

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
CHAIRWOMAN AND COMMISSIONER TIFFANY EAST
COMMISSIONER DAVID MCNINCH
COMMISSIONER MARIO WALTHER
PUBLIC REP. PAUL YOUNG

STAFF TO THE COMMITTEE:
KAILEY MUSSO
MANAGEMENT ANALYST III
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DRAFT MINUTES
NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
April 6, 2023

**Call To Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call of Committee Members –
Committee Chairwoman Tiffany East**

Called to Order at 5:35pm

Members Present: Tiffany East, Dave McNinch, Mario Walther, Paul Young
Public Present: Fred Voltz, Jana Wright, Molly Beaupre, Stephanie Myers, Mel Belding, Tina Nappe, Judi Caron
Staff Present: Management Analyst Kailey Musso, Program Officer Alejandra Medina, Deputy Director Mike Scott, Deputy Director Jordan Goshert, Wildlife Diversity Division Administrator Jen Newmark, Commissioner Caviglia

Approval of Agenda

The Committee will review the agenda and may take action to approve the agenda. The Committee may remove items from the agenda, continue items for consideration or take items out of order at any time.

No Public Comment

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. MEMBER YOUNG SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED 4-0.

***Approval of Minutes**

The Committee may approve the draft minutes from the March 11, 2023, Committee meeting.

Chairwoman East had one change on page 3 changing the words “mater guides” to “master guides.”. Commissioner McNinch asked if action was taken on SJR 2, and it was confirmed that the Committee will watch that resolution.

No Public Comment

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES WITH THE NOTED CHANGE. MEMBER YOUNG SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED 4-0.

Staff and Member Announcements – Informational

The Committee will hear any announcements regarding the legislative process or Committee information. There will be no action taken.

No Announcements.

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

The Committee will review the Department's bill/BDR tracking list and may take action to add or emphasize bills/BDRs to be recommended to the Commission. The Committee may discuss positions on certain bills/bill draft requests to be brought to the Commission.

Management Analyst Kailey Musso announced that we are officially halfway through this legislative session. The first committee passage deadline is quickly approaching on Friday, April 14th while the first house passage deadline is on April 25th. Most positions taken at this meeting and opportunities for amendments will occur in the second house. Support material for the next Commission meeting was discussed and that is where most of the Committee conversation will occur during this meeting.

Senate Bill 334

SB 334 was heard on Monday April 3. The bill is straightforward and revises the definition of renewable energy for the purposes of provisions governing the portfolio standard. The bill was generally supported. The Department does not currently have a stance and neither does the Committee or Commission.

Senate Bill 176

SB 176 was heard on March 23rd. The bill creates an account for purchasing and retiring water rights. There was an amendment proposed by the Nature Conservancy which addresses administration and was attached as support material. The Department and Commission do not currently have a stance and no further action has been taken.

Assembly Bill 102

AB 102 was heard on March 15th. The bill prohibits organizing and sponsoring contests and tournaments in which animals are taken for prize. An Amendment was submitted by Assemblyman Watts which adds additional species - badger, crow, raccoon, ring-tailed cat. The Commission is neutral on the bill. There has been no further action on this bill.

Senate Bill 311

SB 311 was heard this week on Tuesday, April 4. This bill would require the Commission to establish a program for anyone to transfer a tag to a junior. There was a conceptual amendment offered during the hearing that would change the language to say, "resident junior hunter". There has been no position taken on the bill.

Chairwoman East added that the bill as written is intended to give the Commission the authority to write the regulation. She explained that Rex Flowers suggested using the FCFS regulation as framework because the bill is intended to give the Commission the authority to write regulation. Chairwoman East has a little concern not requiring hands-on hunter's safety. Mr. Flowers wondered if we could work through NAC to require "hands-on". She noted that there are two other bills that deal with firearm safety.

