

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

Minutes

Monday ~ January 22, 2018 ~ 6:00 p.m.
Nevada Department of Wildlife
Conference Room B
1100 Valley Road, Reno, Nevada

MEMBERS

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

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE [Non-action item]

Chair Robinson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. A quorum was established.

PRESENT: Meghan Di Rocco, Steve Robinson and Sean Shea.

ABSENT: Arnie Pitts and Michelle Spencer.

Jennifer Gustafson – Deputy District, was also present.

Chair Robinson announced that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners had cancelled their workshop and hearing on agenda item 9 Commission General Regulation 473, Safe Hunting Distance and would be heard at a later date. However public comments will be taken on the item.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS [Non-action item]

Rex Flowers - Coalition for Nevada Wildlife, expressed his concern that Commission General Regulation 475, Shed Antlers, LCB File No. R134-17 and Commission General Regulation 440, Trail Cameras and Other Devices, LCB File No. R012-16 were not on tonight's (January 22, 2018) agenda. Mr. Flowers explained that he believes it is better to be well informed before making comments to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners on agenda items. Mr. Flowers emphasized that action items from future Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners agenda need to be placed on the County Advisory Board agenda as it is for the good of all wildlife which depends on informed decisions.

Gerald Lent questioned why the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife had not come up with a plan or proposal for predator control that benefits Washoe County sportsmen. Mr. Lent noted that deer herd populations are being decimated by predators. Mr. Lent commented that as a member of the board in the past he had asked for information on the Sheldon. Mr. Lent believes that this body should invite biologist to make recommendation and that the Granites should have a predator control program in place due to the continued drop in herd populations. Mr. Lent believes this board is in a good position to ask why this hasn't been done.

4. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 26, 2017, MINUTES (For possible action)

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

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It was moved by Chair Robinson, seconded by Member Shea Motion to approve the October 26, 2017, meeting minutes, as written. The motion carried: with Members Pitts and Spencer 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: 1) January 26 and 27, 2018, in Reno/Carson City, Nevada; and 2) March 16 and 17, 2018, meetings in Laughlin, Nevada.*

Chair Robinson and Member Shea will attend the January 26 and 27, 2018 meetings. Member Di Rocco may be able to attend the January 26, 2018 meeting and Chair Robinson plans to attend the March 16 and 17, 2018 meetings.

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

1) Correspondence (including sportsmen's concerns) and Announcements – Member Shea noted that Nevada Outfitters was seeking information on the antler draw, which he hopes will be discussed at the upcoming Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meetings.

2) Overview of the November 3 and 4, 2017, meetings of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners – Chair Robinson outlined the November 3 and 4, 2017, meetings noting that he wasn't present to discuss the Shed Antler and Train Cam items. However, there was some discussion about Raven populations and how that affects Sage Grouse. Chair Robinson noted that without sportsmen's dollars there would be no funding for such studies or conservation projects.

- 7. DRAFT FISCAL YEAR 2019 PREDATION MANAGEMENT PLAN** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify the draft Fiscal Year 2019 Predation Management Plan.*

Chris Hampson – Biologist, commented that this is the first project list for 2018 and is being brought forward for review and possible modification.

Jen Gustafson – Deputy District Attorney, reminded those present to state their name for the record when addressing the board.

Responding to Chair Robinson and Member Shea's discussion about the meeting format for discussion and public input, Ms. Gustafson recommended that the Board make their comments, take public comment and bring back to the Board for any additional discussion before taking action.

Mr. Hampson outlined the various projects noting that 011 and 013 have been ongoing for 5-years and perhaps more. Ten years was spent in Unit 014 with 022 having seven years. The predator project is being implemented in areas where big horn sheep and other species are being released. Mr. Hampson noted that 011 and 013 comprise about one-third of northern Washoe County. Mr. Hampson noted that there had been many predator projects over the years and drew attention to other factors in declines in herd populations such as drought and wildfire that render winter and other habitat useless. The cumulative effect of the 2007-2015 drought was much more devastating than one in the 1980's due to the duration. Mr. Hampson pointed out that in some cases winter rangers

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that are slow to come back or fail to come back also have significant impacts on herd populations. The cumulative effect of the drought and wildfires has had on wildlife already stressed herd populations. Mr. Hampson noted that once an area returns to a habitable state there are dramatic effects on population such as Sage Grouse. Mr. Hampson pointed out that it appears that the focus is on the negative rather than the more positive aspects of over time. The populations peaked in about 2012 with a drop in 2013 of about 30-to-40 percent. The Granites was the last area to be impacted by drought conditions due to its topography, which is less susceptible to evaporation. Mr. Hampson noted that antelope had moved from the Sheldon into Oregon to find water as the area around unit 033 was dry. 2014 we lost 6 or 7 of the collared Big Horn sheep. Wildlife Services had removed some lions prior to transplanting sheep. Other predator prey species had moved out of area so lions even preyed on Wild horses.

