

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

MINUTES

Wednesday ~ August 3, 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** (Non-action item)

Chair Flowers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** (Non-action item)

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.

Chair explained that the public could address the board on items both on and off the agenda during the public comment period and again on specific agenda topics.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** (Non-action item)

Don Molde commented that he had been informed that the Environmental Impact Statement for the water pipeline project had been released for public input. Mr. Molde believes that the public hearing will occur on August 18, 2011, at the Sparks gymnasium. The water pipeline project consists of an eight (8) foot in diameter line that is intended to move water from areas in and around the Snake Range to Las Vegas, Nevada. It is his understanding that the EIS indicates that the pipeline may have detrimental effects on wildlife and suggests that perhaps the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners may wish to provide comments on the matter.

Jessica Nolan-Bowers outlined her concerns and opposition to the proposed Bear Hunt. It is her belief that there is insufficient effort on the part of many individuals and companies to provide bear resistant trash containers. Ms. Nolan-Bowers explained that, in her opinion, a Bear Hunt will have a detrimental effect on tourism and that nuisance Bears can be removed in a humane manner.

4. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS** (For possible action) – 1) *Chair*; 2) *Vice-chair*; and 3) *Secretary*.

Member Harwell nominated Rex Flowers to serve as Chair of the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife. The nomination was seconded by Member Copeland.

Chair Flowers accepted the nomination.

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The motion carried unanimously.

Member Smith nominated John Reed to serve as Vice-chair of the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife. Member Copeland seconded the nomination.

Member Reed accepted the nomination.

The motion carried unanimously.

Member Smith nominated Daryl Harwell to serve as Secretary. Member Copeland seconded the nomination.

Member Harwell accepted the nomination.

The motion carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF JUNE 7, 2011, MINUTES (For possible action)

Responding to Chair Flowers inquiry about discussion on the conservationist position, Member Harwell recalled that the conservationist position had not been part of the discussion.

Chair Flowers asked that the word “form” be changed to read “from” and that “doe” be changed to read “does” on page on 8.

It was moved by Member Harwell, seconded by Member Smith, to approve the June 7, 2011, minutes, as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

6. BOARD MEMBER MEETING ASSIGNMENT (Non-action item) – *A discussion and selection of member(s) to attend the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meetings on: 1) August 12 and 13, 2011, in Fallon, Nevada; and 2) September 23 and 24, 2011, in Las Vegas, Nevada.*

Member Harwell will attend the August 12 and 13, 2011, meetings of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

Chair Flowers will attend the August 13, 2011, meeting as well.

Chair Flowers will attend the September 23 and 24, 2011, meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada.

7. COMMITTEE, MEMBER AND LIAISON UPDATES (Non-action item)

7-1). Correspondence (including sportsmen’s concerns) and Announcements – Chair Flowers read correspondence (copy on file) about the release of Jack Rabbits in Cottonwood Park and his response to seek assistance from the City of Sparks in addressing

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the issue since Cottonwood Park is a City of Sparks facility. Chair Flowers then read correspondence (copy on file) from Fred Church on blinds in wilderness study areas.

7-2). Overview of the May 13, 14 and June 13, 2011, meetings of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners – Chair Flowers commented that the June 13, 2011, teleconference meeting of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) covered a single topic. The May 13 and 14, 2011, meeting resulted in significant reductions in tag allocations by the Commission for Muledeer, which was not reflective of input from sportsmen or the County Game Boards.

7-3). Update and status report on the Washoe County Predator Control Project Unit 015 and the Wildlife Damage Management Subcommittee – Chair Flowers commented that there was no update and that the Wildlife Damage Management Committee had not met recently.

8. RUBY PIPELINE MITIGATION PROJECT PROPOSALS (For possible action) – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) approve, deny or otherwise modify mitigation project proposals.*

Member Copeland noted that he had been in contact with Mark Freese about the Ruby Pipeline mitigation funds and project proposals.

Mark Freese – NDOW, drew attention to a project list and provided background information on the specific process by which projects can be submitted, reviewed and forwarded for final authorization. Mr. Freese explained that projects can be proposed by outside entities such as the County Game Boards and must focus on Pygmy Rabbits and Sage Grouse habitat improvement, research and other beneficial projects. Interested parties may contact Mr. Feese at 775-688-1145 for assistance and more detailed information on how to file a project proposal.