Commissioner Walther would support the bill if there was language to require the hands-on portion for youth. Most of the sportsman community believes the bill to be a good thing. Some would like to see it expanded to hunters other than juniors to include aging parents. Some concerns were expressed by some sportsmen in regards to questions of what this would do to the draw system. There is a fear it could saturate the draw.

Representative Young echoed the comments of Commissioner Walther.

Commissioner McNinch shared the concerns related to the hunter's safety course. He shared a story of when his son took the course as a child and learned all proponents of gun safety and how to safely care for his guns. He is concerned about the people who start hunting who did not grow up around guns. Commissioner McNinch is also concerned about the saturation of the draw. The Commission has looked at junior tags and quotas to give more opportunity, but this could do the opposite. He does support the idea conceptually but is unsure of how to avoid more problems.

Commissioner East offered some ideas on what they could do to avoid saturation through regulation.

Director Jenne explained that he has been working with Senator Hansen and Mr. Flowers and has offered the same concerns regarding the hunter's safety course.

Commissioner McNinch liked the idea of requiring a shorter hands-on class to go over firearm safety after an online course.

Management Analyst Musso committed to work with DAG Burkett on whether the Commission can require an additional firearm safety course through NAC.

Public Comment: None

Commissioner McNinch offered a platform of supporting the bill with a in-person firearm safety course. He still has concerns about the rest of the bill.

Chairwoman East suggested addressing those when the Commission designed the regulation. There was more discussion surrounding those options.

Commissioner McNinch agreed to move on in supporting the concept.

CHAIRWOMAN EAST MOVED TO SUPPORT THE BILL WITH THE PROPOSED RESIDENT JUNIOR HUNTER AMENDMENT AND THE

INCLUSION OF A HANDS-ON REQUIREMENT FOR ALL YOUTH HUNTERS. MEMBER YOUNG SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED 4-0.

Senate Bill 269

SB 269 was heard on March 28th and passed as amended on April 4th. The bill prohibits a person from restraining a dog during any time in which a heat advisory has been issued. An amendment was offered that also added "extreme cold weather events." The bill had a work session on April 4th and was passed as amended. There has been no position taken on the bill.

Commissioner Walther had concerns with the removal of an exception for hunting when tethering a dog.

Chairwoman East noted this bill was on the Coalition's tracking sheet but there was no position.

Management Analyst Musso will investigate what information from the hunting community is out there.

Senate Bill 141.

SB 141 was heard on March 9th. The bill would eliminate carrying a physical license or permit to hunt fish or trap. The Committee has decided to take no position. There has been no further action on this bill.

Chairwoman East asked if there had been conversations with Senator Hansen. Management Analyst Musso explained that he seemed satisfied knowing that someone could show a screenshot of their license.

Commissioner McNinch would like to take a position on the bill.

Commissioner Walther suggested that the possession of the license needs to be verified somehow.

Representative Young agreed and does not like the language as is.

Commissioner Walther and Director Jenne discussed current procedures.

Director Jenne clarified that we do not have enough cellular coverage across the entire state for wardens to check if someone had a license to Senator Hansen and that we would accept a pdf downloaded to a phone or a screenshot of the license and that the Senator understands we do not have the ability to move where he wanted.

Public Comment: None

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO RECOMMEND THE COMMISSION OPPOSE THE BILL AS WRITTEN BUT WOULD SUPPORT THE IDEA OF DEMONSTRATING THE PROOF OF A LICENSE IN SOME OTHER MANNER. MEMBER YOUNG SECONDED THE MOTION. APPROVED 4-0.

Assembly Bill 387

AB 387 was heard on March 29th. The bill asks the State Engineer to consider the best available science when rendering decisions on ground and surface water. A clarifying amendment was offered by Assemblyman Watts. There has been no position taken on the bill.

Assembly Bill 221

AB 221 was heard on March 13th and was passed as amended on April 5th. The bill provides NDOW the authority to manage invertebrates as designated by the SGCN list in the Wildlife Action Plan. An amendment was proposed to strike the word "terrestrial". The Commission supports this bill.