Chair Robinson opened public comment.

Gerald Lent outlined his concerns about the continued loss of deer and recommended that be managed to increase deer populations. Mr. Lent believes that this document implies that only deer drink the water and that Unit 014 continues to experience declines in herd populations. Mr. Lent drew attention to a study done in the State of Arizona that noted the increase in hunt populations by killing lions.

Rex Flowers commented that according to the Big Game Status report over the past ten years herd populations have dropped 20-percent. The fawn recruitment of 35 to 100 females needs to be increased substantially as deer are the top money-maker and he believes both projects 37 & 38 are underfunded.

Joel Blakeslee recalled coming to the region in the mid 1980's when there were 400 tags issues on the Sheldon. Additionally, in 1980 UNR did a study which indicated that lions had wiped out the porcupine populations. It is Mr. Blakeslee's opinion that lions are out of control.

Mel Belding noted that he was born and raised in the area and that he had never identified a Mountain Lion or told of one in or around the Granites until the 1980's. Mr. Belding commented that mountain lion sightings are now a very common occurrence and that he believes fawn recruitment should be much higher than 35 fawns per 100 does as deer have a tendency to have twins. Therefore, Mr. Belding recommends that predator management be an ongoing project when we are seeing such low recruitment numbers like we are now experiencing.

Jonathan Lesperance suggested an update on Project 36 to better understand the number of lions caught in traps. Additionally, Mr. Lesperance has concerns about the discontinuance of Project 32.

Judi Caron expressed her appreciation for the biologists input and encouraged continued work with the biologists as it pertains to drought, fire and predator impacts.

Chair Robinson closed public comment.

Jack Robb – NDOW, commented that the Department is trying a different approach that is not funded by the predator fee. Currently the Department is tracking, analyzing and tranquilizing cats to conduct

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a gut check and have brought some in from Elko County. Mr. Robb believes that project will last a couple of years.

Chair Robinson suggested a working group to discuss this and other projects.

Jen Gustafson – Deputy District Attorney, explained that any subcommittee or working group that advises the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife would also be subject to the Nevada OML (Open Meeting Law), which requires public notice, recordation of the meeting as well as meeting minutes in an open public forum.

It was moved by Chair Robinson, seconded by Member Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners accept the Draft Fiscal Year 2019 Predation Management Plan, as written. The motion carried with Members Pitts and Spencer absent.

- 8. LANDOWNER DEER AND ANTELOPE COMPENSATION TAG PROGRAM** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify recommendations generated by stakeholders regarding processes by which compensation tags might be equitably distributed should the allocation of tags reach the statutory limit as amended during the 2017 legislative session.*

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item.

Jack Robb – NDOW, commented that the cap had been exceeded and that there is a need to accommodate all landowners without exceeding the cap. Mr. Robb noted that the legislature had provided an ability to issue more landowner compensation tags when justified. The proposal will be presented to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners for further guidance. Mr. Robb noted that this was in response to NRS legislation dealing with rancher and farmer concerns. Mr. Robb asked that the board either pick a favorite option or come up with a hybrid suggestion that can be taken to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners as there is no clear cut answer.

Chair Robinson asked for public comment.

Responding to Judi Caron's inquiry about whether there was additional information on the topic to be introduced by Mr. Wakling, Mr. Robb stated that there was no new information at this time.

Ms. Caron stated that she believes the Elk compensation program successful, tag this issue needs additional discussion and expressed her hope that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners would not take final action at the upcoming meetings.

Mel Belding commented that while this is an important program he concurs with Member Shea's comments. Additionally the costs of damage vary widely noting that if the larger big game animal bed down in the field the crop is flattened such that a swather cannot pick it up. Loss of crop is much greater to this than what deer and antelope eat.

Chair Robinson closed public comment.

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Member Shea stated that he believes this should be continued to allow additional discussion and that no action be taken until the regulation is properly worded.

Chair Robinson agreed with a continuance and until such time as it is clear what the issues are as the regulation does not appear to be broken.

