

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife –
August 15, 2022 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. Coby Rowe, Vice Chairman
3. Steve Robinson
4. Jim Rhea
5. Ryan Browne

Others in Attendance

1. Mel Belding, public
2. Ash Casselli, public
3. Kristie Knight, Department of Wildlife

3. **Election of Officers** [For possible action]

Chair Melarkey motioned to keep the officers of the Washoe County Advisory Board the same for the upcoming year with Matt Melarkey remaining as Chair, Coby Rowe remaining as Vice Chair, and Jim Rhea remaining as Secretary. Member Rhea seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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

No public comment was given.

5. **APPROVAL OF June 16, 2022 Minutes**-[For possible action]

Member Robinson motioned for approval of the June 16, 2022 CAB minutes. Member Rhea seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Chair Melarkey said he would be able to attend the August Commission meeting via Zoom.

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

Member Robinson said he spoke with an individual regarding disability permits for muzzleloaders. He said he thought the board should consider bringing the issue regarding eye disabilities to the Commission in order to bring it in line with other

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife –
draft minutes

disabilities. Member Robinson also said that he would be required to submit a public information request with the Department to get data related to bear populations and human contacts with bears. Chair Melarkey said he would follow up with the Department regarding the requests. Chair Melarkey asked how the CAB would inquire about the disability request with the Commission. Member Robinson said the Board Chair could request to have the item placed on the agenda at a commission meeting. Chair Melarkey said he would also put the item on the next CAB agenda.

8. Reports – Mule Deer Enhancement Program Committee Report –
[Informational]

Member Robinson went to Unit 014 and said the mule deer team is hoping to do habitat rehabilitation after fires from 2010. He also complimented the biologists on the work they continue to do to try to improve the habitat. Member Robinson discussed the June Nevada Board Wildlife meeting and explained that the Department believes there is too many deer in unit 014. He noted there may be a Heritage Proposal attached to help fund future habitat projects. He said he was not in favor of the recommendation of collaring mountain lions in the Sheldon, which he felt was unnecessary because there were no predator projects for the Sheldon at this time.

**9. Administrative Procedures, Regulations and Policy (APRP)
Committee–** [For Possible Action]

A. Commission Policy 3 – Appeals – Second Reading– [For Possible Action]

Chair Melarkey opened the item regarding the Commission’s second reading of Commission Policy 3, Appeals. There was no member comment or public comment.

Vice Chair Rowe moved to approve Commission Policy 3 – Appeals as written. Member Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**B. Commission Policy 4 – Petition Process and Adoption of
Regulations – Second Reading–** [For Possible Action]

Chair Melarkey opened the item regarding a second reading of Commission Policy 4, Petition Process and Adoption of Regulations. There was no member comment or public comment.

Member Rhea moved to approve Commission Policy 4 – Petition Process

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife –
draft minutes

and Adoption of Regulations as written. Chair Melarkey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**C. Commission Policy 21 – Game and Furbearer Management Plans –
Second Reading – [For Possible Action]**

Chair Melarkey opened the item regarding a second reading of Commission Policy 21, Game and Furbearer Plans. Member Robinson noted the Commission did take the CAB's comments into account at its previous meeting. He explained that the Commission removed the CAB's recommendation of adding language to ensure the review is completed no more than ten years, or as needed.

During Public Comment, Mel Belding said he agreed that the review should be done every 10 years.

Chair Melarkey moved to accept Commission Policy 4 – Petition Process and Adoption of Regulations as written with a change on page 2, that states management plans will be reviewed on no more than a ten year schedule or as needed. Member Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**D. Commission Policy 22 – Introduction, Transplanting, and
Exportation of Wildlife – Second Reading – [For Possible Action]**

Chair Melarkey opened discussion on a second reading of Commission Policy 22, Introduction, Transplanting, and Exportation of Wildlife. Member Robinson said he agreed with the proposed language. There was no public comment.

Vice Chair Rowe moved to approve Commission Policy 22 – Introduction, Transplanting, and Exportation of Wildlife as written. Member Rhea seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**E. Commission Policy 24 – Hunting Opportunities Among Various
Weapons Classes and Hunter Groups – First Reading– [For Possible
Action]**

Chair Melarkey opened discussion on a first reading of Commission Policy 24, Hunting Opportunities Among Various Weapon Classes and Hunter Groups. Member Browne said he would like to see wording added that if a resident returns a tag it should go to

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife –
draft minutes

only residents. Non-resident tags should be able to be given to whomever. Member Robinson said he was okay with the current language. He said that hunters who are chasing the grand slam have Nevada as the best opportunity to complete the grand slam. He said that Nevada residents will be able to get the tag if they apply each year. Member Rhea said he agreed with Member Browne's language addition. However, during discussion, the Board noted that any change would need to be done either through Nevada Revised Statutes or Nevada Administrative Code, which would make the change being discussed at the current meeting a moot point.

