

**MINUTES OF THE CHURCHILL COUNTY  
ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE**

155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406  
March 11, 2026

**Call to Order:**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM on March 11, 2026.

PRESENT: Member Peggy A. Hughes

Member Jim Curran

Member Jason Sibley

Deputy Clerk Tara Adams

ABSENT: Member Andrew Howells

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the board and public.

**Public Comment:**

Chair Hughes asked if there was any public comment, but there was none.

**Verification of the Posting of the Agenda:**

It was verified by Tara Adams, Deputy Clerk, that the Agenda for this meeting was posted on the 5th day of March, 2026 between the hours of 12:00 and 5:00 PM at all of the locations listed on the Agenda, in accordance with NRS 241.

**Consideration and possible action re: Approval of Agenda as submitted or revised:**

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve the Agenda as submitted. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**Consideration and possible action re: Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on:**

**A- January 21, 2026.**

The Minutes of the meeting held on January 21, 2026 are presented for the board's consideration and approval.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

**Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on January 21, 2026. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

**Appointments:**

**A- Approval of a letter to the Department of Wildlife to consider options for allowing blood trailing dogs or thermal imaging drones for recovering wounded and/or dead animals.**

At the last meeting, the board expressed interest in submitting a letter to the Department of Wildlife requesting they consider options for allowing blood trailing dogs or thermal imaging

drones for recovering wounded and/or dead animals. Member Sibley will present a letter for the board's approval to submit to the Department of Wildlife.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

There was discussion on the creation of the letter.

Member Sibley said this hasn't gone out to any other Boards yet has it? It's just with us right now? Deputy Clerk Tara Adams said they would need to approve it today. Chair Hughes said it looks good to me. Member Curran asked about who the letter was addressed to. Member Sibley said it goes to all the CABs. Chair Hughes said that would work. Member Curran said our intent was to send this to the other CABs? Or to the Department for their consideration? Member Sibley said I assume we have to go to the other CAB's first? To get support. Chair Hughes said I think that's what we did before. Member Sibley said we send it to their County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife. Member Curran said we are asking for their support. I'm just wondering if we should probably consider debating something. Member Sibley said I think the support should come first. If we can get more Boards together then it's going to be a lot harder for them to shut us down. Member Sibley said I think if we all support it, then we all send it.

Chair Hughes and Member Curran had suggestions on the layout of the letter, to which Member Sibley was amenable.

**Member Jim Curran made a motion to approve the letter, making revisions as discussed, for submittal to the Chairman of each of the other sixteen Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

**B- Consideration and possible action re: Draft of the Fiscal Year 2027 Predation Management Plan.**

The Draft Fiscal Year 2027 Predation Management Plan will be presented to the Commission for review. The Commission may take action to modify or approve the plan.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Sibley said I reviewed this in depth, specifically the raven portion, as I always do. I am actually really satisfied with what they're saying. They have pushed away from research and are now doing lethal removal of ravens. Which is good to see. In a couple of the other areas, coyote removal, I think that it's a lot of money, but it's not my place.

**Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve the plan as submitted. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

**C- Consideration and possible action re: Petition by Christian Reilly regarding the reclassification of Freshwater Stingrays (Potamotrygon spp.) Under NAC 503.**

Christian Reilly has submitted a Petition requesting the Commission to remove Freshwater Stingrays (Potamotrygon spp.) from Nevada's Prohibited Aquatic Species list, or reclassification to a regulated/controlled species category.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Sibley asked if they want them for aquariums? They are banned in the state. Member Curran said yes, they are one of the tropical fish that can be imported if they are listed. It's a standard look on tropical fish. Any other species are either restricted or prohibited. Being a Ray, they were prohibited. They have to be upgraded so by special permits authorization you can have them in an aquarium. There's no worry about them. If they do something to the Devils Hole pupfish population that would be a problem and the same with the Large Mouth Bass.

