

# Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

## Minutes

**Thursday ~ October 24, 2019 ~ 6:00 p.m.**  
**Nevada Department of Wildlife**  
**Conference Room B**  
**1100 Valley Road, Reno, Nevada**

## MEMBERS

Steven Robinson, Chair  
Arnold Pitts, Vice-chair  
Anthony DoMoe  
Ray Kabisch  
Jim Rhea

### **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.

**PRESENT:** Ray Kabisch, Arnie Pitts and Jim Rhea.

**ABSENT:** Anthony DoMoe and Steve Robinson.

Jennifer Gustafson – Deputy District Attorney, was also present.

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENTS** [Non-action item]

Rex Flowers commented that one of the items on the upcoming Commission meeting is a review of CAB responsibilities. Mr. Flowers expressed his hope that the CAB members would attend the meeting and follow the presentation on what's expected of the CAB and members. Mr. Flowers encouraged Board members to attend.

### **4. APPROVAL OF JUNE 13, 2019, MINUTES** [For possible action]

There were no public or Board comments.

*It was moved by Vice-chair Pitts, seconded by Member Kabisch, to approve the June 13, 2019, minutes, as submitted. The motion carried with member DoMoe and Chair Robinson absent.*

### **5. BOARD MEMBER MEETING ASSIGNMENT** [Non-action item] –Discussion of member(s) to attend the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meetings on: 1) November 1 and 2, 2019, Reno, Nevada.

Ray Kabisch and Jim Rhea will attend the November 1, 2019 Commission meeting with Steve Robinson and Arnie Pitts attending the November 2, 2019, meeting.

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

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

**6-2)** Overview of the September 20 and 21, 2019, meetings of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners - No update.

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## **7. INFORMATIONAL UPDATE** [Non-action item] – An informational update on Habitat Issues and Projects in Washoe County.

Mark Freese - NDOW, narrated a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file) outlining the various habitat improvement projects, costs and associated matching federal/state funds. Mr. Freese pointed out that the projects include guzzlers as well as wildlife friendly habitat improvements. Additionally, NDOW coordinates with other entities. Mr. Freese noted that the mining program oversees mines that have industrial ponds that might be toxic to wildlife. Mr. Freese outlined the need for permission to access private owned properties, NEPA approval process for federal lands. Additionally, there is a diverse team of game, fisheries, diversity and habitat staff that come together at the state level to review and process project funding request that starts July 1. Over the past 6 years in the Western Region there have been 24 new guzzler construction projects and 32 major maintenance or rebuilding projects. Mr. Freese noted that project intended to serve larger game is more expensive to construct and that a number of projects have been built for smaller game animals. Typically, NDOW prioritizes work at a regional level noting that Washoe County got a lot of work done between 2010 and 2015. Mr. Freese commented that while NDOW does not regularly collect sagebrush seeds other organizations such as BLM does and NDOW seeds much sagebrush. Mr. Freese then outlined project in Washoe County including 61 acres of riparian, 5,600 acres of fire rehabilitation in 2017; 12,290 acres at a cost of \$553,194.76 in 2018. Mr. Freese pointed out that NDOW had also removed or treated Pinyon and Juniper encroachments and installed about 13,000 linear feet of pipe rail fencing. Mr. Freese noted that the trees were a hazard due to perching predators. Mr. Freese noted that the area continues to improve providing food for wildlife with cover to avoid predation deer, antelope and sage grouse in the area. Mr. Freese then drew attention to the Buffalo Hills project noting that the project also included water for livestock operators in the area. A rock structure was put into place to prevent head cutting. Additionally, an infill of upland vegetation is in place to preserve and stabilize the meadow.

Chris Hampson – NDOW, commented that the past year had been a fabulous water year and that the rock structure had amazing results in preventing the movement of soil.

Mr. Freese outlined the opportunities available for future projects to reduce Medusa Head, big game captures and monitoring of Boulder and other reservoirs. Mr. Freese emphasized the need to utilize social media and other forms of communication to get the message out to the public and hunters.

During a brief discussion it was noted that the Washoe County Advisory Board is ready and willing to assist NDOW in the development or enhancement projects as well as help educate and promote wildlife. Other discussion pointed out that NDOW has partnered with sportsmen, NBU and others in the past and the public is encouraged to seek additional information from [www.ndow.org](http://www.ndow.org). Discussion then noted that Cherry Springs is one of the projects that have been shared with the BLM and that Eagle Lake restoration work is in progress. The next project will be to the north into Buffalo Hills. Other discussion noted that several projects have been funded and approved but are not quite ready for action. Individuals can pass damaged guzzler information onto NDOW by calling 775-688-1537 or emailing [guzzler@ndow.org](mailto:guzzler@ndow.org).

