

# Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

## MINUTES

**Monday ~ May 9, 2011 ~ 6:30 p.m.**  
**Nevada Department of Wildlife**  
**Conference Room B**  
**1100 Valley Road, Reno, Nevada**

## MEMBERS

Rex Flowers, Chair  
Rick Smith, Vice-chair  
John Reed, Secretary  
Glen Copeland  
Daryl Harwell

### **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE \***

Chair Flowers led the Pledge of Allegiance

### **2. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL\***

Chair Flowers called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was established.

**PRESENT:** Glen Copeland, Rex Flowers, Daryl Harwell, John Reed and Rick Smith.

**ABSENT:** None.

### **3. APPROVAL OF MARCH 8, AND APRIL 11, 2011, MINUTES**

*It was moved by Member Harwell, seconded by Member Copeland, to approve the March 8, 2011 and April 11, 2011, meeting minutes, as submitted. The motion carried unanimously. (Member Smith abstained from voting on March 8, 2011, minutes.)*

### **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS \***

Kim Tisdale – Western Region Fishery Supervisor, noted that NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) was neutral on the Fred Jackson petition to allow the commercial collection of Crayfish and pointed out that this is the first step in the process.

### **5. BOARD MEMBER MEETING ASSIGNMENT** –*A discussion and selection of member(s) to attend the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meetings on: 1) May 13 and 14, 2011, in Reno, Nevada; and 2). June 24 and 25, 2011, in Eureka, Nevada.*

Chair Flowers noted that the May 12, 2011, meeting would consist of an afternoon session only.

It was determined that none of the Washoe County members could attend the Thursday afternoon session on May 12, 2011.

Chair Flowers will attend the Friday, May 13, 2011, meeting.

Member Copeland will attend the May 14, 2011, meeting.

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Chair Flowers commented that the June 24 and 25, 2011, meetings of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners had been cancelled by Governor Brian Sandoval.

## **6. COMMITTEE, MEMBER AND LIAISON UPDATES \***

**1. Correspondence (including sportsmen's concerns) and Announcements** – Chair Flowers outlined correspondence including the letter from the Deputy Attorney General concerns the OML (Open Meeting Law) complaint received after the March 8, 2011, meeting (copy on file). Chair Flowers read correspondence from Jim Jenne into the record (copy on file).

**2. Overview of the April 15 and 16, 2011, Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meeting** – Member Harwell noted his amazement that without discussion or deliberation after the candidate interviews the Commission (Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners) made and passed a motion to recommend that Governor Brian Sandoval appoint one of the following as the NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) Director: 1) Robert Beach; 2) Gary Bertellotti; or 3) Kevin Lansford. Of particular concern to Member Harwell is that it appears, in his opinion, that input from the County Game Boards carries little weight with the current Commission as decisions are made before the meeting is held.

**3. Update and status report on the Washoe County Predator Control Project Unit 015 and the Wildlife Damage Management Subcommittee** – Chair Flowers recalled his previous discussion Russell Woolstenhulme – Biologist, who indicated that eight (8) Mountain Lions had been taken from the areas.

Chris Hampson – Game Bureau Biologist, outlined the recent harvest of eleven (11) Mountain lions in Unit 015 that were located in close proximity to domestic sheep. Of the eleven Mountain Lions removed, he noted that six (6) had been taken from the north end of the Coppersmith Hills where domestic sheep are trailed back and forth into Nevada from the Bare Ranch in California. Mr. Hampson noted that of the six (6) lions taken in this area, four (4) of the Mountain Lions were less than a year old and the two others were the adult females of the younger Mountain Lions. Four additional adult Mountain Lions were removed from the Buffalo Creek area where other domestic sheep had been killed. An additional adult Mountain Lion was removed by Wildlife Services just below Squaw Valley Reservoir adjacent to Project 18. Over the past ten (10) years the number of Mountain Lions harvested in Unit 015 (sport, depredation and private depredation) ranged between zero (0) to as many as six (6) Mountain Lions taken per year. Mr. Hampson pointed out that there are two large sheep operators in the area and that the Mountain Lions seem to be concentrating in areas where domestic sheep are lambing and taking advantage of the easier prey (domestic sheep). Since the eleven (11) Mountain Lions were removed from Unit 015 in early to mid-April, no other Mountain Lions are known to have been removed from the Unit by Wildlife Services or sport harvest. Mr. Hampson noted that two (2) additional Mountain Lions were removed from Project 18 in the Granite Range and one (1) Mountain Lion was also removed from the Bighorn Sheep Protection Project in the Virginia

