

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

DRAFT Minutes

**Thursday ~ October 29, 2020 ~ 6:00 p.m.
Teleconference Meeting**

MEMBERS

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

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 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Anthony DoMoe, Ray Kabisch, Arnold Pitts, Jim Rhea and Steve Robinson.

ABSENT: None.

Wade Carner – Deputy District attorney, was also present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS [Non-action item]

There were no public comments.

4. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2020, MINUTES [For possible action]

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

It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by Chair Robinson, to approve the September 17, 2020, meeting minutes, as written. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Robinson reminded individuals wishing to speak that they identify themselves each time they speak on an agenda item.

5. BOARD MEMBER MEETING ASSIGNMENT [Non-action item] – Discussion and determination of member(s) to attend the November 6, 2020, Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meeting.

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item and stated he would be unable to attend the meeting.

Member Kabisch stated that he would not be able to attend.

Member Rhea commented that would try to attend the Friday, November 6, 2020, meeting.

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

6-1) Correspondence (including sportsmen's concerns) and Announcements - Chair Robinson stated that there was no correspondence.

Member Kabisch found several individuals have tags in Northern Washoe County

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Chair Robinson commented that Jonathan Lesperance had submitted correspondence that would be covered later in the meeting.

6-2) Overview of the September 24, 2020, meeting of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

Chair Robinson noted that the Muledeer Team is in place and includes Member Arnie Pitts, Larry Johnson, Joe Sampson and representatives from the Native American Tribes that are non-voting positions. Chair Robinson pointed out that not more than two representatives of the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife could attend to avoid a quorum. Chair Robinson noted that homeless concerns along the Truckee River had been brought forward with an initial response that NDOW does not have jurisdiction. However, an agenda item will be added to discuss ways in which NDOW can work with local jurisdictions. Other discussion focused on NAC 502 Mountain Lion hunting regulations

Member Pitts commented that there had been general agreement that the issue was not just simplification and that Washoe County is not the only jurisdiction to bring up issues.

7. TAG ALLOCATION AND APPLICATION HUNT COMMITTEE [Non-action item]

Chair Robinson noted that this item was on the agenda twice and that item 14 would be removed.

Member Pitts commented that it had been the first item of discussion by the Committee that resulted in an agreement to gather more information and send to the CAB and then on to the commission to discuss possible future changes. There seemed to be an agreement that the draw order should be male species first. There was also discussion about the addition the youth hunt. Of particular concern is that the addition of an additional hunt would result in a reduction of tags in the other hunts. Other discussion focused on the Muledeer Hunt eligibility and the effects of an additional hunt on the number of tags overall that could reduce the number of tags in other hunts. Member Pitts noted that there was discussion about the low hunter success rates in the archery and muzzle loader hunts. Member Pitts commented that there will be additional discussion of Youth Hut tags and how they are given out as well as how many animals a youth can get (up to five). There will be additional discuss of this and other issues at the next TAC meeting and then passed on to the CAB and the Commission.

8. COMMISSION REGULATION 21–01, 2021-2022 RAPTOR CAPTURE QUOTAS – 2021-2022 SEASON DATES, SPECIES, QUOTAS, LIMITS, CLOSED AREAS, APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND DEADLINES, AND TAKE OF RAPTORS FOR FALCONRY [For Possible Action] A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify the 2021-2022 season recommendations

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item and asked for Board discussion. Chair Robinson also asked that those wishing to speak raise their hand so that they can be unmuted.

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Responding to Member DoMoe's inquiry about quotas from previous years, Chair Robinson commented that he believes that the recommendations are the same as previous years. Chair Robinson commented that wished a representative of NDOW had participated in tonight's meeting to address any questions that might arise. Hearing no public comments, Chair Robinson asked for a motion.

It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by Chair Robinson, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 21-01, 2021-2022 Raptor Capture Quotas – 2021-2022 season dates, species, quotas, limits, closed areas, application procedures and deadlines, and take of raptors for falconry as written. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Commission Regulation 21-02, 2021-2022 Noncommercial Collection Seasons and Bag Limits for Live, Unprotected Reptiles and Amphibians [For Possible Action] A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify 2021-2022 season and limits for noncommercial hobby collecting of live, unprotected reptiles and amphibians.

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item,

Member Kabisch commented that he had hoped someone from NDOW would be present to address concerns about quotas in Southern Nevada.

Chair Robinson concurred noting that he would like to have reviewed the information used by NDOW whether it was in the form of surveys or some other form. Chair Robinson noted that he did not have any concerns on the non-commercial reptiles and amphibians.