Mel Belding believes that spring and meadow enhancements are the best bang for the buck. Projects like building a dam at Stevens Camp and using the existing well at Massacre Ranch to restore the meadow and establish a reservoir should be priority for fire-fighting efforts.

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Responding to Member Rhea's question about slash piles and fire danger, Mr. Freese explained that the learning curve on where trees are good to pile and when to start removing the piles before it becomes a hazard varies depending on the type of tree involved as well as site objectives. Mr. Freese suggested members contact him about any interest on matters that can be partnered on.

The meeting recessed at 6:54 p.m. and reconvened at 6:56 p.m.

8. **COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 485, TAG TRANSFER, DEFERENCE AND RETURN PROGRAM, LCB File No. R022-19** [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 would provide direction for allowing the transfer, deference or return of tags under certain extenuating circumstances after the passage of Assembly Bill 404 of the 80th Legislative Session.

Vice-chair Pitts opened the agenda item to amend Chapter 50 and asked for public comment.

Rex Flowers drew attention to the updated notes on page 3 indicating that there are up to 14 business days to return a tag which in reality with weekends included could be 20 calendar days with NDOW having another 5 business days, which could in reality be 7 days to process that request. Mr. Flowers noted that the process could take 25 to 27 days and that most seasons are not that long and could be over before a tag is transferred.

Mel Belding commented that he believes the system currently in place is adequate and that the only change he would recommend is a tag along tag so that a hunter can take someone on the hunt.

Vice chair Pitts closed public comment.

Vice-chair Pitts noted his concerns about the opportunities available for "foul play". However, he believes that a good system is already in place and that if an individual cannot use a tag perhaps some sort of doctor's note should be required except for active military member who are being deployed.

Chris Hampson – NDOW, believes there has been some discussion on the subject.

Member Kabisch believes that the system in place is sufficient and noted that perhaps military personnel being deployed might not be able to provide documentation. Additionally, Member Kabisch would like to see that tag along tag used to introduce hunting to youth.

A motion to recommend denial of the request was withdrawn and restated as follows based on legal counsel's advice.

***It was moved by Vice-chair Pitts, Seconded by Member Rhea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the proposed language except for that which pertains to military personnel being deployed who may keep their tag until the next season or return from deployment. The motion carried: Members Domoe and Chair Robinson absent.***

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9. **COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 486, VETERAN AND ACTIVE MILITARY WATERFOWL SEASON, LCB File No. R027-19** [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). Federal statute was adopted in 2019 enabling a veterans and active military waterfowl hunting season. Federal frameworks would allow for veterans and active military to exclusively hunt waterfowl for a period of two days within the existing season. If adopted, this regulation would allow the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to establish such a season.

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

***It was moved by Member Kabisch, seconded by Vice-chair Pitts, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve CGR 486 Veteran and Active Military Waterfowl Season LCB File No. R027-19 as written. The motion carried: Member Domoe and Chair Robinson absent.***

10. **COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 487, USE OF LIVE BAIT FISH AND TACKLE RESTRICTIONS, LCB File No. R060-19** [For Possible Action] – A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify amendments to Chapter 503 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC).

Vice chair Pitts opened the agenda item.

There were no Board or public comments.

Kim Tisdale - Western Region, commented that this is the second workshop on this regulation to amend Chapter 503 – Use of Live Bait Fish and Tackle. The statewide change affects mostly the southern and western portions of the State of Nevada. Ms. Tisdale explained that most parts of the state have specific regulations on the use of live bait. For example in Churchill County live bait may only be obtained from Churchill County ditches and is specific to the river basin from which the bait is taken.

***It was moved by Vice-chair Pitts, seconded by Member Kabisch, to recommend the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission General Regulation 487, Use of Live Bait Fish and Tackle Restrictions, LCB File No. R060-19, as written. The motion carried: Member Domoe and Chair Robinson absent.***

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 to be held October 24, 2019.*

It was pointed out that the agenda language was in error. A consensus was reached to meet on Wednesday, January 15, 2020. The agenda will include an item to consider action to move the regular meeting schedule to Wednesdays in 2020.

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

There were no public comments.

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

Vice-chair Pitts adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

**AS APPROVED BY THE WASHOE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE IN  
SESSION ON JANUARY 15, 2020.**