During public comment Mel Belding also recommended the language be changed in Nevada Administrative Code. He also commented on the quotas and said he believed the quota should be set at 65 bucks per 100 does until the populations had recovered. He also added that individuals should be alternates on all five choices instead of their first in the first come first serve draw. Ash Casselli said that he felt the first come first serve draw was not equitable. Kristie Knight added that the applicable Nevada Administrative Code discussed earlier was NAC 502.421

Member Rhea moved to approve Commission Policy 24 as written, except to make changes that “Returned Resident tags should not be eligible to purchase by Non-Residents per NRS 502.015” Also, under section #4 “for alternate and non-standard hunt units, the demand will be based on the number of first choice applicants for each weapon type from the previous year” should be changed to years. Chair Melarkey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Commission Policy 25 – Wildlife Damage Management – Second Reading– [For Possible Action]

Chair Melarkey opened discussion on a second reading of Commission Policy 25, Wildlife Damage Management. Member Robinson commented on #3 of the policy and the oversight responsibility change to the Department Of Agriculture. Chair Melarkey said he too was concerned at the beginning but he noted that Wildlife Services is part of the Department of Agriculture so that was why he believed the change was made in the policy. Member Robinson said he believed the Department of Wildlife should be the entity listed in the policy since that is the department charged with overseeing all wildlife in the state. There was no additional board discussion or public comment.

Member Robinson moved to accept Commission Policy 25 as written. Vice Chair Rowe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

G. Commission Policy 26 – Managing Rocky Mountain Elk Population – Second Reading– [For Possible Action]

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife –
draft minutes

Chair Melarkey opened discussion on a second reading of Commission Policy 26, Managing Rocky Mountain Elk Population. There was no board discussion or public comment.

Vice Chair moved to accept Commission Policy 26 as written. Member Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

H. **Commission Policy 27 – Protection of Wildlife – Second Reading –**
[For Possible Action]

Chair Melarkey opened discussion on a second reading of Commission Policy 27, Protection of Wildlife. Member Robinson said he felt the Commission has ignored the suggestions of the Board at their most recent meeting. He said he was concerned about the support shown for allowing a wolf population to establish itself in Nevada. He said that he did not agree with Nevada supporting such a population.

During Public Comment, Mel Belding said he was in agreement with the board's proposal to amend section 9.

Member Robinson moved to accept Commission Policy 27 as written with the following change. The Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife strongly feels that section 9 should be amended to: “The Commission shall oppose an establishment of a population of wolves in Nevada and recognizes wolf sightings will continue in Nevada. Like other predators, the commission supports management of wolves if they are determined to be negatively impacting other species.” Member LLL seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Chair Melarkey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

I. **Commission Policy 28 – Transparency on Quota Setting – Second Reading–** [For Possible Action]

Chair Melarkey opened discussion on a second reading of Commission Policy 28, Transparency of Quota Setting. There was no discussion by the board or public comment.

Member Robison moved the accept Commission Policy 28 as written. Vice Chair Rower seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

J. **Commission Policy 29 – Elk Arbitration – Second Reading–** [For Possible Action]

Chair Melarkey opened discussion on a second reading of Commission Policy 29, Elk Arbitration. There was no board discussion or public comment.

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife –
draft minutes

Chair Melarkey moved to accept Commission Policy 29 be accepted as written. Member Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**K. Commission Policy 51 – Wayne E. Kirch Conservation Award –
Second Reading– [For Possible Action]**

Chair Melarkey opened discussion on a second reading of Commission Policy 51, Wayne E. Kirch Conservation Award. There was no discussion by the board of public comment.

Vice Chair Rowe moved to approve Commission Policy 51 as written. Member Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**L. Commission Policy 60 – Water Application Guidelines – First
Reading– [For Possible Action]**

Chair Melarkey opened discussion on a first reading of Commission Policy 60, Water Application Guidelines. There was no discussion by the board or public comment.

Member Browne moved to approve Commission Policy 60 as written. Member Rhea seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**M. Commission Policy 61 – Water Rights – First Reading– [For Possible
Action]**

Chair Melarkey opened discussion on a first reading of Commission Policy 61, Water Rights. Chair Melarkey asked if fencing of springs was covered in the proposed policy. Member Robinson said he believed it was covered. There was no additional discussion by the board of public comment.

Vice Chair Rowe moved to accept Commission Policy 61 as written. Chair Melarkey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**N. Commission Policy 66 – Management and Use of Wildlife
Management Areas – First Reading – [For Possible Action]**

Chair Melarkey opened discussion on a first reading of Commission Policy 66, Management and Use of Wildlife Management Areas. While this policy was for small ponds, Member Robinson said he would like to see a future item pertaining to Lake Tahoe boating access in a future meeting. There was no public comment.

*Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife –
draft minutes*

**Member Robinson moved to adopt Commission Policy 66 as written.
Member Rhea seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

10. Future Meeting Agenda Items– [Informational Only]

Chair Melarkey said he planned on having eye disability permit, Lake Tahoe boat ramps access, and alternate designations for First Come First Served draws on future board agendas.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS [Non-action item]

During public comment, Mel Belding said he had some disturbing news during the mule deer enhancement meeting. He said the 2021 information coming out Unit 014 and said it had the second highest fawn versus doe in the state. He said it was unclear how this information as possible, yet the unit over carrying capacity. He said he would like to see additional data points used in order to make a more informed decision.

12. ADJOURNMENT [Non-action item]

Chair Melarkey adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.