Member Harwell commented that he did not see any water projects among those listed and that, in his opinion, there should be more emphasis on the development of water resources in Washoe County.

Mr. Freese noted that there are six (6) water related projects on the list that includes, but is not limited to fencing to protect the riparian areas as well as a Sage Grouse collar study to see which water resources the Sage Grouse use on a regular basis. Mr. Feese reiterated that the Ruby Pipeline mitigation funds have an emphasis on habitat and other enhancements that benefit primarily Sage Grouse and Pygmy Rabbits. Mr. Freese explained that he would work with Member Harwell and others to develop projects. Mr. Freese can be reached at 775-688-1141.

Responding to Chair Flowers inquiry, Mr. Fesses stated that the mitigation funds must be

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used within five (5) years and that this is the starting point of an ongoing team process to review and recommend specific projects. Mr. Freese then noted that the funds are tied to the Surprise Field Office and includes areas in the Buffalo and Skedaddle during the exploration phase. Additional information on the process and funding for the Ruby Pipeline mitigation funds will be available in the future at www.ndow.org. Mr. Freese commented that wells drilled in that area were mostly located on private land or water rights sold to private landowners. Mr. Freese will seek additional information. Mr. Freese noted that there was the potential for Washoe County to work with Winnemucca BLM (Bureau of Land Management) on mutually beneficial projects using Ruby Pipeline mitigation funds

Chair Flowers commented that he believes there are about \$1.8-million in matching funds available to date.

Mr. Freese noted that there is \pm \$3.5-million available in cross-jurisdictional funding. Since this was a non-action item no specific action was taken.

Chair Flowers asked that the item remain on the meeting agenda to receive updates.

9. **KIRCH AWARD** (For possible action) – *A review, discussion and possible action on a request that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners immediately reinstate the Kirch Award as originally established.*

Judi Caron asked that the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife support her request to reinstate the Kirch Award as it was originally intended under Policy 51. Ms. Caron outlined the modifications made by the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) that changed the award to a lifetime achievement award using a panel that consisted of three (3) Commission members with only two (2) members of the public on the panel. Ms. Caron suggested that the Commission create a new and separate award for lifetime achievement under its own policy.

During the discussion it was noted that there had been some discussion at the Commission level about having private individual's being involved with the Kirch Award. It was pointed out and read into the record the panel makeup that was adopted in 2003 (copy on file) that limited the number of Commission members to two (2) and four (4) individuals of various disciplines.

Member Smith stated that, in his opinion, the Kirch Award was the ultimate recognition for an individual's dedication to the enhancement and betterment of wildlife. Member Smith recalled his earlier concern about the Commission's changes to the Kirch Award being such that the Commission controlled who the award went to. Member Smith concurred that the Kirch Award should be reinstated to its 2003 status.

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Member Harwell concurred that the Kirch Award should remain as Policy 51 and be reinstated. Additionally, Member Harwell would support the creation of another award for lifetime achievement.

Member Smith noted that a separate agenda item in the future would be needed to recommend the creation of a Lifetime Achievement award as tonight's (August 3, 2011) agenda item was for reinstatement of Policy 51 The Kirch Award.

Chair Flowers recalled previous actions taken by the Washoe County board to support the changes to the Kirch Award in 2003 and to preserve the Kirch Award in its original state in 2010. Chair Flowers noted that the Commission could establish a separate award under a separate policy but had not identified an underwriter to his knowledge.

Member Copeland commented that, in his opinion, it "was appalling what the Commission did in taking away the Kirch name, who had done so much for wildlife."

Ms. Caron read the make-up of the judging panel, which was adopted and approved in 2003 into the record.

Chair Flowers closed public comment.

It was moved by Member Smith, seconded by Member Reed, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) reinstate the Kirch Award, Policy 51 as approved on August 8, 2003.

Member Smith declined Member Harwell's request to add language to create a separate award.

The motion carried unanimously.

10. DUCK STAMP REQUEST [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify a list of twenty-one (21) projects submitted for funding using Duck Stamp Funds. The total cost of the projects is \$139,407.00.*

Chair Flowers provided an overview of the Duck Stamp Projects.

Member Harwell stated that he would abstain from voting on a project sponsored by Nevada Waterfowl as he is their treasurer.

