

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

DRAFT of Minutes

Thursday ~ June 13, 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
Meghan Di Rocco
Anthony DoMoe
Ray Kabisch

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 6:02 p.m. A quorum was established.

PRESENT: Anthony DoMoe, Ray Kabisch and Steven Robinson.

ABSENT: Meghan Di Rocco and Arnie Pitts.

Jennifer Gustafson – Deputy District Attorney, was also present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS [Non-action item]

Jonathan Lesperance expressed his appreciation for the Upland Game Stamp Report section on Dusky Grouse Ecology and Management that indicated the use of dogs to assist with tracking and trapping grouse to develop population estimates and studies.

4. APPROVAL OF APRIL 13, 2019, MINUTES [For possible action]

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

It was moved by Member Kabisch, seconded by Member DoMoe, to approve the April 13, 2019, minutes, as written. The Motion carried with Members Di Rocco and Pitts absent.

5. BOARD MEMBER MEETING ASSIGNMENT [Non-action item] –Discussion of member(s) to attend the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meetings on:

5-1) June 21 and 22, 2019, meetings in Mineral County, Nevada - Chair Robinson commented that he was unable to attend the June 21 and 22, 2019 meetings.

Member Kabisch will attend the June 21 and 22, 2019, meetings.

5-2) August 9 and 10, 2019, White Pine County, Nevada - There were no volunteers for the August 9 and 10, 2019, meetings.

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

6-1) Correspondence (including sportsmen's concerns) and Announcements – Chair Robinson drew attention to late received correspondence on the Secretarial order to open National Wildlife Refuges for hunting and fishing (copy of the correspondence can be found at:

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<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary-bernhardt-proposes-increasing-public-access-hunting-and-fishing-14-million>.

6-2) Overview of the May 3 and 4, 2019, meetings of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners – Chair Robinson noted that there had been discussion about the reduction of the California Bighorn Ewe tags and reduction to a single tag as recommended.

Mike Scott – NDOW, commented that those sheep will be transplanted to other areas.

7. **COMMISSION REGULATION 18-12, AMENDMENT 2, 2018-2019 UPLAND GAME AND FURBEARER SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS** [For Possible Action] – A review, discussion and possible action to approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed amendments regulations for upland game birds and mammals as well as furbearers for the 2019 season. This regulation will also include fall wild turkey seasons for 2019 and spring wild turkey seasons for 2020.

Chair opened the agenda item and questioned whether the closed sage hen areas would be reopened in the future.

Mike Scott – NDOW, commented that a certain number of male birds must be identified before a reopening of the closed areas can be considered.

There were no public comments.

It was moved by Member Kabisch, seconded by Member DoMoe, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 18-12, Amendment 2, 2018-2019 Upland Game and Furbearer Seasons and Bags Limits, as written. The motion carried with member Di Rocco and Pitts absent.

8. **BIENNIAL UPLAND GAME RELEASE PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2020 AND 2021** [For Possible Action] – A review, discussion and possible action to approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed biennial upland game release plan for fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item and commented that it is great seeing what doing and how worked in the past and the progress being made.

There were no board or public comments.

Jen Gustafson – Deputy District Attorney, reminded those present to speak up.

It was moved by Member DoMoe, seconded by Chair Robinson, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the Biennial Upland Game Release Plan for fiscal Years 2020 and 2021, as written. The motion carried: member Di Rocco and Pitts absent.

9. **HERITAGE TAG VENDOR PROPOSALS** [For Possible Action] – A review, discussion and possible action to approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed recommendations regarding Heritage Tag Vendor proposals for Fiscal Year 2020 and may take action on the proposals.

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Chair Robinson opened public comment.

Rex Flowers commented that the proposals did not include either Elko and Fallon Big Horn Groups noting that they also have dinners that attract a significant number of individuals and that there is a need to support state organizations as they tend to focus on local goals and spend monies raised at their events locally.

Sean Shea suggested that the Carson Valley Chukar Club be chosen pointing out how the funding they have provided to the State for Upland Game compares to some others that do not provide money to the State.

Jonathan Lesperance concurred with comments made by Mr. Flowers and Mr. Shea.

Chair Robinson closed public comment.

Chair Robinson suggested that Carson Valley get the antelope and turkey tag rather than Pershing County.

Mr. Flowers commented that he believes that Elko or Fallon wanted the California Big Horn tag.

It was moved by Chair Robinson, seconded by Member Kabisch, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the Vendor proposal with the following modifications: 1) take one deer tag from the Muledeer Foundation and give to the Elko Big Horns Unlimited; 2) take one antelope tag from Pershing and give to the Carson Valley Chukar Club; and 3) the balance of the recommendations be approved as written. The motion carried members Di Rocco and Pitts absent.

10. HERITAGE PROJECT EXTENSION REQUESTS [For Possible Action] – A review, discussion and possible action to approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed recommendations and to approve extension requests from projects approved in previous fiscal years.