It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Chair Robinson, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners taken no action until there is additional discussion that results in clear direction, which is not in this report. The motion carried with Members Pitts and Spencer absent.

9. COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 473, SAFE HUNTING DISTANCE [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify modifications to Commission General Regulation 473*

Chair Robinson noted that this item was not being heard by the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners and that while Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife will take no action he will take public comment if there is any.

There were no public comments.

Jack Robb – NDOW, noted that the matter will be heard at the March 2018 meeting of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

10. COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 476, PROCESSING FEES, LCB FILE No. R142-17 [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify an amendment to Chapter 502.118 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) that reduces the current convenience fee of \$2.00 for residents and \$3.50 for non-residents per item purchased online to a processing fee of \$1.00 per item purchased regardless of residency and method of purchase.*

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item.

Jack Robb – NDOW, noted that NRS allows NDOW to collect convenience fees per transaction to cover the costs incurred for credit card use. Mr. Robb noted that the fee is revenue neutral and the \$1.00 fee per item purchased should be a good starting point. Mr. Robb explained that the Department is not allowed to build a balance, only to cover actual costs. Mr. Robb believes a special meeting may be convened so that the fee schedule is in place prior to the big game application period.

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

It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Member Di Rocco, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners a[[rove Commission General Regulation 476,

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Processing Fees, LCB 142-17, as written. The motion carried with Members Pitts and Spencer absent.

- 11. COMMISSION REGULATION 18-02, 2018 BLACK BEAR SEASONS** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify recommended 2018 hunting season dates, open management units, hunting hours, special regulations, animal sex, legal weapon requirements, hunt boundary restrictions, and dates and times for indoctrination courses for black bear.*

Chair opened the agenda item.

Chris Hampson - Biologist, noted that the recommendations reflect the 2017 season.

Chair Robinson opened public comment.

Jonathan Lesperance noted that a first-time bear hunter accompanying him saw his first bear. Mr. Lesperance suggested that the season start on September 1 and continue until the unit-specific sow harvest is met.

Chair Robinson closed public comment.

Responding to Member Di Rocco's inquiry about reassessment every 5-years, Jack Robb – NDOW, explained that multiple projects are being considered in addition to project 32. Genetic and diversity studies are underway. Additionally, NDOW works closely with the State of California in taking samples for lab test of bears to better understand the in and out flow of bears across state lines. Mr. Robb noted that the bear population is dynamic and dependent on multiple factors including weather. Movement across state boundaries by 100-miles is not unheard of in younger males but might only reside in any specific area for 3 to 9 months.

It was moved by Chair Robinson, seconded by Member Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 18-02, 2018 Black Bear seasons, as written. The motion carried with Members Pitts and Spencer absent.

- 12. COMMISSION REGULATION 18-03, 2018–2019 MOUNTAIN LION SEASON AND HARVEST LIMITS** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed 2018–2019 mountain lion hunting season open units, harvest limits by unit group, hunting hours, and special regulations.*

Chris Hampson – Biologist, noted that the season is similar to last year's recommendation.

During a brief discussion it was noted that there may be a typographical error on the female harvest and needs to be clarified before sending to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

Chair Robinson suggested that the tag allocation limits should be increased to 5, 10 or perhaps no limit if an individual is willing to pay the price.

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Member Shea commented that while he does not necessarily shoot a cat he still buys 2 tags.

Chair Robinson noted that the harvest quota is not being met.

Chair Robinson opened public comment.

Rex Flowers expressed his desire to see Unit 033 the Sheldon opened to the hunt as it is currently a safe haven. Ms. Flowers noted that he is aware that this Unit is managed by U. S. Fish and Wildlife and that he believes that whatever actions are deemed necessary they be undertaken to protect State's right for the management of wildlife.

Mel Belding concurred with Mr. Flowers that the unit should be opened.

Judi Caron agreed with Chair Robinson's tag suggestion and the supported need to open Unit 033.

Gerald Lent agreed with the opening of Unit 033 for Lion hunting noting that having a tag does not guarantee success. In the event there is an ethics issue a lion guide needs to disclose that.

Sean Shea disclosed that he is a lion guide and that he supports opening 033. Member Shea commented that he believes Washoe County tried to have Unit 033 opened annually to no avail.

It was moved by Chair Robinson to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 18-03, 2018-2019 Mountain Lion Season and Harvest limits as written with the following modifications: 1) Open Unit 033 for the Mountain Lion harvest; and 2) increase the maximum number of tags from 2 per person to 5 per person. The motion died due to lack of a second.

