

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife –
September 19, 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
4. Mike Scott, Department of Wildlife
5. Travis Hawk, Department of Wildlife

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

Ash Casselli said that he would like to see improvements made to the website, specifically making the ability to access supporting meeting materials easier for the public. .

4. **Approval August 15, 2022 minutes**-[For possible action]

Member Rhea motioned for approval of the August 15, 2022 CAB minutes. Member Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

5. **Approval of September 19, 2022 AGENDA**-[For possible action]

Chair Melarkey called for approval of the consent agenda and additional agenda items for the September 19, 2022 meeting. There was no board discussion or public comment.

Vice Chair Rower motioned for approval of the September 19, 2022 Agenda. Member Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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

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Chair Melarkey said he would be able to attend the September Commission meeting via Zoom. Member Robinson said he would be able to make the Friday portion of the meeting.

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

Chair Melarkey asked if there were any comments regarding the August Commission meeting and there were no comments. No CAB members had received any correspondence since the prior meeting either.

8. CONSENT ITEMS – For Possible Action – [For Possible Action]

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

B. Commission Policy 25 – Wildlife Damage Management – Third Reading – For Possible Action – [For Possible Action]

Chair Melarkey asked if there was any public comment, and no public comment was given.

Vice Chair Rowe Rhea moved to approve the consent block. Member Browne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Consent Calendar items pulled for further discussion – For Possible Action – [For Possible Action]

No items were removed from the consent agenda, therefore the Board took no action on this item.

10. Commission Regulation 21-15 Amendment #1, Fishing Seasons and Regulations for January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2023 – For Possible Action– [For Possible Action]

Chair Melarkey opened discussion to consider amending fishing seasons, bag, and possession limits for the period of January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2023. Vice Chair Rower asked for the reasoning regarding the single day limit and why a multi-day limit was not considered.

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Kristie Knight said the limit is for anglers to only have five in their possession at any given time. If the fish are consumed, then the angler would be able to catch up to however many fish were consumed. Travis Hawk, Nevada Department of Wildlife, noted that additional regulations changes may be considered next year, but currently, the possession limit would remain in place.

Member Robinson asked for an update on the fisheries in Washoe, specifically the Little Washoe Lake. Mr. Hawk explained why the lake had gone dry and the work the department was doing to help the fish population recover. Member Robinson also asked about the boat ramp access on the Nevada side of Lake Tahoe. Mr. Hawk said that the ramps on the Nevada side are federally staffed and that is why the ramps are not open during federal holidays. He said he is working with colleagues to come up with alternative staffing plans to ensure the ramps are open earlier and on more days. There was no public comment on the item.

Member Robinson moved to recommend the adoption of Commission Regulation 21-15 Amendment #1, Fishing Seasons and Regulations for January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2023, as written. Chair Melarkey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Commission General Regulation 502, Junior Hunt and Turkey– For Possible Action– [For Possible Action]

Chair Melarkey opened discussion to consider amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 502 to limit the number of successfully awarded tags in the junior hunt program. The regulation also removes hard close dates for submitting a turkey harvest return card and allow for junior turkey bonus points to convert to the adult point category once a junior is age eligible able to participate in the junior hunt turkey program. There was no initial board comment.

Ash Caselli said he felt the proposal may limit junior's opportunity to hunt which he did not agree with. Member Robinson said he thought it would increase the number of tags for more youths in general because there would be a greater chance for more youths to draw a tag.

Mike Scott, Nevada Department of Wildlife, explained that there may be 400 to 450 additional tags available. He noted another suggestion would be to limit the class of weapon for a youth who had drawn three tags for rifle hunts.

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Member Robinson moved to recommend the approval of Commission General Regulation 502, Junior Hunt and Turkey Program as written. Member Browne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

12. Commission General Regulation 508, Antler Points and Spike Elk Defined– [For Possible Action]

Chair Melarkey opened the item to review and possibly revise draft language amending NAC 502 that would clarify definitions pertaining to “antler point” and “spike elk” for certain big game mammals and reduce likelihood of inadvertent infractions. Member Robinson asked if the Department could speak on the item prior to the board having discussion. Mr. Scott explained that the Department receives many questions regarding spikes for Elk. He said the proposal was to attempt to make things clearer for sportsman. Member Robinson was unclear asked if it would be simpler to call the hunt a management hunt. Mr. Scott said other states did define spikes in a simpler manner which might be a good suggestion. The members of the board and Mr. Scott continued discussion on spikes.

Member Robinson said that overall, he was still unclear on the proposal. He said he would prefer calling it three-point or less and he said he felt that would be a simpler way of defining it. Member Browne said he agreed with what Member Robinson suggested.

During public comment, Mel Belding said he agreed that it should be called a management hunt, but he did not agree with calling for three-point or less. He said that generally speaking, a bull elk will not have a brow tie unless they are a four-point elk. Ash Caselli asked for clarification on the definition of a point and how it was determined. Kristie Knight added the spike definition to the record.

During board discussion, members of the CAB deliberated the proposal and discussed different possible definitions of the spike and how the hunt was defined.

Chair Melarkey moved to approve Commission General Regulation 508, Antler Points and Spike Elk Defined as written with the following changes: Sec. 502.104 “Spike Elk” is any antlered elk having a non-branched beam on either antler. Sec 502.1045 “Spike Elk Only” means, in a designation of elk that may be taken during an open season, only antlered elk having a non-branched beam on either antler. Recommend to remove spike elk

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hunt and replace with a management hunt of antlered elk three “points” or less. Member Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

13. Future Meeting Agenda Items – Informational only- Public Comment Allowed

Chair Melarkey noted that the next meeting for the CAB would be held on November 1, 2022, as opposed to October 31, 2022.

14. PUBLIC COMMENTS [Non-action item]

There was no public comment.

15. ADJOURNMENT [Non-action item]

Chair Melarkey adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.