Hearing no public comment in favor of, or in opposition to the request, Chair Flowers brought the matter back to the board for discussion and motion.

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It was moved by member Harwell, seconded by Member Copeland, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the Duck Stamp projects, except for Wood Duck, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Member Harwell recused himself from the Wood Duck project.

Chair Flowers noted that he believes this project is an appropriate use of Duck Stamp funds, which he can support and is separate from Agenda Item 15, which, if approved, would limit the daily take to one (1) Wood Duck).

Russell Woolstenhulme – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), explained that while this project has been funded for several years using Duck Stamp funds, it is not the same project as the focus has changed on what is largely a resident population with little migration thus resulting in a significant amount of new information including the effect of annual harvests on the populations in the past. This particular phase of the ongoing project is related to the demographics research, which has national importance.

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

It was moved by Member Reed, seconded by member Copeland, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the Wood Duck project request in the amount of \$40,000.00. The motion carried: Members Copeland, Reed, Smith and Chair Flowers assenting; and Member Harwell recused.

The meeting recessed at 7:45 p.m. and reconvened at 7:52 p.m.

Member Harwell rejoined the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

- 11. UPLAND GAME STAMP REQUEST** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify a list of fifteen (15) projects submitted for funding using Upland Game Stamp funds. The total cost of the project is \$406,383.00.*

Chair Flowers outlined the agenda item and explained that the South Region Upland Water had always received a significant portion of the available funding to maintain and develop additional guzzlers in Southern Nevada. Chair Flowers noted that he did not have information on how the funding or matching requirements that might be in place. Chair Flowers believes that 45-percent of the funding requested goes to guzzler maintenance and/or development of new guzzlers with about 31-percent being spent on protection and enhancement of Sage Grouse populations.

Carl Lackey – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), explained that the removal of Junipers was a key for Sage Grouse which are more of a plains oriented bird. Mr. Lackey

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further explained that the removal of the Junipers provided a leap frog of areas thus allowing the Sage Grouse to migrate easily.

Member Harwell outlined his desire to have Pheasant included as part of the overall transplant project.

Chair Flowers commented that such a project would, in his opinion need to be done as a cooperative project with farming and ranching.

Chair Flowers opened the meeting to public comment.

Judi Caron commented that at the August 2012 meeting perhaps there should be discussion about developing a Pheasant transplant project after a biological study.

Responding to an inquiry from Alan Moss, Chair Flowers commented that a transplant of a new population would not be open to hunting until a base population had been established whereas an augmentation to an existing population may be open to limited hunting opportunity.

Hearing no additional public comment Chair Flowers brought the matter back to the board for discussion and/or motion.

It was moved by Member Harwell, seconded by Member Reed, to recommend that the Nevada board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the Upland Game Stamps request, as presented. The motion carried: members Copeland, Harwell, Reed and Chair Flowers assenting; and member Smith dissenting.

- 12. WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify a report on the actions of the Wildlife Damage Management Committee's recent meeting and subsequent draft plan recommendations that identify Predator Management Proposal for the Predator Management Plan for Fiscal Year 2012.*

Chair Flowers noted that there had been no meeting of the Wildlife Damage Management Committee since February 2011.

Member Reed commented that, in his opinion, the name for the subcommittee Wildlife Damage Management Committee was confusing as it is a Predator Management Committee.

Commissioners Jeremy Drew duly noted Member Reed's comments.

Chair Flowers opened the meeting to public comment.

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Don Molde drew attention to his previous comments that the cost of predator management had little if any benefit to Muledeer populations noting that there had been a dramatic increase in Coyote populations over a five (5) year study of predator control projects.

Judi Caron commented that she had been unable to find any plans or the proposal on the NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) website and suggested that the Washoe County board recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) take no action until the public has an opportunity to review any plans or other information on the matter.

Larry Gilbertson – NDOW, commented that he is still securing input from biologists and project scenarios and hoped to have the draft to handout at the August 12 and 13, 2011, Commission meeting.

It was moved by member Smith, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners table their discussion and action of the Wildlife Damage Committee until the information is made available to the public and the County Game Boards to review. The motion carried unanimously.