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

It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by Chair Robinson, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 21-02, 2021-2022 Noncommercial Collection Seasons and Bag Limits for Live, Unprotected Reptiles and Amphibians as written. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Commission Regulation 20-04 Amendment #2, 2021 Heritage Tag Seasons and Quota [For Possible Action] A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify recommended 2021 Heritage Tag seasons as approved in January of 2020.

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item and asked for Board discussion. Chair Robinson noted that the date had changed from August 1 to December 1. Chair Robinson commented that there had been concerns about a drop in the fund for a 365 day hunt. Among the options considered the decision was to have the tag run from date of purchase which might have been a violation of NAC. However, it does mimic other regulations. Chair Robinson suggested that this return to the August 1 through December 31 so as not to have to change the Silver State Tag season.

Members Kabisch and Pitts concurred that that the regulation should revert to the previous language.

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Rex Flowers believes this only deals with Desert 1 and 2 tags since there is no Silver State Tag for Sheep. However, he believes that it should include California 1 with the Heritage tag ending on December 31. Mr. Flowers note that NDOW and the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners had attended a Hunter Ethics seminar on NAC 503.148 that prohibits the use of any type of aircraft from July 1 until the end of February.

Chair Robinson closed public comment.

It was moved by Chair Robinson, seconded by Member Rhea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 20-04 Amendment #2, 2021 Heritage Tag Seasons and Quota as written. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Commission General Regulation 496, NAC 503 Simplification [For Possible Action] A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify recommendations of the Regulation Simplification Committee's recommendations regarding language updates and simplification of Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 502 relating to licensing.

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item and drew attention to page 20 NAC 503.145 that talks about sights attached to firearms or crossbows that may be eliminated such as light gathering fiber optic, time la[se sights, which he needs to have explained in greater detail, Therefore, Chair Robinson favors the removal since he does not clearly understand the intent.

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

It was moved by Chair Robinson, seconded by Member Pitts, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission General Regulation 496, NAC 503 Simplification, as written, with the following modification, remove items 5, 6 and 7 from the proposed regulation. The motion carried unanimously.

12. Commission General Regulation 495, NAC 502 Simplification [For Possible Action] A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify the Regulation Simplification Committee's recommendations regarding language updates and simplification of Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 502 relating to licensing.

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item.

Member Pitts noted his concern about Mountain Lion hunting language that includes "must be in the primary hunting party". Member Pitts outlined his concern about not being able to keep up with the guide.

Chair Robinson concurred that is a concern and that not allowing an individual to join. Therefore, additional clarification is needed before this can be supported.

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Chair Robinson explained that NAC 503.435 item 6 prohibited for submission the applicant and or immediate family member if related to guide. Chair Robinson questioned whether it was legal to be related to a guide if living in another state.

Member Rhea concurred that he would like additional information.

Rex Flowers commented that as a family member to a guide or Master guide on can still hunt but cannot apply for a non-resident guided hunt. The intent is to keep individuals from working the system thereby achieving an upper hand on other individuals. The cost for a non-resident tag is about \$240.00 with a non-resident guide about \$300.00. The cost is incurred for the application not the tag.

Chair Robinson closed public comment

Member Pitts commented that it makes sense for Master Guides from other states, which he had not thought of before.

Chair Robinson commented that he does not believe it is about nonresident Master Guides.

It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by Chair Robinson, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission General Regulation 495, NAC 502 Simplification and that the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife would like clarification and hopeful that the hunter in the Mountain Lion not have to be at the exact time that the initial party gets there but as long as part of the hunt it is acceptable when they arrive. The motion carried unanimously.

13. NAC 504 [For Possible Action] – A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify an update to NAC 504.

Chair opened the agenda item noted that this is in the preliminary stages so that input can be provided. Chair Robinson asked for Board comment.

Member Pitts commented that, in his opinion, this is a chunk of paper.

Chair Robinson suggested that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners delay action on this item.

Member Pitts explained that it believes it will be narrowed down.

Chair Robinson opened public comment and hearing none asked for a motion.

Apparently did not come up with this previously this is the first review and opportunity for our input if there are any recommended changes

Wade Carner – Deputy District Attorney, commented that the Board did not have to take action and could wait to see what if any changes are made.

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It was moved by Chair Robinson, seconded by Member Pitts, to not make any recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners pending further comment and clarification. The motion carried unanimously.

- 14. Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee (TAAHC) Report** [For Possible Action] A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify the report.

No action was taken.

