

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

**155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406  
November 1, 2023**

**Call to Order:**

The regular meeting of the Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife was called to order at 7:01 PM on November 1, 2023.

**PRESENT:**

Member Peggy A. Hughes  
Member Jim Curran  
Member Jason Sibley  
Member Andrew Howells  
Member Aubry Burgess  
Deputy Clerk to the Board Pamela D. Moore  
Jake Ward

**ABSENT:**

N/A

**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 Pamela D. Moore, Deputy Clerk to the Board, that the Agenda for this meeting was posted on the 19th day of October, 2023, between the hours of 1:00 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 Curran suggested combining Item D with Item H so that we can let Jake start things off as the items are related, instead of making him wait to the end.

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

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

**A- September 20, 2023.**

The Minutes of the meeting held on September 20, 2023 are submitted for the board's consideration and approval.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

**Member Jim Curran made a motion to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on September 20, 2023 as presented. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

**Appointments:**

**A- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Policy 23, Predation Management, Fourth Reading.**

The Commission will review Commission Policy 23 and may make any necessary changes and may decide to repeal, revise, or adopt the policy.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

There was no discussion and the board took no action on this matter, as it had been discussed and voted on before.

**B- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Policy 24, Hunting Opportunities Among Various Weapons Classes and Hunter Groups, Second Reading.**

The TAAHC Committee reviewed Commission Policy 24, made changes, and sent it back to the Commission. The Commission may make any necessary changes and may decide to repeal, revise, or adopt the policy.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Sibley said he is happy about the removal of the junior tag restrictions, the three tags allowed to juniors. I am glad they are taking that out and now you can just apply five times. I am also a little encouraged to see that they are actually listing moose now, or it seems that is the direction they are going to possibly have moose hunts. I think they are pretty well established in the state, at this point.

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

**Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve Commission Policy 24 as presented. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

Member Sibley asked to come back to this item, as he just noticed something he hadn't seen before where they are changing the definition of a spike elk again. Member Howells said that is correct – two points. Member Sibley said it is no longer two points above the ear, which was answered affirmatively. I know the one I shot would not be legal based on this definition. From where I shot it, there was no way to tell that he had an eye guard. Member Curran said I wish

they would come up with a final definition and not change it every year.

**C- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Regulation 500, Subdivision Map Review.**

The Commission will hold a second workshop to consider amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 278 to provide for the Department review of tentative subdivision map(s) and inclusion of recommendations for methods to avoid or minimize impacts to wildlife, mitigation measures, best management practices, or required design features, and provide for collection of associated fees to the Department for carrying out such reviews.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

There was no discussion as this was an administrative action and no action was taken.

**D- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Regulation 511, Wildlife Management Area Regulations.**

The Commission will hold a second workshop to consider amending Chapter 504 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation would update Wildlife Management Area (WMA) designations and restrictions.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Curran said, to give Jake a little background, it seems like the last 3 or 4 meetings we have had Management Area Regulations to discuss. It keeps coming up about the status of the Carson Lake Wildlife Management Area Plan that was promised two years ago. Without the plan, it is hard to know which way the state is going to go. I understand that there are general broad regulations that cover all Management Areas and it seems like the Carson Lake Regulations are being incorporated into the general statewide regulations. It is about to the point that you don't need a management plan because it is already established in NAC. We have talked about having you here to let us know what the status is.

Jake Ward said I am the Wildlife Area Technician out at Carson Lake. I have been out there for my third year, now. A general update with things right now is they are trying to clean up some of the verbiage from the general Wildlife Management Area rules and adding Carson Lake to things like the nontoxic shot and allowing trapping, which is an issue that we have run into in the last year or so. Because we were not listed as an area that was able to have trapping, we were going to have to have a depredation permit and we were running into issues where people didn't want to trap under a depredation permit, necessarily, because they had to turn over what they trapped to us. That was the push on that. This is the general stuff. I think the Management Area Plan is more specific to each Management Area specifically. Mason Valley has its own Management Plan and Carson Lake will have its own. Overton and Steptoe each have their own.

From my understanding, that is the direction that the Management Plan specifically has. From what I have been told, they are hoping to have it completed in late winter or maybe early spring 2024. They have been working on that in Reno. They are waiting for a couple of divisions to add their portions to the plan.

To let you know about some of the stuff that has been going on at Carson Lake this year, specifically, we had significant flooding from all of the runoff that we had through the winter, spring, and summer. From talking to the BOR, we received roughly 100,000 acre feet of water through the weir. From calculations that we have looked at from the maps, ultimately, it put about 20,000 surface acres of water out there. It is a massive lake, basically. I have measured water depths in July that were 4.5 to 5 feet deep and we still have quite a bit of water out there.

