

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

Minutes

Thursday ~ March 16, 2017 ~ 6:00 p.m.
Nevada Department of Wildlife
Conference Room B
1100 Valley Road, Reno, Nevada

MEMBERS

Sean Shea, Chair
Michelle Spencer, Vice-chair
Meghan Di Rocco, Secretary
Arnold Pitts
Steven Robinson

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE [Non-action item]

Chair Shea asked Member Robinson to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL [Non-action item]

Chair Shea called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

PRESENT: Arnold Pitts, Steven Robinson and Sean Shea. Meghan Di Rocco joined the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

ABSENT: Michelle Spencer.

Jen Gustafson – Deputy District Attorney, was also present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS [Non-action item]

Craig Burnside – Chair of the Douglas County CAB, noted that he has a standing agenda item for the Tri County Working Group. Mr. Burnside recalled that the Working Group had formed to address Mule Deer and other issues that affected Carson, Douglas and Washoe Counties. Mr. Burnside would like to reactivate the Working Group and encouraged Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife's participation. Typically, two members of the participating CAB's, to avoid a quorum issue and members of the public.

Rex Flowers noted that the Tri-County Working Group had formed when the Mule Deer Restoration Committee was formed within the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners. Mr. Flowers then commented that he had recently reviewed Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meeting video and explained that the statements made concerning recommendations from TAAHC were false and that the TAAHC never made any recommendations.

Jonathan Lesperance commented that the caliber restrictions were unclear and recalled an incident when a sportsman had apparently used an illegal cartridge while protecting his dog.

Chair Shea noted that he had asked law enforcement who indicated that they have not seen anything else and were still in limbo.

4. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2, 2017, MINUTES (For possible action)

Chair Shea asked for public or board discussion hearing none asked for a motion

It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by Member Robinson, to approve the February 2, 2017, minutes, as submitted. The motion carried: Members Robinson, Pitts and Chair Shea assenting; and Members Di Rocco and Spencer absent.

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Member Di Rocco joined the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

- 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: 1) March 24 and 25, 2017, in Las Vegas, Nevada; and 2) May 12 and 13, 2017, meetings in Reno, Nevada.*

Chair Shea explained that he would be unable to attend the March 24 and 25, 2017, meetings in Las Vegas noting that the Action Report would, in his opinion, suffice.

Members Robinson, Pitts and Chair Shea plan on attending the May 12 and 13, 2017, meetings in Reno.

- 6. COMMITTEE, MEMBER AND LIAISON UPDATES** [Non-action items]

6-1). *Correspondence (including sportsmen's concerns) and Announcements* – There was no correspondence.

6-2). *Overview of the February 10 and 11, 2017, meetings of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners* – Chair Shea noted that the Nevada Lands bill had been discussed extensively. Chair Shea noted that he had not received any correspondence on the Dream Tag, which he was told had been sent. Drawing attention to the proposed rules changes, the change was delayed as sales had already been advertised to start in September with Units being closed that had an animal harvested. Other Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners discussion focused on the season setting and overlapping weapons classes. The Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners is also looking at broader guidelines for season setting. Chair Shea noted that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners had not modified the special assistance guidelines, which may come forward again.

- 7. CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AND KLAMATH BASIN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES REQUEST FOR UP TO 20 WILD-TRAPPED GREATER SAGE GROUSE PER YEAR FOR UP TO THREE YEARS FOR TRANSLOCATION TO THE CLEAR LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE IN CALIFORNIA** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify a request from the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges and the California Department of Wildlife to capture and translocate up to 20 greater sage-grouse per year for up to three years for translocation to the Clear Lake National Wildlife Refuge. The Department is proceeding to fulfill the request and seeks the support of the Commission.*

Chair Shea opened public comment.

Joel Blakeslee advised against giving anything to California.

Rex Flowers suggested that the translocation include a predator control component before and during the establishment of the sage-grouse.

Chair Shea closed public comment.

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It was moved by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Robinson, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve a request from the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges and the California Department of Wildlife to capture and translocate up to 20 greater sage-grouse per year for up to three years for translocation to the Clear Lake National Wildlife Refuge and require predator control in areas where the birds will be released and suggest stating the timing of the proposed capture event. The motion carried: Members Di Rocco, Pitts, Robinson and Chair Shea assenting; and Member Spencer absent.

- 8. SECOND READING, COMMISSION POLICY 26A, TRANSPARENCY** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify a second reading of Commission Policy 26A, Transparency, and may take action to suspend, amend or repeal. At the Feb. 11, 2017, meeting the Commission voted to suspend Policy 26A until such a time the Administrative Procedures, Regulations and Policy Committee can revise and renumber the policy to be consistent with Nevada Revised Statutes and all wildlife data.*

Hearing no public comment Chair Shea asked for Board discussion or a motion.

Chair Shea noted that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners had requested some “clean-up” of the policy at the previous meeting.

It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by Chair Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Policy 26A, Transparency, as written. The motion carried: Members Di Rocco, Pitts Robinson and Chair Shea assenting; and Member Spencer absent.

- 9. Nevada Land Legislation** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify correspondence on 1) Nevada Lands Act – on the development of new federal legislation related to SJR 1; and 2) Washoe County Lands Bill - concerns on the proposed Washoe County Lands Bill.*

Chair Shea opened public comment.

Washoe County Commissioner Bob Lucey noted that he had been asked by a member of the board to address the Nevada Lands Bill as well as the Washoe County Lands Bill. Mr. Lucey noted that he had discussed the recommendations made by Congressman Mark Amodei who is moving forward with the federal legislation. Mr. Lucey noted that the revised language did not include conservation. Mr. Lucey approval of the proposed bill will be challenging at best. The Washoe County land transfer initiative is being drafted to acquire land in and around the Truckee Meadows for economic development. Mr. Lucey noted that the Native Lands legislation had been passed during the previous session of Congress. Mr. Lucey commented that he can be reached by email: blucey@washoecounty.us or at his office 775-328-2012.

