

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021 AT 3:00 PM
ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88958574464>

Committee Members Present: Chairwoman Tiffany East, Commissioner McNinch, Commissioner Pierini, Commissioner Rogers and Member Greg Smith

NDOW Staff Present: Deputy Director Jack Robb, Management Analyst Kailey Taylor, Administrative Assistant Alejandra Medina

Members of the public present: Rebecca Stetson, Karen Boeger, Larry Johnson

Call To Order, Introduction of Committee Members and Roll Call:

Meeting was called to order 3:08PM. The roll was called, and committee introductions were made.

Approval of Agenda:

The Committee reviewed the agenda. There were no questions from the Committee.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. COMMISSIONER ROGERS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIES 4-0 (SMITH ABSENT).

Approval of Minutes:

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the May 3, 2019 Committee meeting. There were no questions.

CHAIRWOMAN EAST MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. COMMISSIONER ROGERS SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Pierini asked to abstain from the vote due to being a new commissioner.

MOTION CARRIES 3-0 (SMITH ABSENT, PIERINI ABSTAINED).

Legislative Process and Schedule Review:

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor said the Session is starting February 1. Unfortunately, there is limited information regarding procedures to testify. She shared the Legislative 120-Day Calendar. All BDR deadlines and Committee/House passage deadlines were discussed. The last day of session will be May 31. Assembly Natural Resources will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays at 4:00PM and the Senate Natural Resources Committee will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3:30PM. All finance committees meet at 8:00AM.

Chairwoman East asked to review first and second passage deadlines. Management Analyst Kailey Taylor further explained the process and procedures for those deadlines.

Chairwoman East explained that Senator Cancela and Assemblyman Assefa will be replaced as they have moved on from their positions at the legislature.

Designation of Spokesperson(s):

Chairwoman East suggested designating a spokesperson as well as a backup. Member Smith explained that the spokesperson holds more weight being a Commissioner. Commissioner McNinch thanked Chairwoman East for the great job she did last session and recommended she be the spokesperson again with Member Smith as a backup. Commissioner Rogers seconded Commissioner McNinch's comments and noted that he would like to watch and learn from them. Commissioner Pierini felt the same way. The Committee decided to make the recommendation to the Commission to have Chairwoman East as the designated spokesperson with Member Smith as a backup.

Review of Bill/Bill Draft Request (BDR) Tracking List:

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor explained that there were two tracking sheets in the support material. One is the Department's tracking sheet, and one is the Committee tracking sheet. She explained that she already added all wildlife-related bills to the Committee list but that any other bill draft requests (BDRs) could be added as well.

Chairwoman East wanted to add BDR 16, 21, 73 and 633. She also wanted to add BDR 858 since it revises provisions regarding Boards and Commissions.

Commissioner Rogers asked about the sponsors of the bills. Management Analyst Kailey Taylor explained how the BDR allotments work and where some of those bills came from.

Chairwoman East noted that the Committee should have received correspondence from the Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife and that those BDRs are currently on our list. She also noted the explanations of those BDRs from the Coalition's email. As the bill language comes out, the Committee will need to develop a position on each of them. Some will require testimony and others we will just need to watch,

Management Analyst Taylor noted that the Department must testify in the position of neutral but that the Commission may testify in any position.

Public Comment:

Rebekah Stetson:

Dear Legislative Committee Members,
My name is Rebekah Stetson and I am the chairwoman of the Coalition for Healthy Nevada Lands, Wildlife and Free Roaming Horses. We are Nevada conservationists, scientists and natural resource agency representatives who are active in addressing a variety of environmental impacts on public lands. We support free roaming herds of horses and burros existing within an ecological framework that ensures the future of healthy lands, protects water sources, riparian systems, and wildlife diversity.

On September 22, 2020, our coalition made a presentation to The Nevada Interim Legislative Committee on Public Lands. Our ask to them was to please:
Adopt our Healthy Nevada Lands' Resolution for presentation to the 2021 Nevada Legislature.

We also desire the committee support our group by joining us in asking our Congressional Delegation to:

- Support the BLM's 2020 Report to Congress: An Analysis of Achieving a Sustainable Wild Horse and Burro Program
- Strongly encourage Congress that the removal of excess horses and burros from Nevada Rangelands be accelerated, beginning immediately, enabling them to reach the appropriate management level (carrying capacity of the land) within the next six years rather than the twenty years in the BLM's proposal. (This matter is urgent and the faster we bring horse and burro populations to the appropriate management levels, the more we will save in taxpayer dollars and the greater health we will bring back to Nevada lands, wildlife, and horses and burros)
- Urge Congress to include sufficient long term appropriation funding and demand that Nevada be the recipient of those monies, commensurate to the staggering 51,528 or 54% of the total free-roaming horse and burro populations living in the United States. This funding is required for management success.

The committee voted unanimously to carry through both of our requests including presenting our resolution to the legislature. I am writing to you today to ask that you please advocate to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commission that they support this resolution when it is introduced to the Nevada Legislature. Our intent is to show that Nevadans support swift progress on this critical issue and that we support our congressional delegation in taking action to do so. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely Yours, Rebekah

Larry Johnson:

The proposed BDR to expand or modify the makeup of the Wildlife Commission could be highly detrimental. The intent is to add a Guide/Outfitter position. Several months ago I suggested NDOW sit down with the Guides association to hear their grievances. Reportedly this had not been done. I still urge NDOW to sit down with the Guides to eliminate the need for this introduction. Larry Johnson

Future Committee Meetings:

The Committee decided to aim for February 23 at 5:30pm for the next Committee Meeting.

Public Comment Period:

There was no public comment.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:42PM