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Mountains. Mr. Hampson talked about the history of the Lassen Muledeer Herd and discussed issues regarding habitat impacts from past wildfires and drought. Additionally, many years of very high horse numbers have degraded springs and riparian areas within Unit 015. Mr. Hampson noted that very harsh winters in 1987-1988 and 1992-1993 significantly reduced Muledeer numbers in Unit 015 and California Hunt Unit X5B. Mr. Hampson recalled that Mike Dobel personally observed 36 dead Muledeer while driving along the main road that runs up into Parsnip Wash during the winter of 1987-1988. Mr. Hampson noted that there is currently a long list of habitat improvement projects working their way through the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) processes. The projects include spring restoration and protection, weed control, and Pinyon Juniper removal. One of the positive actions that occurred over the past year was the removal of more than 1,500 horses and burros from the Twin Peaks Allotment. The removal of the horses will reduce the competition between wildlife and horses for food and water. Mr. Hampson commented that, in his opinion, habitat conditions should improve near water sources and riparian areas due to the removal of the horses. Mr. Hampson explained that he did not believe that NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) was against further predator work in Unit 015 during the winter months. However, that money may be better spent on Muledeer herds that live within the State of Nevada year-round and on herds that are non-migratory. The Lassen/Unit 015 Muledeer herd lives in California for much of the year (May through November) where Mountain Lion densities are known to be much higher. Responding to discussion on how the two states (California and Nevada) manage the interstate Muledeer herd, Mr. Hampson noted that biologists with the State of California conduct surveys of the migratory deer herd in the fall and the NDOW generally conducts composition surveys in the spring. Mr. Hampson noted that the severity of the winter determines how many Muledeer move into Nevada during the winter and that the severity of the winter can have an effect on hunter success rates in Unit 015. The past two winters have finally been more normal and many more Muledeer have moved on to the Nevada side of the line. Hunter success rates have been very good the past two years at 47 and 46-percent due to the better snow conditions. Mr. Hampson also noted that in the spring of 2010 more than 600 Muledeer were classified on the spring survey in Unit 015 following the heavier winter.

**7. WASHOE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE 2010-2011 BUDGET \*** – *An informational update on fiscal year 2011-2012 Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife budget for travel and operations.* Chair Flowers

Chair Flowers noted that the spreadsheet for the County Game Boards) was incorrectly reflected the amount needed for Washoe County. Although Chair Flowers has tried to contact Dale Hanson, his email and telephone calls have not been returned as of yet. The current budget as shown would leave a shortfall of \$1,743.00. Chair Flowers will follow up.

**8. COMMISSION REGULATION 11-10 Big Game Quotas 2011 and 2012** – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) to approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed*

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*regulations for the numbers of tags to be issued for Mule deer, Pronghorn Antelope, Elk, Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goats for 2011 – 2012.*

Chris Hampson – Biologist, provided a brief overview of the previous year's hunter success rate and corresponding decrease in tag allocations. Mr. Hampson also noted the increased buck/doe/fawn ratios.

## **ANTELOPE**

Hearing no one wishing to speak in favor of, or in opposition to the proposal, Chair Flowers asked for discussion or motion.

