

# Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

## **MINUTES**

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

### **MEMBERS**

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88156359900?pwd=c1BwQS8ydVZBc2NrcktUNXlUcHVScz09>

### **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. A quorum was established

**PRESENT:** Anthony DoMoe, Ray Kabisch, Arnie 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 JUNE 17, 2020, MINUTES** [For possible action]

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item.

There were no Board or public comments.

**It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by Member DoMoe to approve the June 17, 2020, minutes, as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **5. BOARD MEMBER MEETING ASSIGNMENT** [Non-action item] – Discussion and determination of member(s) to attend the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meetings on: 1) August 14 and 15, 2020, in Tonopah, Nevada.

It was noted that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners would hold only a Zoom meeting on August 14, 2020.

Member Kabisch and Chair Robinson will participate in the August 14, 2020, Zoom meeting.

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

**6-1) Correspondence (including sportsmen's concerns) and Announcements** – Member Rhea commented that he had someone make an inquiry about whether NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) and/or the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife could address homeless camps, access and use of the Truckee River. Chair Robinson commented he would inquire with NDOW.

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6-2) Overview of the June 25 and 26, 2020, meetings of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners – Chair Robinson noted that there had been some discussion about issuing returned tags, party bonus points as well as thermal imaging which WCAB had been opposed to due to various concerns about how the regulation was written. Chair Robinson noted that a letter had been received and distributed on agenda item 9 in favor of the proposed regulations. Chair Robinson noted that Mel Belding had expressed some concerns about the destruction/ theft of blinds and trail cams and had suggested that regulations be proposed that would require loss of licenses for such crimes.

### **7. Commission General Regulation 493, NAC 488 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 the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 488 relating to watercrafts.

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item.

Member Domoe sensed there may be for a change in the fee schedule.

There were no further Board or public comments.

***It was moved by Chair Robinson, seconded by Member DoMoe, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission General Regulation 483, NAC 488 Simplification, as written. The motion carried unanimously.***

### **8. Commission General Regulation 490, Party Bonus Points and First Come First Serve, LCB File No. 103-19 – For Possible Action**

A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify recommended changes amending Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation would allow children under 12 to purchase a bonus point if they turn 12 before the first day of the last season for that species. The regulation also addresses bonus points for sportsmen who apply as a party. Lastly, the regulation would allow a first-come-first-serve opportunity for returned tags that miss the 14-day deadline.

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item and provided a brief outline of the proposal and bonus points as applicable to a party. Chair Robinson asked staff about how the proposal and bonus points were applicable to a party.

Chris Hampson – NDOW, commented that he did not have any additional information to share.

Member Pitts stated that he was pleased with the proposal and that he believes the regulation is a good thing and overdue.

***It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by Member Rhea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission General Regulation 490, Party Bonus***

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***Points and First Come First Serve, LCB File No. 103-19 as written. The motion carried unanimously.***

- 9. Commission General Regulation 492, Thermal Imaging Optics, LCB File No. R035-20 – For Possible Action** - A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify recommended changes amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 503 and NAC 503.1485 relating to wildlife; prohibiting the use of certain night-vision equipment and devices for locating, hunting and taking game mammals and game birds; revising the definition of “trail camera or similar device”; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item and provided an overview of the proposal.

Member Pitts concurred with the non-use of thermal imaging to chase game and asked whether there had been any discussion about adding more regulations.

Chris Hampson – NDOW, pointed out that there are some that believe there is too much regulation and noted that other states have similar situations about whether there is over or under regulations. The intent is to provide a common sense and fair approach. Mr. Hampson believes that this is also applicable to birds and other species.

Responding to Member Kabisch’s inquiry about whether this also applied to the use of thermal imaging of predators and coyotes, Mr. Hampson noted that a Game Warden would be better able to address that question.

Member Robinson commented that it is unclear whether it would be illegal to hunt coyotes at night using thermal imaging.

Mr. Hampson recommended that the question be posed to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

Chair Robinson noted that there were some questions that needed clarification and that he would inquire of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners for clarification on night hunting or after season.

There was a brief discussion about the need for clarification on the thermal imaging issue.

Chair Robinson recalled that he had questioned the ethics regulation and was told that it was the purview of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners. However, there was concern about a 50 caliber rifle for an elk and that the regulations need to be better thought through.

Member Domoe expressed his concern about disagreeing with assumptions and the freedom to choose.

Responding to Chair Robinson’s question about whether he was speaking about trail cams, Member DoMoe explained that when looking for coyotes or big cats it is different and that hunters should have

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the opportunity with the sale of Mountain Lion tags. Member DoMoe also noted that this is only one of many concerns.

Chair Robinson opened public comment.