**Member Jim Curran made a motion to approve the plan as submitted. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

**D- Consideration and possible action re: Commission General Regulation 26-10 Migratory Game Bird Seasons, Bag Limits, and Special Regulations for Waterfowl and Webless Migratory Game Birds; Public Hunting Limited on Wildlife Management Areas and Designated State Lands - 2026-2027 Season.**

The Commission will consider recommendations for seasons, bag limits, and special regulations for migratory game birds for the 2026-2027 season and adopt regulations consistent with the proposed regulations framework for the 2026-2027 hunting seasons on certain migratory game birds established by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Commission Regulation will become final pending adoption of federal frameworks. The Commission will also consider rules regulating public hunting on Wildlife Management Areas and designated state lands.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

**Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve the plan as submitted. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

**E- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Regulation 516 - Revisions Related to Boating Safety.**

This regulation amends NAC 488.415 to update Fire Extinguisher verbiage and classification to align with Code of Federal Regulations fire extinguisher classifications and carriage requirements (33CCFR Part 175 — Equipment Requirements). Currently, NAC 488.415 is

outdated and does not align with Federal Regulations regarding Fire Extinguisher classification and carriage requirements. States that receive federal funding for Recreational Boating Safety Law Enforcement are required to mirror Federal Regulations regarding Boating Safety.

This regulation amends NAC 488.435 to add "greater than a speed that leaves a flat wake" verbiage to make it consistent with other flat wake speed verbiage per NAC 488.455.

This regulation amends NAC 488.455 to add Senate Bill 106 verbiage that was passed during the 2025 Legislative session, allowing for buoy placement on certain waters and areas of Nevada. SB 106 created a 600-foot no-wake zone along all Nevada shoreline of Lake Tahoe. For TRPA to place buoys upon this waterway, they need to be included in the NAC delineating posted flat wake areas.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Curran said this item covered reclassifications of fire extinguishers. It is something that the department has to do or they lose Federal Boat Safety Coast Guard money.

**Member Jim Curran made a motion to approve the Regulation 516 revisions related to boating safety as submitted. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

**F- Consideration and possible action re: Commission General Regulation 517 - Automatic Range Finding Scopes.**

The Commission will consider recommendations for proposed amendments to NAC 503.145 add section 2(b), which will prohibit any person from hunting any game mammal, big game mammal or game bird with any firearm, bow or crossbow that is equipped with an electronic sight which has been designed to receive data from any internal or external source that aids in an automatic adjustment of the sight reticle or aiming point within the scope.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Sibley expressed his dislike of this item. Member Curran asked him if he could explain more. Member Sibley said their thought process and what they are proposing is that they want to ban any range finding scopes built into the scope of a rifle. There are rifles now that can connect to you at home. They are wanting to ban that. Member Sibley said it says big game ammo or game acquired with any firearm equipped with an electronic site which has been designed to receive data with an internal or external source that aids in automatic adjustment of the site. Member Curran said it has to be an automatic adjustment? Member Sibley said the

range finder scopes do that. They automatically adjust. Member Curran said they adjust your crosshairs? Member Sibley said yes. They are also getting rid of the ones for archery, because archery has them as well. This is a terrible idea. This is another example of being afraid of technology, and trying to regulate it when we don't understand it. I think that if this gets approved, this is actually going in the opposite direction of true ethical harvest. I think they're going to have more injured animals. It's a terrible idea. At this point, it just seems like this was the Emerging Technologies Board trying to find something to ban. This is absolutely ridiculous. Member Curran said aren't there some scopes that have a range finder built in that do not adjust anything? Member Sibley said, no, all of them do. Every one of them will give you a dot, for your hold-over dot. Every one of them does. I think this is a slippery slope. Are we going back to the 1980's? Are we going to say that we can't have range finders either? Is that the next step? This is outrageous. There's no management reason for this. The technology is getting better. Instead of being afraid of it and trying to regulate it, we should be embracing it. Whether you have a range finding scope or not, it's not going to stop people from shooting out from 700-800 yards. What they are going to do is make those people less accurate. They are going to start wounding more animals. There is no management reason for it. Member Curran asked if it applies to big game, small game, and any game animals? Member Sibley said game birds, there's no reason to have this since you don't have time to site in the duck when you're shooting at it. Member Curran said you would think that some of this would show up in the Commission meetings, for some of these restrictions. Member Sibley said I would like to know how you get on the Emerging Technologies Board. I don't know if you have to be a NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) employee? This is a very old-school thought process, and I don't think it's the right thing. Technology is advancing, we need to embrace it instead of hiding from it. I'm very passionate about it.