***It was moved by Member Smith, seconded by Member Copeland, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the 2011 quota for Antelope Hunt 2171, with modifications to increase to twenty-four (24) tags; Unit 078, 105-107, and 121 to six (6) tags; Units 111 through 114 to seven (7); Units 115, 241 and 242 to three (3); Units 131, 145, 163 and 164 to four (4); Units 132-134 and 245 to two (2) tags; Units 221-223 and 241 to two (2) tags and Hunts 2151, 2161, 2181, 2251 and 2261 as recommended by the Nevada Department of Wildlife. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Rocky Mountain Elk**

Mr. Hampson summarized the previous harvest data noting the increased number of tags which will assist in meeting management plan objectives. Mr. Hampson pointed out that a season had not been set for Unit 231.

There was some discussion about Unit 016 and difference of opinion about having a hunt during the rut. It was noted that the intent of the reduction to a single tag was to not have the Unit be the only Unit to continue to have a hunt during the rut.

Hearing no one wishing to speak in favor of, or in opposition to the proposal, Chair Flowers asked for discussion or motion.

***It was moved by Member Smith, seconded by Member Reed, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Hunt 4151 with the following amendment increasing the number of tags in Units 161- 164 and 171- 173 Early from one (1) to seven (7) and Hunts 4102, 4156, 4161, 4181, 4176, 4111, 4251, 4256 and 4261 as written. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Desert Big Horn**

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Mr. Hampson outlined the hunter success ratio noting that the lamb/ewe ratio remains strong and loss in Central and Eastern Nevada due to exposure to disease and domestic sheep in those areas.

Hearing no one wishing to speak in favor of, or in opposition to the proposal, Chair Flowers asked for discussion or motion.

***It was moved by Member Smith, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Hunts 3151 and 3251 as proposed. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **California Sheep**

Mr. Hampson noted that high number of applications for the available tags. Mr. Hampson explained that the lamb/ewe ratio remained strong thus allowing an increase in the number of available Tags.

Hearing no one wishing to speak in favor of, or in opposition to the proposal, Chair Flowers asked for discussion or motion.

***It was moved by Member Copeland, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Hunts 8151 and 8251, as written. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Rocky Mountain**

Mr. Hampson recalled the large die-off of animals in the east Humboldt and Ruby Mountain area. Outlining the result of an aerial survey, Mr. Hampson noted that Unit 091 is closed for the season. The season dates for Unit 115 are intended to provide an opportunity to harvest animals at the more accessible areas.

Hearing no one wishing to speak in favor of, or in opposition to the proposal, Chair Flowers asked for discussion or motion.

***It was moved by Member Reed, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Hunt 9151 as written. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Mountain Goat**

Mr. Hampson noted a slight improvement in hunter success during the past season and drew attention to the increased kid mortality rates in 2009-2010. Mr. Hampson explained that the number of tags had been reduced for the upcoming season.

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Hearing no one wishing to speak in favor of, or in opposition to the proposal, Chair Flowers asked for discussion or motion.

***It was moved by Member Copeland, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Hunt 7151 with the following amendment by increasing the number of tags to three (3) in Unit 101, and Hunt 7251 by decreasing the number of tags from one (1) to zero (0) in Unit 101. The motion carried: Members Copeland, Harwell and Smith assenting; and Member Reed and Chair Flowers dissenting.***

## **YOUTH HUNT**

Mr. Hampson outlined the proposed recommendations noting the increased recruitment and modest increase in the statewide population.

Hearing no one wishing to speak in favor of, or in opposition to the proposal, Chair Flowers asked for discussion or motion.

***It was moved by Member Smith, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Hunt 1107, as written. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Muledeer**

Mr. Hampson noted some slight increases in tag allocation in certain Units.

During the discussion it was suggested that the Early and Late hunts in Unit 014 be changed to an 80/20 split rather than the proposed 76/24 split. Other discussion noted that buck/doe/fawn ratios, which are up since the 2009 season. It was pointed out that the herd populations are doing well statewide.

Hearing no one wishing to speak in favor of, or in opposition to the proposal, Chair Flowers asked for discussion or motion.