- 13. COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION NUMBER 393 – R002-11, Bear Hunt** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify the temporary regulation which expires November 1, 2011, permanent regulations relating to revising provisions governing the establishment of a Black Bear Hunt, eligibility waiting period requirements, bonus point program, weapons restrictions, tag fees and other matters related thereto.*

Chair Flowers opened the agenda item.

Larry Gilbertson – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), explained that this type of regulation is typically handled by the license office in a procedural process. This particular agenda item modifies an existing regulation, which already sets the manner of the hunt, bonus points and includes such species as Antelope, Elk, Mountain Goat and Muledeer, and will allow season setting in February 2012 by adding Black Bear. Mr. Gilbertson pointed out that law enforcement (Game Wardens) had suggested additional language making it illegal to possess a Black Bear gall bladder as well as provisions on the use of dogs as well as unit boundaries. Mr. Gilbertson noted that the 2011 Black Bear season opens on August 20, 2011. However, season dates are not part of this agenda item. The temporary regulation pertaining to the Black Bear hunt is set to expire on November 1, 2011.

Chair Flowers opened the meeting to public comment and noted that a large number of emails correspondence had been received with a majority expressing opposition to the

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Black Bear Hunt. Copies of those emails are on file and contained in the book available for public inspection at tonight's (August 3, 2011) meeting.

Member Reed noted that 1,200 applications for the Black Bear hunt had been received and could be construed as being in favor of the hunt.

Chair Flowers reminded the board and public that the vote would be on a procedural change.

Elaine Carrick - member of NoBearHunt.org, expressed her appreciation for the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife volunteers and voiced her opposition to the change which would make the Black Bear hunt permanent in the State of Nevada. Ms. Carrick noted that, in her opinion, the State of Nevada is far different from what it was twenty (20) years ago and that the public has voiced significant opposition to the establishment of a Black Bear hunt. Ms. Carrick noted that in Washoe County alone there are more than 11,000 signatures on petitions in opposition to the Black Bear hunt in the Lake Tahoe Basin, including the Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID), which issued a resolution against the hunt. Additionally many small businesses and the North Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority has also issued a statement in opposition to the hunt. A recent poll in the RGJ (Reno Gazette Journal) indicated that 88-percent of the 6,600 respondents were opposed to the hunt. Ms. Carrick urged the members to be mindful of their representation of Washoe County and to express their opposition to the hunt.

Trish Swain – as an individual and resident of Washoe County, outlined the scope and purview of the County Game Board under NRS (Nevada Revised Statutes) 501.297 to represent the public interest. Ms. Swain noted that she believes a non-lethal method to resolve conflicts between residents and the Black Bear population can be found and that the majority of individuals prefer to hunt wild game with a camera rather than a rifle or other weapon.

Mark Smith commented that as a real estate developer, gun enthusiast and hunter he believes that the Black Bear hunt is a bad idea and will have many negative effects on Lake Tahoe tourism. Recently two home-buyers chose to look elsewhere for a home after learning of the hunt. Of particular concern is the potential to place some 8,000 jobs at risk. Mr. Smith encouraged the board to oppose the proposed modification that would make the hunt permanent.

Jane Hunt explained that she opposes the hunt and that it is her honor to share the turf with the Black Bears. Ms. Hunt pointed out that Black Bears had been hunted to extinction in England. Ms. Hunt asked that the board “turn the Commission around.”

Jessica McDonald commented that she found the hunt to be unjustified and that the Commission passed the temporary hunt in the “face of serious opposition.” Ms. McDonald

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further commented that she is not convinced that the Black Bear population needs to be controlled and that she believes the hunt to be reckless and unjustified.

Margaret Martini commented that she had been a resident of the State since 1945 and Incline Village since 1964. Ms. Martini recalled that many hunters were also opposed to the hunt and that there are 11,000 Washoe County citizens who have signed petitions in opposition to the hunt compared to 1,200 hunt applications mentioned earlier. Of particular concern is public safety if such a hunt continues and that the safety issue could ruin the recreational tourist trade due to fear of guns and dogs. Ms. Martini noted that she is not convinced there is scientific data to support that hunt which she has asked for repeatedly.