It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Chair Robinson, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 18-04, 2018-2019 Mountain Lion Season and Harvest limits with the following modification: 1) open Unit 033. The motion carried, Member Shea and Chair Robinson assenting; Member Di Rocco dissent; and Member Pitts and Spencer absent.

The meeting recessed at 7:20 p.m. and reconvened at 7:34 p.m.

- 13. COMMISSION REGULATION 17-05, AMENDMENT 2, 2017-2018 AND 2018-2019 BIG GAME SEASONS** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed amendments to the 2018–2019 hunting seasons and dates for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat, including limits, hunting hours, special hunt eligibility, animal sex, physical characteristics and legal weapon requirements, hunt boundary restrictions, and legal weapon requirements, and emergency depredation hunt structure and statewide quotas.*

Chris Hampson – Game Biologist, noted that there were some overlapping elk hunts that are being addressed in this mid-cycle. Typically seasons are set for two years unless there is a major issue.

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Mr. Hampson noted that there has been some public discussion for a month long season, which would not typically be done in the midst of a 2-year cycle. However, that is something that the Board may wish to consider or have additional discussion in the future.

Member Shea recommended that Mountain Goat, Rocky and California Big Horn all have the same ending hunt date October 31.

Mr. Hampson stated that he did not recall the reasoning for the one day different and why Mountain Goats is one day longer. Mr. Hampson noted that a single day does not have any biological impact.

There was some discussion of the population growth in Units 0112 and 014 during which it was noted that the 50 fawns per 100 does was the best ratio in Antelopes since 2006. Mr. Hampson noted that hundreds of animals were lost due to habitat destruction from fires especially winter ranges. Rather than having the animals die of exposure a Doe harvest was instituted. Mr. Hampson noted that this Board may make any recommendation it sees fit to make to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners. Had there been a substantive change biologist would have modified or closed a season if necessary.

Jack Robb noted that there are some land owner changes occurring or about to occur that may affect the hunt in Unit 195. Mr. Robb commented that NDOW has tried to reach an agreement with the landowner to relocation sheep from Unit 195. The individual recommended by landowners to guide hunters is not a guide and the Department has worked with a member of NBU (Nevada Bighorns Unlimited) to seek an agreement, which has not occurred. Mr. Robb noted that this has been an educational opportunity and the Department is unsure how to proceed without knowing who the new landowner will be.

Chair Robinson noted his concerns about hunting more ewes at this time.

Chair Robinson opened public comment.

Rex Flowers commented that in his opinion that Unit 012-014 is not at its carry capacity and that the opportunity to propagate more antelope should be taken. He asked to eliminate the horn shorter than ears hunt. Additionally, Mr. Flowers suggested that all hunts close on December 31 with no additional hunting in the month of January.

Mel Belding suggested a month long five weekend season in ALW Units 011-013, 014 and 033. Mr. Belding suggested that the horns shorter than ears hunt be eliminated and that he prefers to see animals relocated to other areas. Additionally, Mr. Belding would like to go back to the traditional hunting season in all Washoe County units including 033 in Humboldt County of a month long and 5 weekends.

Judi Caron expressed her appreciation to Mr. Hampson noting that she had not seen other people in 1331, units 011, 012 and 013 until end of her hunt. Ms. Caron also suggested that early and late hunts of Unit 011- 013 be combined rather than having an early/ late season which would afford 5 weekends to family's as tag number have continued to decline and congestion did not seem to be a problem anymore .

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Chair Robinson closed public comment.

Mr. Robb noted that the Non-resident guide draw information should have been included in the informational packets. Mr. Robb believes that a special meeting may be needed before the regular Commission agenda in order to take action before the deadline.

Member Shea believes that the change in the split season may have to be reviewed next year as the quotas have already been set for Non- Resident Guided Hunts.

Mr. Robb noted that he had only become aware of the issues this morning (January 22, 2018) and that only the guided deer season was impacted.

Chair Robinson suggested that the Ewe hunt for California Big Horn Hunt 8181 be removed.

It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Chair Robinson to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 17-05, Amendment 2, 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 Big Game Seasons as written with the following modifications: 1) amend Hunt 2181 by closing Units 012- 014; 2) Hunt 8181 eliminate the Ewe hunt; 3) Hunts 8151 and 8251 to end on October 31 rather than October 30; 4) Hunt 9151 units with a closing date of October 30 be changed to October 31 to mirror Mountain Goat. The motion carried with Members Pitts and Spencer absent.

