

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife –  
Final minutes

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** [Non-action item]
2. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** [Non-action item]

*Members in Attendance*

1. Matt Melarkey, Chairman
2. Steve Robinson
3. Jim Rhea
4. Arnie Pitts

*Members Absent*

1. Coby Rowe, Vice Chairman

*Others in Attendance*

1. Jon Ewanyk, Washoe County Wildlife Biologist
2. Cooper Munson, Nevada Department of Wildlife
3. Rex Flowers, public
4. Ryan Brown, public
5. Joel Blakeslee, public

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

No public comment was given.

4. **APPROVAL OF April 28, 2022 Minutes**-[For possible action]

**Member Pitts motioned for approval of the April 28, 2022 CAB minutes. Member Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

5. **BOARD MEMBER MEETING ASSIGNMENT**-[Non-action item]

Member Robinson and Member Rhea said they would be able to attend June's Commission meeting via zoom.

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

Member Robinson acknowledged Member Pitts service on the board and commended him on the work he had done as Vice Chair.

Member Robinson said he was pleased there was concern at the previous meeting regarding the Commission taking into account the CAB recommendations. Member Robinson said he did not believe those concerns were accurate and said he felt the

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Commission was responsive to recommendations from the CABs. Chair Melarkey agreed with Member Robinson's statements.

**7. Reports – Informational –[Informational]**

Member Pitts provided information regarding the Mule Deer Committee Enhancement Report. He said there were updates about collaring and habitat projects. He said the committee is trying to increase the number of projects in the Spring. There was also an update on the predator control, and there were some potential ideas for new projects. There is a consideration to use Project 37 for Area 014.

**Vice Chair Rowe moved to approve the final Fiscal Year 2023 Predation Management Plan as written. Chair Melarkey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**8. Biennial Upland Game Release Plan for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023– [For Possible Action]**

Chair Melarkey opened the item regarding a review to approve the Department's proposed biennial upland game release plan for fiscal years 2022 and 2023. Member Robinson asked what the status of the Columbian Sharp-Tailed grouse was currently. Cooper Munson, NDOW, said they did not have information to provide at this time.

**Member Robinson moved to approve the Biennial Upland Game Release Plan for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023as written. Member Pitts seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**9. Wildlife Heritage Committee– [For Possible Action]**

**A. Wildlife Heritage Committee - Heritage Project Extension Requests – [For Possible Action]**

Chair Melarkey opened discussion to review recommendations and possibly approve extension request from projects approved in previous fiscal years. There was no comment from the board or members of the public.

**Member Pitts motioned to approve Heritage Project Extension Requests as written. Chair Melarkey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**B. Heritage Funding Reallocation– [For Possible Action]**

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Chair Melarkey opened the item to review Committee recommendations and possibly approve reallocation of any unused Heritage funds from previously approved projects to other previously approved projects from the same fiscal year. There was no comment from the board or the public.

**Member Pitts motioned to approve the Heritage Funding Reallocation as written. Chair Melarkey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**C. Fiscal Year 2023 Heritage Project Proposals– [For Possible Action]**

Chair Melarkey opened the item to review recommendations from the Committee and possibly take action to approve up to \$1,513,377.69 for projects submitted for FY 2023 funding from the committee. Member Robinson asked how the capture and removal was proceeding. Cooper Munson, NDOW, said the project has been going well overall. Member Pitts and staff from NDOW discussed details regarding land acquisitions and what type of work is done.

During public comment, Rex Flowers said he had concerns on projects 23-04 and 23-06. He said he was concerned with details in each land acquisition. He did not feel that the Nevada Department of Wildlife should be such a large holder of lands. Ryan Brown said that while he agreed with some of Mr. Flowers' points that NDOW should not be such a large land holder; acquiring some lands is beneficial to ranchers in the area.

Member Robinsons said he was in support of the land acquisition but did agree with Mr. Flowers that more information should have been provided.

**Member Robinson motioned to approve the Fiscal Year 2023 Heritage Project Proposals as written. Member Pitts seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**D. Heritage Account Principal Project Proposal– [For Possible Action]**

Chair Melarkey opened the item to review the Schell – Egan Acquisition Heritage Account Principal Project Proposal from the Department. The Department is asking for additional funds from the Heritage Account Principal balance to acquire 5,390 acres of wildlife habitat scattered throughout the Schell and Egan Ranges near Ely, NV. There was no comment from the board or the public.

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**Member Pitts motioned to approve the Heritage Account Principal Project Proposal as written. Chair Melarkey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**10. Duck Stamp Request –[For Possible Action]**

Chair Melarkey opened the item to review and possibly take action to approve up to \$102,000 for projects submitted for FY 2023 funding from the Duck Stamp Account. There was no comment from the board to begin the item.

During public comment, Rex Flowers spoke about the money allocated to Ducks Unlimited. He said he was concerned the amount was \$35,000 this year, when in years prior, the amount had always been \$10,000. He said he would like to see the amount stay at \$10,000.

Member Robinson said he agreed with Mr. Flowers recommendation to allocate the \$10,000 instead of the \$35,000.