Derrick Aaron drew attention to books on the history of the State of Nevada, which became a state in 1846. Over time the State of Nevada has had a controversial reputation for its easy divorce, gambling and legalized prostitution. Mr. Aaron opposes the hunt for a variety of safety issues in recreational areas, which could result in a loss of tourism. Mr. Aaron noted that the resident Black Bear population has ranged from a low of 200 to about 400 and that Commissioner McBeath's comment that the Commission was approving the hunt "because we can" without evidence that there is an over-population of bear appears to be self-serving.

Mike O'Brien noted that as a resident of South Reno he has experienced a variety of wildlife on his property, including bears that were looking for plums. Mr. O'Brien believes a better course would be education and regulations that mandate the use of bear resistant trash cans and other practices that encourage prevention.

John Glover - Douglas County resident, stated that he was in favor of the hunt and that while he understands safety concerns most of the region's hunters are safe and have been educated in proper hunter safety procedures. Mr. Glover noted that hunters will not be walking the streets of Incline Village with rifles but will be in the areas in which the hunt is allowed. Mr. Glover noted that hunting of other species already occurs in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Kathleen Smith voiced her opposition to the hunt noting that most of the reasons she is opposed have already been expressed. Ms. Smith commented that she had not heard any reasoning on why a hunt should be held, which therefore indicates that this is a trophy hunt.

Brian (last name unknown) stated that he too supports the hunt and that the hunt will include his immediate and extended family.

Joel Blakeslee expressed his support for the hunt noting that the concerns identified at this meeting have not occurred on the west side of the lake.

Don Molde noted that NRS states that the wildlife of the State of Nevada belongs to all residents of the state not just hunters. Typically, it is Mr. Molde's observation that the public

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has little to no voice with the Commission who usually votes 9-0 without regard for "what is the right thing to do."

Mel Belding - Washoe County resident, pointed out that while he did not apply for a tag in this particular hunt, he is supportive of those that wish to hunt Black Bears. Mr. Belding noted that the State "has been whacking and stacking" Black Bears for minor offenses such as breaking a tree. Mr. Belding asked why now there is such an outpouring of concern when that concern could have been better expressed by arguing for ordinance and regulations requiring the use of bear resistant trash containers as well as greater education and awareness campaigns.

Janis Berg pointed to the Black Bear on display in the meeting room and expressed her opposition to the hunt noting that "dead is forever".

Billy Howard expressed his appreciation to the board for volunteering their time and listening to comments. Mr. Howard noted that a number of petitions had been circulated in and around the Lake Tahoe Basin and other areas and that installation of bear resistant trash receptacles had been sought repeatedly. Mr. Howard drew attention to the requirement that the Game Board solicit and evaluate public comment and forward that message to the Commission.

Chair Flowers closed the public comment.

Carl Lackey – NDOW, explained that he had calculated and distributed before the February 2011 meeting that area that will be open for the Black Bear hunt. Mr. Lackey pointed out that less than 1.1-percent of the \pm 3-million acres will be open for the hunt and that it is illegal to hunt anywhere near or in Incline Village. Mr. Lackey explained that trash would be covered under the "no baiting" portion of the regulation and that a rifle cannot be used within 5,000 feet of a congested area in Washoe County.

Chair Flowers noted that a legal challenge to the Nevada Black Bear hunt had been dismissed in District Court earlier today (August 3, 2011) as the judge determined that NoBearHuntNV.org had failed to meet the burden of proof in an article published in the RGJ (Reno Gazette Journal (copy on file). Chair Flowers noted that he makes about half of his living in the Lake Tahoe Basin with 30-percent coming from the Nevada side. Chair Flowers explained that in his discussions with various clients there had been no negative feedback about the hunt. Chair Flowers stated that he had no opposition to making the change to the proposed permanent provision for a Bear hunt since it does not guarantee that there will be an annual hunt.

Member Harwell noted that he was one of the individuals who had voted against the Black Bear hunt until the public was more fully informed. However, while he understands the concerns expressed he noted that hunting already occurs within the area being proposed for the hunt.

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Member Reed noted that while some issues are well articulated they are incorrect. Member Reed pointed out that hunting already occurs in the area and that with the public opposition he is reluctant to ignore those comments and pass the proposed modification.

Member Copland expressed his appreciation to those who took time to attend the meeting and make their concerns known. Member Copland does not believe that hunted will be found in and around the Incline Village area proper and that he believes the department (NDOW) has been studying bears for a number of years. While he did not apply for a bear tag he does believe there is a right to hunt bear.

