

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife –
October 30, 2023 minutes

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

Members in Attendance

1. Matt Melarkey, Chair
2. Coby Rowe, Vice Chairman
3. Steve Robinson
4. Jim Rhea
5. Ryan Browne

Others in Attendance

1. John Ewanyk, NDOW
2. Cooper Munson, NDOW
3. Travis Hawks, NDOW
4. Teddy Owleing

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

No public comment was given.

4. **Approval August 7, 2023 minutes**-[For possible action]

Vice Chair Rowe motioned for approval of the August 7, 2023 CAB minutes. Member Rhea seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

5. **Approval of October 30, 2023 Agenda**-[For possible action]

Member Rhea motioned for approval October 30, 2023 meeting agenda. Chair Melarkey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Chair Melarkey asked who would be able to attend the Commission meeting in Reno. Board members noted they would be able to attend the upcoming Commission meeting. Member Browne would attend on Friday and other members would join virtually on Saturday

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

Chair Melarkey asked if there was any correspondence or updates from the board and the board noted no correspondence or updates.

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife –
October 30, 2023 minutes

8. **Consent Items - None**
9. **Commission Policy 23 – Predation Management - Fourth Reading –**
– [For Possible Action]

Chair Melarkey opened the item to review Commission Policy 23 and make any necessary changes and may decide to repeal, revise, or adopt the policy. The board did not have any questions or comments and there was no public comment.

Member Robinson moved to accept Commission Policy 23 Predation Management Plan as written. Vice Chair Rowe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Chair Melarkey opened the item to review and discuss Commission Policy 24, Hunting Opportunities Among Various Weapons Classes and Hunter Groups. Member Robinson asked about the fixed allocation and noted some concerns about how allocations would be affected. John Ewanyk, NDOW, discussed some changes in the formula and how those changes would determine allocations for weapon classes. The fixed demand was proposed as a way to simplify the allocations. Vice Chair Rowe asked about mule deer allocations. Mr. Ewanyk said that Policy 24 will be a guideline for how tags are issues, but the CABs would still be able to make recommendations for changes to allocations. Chair Melarkey walked the CAB through some of the allocations based on the percent allocation as presented by NDOW and noted the allocations were still close to previous allocations under the prior guidance for smaller units but was still unsure about larger units and how the allocation might change. Vice Chair asked that wording be added for species that noted tag allocations may be changed.

Vice Chair Rowe moved to accept Commission Policy 24 with the following addition, that under Item #3 elk species to be added to antelope and deer. Member Browne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

11. **Commission General Regulations–** [For Possible Action]
 - A. **Commission Regulation 500, Subdivision Map Review**

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife –
October 30, 2023 minutes

Vice Chair Rowe asked representatives of NDOW regarding the amount of oversight the proposed regulation would have. Representatives of NDOW said that the oversight they agency had was written in statute. Cooper Munson, NDOW, did note that developers have allowed NDOW to review proposed plans for some subdivisions and provide feedback, and this proposed regulation would allow the Department to have that access for more proposed projects.

Vice Chair Rowe moved to accept Commission Regulation 500, Subdivision Map Review as written. Member Rhea seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Commission General Regulation 511, Wildlife Management Area Regulations

There was no discussion by the board or public comment.

Vice Chair Rowe moved to accept Commission Regulation 511, Wildlife Management Area Regulations as written. Member Browne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Commission General Regulation 513, Executive Order Regulations

There was no discussion by the board or public comment.

Member Rhea moved to accept Commission Regulation 513, Executive Order Regulations as written. Member Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

12. Commission General Regulation 509, License and Vessel Product Refunds [For Possible Action]

Chair Melarkey opened the item to consider amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 502 and 488 to allow the Department authority to provide refunds on licenses and vessel products. There was no discussion by the board or public comment.

Member Rhea moved to accept Commission Regulation 509, License and

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife –
October 30, 2023 minutes

Vessel Product Refunds as written. Member Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

13. Bighorn Sheep Ram Specialty Tag Regulation Review [For Possible Action]

Chair Melarkey opened the item to review bighorn ram specialty tag seasons and unit closures decide whether to make changes to the method used to limit the maximum number of specialty tags for every unit group that has an open season. Chair Melarkey asked representatives of NDOW to speak to the item. Mr. Ewanyk noted that supporting material was not made available at the time of the meeting, but discussion would center around discussion and input seeking an improved method for limiting the number of rams that can be harvested from bighorn ram hunt units or unit groups by specialty tagholders. Mr. Ewanyk also provided details regarding why this item was being discussed and how issues had arisen with specialty tag holders being notified when a unit had closed. Member Browne said he hoped to see a solution that put the onus of contacting NDOW on the hunters who hold the tag which would lessen the burden on the Department. Member Robinson, and Chair Melarkey both agreed with Member Browne's assessment and proposed solution.

During public comment Teddy Owle said he agreed with the board's proposal and believed it was the hunter's responsibility to confirm whether a unit was open or closed.

Chair Melarkey moved to accept Bighorn Sheep Ram Specialty Tag Regulation Review as written with the following changes to strike language regarding the Department contacting hunters, and replace with an implementation of a hotline similar to the bear hunts and the creation and implementation of a live unit hunting map to make it the hunter's responsibility to check unit closures. Member Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

14. Elections – Elections for Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife Chair Positions [For Possible Action]

There was no public comment.

Member Rhea moved to nominate Coby Rowe as Chairman of the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife. Chair Melarkey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife –
October 30, 2023 minutes

Member Rhea moved to nominate Ryan Browne as Vice Chairman of the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife. Vice Chair Rowe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Melarkey moved to nominate Jim Rhea as Secretary of the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife. Vice Chair Rowe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Member Robinson asked for a presentation regarding the use of drones to survey wildlife. Member Rhea asked for a discussion regarding moving Hunter's Safety training to fully online for all ages. Chair Melarkey asked NDOW about the use of infrared technology in the field. NDOW officials noted that while they have not seen it as pervasive, they are aware that it is occurring, and it is difficult to enforce due to the complicated nature of enforcement.

16. Public Comment [Non-action item]

Teddy Owle asked for an implantation of an archery training for hunters who have not drawn a tag in Nevada or been successful another state.

17. Adjournment [Non-action item]

Chair Melarkey adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.