Rex Flowers recommended that the letter authored by Commissioner Drew be forwarded noting that once the new legislation is written the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners can review and make comments.

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Mr. Lucey stated that he was speaking as a private citizen and not in his official capacity as a Washoe County Commissioner and suggested that a letter also be sent to Congressman Mark Amodei also be sent to Senators Catherine Cortez Maesto and Dean Heller.

It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by Chair Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the letters on the Nevada Lands Bill and the Washoe County Lands bill as written with a recommendation to send letters to Nevada Senators Catherine Cortez Masto and Dean Heller.

Member Di Rocco noted that although there is support for the addition of a conservation clause in the language it is not feasible at this time.

The motion carried: Members Di Rocco, Pitts Robinson and Chair Shea assenting; and Member Spencer absent.

The meeting recessed at 6:36 p.m. and reconvened at 6:45 p.m.

10. **COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 466, PARTNERSHIP IN WILDLIFE (PIW) DRAWING, CHANGES TO NONRESIDENT RESTRICTED DEER TAG, AND CHANGES TO BIG GAME RETURN CARD QUESTIONNAIRE DEADLINE, LCB File No. R140-16** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify a regulation relating to amending Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation defines the term “main drawing;” revises the order in which the Silver State Tag drawing, PIW drawing and main drawings for tags are conducted; authorizes an applicant for a nonresident restricted deer tag to apply for a nonresident deer tag in the Partnership in Wildlife Drawing and the Silver State tag drawing in the same year; and revises the big game return card questionnaire deadline from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.*

Hearing no public comment Chair Shea asked for Board discussion or a motion.

Chair Shea noted that the PIW change had been brought up by the Washoe County Board previously. Chair Shea explained that with the modifications in this proposal everyone has a chance to be in the second draw which generates additional revenue.

It was moved by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Robinson, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission General Regulation 466, Partnership in Wildlife (PIW) Drawing, Changes to Nonresident Restricted Deer Tag, And Changes to Big Game Return Card Questionnaire Deadline, LCB File No. R140-16, as written. The motion carried: Members Di Rocco, Pitts Robinson and Chair Shea assenting; and Member Spencer absent.

11. **COMMISSION REGULATION 17-05, AMENDMENT #1, BIG GAME SEASONS 2017–2018, NONRESIDENT DESERT (NELSON) BIGHORN EWE HUNTS** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify Amendment #1 of the 2017 - 2018 Big*

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Game Hunting Seasons and Dates, to specifically address nonresident Desert (Nelson) Bighorn ewe hunts that were inadvertently omitted at the February Commission meeting.

Hearing no public comment Chair Shea asked for Board Discussion or a motion.

It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by Chair Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 17-05, Amendment 1, Big Game Seasons 2017-2018 Nonresident Desert (Nelson) Bighorn Ewe hunts, as written. The motion carried: Members Di Rocco, Pitts Robinson and Chair Shea assenting; and Member Spencer absent.

12. **COMMISSION REGULATION 17-12, MIGRATORY GAME BIRD SEASONS, BAG LIMITS, AND SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR WATERFOWL AND WEBLESS MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS; PUBLIC HUNTING LIMITED ON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS AND DESIGNATED STATE LANDS – 2017-2018 Season** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify recommendations for seasons, bag limits, and special regulations for migratory game birds for 2017 - 2018 seasons and adopt regulations that comply with the proposed regulations framework for the 2017- 2018 hunting seasons on certain migratory game birds established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Commission will also consider rules regulating public hunting on Wildlife Management Areas and designated state lands.*

Hearing no public comment Chair asked for Board discussion or a motion.

Chair Shea recalled that the date had traditionally been September 30 not October 30.

It was moved by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Pitts, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 17-12, Migratory Game Bird Seasons, Bag Limits, and Special Regulations for Waterfowl and Webless Migratory Game Birds for the 2017-2018 season with a clarification on page 1 under Mourning Dove and White Wing on whether the season date of September 1 to October 30 or September 1 to September 30 is correct. The motion carried: Members Di Rocco, Pitts Robinson and Chair Shea assenting; and Member Spencer absent.

13. **Wildlife Damage Management Committee Report and Fiscal Year 2017 Draft Predation Management Plan** – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify the proposed Fiscal Year 2017 Predator Management Plan, and the Commission may take action to provide recommendations for modification of the draft for the May Commission meeting.*

Jen Gustafson – Deputy District Attorney, commented that this particular item could not be heard due to a conflict with the OML (Open Meeting Law). Ms. Gustafson explained that the OML is clear in its requirement to identify each item as [For possible action] or [Non-action item]. It appears based on the language that the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife will have an opportunity to take action at their May 4, 2017, meeting.

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- 14. 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 May 4, 2017.*

The May 4, 2017, agenda may include, but is not limited to: 1 Wildlife Damage Management Committee Report and Fiscal Year 2017 Draft Predation Management Plan.

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

Rex Flowers noted that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners can be attended by teleconference and noted that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners may schedule a meeting in April to address legislative issues.

Jonathan Lesperance noted that the predator plan Project 32 concerning interactions of lions and bears and asked whether the results of the study could be made available. Additionally, Mr. Lesperance drew attention to the \$400,000.00 budget for Project 41 Common Raven and questioned whether it was the best use of public funds. Project 42 appears to be in the preliminary stages and noted his concern about basing management on a preliminary report.

- 16. ADJOURNMENT** [Non-action item]

Chair Shea adjourned the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

AS APPROVED BY THE WASHOE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE IN SESSION ON MAY 4, 2017.