***It was moved by Member Smith, seconded by Member Reed, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Muledeer Hunts as written.***

Chair Flowers suggested that Hunt 1331, Unit 014 Early and Late be amended to increase the number of tags in the Early Hunt to sixty-eight (68) and decrease the number of tags in the Late Hunt to seventeen (17).

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***Member Smith amended the motion to increase the number of tags in the Unit 014 Early Hunt to sixty-eight (68) and decrease the number of tags in the Unit 014 Late Hunt to seventeen (17). Member Reed amended the second. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Landowner Compensation Tags**

Hearing no one wishing to speak in favor of, or in opposition to the proposal, Chair Flowers asked for discussion or motion.

Mr. Hampson explained that landowners must contact NDOW to schedule a count.

***It was moved by Member Harwell, seconded by Member Smith, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the Landowner Compensation Tags as written. The motion carried: Members Harwell, Reed, Smith and Chair Flowers assenting; and Member Copeland dissenting.***

The meeting recessed at 7:59 p.m. and reconvened at 8:09 p.m.

- 9. WILDLIFE HERITAGE PROJECTS** – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) to approve, deny or otherwise modify projects and related funding recommendations for Fiscal Year 2011-2012, including 2010-2011 project extensions.*

After a brief discussion a consensus was reached to review those proposals supported by members based on a total budget of \$403,078.00.

## **Project 12-01 – 2011-2012 Capture and Transplant Program**

Mel Belding stated that, in his opinion, the funding for this particular project should be increased by 50-percent.

A consensus was reached that the project was worthwhile and should be supported at the funding level identified in the proposal.

***It was moved by Member Smith, seconded by Member Copeland, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve 12-01 in the amount of \$144,500.00. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Project 12-02 – 4-year project for disease surveillance and monitoring of Big Game \$25,000.00**

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Hearing no one wishing to speak in favor of, or in opposition to the proposal, Chair Flowers asked for discussion or motion.

Tony Wasley – Muledeer Staff Specialist, explained that the program provides a lot of good information that expands the knowledge base of wildlife health and disease testing.

***It was moved by Member Reed, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Project 12-02 in the amount of \$25,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Project 12-28 – Muledeer Protection \$113,200.00**

## **Project 12-29 – Predator Control for Sage Grouse \$50,000.00**

Responding to an inquiry from Mel Belding, Chair Flowers commented that no explanation was provided as to why the funds had not been fully expended last year.

During the discussion it was suggested that the funding be denied as it had not been used previously.

***It was moved by Member Smith, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners deny funding for Project 12-28 and 12-29. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Project 12-25 – Reduction in Mountain Lions**

Hearing no one wishing to speak in favor of, or in opposition to the proposal, Chair Flowers asked for discussion or motion.

Member Harwell noted his concern about paying an individual to harvest Mountain Lions and Coyotes without a competitive bid process.

***It was moved by Member Harwell, seconded by Member Reed, to recommend that the Nevada board of Wildlife Commissioners deny Project 12-25.***

Member Smith concurred noting that predator control is not what the Heritage Funds are intended for.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Project 12-27 – Muledeer enhancement project independent peer review and analysis**

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Hearing no one wishing to speak in favor of, or in opposition to the proposal, Chair Flowers asked for discussion or motion.

Member Reed stated that, in his opinion, this appeared to be a redundant project proposal.

Member Harwell recalled the meeting at which this proposal had been discussed previously, which largely blamed department heads and personnel for not providing resources to develop a computer model for quota setting. Member Harwell stated that he could not support the proposal.

Chair Flowers concurred that this appears to be an attempt to create yet another program with a request that is 50-percent higher than the previous year's request.

***It was moved by Member Harwell, seconded by Member Reed, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners deny funding for Project 12-27. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Project 12-05 - Dirt Spring Exposure \$4,000.00**

Hearing no one wishing to speak in favor of, or in opposition to the proposal, Chair Flowers asked for discussion or motion.