Assembly Bill 112

AB 112 was passed as amended on March 21st. This bill creates a fund to support wildlife crossings to be administered by the Nevada Department of Transportation. This bill will now be sent to the Committee on Ways and Means. The Commission supports this bill.

The Committee wanted to note the proposed amendment at the Commission meeting.

Assembly Bill 70

AB 70 was heard on March 15th. The bill revises the use of the \$3 predator fee. there was a conceptual amendment proposed to let the user designate the use of the fee. The Commission has voted to oppose the bill. There has been no further action taken since the hearing.

Senate Bill 88

SB 88 was heard on February 16th. This bill would require a study to be done on state agencies and boards to include the Wildlife Commission. The Commission has not taken a position on the bill and there has been no further action taken.

Senate Bill 90

SB 90 was passed as amended on April 4th and will be sent to the floor for a vote. The amendment provides that the designation complies with the Wild and Free Roaming Horses and Burro's Act. The Commission has already voted to oppose the bill.

Senate Bill 159

SB 159 was heard this week on April 4th. The bill provides an opportunity for provisional licensing in the pest control industry. A conceptual amendment was provided that would allow for new applicators to work under direct supervision. There is currently no position on the bill.

Commissioner McNinch listened to the hearing on this bill and does not believe the Committee needs to continue tracking.

Senate Bill 338

SB 338 was heard this week on April 5th. The bill defines "utility vehicle" and provides a speed limit of 45mph on highways. There is no position on this bill.

The Committee had no concerns on the bill.

Public Comment: None

Senate Bill 312

SB 312 was heard on March 28th. The bill authorizes a person to take the carcass and skull with antlers attached or shed antlers of a big game mammal for personal use. The bill would nullify current Commission regulations on the taking of shed antlers. There has been no position taken on this bill.

Chairwoman East explained that she has concerns on the bill. She knows that the Department met with Senator Hansen to discuss language.

Director Jenne explained that the Department was working on an amendment to allow someone to take possession of a deadhead, to clean up language and to clarify that the Commission would take the lead on that authority in regulation.

Chairwoman East asked DAG Burkett to guide her through some language including the definition of the word "carcass." He also pointed out that there are a number of NACs this affects. In general, it would be nice if the authors of bills worked with the Department before submittal to save time.

Commissioner McNinch didn't want to ignore the fact that the shed antler regulations stemmed from many county advisory boards to manage wildlife. He understands the intent but believes the shed antler regulation is reasonable and important.

Commissioner Walther shared the same concerns but does agree the concept is long overdue so that NGOs have opportunities in relation to deadheads and sheds. He wondered if we could work on language that could support this bill but still address existing regulations on shed hunting.

Chairwoman East supported Commissioner Walther's idea.

Commissioner McNinch noted the petition process.

Commissioner Walther would like to say the Committee supports the concept but that existing shed regulations remain for now providing an exception to NRS for the rest to avoid complicating the process.

There was more discussion on the concepts and existing regulations.

Public Comment:

Mel Belding, Private Citizen, clarified that Senator Hansen is open for discussion of an amendment. He believes that Director Jenne was working on some language to clean up a few sections. He stated that the current amendment satisfied some commissioners. Mr. Belding noted that he receives calls each day regarding several changes to shed laws that they would like amended in order to

strengthen shed laws. He is hearing that there needs to be language regarding stashing antlers and that Wyoming has a good example.

Commissioner McNinch asked Commissioner Walther to offer his suggestion of opening the door for the Commission to address these issues in regulation.

COMMISSIONER WALTHER MOVED TO SUPPORT THE BILL WITH SECTION 2 OF THE PROPOSED CONCEPTUAL AMENDMENT, WITH LANGUAGE CONTINUING EXISTING REGULATIONS REGARDING SHED ANTLERS AND AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSION TO PASS REGULATIONS REGARDING THE ENTIRETY OF THE BILL. REPRESENTATIVE YOUNG SECONDED THE MOTION. APPROVED 4-0.