**Member Robinson moved to approve the Duck Stamp Request as written but reduce the Fall Flights Wetland Conservation to \$10,000 and move the additional \$25,000 to the Carson Lake and Pasture Infrastructure Improvement Project. Member Pitts seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**11. Upland Game Bird Stamp Request –[For Possible Action]**

Chair Melarkey opened the item to review and may take action to approve up to \$327,200 for projects submitted for FY 2023 funding from the Upland Game Bird Stamp Account. There was no comment from members of the board or the public.

**Member Rhea moved to approve the Upland Game Bird Stamp Request as written. Member Pitts seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**12. Commission General Regulations – [For Possible Action]**

**A. Commission General Regulation 501, NAC 502.385, Tag Transfer–  
[For Possible Action]**

Chair Melarkey opened the item to consider adopting Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 502.385 that would allow the transfer of a game tag to a non-profit organization and determine the status of the tag if the Department is notified of the tag holder's death. This regulation was created after the passage of Assembly Bill 89 of the 81st

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Legislative Session. Chair Melarkey and Member Robinson said they approved of the proposal. There was no public comment.

**Member Robinson moved to approve Commission General Regulation 501, NAC 502.385, Tag Transfer as written. Chair Melarkey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**B. Commission General Regulation 505, NAC 502.4215, First Come First Served Prevention of Unfair Advantages– [For Possible Action]**

Chair Melarkey opened the item to consider adopting NAC 502.4215 that would allow for the suspension of a person from the First Come First Served program for attempting to create an unfair advantage to obtain a big game tag. Member Robinson said he still was unclear about the reasoning of the regulation. John Ewanyk, NDOW, said certain systems would allow for the monitoring of users and enforcement of rules against having multiple windows and browsers open at the same time. Members of the board continued to discuss details regarding how users may or may not be able to have multiple browsers and windows open. There was no public comment.

**Chair Melarkey moved to approve Commission General Regulation 505, NAC 502.4215, First Come First Served Prevention of Unfair Advantages as written. Member Rhea seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**C. Commission General Regulation 507, LCB File No. R045-22 - Petition Process– [For Possible Action]**

Chair Melarkey opened the item to consider adopting changes recommended by the APRP Committee to NAC 501.195. This regulation was approved by the Committee at their March meeting and heard for a workshop by the Commission in May. CGR 507 will now be considered by the Commission for possible adoption. There was no comment from the board or the public.

**Member Pitts moved to approve Commission General Regulation 507, LCB File No. R045-22 - Petition Process as written. Chair Melarkey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**13. Commission Regulations – [For Possible Action]**

**A. Commission Regulation 22-12, 2022-2023 Upland Game and Furbearer Seasons and Bag Limits– [For Possible Action]**

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Chair Melarkey opened the item to amend regulations for upland game birds and mammals as well as furbearers for the 2022-2023 season. This regulation may also include modifications to the fall wild turkey seasons for 2022 and spring wild turkey seasons for 2023. Member Robinson asked why this change was being proposed now. John Ewanyk, NDOW, said disease was a major contributing factor in the decision. He said there are not nearly as many rabbits when surveys are conducted.

During public comment, Joel Blakeslee, said he was in agreement with the proposed recommendations by NDOW. John Ewanyk also said that he agreed with Mr. Blakeslee's observations.

Member Robinson asked what the future for Sage Grouse was. John Ewanyk, NDOW, said the Department is looking at population levels and those numbers are triggering additional closures, which impact the hunting seasons.

**Member Robinson moved to approve Commission Regulation 22-12, 2022-2023 Upland Game and Furbearer Seasons and Bag Limits as written. Member Pitts seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**B. Commission Regulation 22-05, Amendment #1, 2023 Heritage Tag Vendors– [For Possible Action]**

Chair Melarkey opened the item to review the Wildlife Heritage Committee's recommendations regarding Heritage Tag Vendor Proposals for 2023 and may take action on the proposals. There was no board comment or public comment.

**Member Pitts moved to approve Commission Regulation 22-05, Amendment #1, 2023 Heritage Tag Vendors as written. Member Rhea seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**14. Petition – Mr. David Flanders – Use of Air Rifles– [For Possible Action]**

Chair Melarkey noted that there was no supporting material, and the board decided to not take action on the item.

**15. Washoe CAB – Proposal for Change in Meeting Day – Chairman Matt Melarkey– [For Possible Action]**

Chair Melarkey explained the reasoning for changing the Washoe CAB meetings to the Monday prior to the Commission meeting.

During public comment Rex Flowers said he was supportive of the change, but also requests the CAB publish its meeting dates for the next two years on the websites.

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**Chair Melarkey moved to approve changing the Washoe CAB meeting from Thursday to the Monday before the Commission. Member Rhea seconded. The motion passed 3-1. Member Pitts voted nay.**

**16. Future Meeting Agenda Items– [Informational]**

Member Robinson recalled at the last meeting that he had asked for porcupine presentations, but since the last meeting, he was informed that a presentation would not be possible. There was no public comment

**17. Public Comment – [Non-action Item]**

There was no public comment.

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

Chair Melarkey adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m.