Member Smith commented that he believes this to be a good project and pointed out that the money would be used for materials only as labor is being donated.

***It was moved by Member Smith, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Project 12-05 in the amount of \$4,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Projects 12-19, 12-20, 12-21 and 12-22 Survey and Maintenance of Guzzlers \$5,095.00 each for a total of \$23,980.00**

Mel Belding commented that the previous year's funding had not been sufficient to do what needed to be done and that it could take up to four (4) days to walk into the Delmar Range, whereas monitoring via helicopter can identify guzzlers more quickly. Additionally, the aerial survey allows personnel to identify the amount of water in each development.

Chair Flowers pointed out that the request is about 50-percent of each project and that donations of \$5,947.00 for each project had been received.

During the discussion it was noted that maintenance of the guzzlers is an important project and that previous allocations had been insufficient. It was suggested that funding for this type of project be increased.

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***It was moved by Member Copeland, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Projects 12-19, 12-20, 12-21 and 12-22 in the amount of \$23,980.00. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Project 12-32 – Fuel Clearing Project \$82,000.00**

Mel Belding suggested that this project be delayed as he believes there are other funding sources that could be used for this type of project such as the Ruby Pipeline mitigation funds.

During the discussion it was noted that while this is a good project, there appears to be other funding sources that could be used. Other discussion noted that additional funding had been secured from the Conservation Fund. It was pointed out that the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) had been completed and that perhaps the request could be funded at 50-percent. It was noted that the project involved hand cutting.

***It was moved by Member Copeland, seconded by Chair Flowers, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Project 12-32 in the amount of \$41,000.00. The motion carried: Members Copeland, Harwell and Chair Flowers assenting; and Members Reed and Smith dissenting.***

## **Project 12-03 - Overland Big Wash Habitat \$100,000.00**

Mel Belding commented that, in his opinion, this particular project would provide the most protection for Mule deer noting that \$100,000.00 had been donated by private enterprise.

Member Smith noted that the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) had also provided \$100,000.00 with Barrick providing \$100,000.00 along with others which totals \$500,000.00 in matching funds.

***It was moved by Member Smith, seconded by Member Copeland, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve project 12-04 in the amount of \$100,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Project 12-38 - Transmitters \$20,000.00**

Member Harwell recused himself from action noting that he is the Treasurer of the Nevada Waterfowl Association. Mr. Harwell then, as spokesperson for Nevada Waterfowl, outlined the proposal noting that additional banding of waterfowl on privately held lands thus improving data on Waterfowl in the State of Nevada.

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Chair Flowers stated that he would abstain from voting on this agenda item to eliminate a potential tie vote.

Member Reed noted his concern about the scope and breadth of the project.

Chair Flowers noted that while he would not vote on the project he was not in favor.

Member Smith commented that he believes other projects are more deserving of funding than this one.

Member Copeland explained that while he believes it to be a good project there are insufficient funds left.

There was no specific motion to move the project forward.

## **Project 12-10 – Fencing removal in Nye County, Unit 173 \$3,500.00**

Member Smith outlined the request noting that the removal of the fencing is, in his opinion, a good project to approve noting that hazardous condition of the fencing.

Hearing no one wishing to speak in favor of, or in opposition to the proposal, Chair Flowers asked for discussion or motion.

Chair Flowers expressed his support of the proposal noting the use of free labor.

Member Copeland concurred.

Chair Flowers explained that the intent of the Heritage Fund is to enhance wildlife habitat throughout the State of Nevada, not just Washoe County.

***It was moved by Member Smith, seconded by Member Reed, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Project 12-13 in the amount of \$3,500. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Project 12-11 – Air Operations Fuel Truck**

Mel Belding comment that, in his opinion, this was the fourth most important project noting that the current vehicle is a 1970's vehicle and that a new vehicle would be beneficial to operations.

No further action was taken on Project 12-11

## **Projects 12-36 and 12-47**

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There was no discussion or action on the above listed projects.