Chair Flowers noted that while an affirmative vote would make the Black Bear hunt permanent a hunt can be closed at any time for a variety of reasons. It is Chair Flowers' interpretation that the hunt will be determined on an annual basis if the amendment to the regulation is passed.

Mr. Gilbertson noted that NDOW uses adaptive management for all big and upland game seasons using population projections and data obtained from hunts. Once the data is analyzed recommendations for quotas and seasons will be brought forward at the February meeting.

Member Smith commented that while he cannot speak for the majority of the public he believes the purpose is to show opposition to the hunt and secondly to convince the Washoe County Board not to recommend making the hunt permanent. Member Smith emphasized that while he went on record saying he would not apply for a bear hunt he voted against the hunt at the previous meeting as he believed there had not been sufficient discussion with the public to identify a common ground to move forward with a hunt. Member Smith explained that this is a difficult issue and that while he can support the hunt he cannot support making this a permanent hunt until the public has been fully engaged to identify the common ground that would allow a hunt to be developed. Member Smith pointed out that most hunters are respectful and not the slobs as perceived by some members of the public. Additionally, hunters have invested heavily in the enhancement and preservation of wildlife and hunt only species whose populations are increasing rather than those who are seeing decreasing populations.

Member Reed stated that he too would vote against making this a permanent hunt and that while he does not agree with most of the statements made at tonight's (August 3, 2011) meeting it is crucial that all issues are fully discussed.

Chair Flowers noted that if the regulation is not amended the hunt would end November 2011 and that another temporary regulation could be brought forward. Therefore, it is possible that there will not be a hunt in 2012.

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Member Harwell reiterated that he is somewhat confused about why the Black Bear has been placed on a pedestal when only one (1) percent of the area is in the hunt zone.

Member Harwell made a motion to table the matter until a future meeting.

Hearing no second to the motion Chair Flowers stated that the motion died due to lack of a second.

Member Smith noted that Mr. Belding had made a “great statement” and that if the public is as passionate as they have indicated they should get involved and help identify ways to make Black Bears safe. It is Member Smith’s belief that hunters and the public can bring their passions together to find a common ground.

It was moved by Member Smith, seconded by member Reed, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners deny the Commission General Regulation Number 393, R002-11, Bear Hunt.

Member Copeland concurred with Member Smith’s comments about finding ways to protect bears and do what needs to be done to discourage foraging.

Chair Flowers stated he could not support the motion as he believes a permanent regulation allows the Commission and NDOW to determine seasons, bag limits and the like. Additionally, Chair Flowers is not convinced that a common ground can be found. Chair Flowers also believes that with the new makeup of the Commission a number of personal agendas have gone away and that this new Commission will fully evaluate and consider the social issues surrounding the hunt.

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

The meeting recessed at 9:33 p.m. and reconvened at 9:42 p.m.

- 14. COMMISSION REGULATION 07-07 AMENDMENT NO. 7** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed amendments to change to Bobcat, Gray Fox, Mourning and White-winged Dove season dates and Public Hunting Limited on Wildlife Management Areas and Designated State Lands for Scripps Wildlife Management Area and Washoe Lake State Park, and Overton Wildlife Management Area (hunting days).*

Chair Flowers opened the agenda item.

Russell Woolstenhulme – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), distributed support materials (copies on file) and outlined the modifications being proposed. Mr.

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Woolstenhulme noted that the truncated Bobcat season was a result of low production rates, but, that trend had been reversed in the past two years. Mr. Woolstenhulme noted that Bobcats are aged using a canine tooth process. The past two years production has increased, and last year production was well above the average in the past ten years.

Chair Flowers read a letter from the Nevada Trappers Association (copy on file) into the record that asks that the season remain unchanged.

Chair Flowers also read correspondence from Don Molde into the record (copy on file) which notes that Bobcats are the one species that is killed for money and suggests that a biological base be developed and implemented by NDOW.

Chair Flowers opened the meeting to public comments.

Joel Blakeslee – Nevada Trappers Association, noted that the Trappers Association had voluntarily went along with the NDOW recommendations to shorten the season due to drought conditions. However, the recent trend shows increasing populations, which is the best seen in 30 years given the abundance of rabbits and other prey. A recent meeting of the Trappers Association developed the recommendations presented in the correspondence.

