member Tamblyn and Chair Shea absent.

- 9. NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE PROJECT UPDATES** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed regular project updates item for ongoing projects and programs as appropriate based on geography and timing of meetings.*

Vice-chair Humphreys, Jr. opened the agenda item and noted the lack of support materials. Hearing no public comment, Vice-chair Humphreys, Jr., asked for Board discussion or a motion.

Responding to Member Smith's inquiry on the budget for Project 2201 the Mountain Lion project in the Massacre Range, Chris Hampson – Biologist, explained that this are two or three more years left on the project as far as he can recollect without the Predator Plan in front of him. Mr. Hampson recommended that Pat Jackson the staff biologist be contacted to assure the accuracy statement.

In response to Member Spencer's question about whether NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) partnered with Wildlife Services, Mr. Hampson explained that NDOW is partnered with Wildlife Services and that Ben Miller is the lead on that project.

It was moved by Vice-chair Humphreys, Jr., seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the updates as presented. The motion carried: Member Spencer and Vice-chair Humphreys, Jr., assenting; Member Smith dissenting; and Member Tamblyn and Chair Shea absent.

- 10. WILDLIFE COMMISSION POLICIES AGENCY INITIAL REVIEW WITH SUGGESTED ACTIONS** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed report of an initial Commission Policy review. The initial Commission Policy review included an evaluation of relevancy, need, and redundancy of the Commission's current policies. The Department's broad recommendations for potential Commission Policy edits and updates will be provided to the Commission. The Commission may choose to provide direction as to the process for updating existing policies or developing new policies that may be warranted. Any Commission Policy changes, or new policy adoption, would require at least two public meetings prior to adoption.*

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Vice-chair Humphreys, Jr. opened the agenda item and asked for public comment.

Rex Flowers commented that in the absence of support material that he recommend no action be taken with a recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to hear the matter as an information only item with the matter being brought back to the County Game Boards for review and recommendations. Typically Commission Policies are reviewed every five (5) years and are brought forward through the Policies/Procedures Subcommittee before coming to the County board.

Mel Belding questioned what constituted a meeting. For example, the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meets on November 13 and 14, 2015. Therefore, does this constitute a single meeting or two separate meetings?

Jack Robb – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), commented that such issues are being brought forward multiple times so that the Commission may receive input from various Counties. Typically The Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners does not like to hear an item at the Friday meeting and then take action at the Saturday meeting.

Mr. Belding recommends that this be handled at a separate monthly meeting to allow more time to review and make recommendation.

Vice-chair Humphreys, Jr., closed public comment.

Member Spencer stated that she does not believe any action should be taken due to the lack of support material.

Member Smith questioned which policies “they” wanted to change or review.

Vice-chair Humphreys, Jr. stated that no specific action would be taken at this time due to the lack of supporting materials.

- 11. WASHOE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE MEMBERS AND/OR STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS, REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND SELECTION OF TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS** [Non-action item] – *Selection of additional agenda item(s) for the next meeting is January 21, 2016.*

No new agenda items were identified.

- 12. PUBLIC COMMENTS** [Non-action item]

Clay Belding expressed his concerns that the legal hunting in Africa that resulted in the taking of “Cecil the Lion” and other approved hunts, were brought up during the discussion of the petition.

Jen Gustafson – Deputy District Attorney, asked that Mr. Belding direct his comments to the board as a whole rather than a single board member.

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Mr. Belding noted that the actions in Africa were legal in Africa and are not, in his opinion, relevant to a coyote hunt in the State of Nevada. Mr. Belding finds it disheartening for an individual to use such actions in their advice to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners that has nothing to do with Coyote or mammal hunting.

Caron Tayloe expressed her appreciation to Member Smith for bringing education to this body as well as the board for the time and effort spent on the issues.

13. ADJOURNMENT [Non-action item]

Vice-chair Humphreys, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

**AS APPROVED BY THE WASHOE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE IN
SESSION ON JANUARY 21, 2016,**