## **Project 12-37 UNR (University of Nevada, Reno) Doctor William Longland - \$60,000.00**

During the discussion it was noted that Member Reed has some concern about funding this particular type of request. Other discussion pointed out that the project had received funding from Nevada Agriculture, Nevada Conservation and others. It appears that the intent of the proposal is to develop a knowledge base on Mountain Lions based on science rather than conjecture.

Hearing no one wishing to speak in favor of, or in opposition to the proposal, Chair Flowers asked for discussion or motion.

***It was moved by Member Reed, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Project 12-37 in the amount of \$61,089.00***

Member Smith suggested decreasing the funding for this project to \$53,089.00 and use \$8,000.00 to fund Project 12-06.

***Member Reed amended the motion to recommend funding in the amount of \$53,089.00. Member Harwell amended the second. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Project 12-06 Corral Exposure \$8,000.00**

Hearing no one wishing to speak in favor of, or in opposition to the proposal, Chair Flowers asked for discussion or motion.

***It was moved by Member Smith, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Project 12-06 in the amount of \$8,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.***

- 10. COMMISSION REGULATION 2012 Wildlife Heritage Silver State, and Partnership in Wildlife Tags CR 11-06, Amendment No. 1, Heritage Tag Vendors – A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) to approve, deny or otherwise modify the Heritage Committee’s vendor recommendations for the 2012 Heritage tags.**

During the discussion it was noted that the Silver State Tag is not part of this quota.

Mel Belding commented that, in his opinion, vendors located in the State of Nevada should be favored.

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## **Wild Turkey**

Hearing no one wishing to speak in favor of, or in opposition to the proposal, Chair Flowers asked for discussion or motion.

***It was moved by Member Smith, seconded by Member Copeland, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioner award the five (5) Wild Turkey tags as follows: 1) National Wild Turkey Federation Silver Sage one (1) tag; 2) Las Vegas Strutters – two (2) tags; 3) Mule deer Foundation National one (1) tag; and 4) Wild Sheep Foundation of California one (1) tag. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Pronghorn Antelope**

Member Harwell stated that he would recuse himself as the Nevada Waterfowl Association had request one of the Pronghorn Antelope tags.

Chair Flowers stated he would abstain from voting to avoid a potential tie vote. Mr. Flowers noted that he would, if he were voting, support Nevada Waterfowl's request.

Member Smith noted the declining revenues coming from Pershing County and suggested that one tag be given to Nevada Waterfowl and Pershing County Chukkars.

Hearing no one wishing to speak in favor of, or in opposition to the proposal, Chair Flowers asked for discussion or motion.

***It was moved by Member Smith, seconded by Member Reed, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners award one tag each to: 1) Nevada Waterfowl Association; and 2) Pershing County Chukkars. The motion carried: Members Copeland, Reed and Smith assenting; Chair Flowers abstaining; and Member Harwell recused.***

## **Muledeer**

Hearing no one wishing to speak in favor of, or in opposition to the proposal, Chair Flowers asked for discussion or motion.

***It was moved by Member Copeland, seconded by Member Smith, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners award one (1) Muledeer tag to Nevada Big Horns Unlimited, Reno Chapter; and the Mule Deer Foundation National Banquet.***

Member Harwell suggested that other organizations be considered noting that Nevada Big Horns Unlimited receives "a lot of tags".

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Member Smith pointed out that the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Nevada group draws approximately 75 attendees, compared to more than 1,000 attendees at the Nevada Bighorns Unlimited event.

Chair Flowers noted that the Nevada Big Horns Unlimited had sold the tag for \$70,000.00.

***The motion carried: Members Copeland, Reed, Smith and Chair Flowers assenting; and Member Harwell dissenting.***

## **ELK**

Member Harwell suggested that the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation receive one (1) Elk tag.

Chair Flowers noted that over the past five (5) years the Rocky Mountain Elk tag had averaged \$50,100.