Don Molde commented that he found it somewhat interesting that NDOW did not properly and scientifically manage Bobcat populations.

Mel Belding noted that he had attended meetings for nearly 37-years and that there is little data showing the populations. Mr. Belding noted that by November Bobcats are located in areas typically closed due to snow by November. However, Mr. Belding believes this is the best program and appears to work well. Mr. Belding asked that the board recommend approval.

Chair Flowers closed the meeting to public comment.

There was some discussion about the season dates and locations for waterfowl and Mourning Dove. During the discussion it was noted that the change dealt with the open day of the season. It was pointed out that NDOW is awaiting approval for the opening of Washoe Lake State Park.

It was moved by Member Smith, seconded by Member Harwell to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve change to Bobcat, Gray Fox, Mourning and White-winged Dove season dates and Public Hunting Limited on Wildlife Management Areas and Designated State Lands for Scripps Wildlife Management Area and Washoe Lake State Park, and Overton Wildlife Management Area (hunting days) with the additional language that Washoe Lake State Park is pending approval by the State of Nevada Parks Department.

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Member Smith declined Member Copeland's suggestion to extend the Furbearing season date as requested.

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

- 15. PRESENTATION OF A REQUEST TO HOLD A ONE (1) BIRD DAILY BAG LIMIT FOR WOOD DUCKS IN CHURCHILL COUNTY (Nevada) FOR THE UPCOMING WATER FOWL SEASON** (For possible action) – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners, approve, deny or otherwise modify a proposal by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service proposal that, if supported by both the Churchill and Washoe County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (Nevada) and the public, will be formally proposed to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to establish a one (1) Wood Duck daily bag limit in Churchill County, Nevada.*

Chair Flowers outlined the request and drew attention to the information provided (copy on file) noting that this would only affect Churchill County.

A consensus was reached to take no formal action on this agenda item.

- 16. COMMISSION REGULATION 11-11 – Migratory Waterfowl** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify The Commission may adopt the following regulations for the management of migratory waterfowl. These recommendations comply with the proposed regulations frameworks for 2011-2012 late hunting season(s) on certain migratory game birds established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

Russell Woolstenhulme – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), outlined the proposed modifications including a new hunt zone for Nevada and changes to the Youth Hunts. Mr. Woolstenhulme noted that that one possibility would be to open on a later date, which would add either a Saturday or Sunday the last weekend of the hunt. Mr. Woolstenhulme noted that U. S. Fish and Wildlife had denied a request to allow Swan hunting in all Counties except Elko and White Pine. Mr. Woolstenhulme indicated that the Environmental Assessment would need to be reopened, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will not do. Thus the only alternative now is to wait until such time that the Trumpeter Swan population reaches 90-percent of the goals. Currently Swan populations are increasing at a very slow rate.

Chair Flowers opened the meeting to public comment.

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Judi Caron questioned whether the Nevada Waterfowl Association had provided any input on the northwest youth hunt.

Member Harwell commented that the Nevada Waterfowl Association would make their recommendations at the Commission (Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners) meeting that would allow up to twenty (20) youth to be taken out on the opening day of the hunt in the northwest zone. Member Harwell noted that somewhat difficult weather conditions later in the season and that the waterfowl might not be in full color during the early part of the season.

Responding to Don Molde's inquiry about whether the bag limits were set lower than federal guidelines, Chair Flowers stated that the federal bag limits were typically used except for Churchill County for Wood Ducks. Chair Flowers pointed out that the State of Nevada would take all 107-days allowed in the federal program.

Chair Flowers closed the meeting to public comments.

Chair Flowers noted that he could support the recommendations and suggested that seasons be adjusted to provide a season ending date on Saturday for all zones.

Member Reed stated that he could support the split youth hunt.

A motion by Member Harwell to accept Commission Regulation 11-11 – Migratory Waterfowl as written died due to lack of a second.

It was moved by Chair Flowers, seconded by Member Reed, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 11-11 – Migratory Waterfowl as written with Ducks, Mergansers, Coots, Common Moor Hens, Common Snipe and Canada and White Fronted Geese, Snow and Ross Geese and Falconry seasons open one day later and close one day later except Swan and Scaup in the northwest.