14. COMMISSION REGULATION 18-04, 2019 HERITAGE TAG SEASONS AND QUOTAS [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify a proposed regulation to set the 2019 Heritage Tag species, seasons and quotas.*

Chris Hampson – Biologist commented that there was nothing different than what is in the staff report.

Member Shea outlined the previous explanation about how the Heritage Tag can result in the closure of a unit if filled the previous year when the tag quota was seven or less.

Jack Robb commented that if harvested in 033 the Heritage tag cannot go back. Mr. Robb noted that the Heritage tag is set and the person is notified of auction tags and what unit the tag will be drawn for. With the Dream and PIW tags result in Unit closure if was harvested in the previous year. Mr. Robb noted that staff had reviewed the audio of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meeting multiple times and that this is the direction that was gleaned from that review. The changes suggested are intended to protect the smaller herd populations and that Unit 041 is till off the table.

Chair Robinson opened public comment.

Ray Kabisch outlined his concern with the PIW tag.

Judi Caron question whether the change for the Heritage tag would take effect in 2019.

Mr. Robb confirmed that.

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Chair Robinson closed public comment.

It was moved by Chair Robinson, seconded by Member Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 18-04 Heritage Tag Seasons and quotas as written. The motion carried with Member Pitts and Spencer absent.

15. COMMISSION REGULATION 18-05, 2018 PARTNERSHIP IN WILDLIFE [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify a proposed regulation to set the 2018 Partnership in Wildlife hunt species, seasons and quotas.*

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item.

Member Shea commented that it is unclear what the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners intended and suggested that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners reopen and review the intent.

Chair Robinson opened public comment.

Ray Kabisch suggested that the handbook include some type of caption to indicate that the PIW for a particular hunt is only open for those particular units so that sportsmen have access to that information.

Judi Caron asked for clarification as to whether the closure is the recommendation of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners or the Department. Ms. Caron then outlined the various quotas and hunts based on her review of the NDOW website. Specifically noting 2017 Desert BH Unit 263, Quota as 9 Resident and 1 Nonresident, total 10 tags, Ms. Caron reiterated her question regarding Unit 263 as previous year (2017) quota not being less than 10.

Member Shea noted that the quota was 9 and that the Heritage tag made it 10.

Ms. Caron stated not being argumentative with Member Shea, noting BHSheep Checkout Summary sheet did not coincide with actual Quota numbers - NDOW 2017 Nevada Hunt Book – 10 tags, not including Heritage and forward her questions and concerns directly to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

Rex Flowers concurred with the recommendation to have the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners review previous actions on specialty sheep and take the matter back to the TAAHC for review and recommendation.

Chair Robinson closed public comment.

During the discussion it was suggested that the process be reviewed by the TAAHC and that information be provided on the NDOW website to clarify that for the PIW and Dream tags only one tag can be used in Unit 034.

Chair Robinson suggested a similar advisory on wilderness areas.

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Jack Robb – NDOW noted that the new system is still being refined and that there are ongoing discussions on how best to notify the public while reducing the number of clicks and get the proper information for the application to the applicant. Mr. Robb noted that since the PIW tag does not give the recipient points it can be returned.

It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Chair Robinson, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission General Regulation 18-05 2018 Partnership in Wildlife as written with the following modifications: 1) Develop a means of informing the applicant that only one unit is open for the California Big Horn PIW tag for the 2018 season; 2) Review all Heritage, PIW, Dream and Silverstate tag at the same time to clarify and resolve identified issues; 3) Reexamine the closure of units for California Big Horn, and Desert Bighorn sheep. The motion carried with Member Pitts and Spencer absent.

- 16. COMMISSION REGULATION 18-06, 2018 SILVER STATE** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify a proposed regulation to set the 2018 Silver State Tag species, seasons and quotas.*

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item.

Jack Robb- NDOW, noted that the Silver State Tag is designed to mirror the Heritage tag season date. Mr. Robb noted that the season is already set for the heritage tag.

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

It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Chair Robinson, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 18-06, 2018 Silver State, as written. The motion carried with Members Pitts and Spencer absent.

- 17. COMMISSION REGULATION 18-07, 2018 DREAM TAG** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify a proposed regulation to set the 2018 Dream Tag species, seasons and quotas.*

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item and asked for public comment as there was no board discussion.