Hearing no one wishing to speak in favor of, or in opposition to the proposal, Chair Flowers asked for discussion or motion.

Member Smith suggested that Nevada Bighorns Unlimited receive the second tag.

***It was moved by Member Copeland, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners award one Elk tag each to: Nevada Big Horns Unlimited and one to Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **California Big Horn Sheep and Desert Big Horn Sheep**

There was some discussion about a previous incident in which a Sheep tag was purchased and then resold for a higher amount without the State of Nevada receiving any additional money.

Hearing no one wishing to speak in favor of, or in opposition to the proposal, Chair Flowers asked for discussion or motion.

***It was moved by Member Reed, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners award the California Bighorn Sheep Tag to Wild Sheep Foundation National.***

Member Smith suggested that the California Big Horn Sheep tag be awarded to Nevada Big Horns Unlimited with the Desert Sheep being awarded to Wild Sheep Foundation

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***Member Reed withdrew the motion. Member Harwell withdrew the second.***

***It was moved by Member Smith, seconded by Member Reed, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners award the Desert Big Horn Sheep tag to Nevada Big Horns Unlimited. The motion carried unanimously.***

***It was moved by Member Harwell, seconded by Member Reed, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners award the California Big Horn Sheep tag to the Wild Sheep Foundation National Chapter.***

Chair Flowers stated that he could not support the motion as the Nevada Big Horns Unlimited has consistently sold the tag for \$75,000.00 and are responsible for bringing sheep back to the mountains.

Member Smith pointed out that the current members of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners would not, in his opinion, award four (4) tags to any single organization.

***The motion carried: Members Copeland, Harwell, Reed and Smith assenting; and Chair Flowers dissenting.***

- 11. COMMISSION POLICY No. 10, Wildlife Heritage Tags and Vendors, Final Reading** – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) to approve, deny or otherwise modify Commission Policy No. 10 with changes made at the first and second readings held by the Commission on April 16, 2011 and May 12, 2011.*

Chair Flowers provided an overview of the proposal noting that a restriction on the resale of Heritage or other specialty tag cannot be enforced until a regulation is adopted by the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

Mel Belding noted that, in his opinion, the days of \$130,000.00 for a Sheep tag appear to be over given the significantly lower cost of a similar tag at Tiburon Island in Mexico. Therefore, it may, in his opinion, be a “poor decision” to change Policy 10.

Chair Flowers closed public comment.

Member Harwell outlined his concern about how this could be referenced as the Second Reading given the number of changes made at the First Reading. It appears that this may be a multiple choice decision that will be “ramrodded at the next meeting.”

During the discussion it was noted that there had been some discussion about a 30-day noticing requirement along with a prohibition of transfer without the Nevada Board of Wildlife

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Commissioners approval. As the discussion continued, it was pointed out that the 30-day notice is identified on the application not in the policy/regulation.

***It was moved by Member Smith, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners deny modifications to Policy 10 as written. The motion carried unanimously.***

**12. COMMISSION POLICY No. 50, Duck Stamp Procedure, Final Reading** – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) to approve, deny or otherwise modify Commission Policy No. 50 with changes from the first and second readings held by the Commission on April 16, 2011 and May 12, 2011.*

Member Harwell recused himself from action on this item as he is Treasurer of the Nevada Waterfowl Association.

Chair Flowers stated that he would abstain from voting to avoid a potential tie vote.

Member Smith stated that he opposed the recommendations as written.

Chair Flowers noted that the only change proposed in this Policy No. 50 is that judges may not have contact with an entrant prior to judging. The judging panel will include three (3) Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners and two (2) judges chosen by the sponsoring agency.

Ed Tilsey - Nevada Waterfowl, noted that under the proposed judging panel that Nevada Waterfowl will not move forward. Additionally, a \$3,000.00 bond requirement will result in the Duck Stamp being dropped as it would be impossible to recoup the \$3,000.00 bond from Duck Stamp sales.