After a brief discussion Chair Flowers amended the motion as follows.

Chair Flowers amended the motion to include Scaup in the north east zone to open on October second and close on December 24. Member Reed amended the second. The motion carried: Members Copeland, Reed and Chair Flowers assenting; and Members Harwell and Smith dissenting.

17. **SAGE GROUSE HUNTING** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) approve, deny or otherwise modify the closure of the 2011 Sage Grouse Season.*

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Chair Flowers opened the agenda item and noted that no support material had been provided and that without such material an informed recommendation cannot be made. Chair Flowers reminded those present that the board had a right to eliminate any item on the agenda. Chair Flowers opened the meeting to public comment.

Don Molde noted that he found himself in agreement with Commissioner Volger and that he has some difficulty understanding how Sage Grouse can be of significant concern when it is harvested by the “thousands.”

Judi Caron commented that, in her opinion, it would be unfair to close a season with having the biological data to support such a closure which is not currently available.

Larry Gilbertson – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) explained that the harvestable surplus, mortality and other adaptive management techniques are used to manage all fish and game resources. The intent is to develop a season recommendation that will set-up season and other limits to keep harvest quotas at a “safe level” thus providing a sustainable population. In the past units have been closed due to low populations.

Mel Belding pointed out that NDOW has the expertise and should be heeded when it comes to harvest and season recommendations. In the past a season closure has allowed a population to increase thus avoiding a hunt that could have been detrimental to the species.

Alan Moss noted that he had worked at the legislative session and that there is an intent to study the effects of no predator control to protect birds.

Chair Flowers closed public comments.

A motion by Member Harwell to recommend denial of a 2011 season and to ask that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners set limited seasons in specific areas died due to lack of a second.

Chair Flowers reiterated his early statement that it was difficult to take action when no support materials had been provided.

It was moved by Chair Flowers, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve any 2011 Sage Grouse recommendations made by the Nevada Department of Wildlife and to take no action on any recommended closures without proper support materials for the County Game Board and public review.

Member Smith recommended an amendment to the motion that no action be taken without support materials and make a statement to the Commission that this is not acceptable.

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Chair Flowers declined the amendment noting that he believes not taking action on the NDOW recommendations could result in the Commission (Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners) doing whatever it wants with the seasons.

There was additional discussion about the failure to hold a June meeting of the Commission so that Upland Game recommendations could be brought to the August meeting. It was noted that the regulation for Upland Game Season setting was made about ten (10) years ago and that there are no changes from the seasons set the previous year.

Russell Woolstenhulme – NDOW, commented that the only change was the closing of the 2011 Sage Grouse season.

Member Smith suggested an amendment to deny the recommendation to close the 2011 Sage Grouse Season.

Chair Flowers amended the motion to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners deny the recommendation to close the 2011 Sage Grouse season. Member Harwell seconded the amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

18. **BIENNIAL UPLAND GAME RELEASE PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012 AND FISCAL YEAR 2013** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify the proposed biennial upland game release plan for fiscal years 2012 and 2013. and*
19. **BIENNIAL BIG GAME RELEASE PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012 AND FISCAL YEAR 2013** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify the proposed Biennial Big Game release plan for fiscal years 2012 and 2013.*

There was minor discussion of the agenda item noting that California Quail is a statewide and that an augmentation had been made in Parsnip Wash last year.

Member Harwell suggested that NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) consider a transplant of Pheasants.

Hearing no public comments, Chair Flowers asked for a motion.

It was moved by Member Smith, seconded by Member Reed, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the proposed Biennial Big Game release plan for fiscal years 2012 and 2013 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

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- 20. WASHOE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE MEMBERS AND/OR STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS, REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND SELECTION OF TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS** (Non-action item) – *Selection of additional agenda item(s) for the Thursday, September 15, 2011, meeting.*

Chair Flowers asked that the Ruby Pipeline mitigation project be retained on the September 15, 2011, meeting agenda and noted that he will provide a book of support materials for review at future meetings.

- 21. PUBLIC COMMENTS** (Non-action item)

There were no public comments.

- 22. ADJOURNMENT** (For possible action)

Chair Flowers adjourned the meeting at 11:09 p.m.

AS APPROVED BY THE WASHOE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE IN SESSION ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2011.