Judi Caron asked for clarification as to whether Desert Big Horn tag allocation included closed hunt units and whether any special Nelson Big Horn tags had been issued.

Member Shea commented that units with less than ten tags, pertains only to 2017 harvest and Unit 253 has criteria that must be met.

Ms. Caron drew attention to what appears to be a typographical error in the support material details as previous hunt books and meeting minutes differ.

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Chair Robinson closed public comment.

During a brief discussion it was noted that the unit had been closed as the quota was less than 10. It was suggested that the action was based on a recommendation that perhaps the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners should review.

Responding to Member Di Rocco's inquiry, Ms. Caron explained that the Heritage Tag is purchased at auction and that the season is set a year in advance whereas the PIW and Silver State tags are applications. Additionally, the Dream Tag is also sold by raffle. It is Ms. Caron's belief that the specialty tags should be consistent and have the same value and also same structure one year in advance.

It was moved by Chair Robinson, seconded by Member Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 18-07, 2018 Dream Tag as written with the following modifications: 1) review the language and clarify unit closing; and 2) standardize the season setting for specialty and mirror the Heritage tag season and quota set one year in advance. The motion carried: with Members Pitts and Spencer absent.

18. COMMISSION REGULATION 18-08, 2018 BIG GAME APPLICATION DEADLINES [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify a proposed regulation to set the 2018 big game tag application deadlines and related information.*

Chair opened the agenda item

Jack Robb noted that the new vendor had been given a specific timeline which draws specific dates for all draws. The only concern had been paper applications, which have been discontinued. With the new system everything will be done online. Mr. Robb noted a cost saving of more than \$9.6-million over the life of the six year contract. The vendor is Dallas based Koekemy. Mr. Robb noted that one of the vendor's technicians had been on site at NDOW headquarters since December (2017). While a guide can purchase a list clients cannot see other client's results.

Chair Robinson opened public comment.

Mel Belding asked for clarification of the cost savings.

Mr. Robb explained that the fee is based on a per transaction fee and it appears that the expense will be less than a million dollars annually. Mr. Robb noted that there is no additional charge for upgrades and has been a selling point nationwide as the vendor also does boating and hunter education in both the USA and Canada. Mr. Robb noted that the vendor's employee was working 12 to 16 hours per day and had not had a day off since Christmas for one week

Chair Robinson closed public comment.

It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Chair Robinson, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 18-08, 2018 Big Game Application Deadlines, as written. The motion carried with Members Pitts and Spencer absent.

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- 19. COMMISSION REGULATION 18-09, 2018 BIG GAME TAG APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY AND TAG LIMITS** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify a proposed regulation to set the 2018 big game tag application eligibility and tag limits and related information.*

Hearing no public or board comments, Chair Robinson asked for a motion.

It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Chair Robinson, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 18-09, 2018 Big Game Tag Eligibility and Tag Limits, as written. The motion carried with Member Pitts and Spencer absent.

- 20. CHANGE OF JUNE MEETING DATE** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to change the June 14, 2018, meeting date to June 25, 2018, due to a change in the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meeting dates from June 22 and 23, to June 29 and 30, 3018.*

There were no public or board comments

It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Member Di Rocco, to change the June 14, 2018, to June 25, 2018. The motion carried with Member Pitts and Spencer absent.

- 21. 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 to be held March 8, 2018 to be announced.*

Chair Robinson asked that the BLM be asked to come and discuss wild horse management at the March 8, 2018, meeting.

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

Judi Caron expressed her appreciation for the patience and that perhaps additional time be allowed for discussion when necessary. As a Member of the Dream Tag Advisory Committee, Ms. Caron noted that the Committee does not administer the program but is involved in the review of revenues and other aspects of the program.

Mel Belding suggested that an agenda item be added so that the board can seek the opening of Unit 033, which has been done and refused in the past. Mr. Belding noted that the inability to see what other clients have done with the new system seems to limit transparency and negates the ability of hunters to see what their friends have drawn.

Rex Flowers recalled having to travel to several CABS to seek their support for the opening of Unit 33 by sending a letter to U. S. Fish and Wildlife. Mr. Flowers also expressed his disappointment in what appears to be a lack of transparency with the new system.

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Ray Kabisch recommended that a discussion of submitting a letter to Washoe County on the management of wild horses be added to a future agenda

23. ADJOURNMENT [Non-action item]

Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

**AS APPROVED BY THE WASHOE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE IN
SESSION ON MARCH 8, 20118.**