

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

Minutes

Monday ~ September 11, 2017 ~ 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]

Vice-chair Pitts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Vice-chair Pitts called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

PRESENT: Meghan Di Rocco, Arnie Pitts and Sean Shea.

ABSENT: Steve Robinson and Michelle Spencer.

Herb Kaplan – Deputy District Attorney, was also present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS [Non-action item]

There were no public comments.

4. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 3, 2017, MINUTES (For possible action)

Hearing no public comment Vice-chair Pitts asked for Board discussion or a motion.

It was moved by Member Di Rocco, seconded by Vice-chair Pitts to approve the August 3, 2017, minutes, as submitted. The motion carried: Members Di Rocco, Shea and Vice-chair Pitts assenting; and Member Spencer and Chair Robinson 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) September 22 and 23, 2017, in Las Vegas, Nevada; and 2) November 3 and 4, meetings in Reno, Nevada.*

A representative of the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife will not be able to attend the Las Vegas Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meeting. It was also noted that teleconference is not available for this particular meeting.

Vice-Chair Pitts will attend the November 3 and 4, 2017, meetings in Reno.

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

6-1) Correspondence (including sportsmen's concerns) and Announcements – Responding to Member Shea's inquiry about the Pre-hunt cellular app that is currently available, Jack Robb – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), stated that NDOW is aware of the issue and is being

September 11, 2017

Page 2 of 7

reviewed by the Deputy Attorney General to determine if information is being sold or if this is a guide service as this app highlights trail cameras and potentially GPS coordinates.

Member Shea noted that the selling of coordinates of big game is legal.

6-2) Overview of the August 11 and 12, 2017, meetings of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners – Jack Robb noted that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners took action on the Wayne Kirsch award and had discussed stopping the commercial collection of reptiles, which will be discussed again at the upcoming September meetings.

7. INFORMATIONAL UPDATE ON RECENT ACTIVITIES BY NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE GAME WARDENS [Non-action item] – *An informational update on NDOW Game Warden activities.*

Continued to the October 26, 2017, meeting.

Jack Robb noted that to date 1.1 million acres have been lost to wildlife this year and that he will have someone make a presentation on the matter at the October 26, 2017, meeting.

8. COMMISSION POLICY 27, PROTECTION OF NEVADA WILDLIFE RESOURCES [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify suggested changes to Commission Policy 27.*

Vice-chair Pitts opened the agenda item and asked for public comment.

Rex Flowers suggested that item 9 under Policy 27 be modified by deleting the reference to the Department as this is a Commission Policy and that the term any species that is detrimental to wildlife and/or habitat replace the word wolves. Mr. Flowers noted that there are a variety of invasive species not just wolves.

Vice-chair Pitts closed public comment and asked for board discussion or motion.

It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Vice-chair Pitts, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Policy 27 with the following modification, remove the reference to the Department in reference to the Commission Policy. The motion carried: Members Di Rocco, Shea and Vice-chair Pitts assenting; and Member Spencer and Chair Robinson absent.

9. COMMISSION POLICY 65, DESIGNATION OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify suggested changes to Commission Policy 65.*

Vice-chair Pitts opened the agenda item and hearing no public comment asked for Board comment or a motion.

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife - Minutes

September 11, 2017

Page 3 of 7

During a brief discussion it was noted that Cave Lake is a State Park and that public use is not encouraged in Railroad Valley.

It was moved by Member Di Rocco, seconded by Member Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Policy 65 as written. The motion carried: Members Di Rocco, Shea and Vice-chair Pitts assenting; and Member Spencer and Chair Robinson absent.

10. COMMISSION POLICY 66, MANAGEMENT AND USE OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify suggested changes to Commission Policy 66.*

Vice-chair Pitts opened the agenda item and hearing no public comment asked for Board discussion or a motion.

It was moved by Member Shea, second by Vice-chair Pitts, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Policy 66, as written. The motion carried: Members Di Rocco, Shea and Vice-chair Pitts assenting; and Member Spencer and Chair Robinson absent.

11. COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 472, LICENSE SIMPLIFICATION, LCB FILE NO. R029-17 [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify suggested amendments to Chapters 488, 501, 502, and 504 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC).*

Vice-chair Pitts opened the agenda item and asked for public comment.

Jack Robb – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), explained that this is the second part of the license simplification, which will negate the need to purchase stamps for other hunts as is currently required. This process will dove-tail with the new vendor for the draw and hunt applications starting in mid-December. Mr. Robb noted that Moose is recognized as a big game animal in the State of Nevada.

Responding to Rex Flowers question about whether moose would be added as a Dream Tag, Mr. Robb explained that all big game animals that have a minimum of 50 tags are included in the Dream Tag.

It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Vice-chair Pitts, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission General Regulation 472, License Simplification, LC File R029-17, as written. The motion carried: Members Di Rocco, Shea and Vice-chair Pitts assenting; and Member Spencer and Chair Robinson absent.

12. COMMISSION REGULATION 18-01 FISHING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR 2018-2020 [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify fishing seasons, bag and possession limits for the period of March 1, 2018 through February 29, 2020.*

Vice-chair Pitts opened the agenda item and hearing no public comment asked for a staff update.

Travis Hawks NDOW, outlined closures at the Stillwater National Refuge that have been in place since 2004. Of particular concern is the number of adult that fish Mason Valley pond before the opening of Lyon County Lions Club Fishing Derby for children at 9:00 a.m. The Lyon County Wildlife Advisory Board recommends that the Commission change the hours of the pond for all users so that no one is allowed to fish the pond before the opening of the Derby. However, a previous attempt in 1958 to limit the closure of the pond to adults was challenged on the basis of age discrimination. Mr. Hawks noted that testing of the Idlewild Park facility did not indicate any leakage and that NDOW will stock the pond in the future as long as water is retained.

It was moved by Member Di Rocco, seconded by Vice-chair Pitts, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 18-01 Fishing Seasons and Bag Limits for 2018-2020, as written.

Member Shea suggested that an opening time be added for Lyon County Lions Club Fishing Derby.

Member Di Rocco restated the motion to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 18-01 Fishing Seasons and Bag Limits for 2018-2020 with the addition of a 9:00 am starting time for all ages at Mason Valley pond on the day of the Lyon County Fishing Derby. The motion carried: Members Di Rocco, Shea and Vice-chair Pitts assenting; and Member Spencer and Chair Robinson absent.

13. **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR RECIPROCAL FISHING AND WATERCRAFT REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS ON THE WATERS OF THE COLORADO RIVER IN COMMON TO THE STATES OF NEVADA AND ARIZONA** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify suggested changes to the Memorandum of Understanding for Reciprocal Fishing and Watercraft Registration Requirements on the Waters of the Colorado River in Common to the States of Nevada and Arizona (MOU) between the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the Arizona Game and Fish Department. The MOU currently identifies a requirement for Nevada anglers to possess a Colorado River Special Use Stamp when fishing on common waters of the Colorado River or on the Arizona shoreline. That language is no longer needed as the Colorado River Special Use Stamp will be eliminated on January 1, 2018 as part of proposed Nevada fishing license changes.*

Vice-chair Pitts opened the agenda item and hearing no public comment asked for Board Discussion or a motion.

Jack Robb – NDOW, explained that the State of Arizona has once again modified their rules and regulations, which is prompting this particular change.

It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Vice-chair Pitts, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Reciprocal Fishing and Watercraft Registration Requirements on the Water of the Colorado River in

common to the State of Nevada and Arizona, as written. The motion carried: Members Di Rocco, Shea and Vice-chair Pitts assenting; and Member Spencer and Chair Robinson absent.

- 14. COMMERCIAL COLLECTION OF REPTILES** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify potential regulations for the Commercial Collection of Reptiles. Regulations could prohibit all collection of reptiles for commercial purposes. Regulations could limit collection of reptiles for commercial purposes based on season, species, collection area, and/or take.*

Vice-chair Pitts opened the agenda item and asked for public comment.