Alan - Nevada Sportsmen, pointed out that thermal imagers only provide an image of the body of an animal not horns. Alan commented that he had to return to his vehicle to retrieve his thermal imager to locate an animal he had wounded.

Roger Heath concurred with the concern the Board has on the definition of thermal imaging and night vision.

Mel Belding commented that he believes the intent is on the right track although in his discussions with others he does not see a need given that very few counties allow shooting after dark.

Chair Robinson closed public comment.

Chair Robinson commented that he likes the use for game recovery and that he has found the use of such technology less than helpful during daylight hours. However, the concern is finding an animal at night and waiting until there is sufficient light to shoot.

Member Pitts commented that he does not like someone trying to use the stuff illegally to track game with an unfair advantage. However, he does not believe there is a need to regulate ethics and that if there is use during an inappropriate time there should be severe penalties and long term reprimand.

Chair Robinson noted that he appreciates the comments of others and the concern about inappropriate hunting.

***It was moved by member Rhea, seconded by Chair Robinson, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners deny the regulation as written. The motion carried unanimously.***

**10. Mule Deer Enhancement Program – For Possible Action** A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify recommended changes to the Nevada Mule Deer Enhancement Program.

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item and provided an overview of the proposal.

Cody Schroeder – NDOW, commented that in his opinion this is long overdue and has been a topic of discussion for a number of years in the Game Division. Mr. Schroeder pointed out that there has been an outcry from some CAB's and the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners and this program would be a blueprint of the limiting factors with assistance from multiple jurisdictions, public land management, biologists and others, The proposed regulation is not overly complicated. Mr. Schroeder noted that a number of funding opportunities have been identified to put boots and shovels to the ground to address habitat issues.

Chair Robinson thanked Mr. Schroeder for his presentation.

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Member Pitts noted that he finds this to be awesome that NDOW is thinking about doing something that will help the population. Member Pitts suggested that a mission statement such as those used by major corporations might be beneficial.

Member Kabisch commented that he believes this is a great thing for the state without a lot of red tape. Therefore, he will support the proposal 199%.

Chair Robinson expressed his appreciation to the Department for listening to the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife and putting something together that is long overdue. Chair Robinson emphasized the need to move forward as quickly as possible and conduct a meeting about water distribution. Chair Robinson believes most of the answers are listed in the report.

Mr. Schroeder hopes that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners addresses ranking and priorities and a timeline so that this can be wrapped up by the 2021 Heritage meeting.

Member Pitts suggested that it be made a competition to have better deer than Colorado and Utah.

Roger Heath concurred with the comments and that there has been sufficient time for studies and surveys to know what the problems are. The top priority is to focus on predator control and that NDOW would like to hear from this body.

Mel Belding commented that this is long overdue and that he loves to see it get off the ground. Mr. Belding noted the need for studies on the serious predator and fire problems as well as encroachment. Mr. Belding noted that there are some tremendous deer herds that are untouchable as they are on private property There will have to be studies to be able to qualify the problems..

Rex Flowers commented that he was looking forward to seeing this program get into the works but that the department needs have a statewide baseline on deer in order to prioritize which units are in the worst shape.

Judi Caron commented that she is excited about this and that the first question when she read the support material was not knowing where it originated but is pleased to know it was NDOW. Mrs. Caron noted several areas such as Orovada, 031 and others that have issues. Great opportunity under Action 7 to engage people in projects.

Chair Robinson closed public comment.

Chair Robinson pointed out that the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife had been pushing the department to do this and expressed his appreciation to the Department for their work especially Cody and Chris. Chair Robinson noted that NDOW could rely on this body to assist in recruiting.

Member Pitts concurred with Chair Robinson

***A motion to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the request was withdrawn.***

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Chair Robinson pointed out that this is only a draft working document.

Mr. Schroder commented that NDOW would be seeking a motion by the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners on the matter but anticipate several re-iterations based on feedback from Counties and the general public.

***It was moved by Chair Robinson, seconded by Member Pitts to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners adopt the outline draft as written. The motion carried unanimously.***

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

Roger Heath directed a question to Cody Schroeder about the prior Mule Deer Enhancement plan created by NDOW, Mr. Heath believes that the plan was to be reviewed annually and questioned whether this had anything to do with that.

Member Pitts pointed out that the Board would have to approve the question and that this is only public comment.

Mel Belding suggested an agenda item for the next meeting concerning penalties given to hunters ripping off blinds and stealing from camps. Mr. Belding commented that a friend of his daughter had her blind ripped off in Pershing County and has heard of similar instances as well. Mr. Belding suggested that the matter be discussed at a future meeting.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT** [Non-action item]

Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.