Senate Bill 421

SB 421 provides tax abatements for certain renewable energy facilities and provides a definition for "microgrids". There is currently no position on the bill.

Assembly Bill 349

AB 349 was heard on March 27th and had a work session April 5th but was removed from the agenda. The bill establishes the Nevada Wildlife Conservation Fund Program. This program provides an account to accept tax exempt donations to be used for the preservation, protection, and management of wildlife. A board would be created to help manage the use of the funds, similar to the way the Dream Tag Board operates. An amendment was offered that would remove two members appointed by legislators.

Chairwoman East likes the bill and opens an opportunity to accept large endowments or donations and the oversight would be by a board with help from the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada. It opens up opportunities that the Wildlife Trust Fund does not.

Director Jenne noted that former Senator Brooks' involvement may have slanted some people's opinions of the bill but that his intent was to assist the Department in funding multiple projects over a long time. Currently the process in place is not nimble enough to handle that situation.

Public Comment: None

COMMISSIONER WALTHER MOVED TO SUPPORT THE BILL WITH THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT. MEMBER YOUNG SECONDED THE MOTION. APPROVED 4-0.

Senate Bill 224

SB 224 was heard this week on April 4th. The bill revises the membership of the Wildlife Commission adding one member for the guiding industry and one County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife Member. The Commission opposes this bill.

Senate Joint Resolution 2

SJR 2 was heard on March 9th and Passed on April 4th. This bill changes the name of the Sheldon Wildlife Refuge to the E.R. Sans National Wildlife Refuge. There is currently no position on this bill.

Senate Bill 294

SB 294 was heard this week on April 5th. The bill requires the safe storage of firearms in all circumstances. There is currently no position on this bill.

Senate Bill 367

SB367 was heard this week on April 3rd. The bill prohibits certain people with drug related offenses from carrying or possessing a firearm. There is currently no position on this bill.

Senate Bill 265

SB 265 deals with health provisions related to barbers. This bill may be removed from the tracking list.

Chairwoman East agreed on removing the bill.

Senate Bill 87

SB 87 was heard on March 7th. The bill provides an opportunity to appoint persons to classified positions under certain circumstances. The Commission supports this bill and there has been no further action.

Assembly Bill 361

AB 361 was heard on March 31. The bill requires the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) approval for the acceptance of federal grants. IFC may give provisional approval upon application to the grant. There is currently no position taken on the bill.

Add to Tracking List - Assembly Bill 355

AB 355 prohibits a person under 21 from using a semiautomatic shotgun or semiautomatic centerfire rifle. The bill was heard in a joint meeting of the Assembly Committee on Judiciary and Senate Committee on Judiciary.

Management Analyst Musso clarified that AB 355 was not provided as support material for the Committee meeting so they could not take a position. However, it was added as support material for the Commission Meeting.

Chairwoman East noted that she would watch AB355 and SB294 more closely.

Future Committee Meetings – Committee Chairwoman East – For Possible Action

The Committee will discuss potential agenda items for future committee meetings. The Committee may schedule its next meeting and may choose to recommend an April meeting date or timeframe for the Board of Wildlife Commissioners related to legislative matters if needed.

The Committee will meet around the May 5th Commission Meeting.

Public Comment: None

Public Comment Period

Persons wishing to comment are invited to raise their virtual hands in the virtual meeting forum during the appropriate time; each person offering public comment during this period will be limited to not more than 3 minutes. No action can be taken by the Committee at this time; any item requiring Committee action may be scheduled on a future Committee agenda.

Mel Belding, thanked the Committee for the support of SB312 and the Department, specifically Alan Jenne and Kristy Knight for their help. He offered for the Committee members to call him if they have requests to take to Senator Hansen.

Chairwoman East thanked Ms. Medina one more time for her help with the Legislative Committee.

ADJOURNED AT 7:23pm.

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