**Member Jason Sibley made a motion to sternly oppose Commission Regulation 517 as presented. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

**G- Consideration and possible action re: Commission General Regulation 526 - Thermal Imaging Equipment.**

The Commission will make workshop amendments to NAC 503.1455 as requested through the Emerging Technology Committee. This regulation amends NAC 503.1455 to close hunt areas 11, 22, 23, and 24 from August 1st through December 4th for hunting or taking any wildlife. This regulation gives an exemption for use to government employees when they are using thermal equipment within the scope of their official duties.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Sibley said we're going to talk about thermal imaging again. It looks to me that they came back and made an adjustment. Now, they are only banning it in specific hunting units. Member Curran said 11, 22, and 23. Member Sibley said 11, 22, 23, and 24. It's basically White Pine County and Lincoln County. Member Curran said it's the area adjacent to Utah.

Member Sibley said yes. Member Curran said when I read that, I was wondering if the Lincoln County Advisory Board was recommending that to try to keep Utah out of their County? Member Sibley said I had a conversation with a couple of the game wardens and asked about this. The initial push for this was specifically providing utilizing thermal imaging at night to identify bedding areas for Elk to know where to go in the morning. That was the initial push. I did challenge it a little bit. I asked them if they are trying to make this regulation because it is difficult for them to enforce the law of not utilizing the imaging late at night? They wouldn't say no. It looks like this is actually going to amend, so NAC 503.1455 already makes it illegal now to possess thermal imaging. I asked at some point. I think if we allow more and more areas, it's just going to snowball like everything else does. I don't understand the thought process behind this other than it's hard for them to catch someone utilizing thermal imaging at night. The problem is, I can be out hunting and just have a coyote rifle in my truck. If it is thermal-equipped, not only am I now in violation, but it's a twelve-demerit citation. I lose my privileges for the year. Member Curran said by just being in possession of it, and Member Sibley said yes, just in possession of it. Again, it is the same violation. It's actually worse than making double your limit in game. If you look at these dates, those dates exactly line up with their Elk seasons. I was very curious why December 4<sup>th</sup> was highlighted. That's the end of their Elk season. This is tied to the Elk hunting.

Member Curran and Member Sibley had some discussion on the dates for Elk hunting season.

Member Sibley said it could change, but if you look at the date right now, that perfectly lines up with this. It looks like they are trying to block it for Elk hunting season. It is already illegal; we should not ban people who are out doing predator control or things like that to make it where they can't even possess thermal imaging.

Member Sibley said this is also going to really hinder any ability to pass the drone letter in which I propose utilizing thermal. Member Curran said you are saying right now that NAC 503.1455 makes it illegal twelve months out of the year? Member Sibley said no, it makes it illegal during any big game season. It says, "shall not possess or use any of the following equipment or devices while hunting or taking any game." The problem is possession counts when it's in the vehicle.

There was some discussion on when it is illegal to possess thermal imaging.

Member Sibley said, I can use the thermal for mountain lions. That's not illegal. It's not against the law. Member Curran and Member Sibley had some discussion regarding the classification of mountain lions.

Member Curran said well, I'm opposed to the thermal imaging equipment requirement. I would support a motion to oppose that and repeal Federal 503.1455.