Joel Blakeslee recalled a previous effort to outlaw the collection of reptile. Based on the criteria used it appears that Mule Deer would become extinct before reptiles. It is Mr. Blakeslee's belief there is insufficient data to support the closure or banning of the reptile collection. Additionally, Mr. Blakeslee pointed out that NRS 501.81 deals with season closures.

Don Molde outlined some of the reasons he believes that the collection of reptiles should be banned. Mr. Molde pointed out that NDOW biologist Jason Jones has a powerful and informative PowerPoint presentation and that like trapping sometimes unintended species are caught. Additionally, the North American Model prohibits the Commercial use of wildlife.

Vice-chair Pitts closed public comments.

Jack Robb – NDOW, noted that collectors have to keep and submit logs that include GPS information. The onus is on the collector to show that they are not having a negative impact on the resource. Mr. Robb noted that Mr. Jones is a top-notch biologist and is out in the field on a regular basis.

Member Di Rocco noted that this was not as much information as previously provided and would like to see a full survey of the population and locations.

Responding to Vice-chair Pitts, Mr. Robb explained that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners is now at a point to move forward and wants to see what direction on the type of regulations to bring forward with this First Reading. Mr. Robb noted that reptile breeding is much the same as Mule Deer and data is showing a decline in the populations.

Vice-chair Pitts noted his concern that the next step would be to seek similar restrictions in trapping.

Mr. Robb commented that these are two separate issues with trapping having more regulations and specific seasons. Whereas the collection of reptiles has few regulations other than use.

Member Shea suggested that a study be done on hobby collectors to determine what effect it may have on the populations.

During the discussion it was noted that hobby collection of reptiles does not require a license so the number of hobby collectors is unknown. Of particular concern is how NDOW can track the harvest

without licensure and data collection from both professional and hobby collectors. As the discussion continued, it was emphasized that additional information is needed before an informed recommendation could be made to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners. It was suggested that the biologist be present at a future meeting to discuss the issues.

It was moved by Member Di Rocco, seconded by Member Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the prohibition of collection of reptiles on a temporary basis with a request for additional information to be provided on hobby collectors. The motion carried: Members Di Rocco and Shea assenting; Vice-chair Pitts dissenting; and Member Spencer and Chair Robinson absent.

- 15. PRONGHORN ANTELOPE TRANSLOCATION** [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 for up to 200 pronghorn received by the Department from the Yakama and Colville Tribes in Washington.*

Vice-chair Pitts opened the agenda item and hearing no public comment asked for Board discussion or a motion.

Responding to Member Shea's inquiry about translocation of additional animals, Jack Robb – NDOW, explained that the number of animals translocated is subject to the carrying capacity of transport vehicles. Member Shea noted that there are far more individuals interested in having animal translocated than in favor of issuing additional emergency hunt tags.

Member Shea commented that he had not received any comments in favor of additional emergency hunt tag but many were in favor of the translocation of more animals.

It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Vice-chair Pitts, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the Pronghorn Antelope Translocation as written. The motion carried: Members Di Rocco, Shea and Vice-chair Pitts assenting; and Member Spencer and Chair Robinson absent.

- 16. 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 October 26, 2017.*

The October 26, 2017, meeting agenda may include but is not limited to: 1) Wildfire update; 2) Update on activities of Game Wardens; and 3) Predator update.

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

Joel Blakeslee suggested that the board use a format similar to one he used as Chair of the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife by taking public comment before and after board discussion. Mr. Blakeslee explained that many times he could answer any questions the board may have.

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife - Minutes

September 11, 2017

Page 7 of 7

Vice-chair Pitts welcomed new Commissioner Tiffany East.

18. ADJOURNMENT [Non-action item]

Vice-chair Pitts adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

**AS APPROVED BY THE WASHOE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE IN
SESSION ON OCTOBER 26, 2017.**