Chair opened the agenda item and hearing no member or public comments asked for a motion.

It was moved by Member Kabisch, seconded by Member DoMoe, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the heritage Project Extension requests as submitted. The motion carried: Members Di Rocco and Pitts absent.

11. HERITAGE FUNDING REALLOCATION [For Possible Action] – A review, discussion and possible action to approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed recommendations and may approve reallocation of any unused Heritage funds from previously approved projects to other previously approved projects from the same fiscal year.

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item and outlined how much is raised and how much is expended on wildlife over a period of time totaling 66-million statewide and \$142,000.00 to other projects.

Chair Robinson opened public comment.

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Rex Flowers noted that there are no projects for reallocation.

Chair Robinson closed public comment

Chair Robinson noted that the supporting information had not been received until Jun 12, 2019 and suggested tabling the matter with no action.

The agenda item was tabled with no action taken.

- 12. FISCAL YEAR 2020 HERITAGE PROJECT PROPOSALS** [For Possible Action] A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify proposals to approve up to \$979,702.65 for projects submitted for FY 2020 funding from the Wildlife Heritage account: Bighorn Sheep Capture, Transplant and Monitoring – Project # 20-01 (\$100,000); Wildfire-Related Restoration and Seed Purchase – Project # 20-02 (\$100,000); South Mountains Habitat Restoration – Project # 20-03 (\$75,000); Toole Springs Lek Juniper Removal – Project # 20-04 (\$65,000); Egan Johnson Basin Restoration – Project # 20-05 (\$70,000); North Cave Valley Habitat Restoration – Project # 20-06 (\$60,157.65); Prioritizing and Protecting Natural Water Sources – Project # 20-07 (\$50,000); Monitoring Moose Expansion in Nevada – Project # 20-08 (\$28,000); Big Game Survey Tool – Project # 20-09 (\$70,000); Maximizing the Effectiveness of Common Raven Removal - Project # 20- 10 (\$70,000); Survey and Maintenance of Existing Big Game Water Developments – Project # 20-11 (\$36,000); Staheli Chaining Maintenance Project – Project # 20-12 (\$75,000); Blacktop Apron Guzzler Upgrade – Project # 20-13 (\$21,400); Mormon #3 Prospect Guzzler Upgrade – Project # 20-14 (\$21,615); Douglas Canyon PJ Removal Project – Project # 20-15 (\$50,000); Bighorn Disease Susceptibility Analysis – Project # 20-16 (\$62,530); Steptoe Valley Shooting Complex – Project # 20-17 (not recommended for funding); and Lincoln County Mule Deer Collaring Project – Project # 20-18 (\$25,000).

Chair Robinson commented that the board would take the matter as a single item for action. Chair Robinson questioned how Washoe County could seek a heritage project to rehabilitate some of the areas within Washoe County.

Mike Scott – NDOW, commented that project suggestions can be submitted to NDOW and will be carried forward to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners. Typically, recommendations are generated internally and forward to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

There were no board or public comments.

It was moved by Member Kabisch, seconded by Member DoMoe, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the list of Heritage Projects as submitted. The motion carried: Members Di Rocco and Pitts absent.

- 13. WASHOE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE MEMBERS AND/OR STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS, REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND SELECTION OF**

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TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS [Non-action item] – *Selection of additional agenda item(s) for the next meeting to be held August 1, 2019.*

The August 1, 2019, may include but is not limited to: 1) Habitat Specialist to discuss Heritage Project(s) for Washoe County; 2) Election of Officers: Chair, Vice-chair and Secretary; 3) Follow-up on Guzzler rehabilitation and update on what is being done with older guzzlers statewide.

14. PUBLIC COMMENTS [Non-action item]

Sean Shea suggested a future item that provides an overview of what it takes to set the quotas, when the areas are flown and the modeling used in making quota recommendations.

Cathy Smith expressed her disappointment in the blanket statements that seem to indicate that non-hunters are not involved in wildlife, when they also help with habitat improvements through the Nature Conservancy. Ms. Smith noted that the requests for state/federal funding sources by non-hunting groups are typically met with resistance by sportsmen groups. Ms. Smith believes that there are many areas in which the non-hunter and hunter can work together to benefit wildlife.

Rex Flowers commented that there has been an effort to have a Heritage Project be considered for Unit 014 due to the decline in deer herd populations. Mr. Flowers noted that Mike Scott had been involved in the Lincoln County projects and may be able to provide assistance in determining whether issues are one of predators, habitat or some combination of issues. Mr. Flowers also expressed concern about the late availability of support materials to CAB members but stated they are available on the website the weekend prior to the Washoe CAB meeting.

Caron Tayloe commented that she is concerned about the Bobcat populations noting that she does not observe as many as in the past. Ms. Tayloe suggested that a study needs to be done to determine the number of Bobcats and possible reasons for the decline in sightings.

15. ADJOURNMENT [Non-action item]

Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.