**Member Jim Curran made a motion to oppose General Commission Regulation 526, and repeal NAC 503.1455. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

**H- Consideration and possible action re: Commission General Regulation 529 — Disability Permit Program Revisions.**

The Commission will hold a second workshop to consider regulation language amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) that would update business rules and requirements related to the archery, visual, and special assistance disability permits.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Sibley said I didn't see anything of concern in this personally. It looks like they are tightening down the requirements, which is a good thing.

**Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve Commission General Regulation 529 as presented. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

**I- Consideration and possible action re: Commission General Regulation 530 - Master Guide and Sub Guide Accountability.**

The proposed amendments to NAC 504.671 add new regulatory language to better hold Master Guides and sub guides accountable for criminal violations. The proposed regulation establishes a clearly defined framework for how the Department will enforce administrative action against a Sub Guide's license when violation of NAC 504.671 occur.

A new section of this regulation defines the penalties for violation of Title 45 and Chapter 488 of NRS which will change enforcement of NAC 504.671 from subjective evaluation of a violation to an objective assessment of penalties to be imposed for violations. Additions to the regulation limit the Department's ability to deny a guide application based on certain convictions if a specified amount of time has passed since the conviction.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Sibley said I read through this and I was very much in support of this. It looks like we are going to start holding a little more accountability on guides and sub guides. I think that's a good idea.

**Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve the regulation as submitted. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

**J- Consideration and possible action re: Commission General Regulation 531 - Shed Antlers.**

The Commission will hold a workshop to consider a regulation amending NAC 501.200 and NAC 503.172, which was forwarded from the TAAHC. This regulation increases demerit points for a violation of shed collecting during closed sessions and gives more structure and differing seasons for shed collection, from 9 demerit points to 12 demerit points.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Sibley said they are pushing for making taking, gathering, or possessing shed antlers in the field in certain counties from January 1<sup>st</sup> to May 30<sup>th</sup> to be a 12-demerit citation. I would like to define “possession” and “in the field”. If I go fishing, and I have a shed antler in the bed of my truck, I am in violation. Member Curran asked about what counties this was for? Member Sibley said I spoke with some game wardens about this. I walked in on a very interesting conversation about somebody feeding animals. The way the Regulation read, if a person were to go down to the pond and feed ducks, the game Wardens said that is absolutely against the law and they would receive a citation. So, somebody down at the park feeding ducks with bread would get a citation. That same game warden is going to write you a ticket if there is a shed antler in the back of your truck. That bothers me. Member Curran said the game warden is going to cite somebody for feeding ducks? Member Sibley said yes, that is covered under illegal baiting. It does not specify the purpose. I struggle with this because we are setting up sportsmen to fail by making it to where they cannot possess in the field. I understand taking. I still think a 12-demerit citation is harsh, but I don’t disagree with it. Member Curran said I disagree with 12. Member Sibley said yes, I agree. Member Curran said if you’re driving down the highway and find an antler, a court is not going to cite you for possession in the field while you’re driving down the interstate. Member Sibley said if I go out to go fishing and there’s an antler in my truck; I may not have done anything malicious but because it’s in my truck I am going to get a citation. Member Curran said well you shouldn’t, if you clean your truck out more often. I don’t like increasing it to 12, even 9 was ridiculous. Not for something so minor, there’s no impact on wildlife.

**Member Jim Curran made a motion to oppose regulation 531 as submitted. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

**Consider Future Agenda Items:**

\* Letter to Nevada Department of Wildlife

**Public Comment:**

Chair Hughes asked if there was any public comment, but there was none.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Approved: Peggy Hughes  
Peggy Hughes, Chair

Approved: Jim Curran  
Jim Curran, Vice-Chair

Approved: Absent  
Jason Sibley, Member

Approved: Andrew Howells  
Andrew Howells, Member

ATTEST:  
Linda Rothery, Clerk/Treasurer

Kendra Wells  
Kendra Wells, Deputy Clerk