- 15. Petition – Cathy Smith – Prohibit the Use of Dogs on Bear Hunts** [For Possible Action] A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify a petition to change NAC 503.147 to prohibit the use of dogs during a black bear hunt. This change is requested after a recent poll conducted by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) in 2018.

Chair Robinson outlined the petition.

Cathy Smith commented that she had brought up this due to a recent wildlife survey that confirmed the change in attitude in the use of hounds for hunting bears and that she will have a presentation at the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meeting.

Responding to Chair Robinson's inquiry about whether her concern is the increase take of female bear during the hunt, Ms. Smith stated that that was not the case the date and kill ratio had not change which is supported by a variety of report from other states on bear hunting prohibitions. Ms. Smith noted that there is scientific data on sex kills to remove Mountain Lions but not for the hunting of hunting for bears. Ms. Smith noted that removing bear as a game animal would not change anything in hounding for mountain lions. Ms. Smith stated that she does not feel that she is the proper one to confirm the language for NAC.

Chair Robinson commented that his interpretation of the proposal is to make it legal to do something that is currently illegal.

Ms. Smith suggested that reference to all black bears be scratched under Part A.

Chair Robinson opened public comment.

David Ricker commented that he does not believe that this will serve any management purpose and that the petition is an affront to as policy chair to submit these comments in effort to convince that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to change this offer and not reflect which states, if any, participate and does not serve a management purpose. Mr. Ricker believes that this petition is an affront to the use of dogs as the most effective means to deal with bears as a potential benefit to act as a deterrent to bears from entering residential areas.

Rex Flowers noted that it is unlawful to hunt any big game animal except during established seasons. Mr. Flowers commented that he and Ms. Smith have a long standing relationship and applauds her

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coming forward with her concerns. Mr. Flowers explained that he supports bear hunting and the selection of mature male animals and expressed his hope that the Board would recommend denial.

Jonathan Lesperance commented that Mr. Ricker had made sine additional posts and that this is a model of conservation in this County. Speaking on behalf of Nevada Lions Mr. Lesperance believes this misrepresents bear hunt noting that water is the most important issues. The mature male proportion of the population in Unit 29 is less like to use hounds.

Bob Brunner commented that he believes there are steps and tools that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners can use to reach the objective. Mr. Bruner asked that the petition be denied.

Hearing no further public comment Chair Robinson brought the item back to the Board for discussion.

Chair Robinson expressed his appreciation for bringing this petition forward for discussion. Chair Robinson noted that this is perhaps the most sought after tag and method of take. Chair Robinson noted that the sportsmen of Nevada want this.

There were no further comments.

It was moved by Chair Robinson, seconded by Member Rhea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners deny Cathy Smith's petition. The motion carried unanimously.

15. Petition – Chris Jasmine – Traditional Archery Mule Deer Hunt [For Possible Action] A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify a petition from the Traditional Archers of Nevada (TAN) requesting the Commission look at an increased opportunity for archery hunters willing to use more primitive equipment. The Traditional Archers of Nevada would like to establish a quota for traditional archery for mule deer tags with no impact to other hunters, season dates, or quotas.

Chair Robinson outlined the agenda item to establish a quota for traditional archery.

Hearing no presentation Chair Robinson brought the item to the board for discussion.

Member Kabisch looking to tag tags from archer unit or asking for additional tags

Responding to Chair Robinson's understanding that the additional tag will not be pulled from the archery allotment and that once the tag is in a hunter's position they can go anywhere they want.

Member Rhea commented that he believes hat what is currently in place is hard enough, therefore he does not agree with this petition.

Member Pitts expressed his appreciation for the traditional hunts and explained that he does not believe that a special season is needed and recommends denial.

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Chair Robinson commented that he does not agree with the petition and that traditional archery hunters are very serious. Chair Robinson stated that he is not in favor of this petition.

Chair Robinson opened public comment.

Rex Flowers noted that he had a conversation with the Director that indicated support as long it encourages archery hunt is established as a new hunt group with a set number of tags. Mr. Flowers also commented that he had served on the CAB when muzzle loader hunters sought their own season which was denied for the same reason that this request should be denied.

Wes Clyde concurred with Rex Flowers and explained that he is an archery hunter and that he does not believe that traditionalist should have their own season. Therefore he does not see a reason for the hunt.

Chair Robinson closed public comment.

Member Rhea expressed his appreciation for the comments and that he tends to agree that this petition should not be supported.

It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by Member DoMoe, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners deny the petition. The motion carried unanimously.

16. PUBLIC COMMENTS [Non-action item]

There were no public comments.

17. ADJOURNMENT [Non-action item]

Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.