Daryl Harwell – Treasurer Nevada Waterfowl Association, provided a handout to the board (copy on file) signed by James G. Mackedon, president of the Nevada Waterfowl Association that he read into the record.

Chair Flowers closed the public comment.

***It was moved by Member Smith, seconded by Member Copeland, to recommend that the Nevada Wildlife Board of Commissioners deny proposed modifications to Policy No 50 as written. The motion carried: Members Copeland, Reed and Smith assenting; Chair Flowers abstaining; and Member Harwell recused.***

**13. COMMISSION POLICY No. 28, Mule Deer Policy, Final Reading** – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife*

\* denotes NON action item

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*Commissioners (Commission) to approve, deny or otherwise modify changes to Commission Policy No. 28, "Mule Deer Policy"*

Mel Belding suggested that the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife recommend denial of Policy 28.

Member Harwell questioned whether the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners had the authority to change a State of Nevada job description.

Member Smith expressed his opposition to the proposed amendment noting that it is not based on science or expertise. It appears, in his opinion, that this is an attempt to intimidate staff to doing things their way.

***It was moved by Member Copeland, seconded by Member Reed, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners deny modifications to Policy 28 as written. The motion carried unanimously.***

**14. COMMISSION POLICY No. 67, "Horse Policy," Final Reading – A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) to approve, deny or otherwise modify changes to Commission Policy No. 67 "Horse Policy"**

Chair Flowers outlined his concern that the proposal may overreach the authority of the state over what the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) can do. However, there are some portions of the policy that can be supported.

Member Smith commented that he believes the intent is to provide a mechanism by which NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) can notify the BLM when action needs to be taken.

Member Reed noted that under the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment states are allowed and at times need stand against certain actions.

***It was moved by Member Smith, seconded by Member Reed, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Policy 67, as written. The motion carried unanimously.***

**15. PETITION – Fred Jackson Petition – A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) to approve, deny or otherwise modify a petition by Fred Jackson to amend NAC (Nevada Administrative Code) 503.540 to allow the commercial taking of Crayfish from Lake Tahoe.**

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Fred Jackson provided an overview of the request to modify NAC (Nevada Administrative Code) 503.540, which would allow the commercial taking of Crayfish from Lake Tahoe. Mr. Jackson explained that the intent is to sell the Crayfish to meat wholesalers for use in restaurants and the like. Mr. Jackson noted that the over-population of Crayfish is the largest source of nitrates in Lake Tahoe, which fertilizes the invasive Asian Milfoil plant and feeds Bass and Blue Gill. Mr. Jackson pointed out that while individuals may take Crayfish with a fishing license a commercial enterprise is prohibited from transporting the Crayfish to a wholesaler. Mr. Jackson then outlined his research in other state where the commercial taking of Crayfish is allowed and support of scientists at UNR (University of Nevada, Reno).

***It was moved by Member Harwell, seconded by Member Reed, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the Fred Jackson petition to modify NAC (Nevada Administrative Code) to allow the commercial taking of Crayfish from Lake Tahoe. The motion carried unanimously.***

- 16. MEMBER COMMENTS \*** – *Limited to items not addressed elsewhere on the agenda. While the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife may not engage in discussion or take action on any item identified under this topic the matter may be placed on a future agenda for discussion and possible action or recommendation of action to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.*

There were no member comments.

- 17. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS \*** – *Selection of additional agenda item(s) for the Thursday, June 16, 2011, meeting.*

The next meeting agenda may include, but is not limited to: 1) Election of Officers; and 2) Update on the Ruby Pipeline project and mitigation fund project proposal. The June 16, 2011, meeting has been cancelled with the next meeting scheduled on Monday August 8, 2011.

## **18. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Flowers adjourned the meeting at 10:33 p.m.

**AS APPROVED BY THE WASHOE COUNTY ADVIOSRY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE IN SESSION ON JUNE 7, 2011.**

\* denotes NON action item