There were a couple of large projects that occurred this year. The county and TCID built a large berm. The berm is set to the same elevation as Highway 95 south, which is a 3,920 elevation. That runs all the way from the Big Dig to Highway 95. That was put in place to protect all of the ranches, homes, and infrastructure on the north end of the berm, including the Navy base and all of that. There was some preliminary mapping done by TCID and they decided the berm was necessary to put in place. Obviously, there was the creation of the new weir. That weir is three times the size of the 2017 weir or the old weir. They have the ability to send water out both weirs at an accumulation of about 2,500 cfs maximum from what I have been told from TCID and the BOR. They did not really send any water out of the new weir this year. The water that you see out there was about 900 cfs on average to put that 100,000 acre feet out there. With that being said, they ran the new weir just to test it to be sure it worked. Nobody really knows what 2,500 cfs could or would do. They will run into capacity issues with Highway 95 because those culverts can't manage 2,500 cfs, so they would likely have to put in a new culvert or two to be able to get that to go under the highway efficiently and to prevent flooding. The maximum flows we saw at the Big Dig this year were about 180 cfs, so we had 900 cfs coming in and 180 going out. That is why there is a massive lake out there. To get 1 cfs out to the Big Dig, you have to have 3 feet of water stacked up because the mouth of the Big Dig is at 3,912 and the pan is a 3,099. Those are the two major projects that happened this year.

Going through this summer, my biggest concern was to get that berm blocked off so that people can't get up on it. It is six feet tall in some places and it is only twelve to fourteen feet wide, so you couldn't pass two vehicles on it. My concern was to keep people off of that for public safety concerns. If you have been out there, I have put up some temporary barriers with some pipe rail fencing and tried to keep public access off of the berm.

As road conditions change, we will be opening up more roads and working on roads. If you get a big windy day, the roads go back under water because there is so much water out there. The roads are dry right now but, if we get a big wind storm, the roads will go back under water. Those are the major updates that I have. What will happen next year is the big question. The lake has 200,000 acre feet in it still. In talking with TCID and the BOR, it is a matter of how fast that lake is going to fill up and then if, when, and where they will spill the water. If we get a winter like last year, I think it will be inevitable that we will get more water. If we get a very mild winter, it is hard to say on what will be the case on sending water down the river. They will send

a 1,000 cfs down the river. That is the maximum capacity they can do with the houses and everything. The rest of the water goes out the weir. They put water all across the valley but Carson Lake is what took the brunt of it this year. The Big Dig is still flowing a little bit but once it is 3,912, that is when it shuts off and all of that water has to evaporate out of there.

Member Sibley said you don't have a way to run the water out over to Stillwater? Mr. Ward said that is done through the Big Dig. That is the only thing that connects the Carson Lake to Stillwater. It has to go uphill to get there also. The mouth of the Big Dig, as I said, is at 3,912, so to get any more water out there, you have to get above that elevation. The Big Dig is cut for something like 500-700 cfs but you would have to have feet and feet of water. You'd have to have a 3,918 elevation. You would be two feet up on the berm on the highway to get that much water out of it. It is not super-efficient at all. We have met with DEU and talked about some different opportunities for potential projects to get more efficient flows down the Big Dig by, potentially, making it deeper so that way the water starts to go out sooner and it will drain off a little bit longer and maybe extending the Big Dig a little bit farther into the area. There have been things brought up, like putting a giant channel all the way through the middle of the area to divert the water. From what I have been told, out on the bombing range the Navy is going to put a trench and a big ditch that goes all the way through the bombing range so that way they do not flood it out. It will go straight to Carson Lake, basically. Really, that is already, in a sense, what is happening because of those big trenches that have already been formed from erosion from the water flows. We can't really do that because the way you get water out the Big Dig is pressure, so you have to have a lot of water stacked up to get the pressure to push it uphill to get it to go out. If you have a trench that goes straight through it, you would have to have pumps or something that would move the water.

Member Curran said have they applied for any federal funds for restoration for the dikes and things? Mr. Ward said I believe Mason Valley put in for federal funding from the extensive flooding that they had down there this year but I do not know where that is in the process or if it has been approved or denied. They lost significant roads and things just as we did. I do not know if that has been or will be approved or not. It is one of those things where the berm went up in two months, so that involves rebuilding dikes, roads, fixing the big cuts that we had to make in the dikes. Those are all things that have to be done. We will need to spray salt cedar and white top from all of the new seeding and that will be a main priority once all of this water goes down. It depends on what this winter brings as to what will happen next year. We could be under more water or we could be facing botulism next summer. It is so vulnerable right now and we have no idea what will transpire.

Member Sibley said are they anticipating the Truckee Canal to be running water next year? Mr. Curran said not for us. I wouldn't think so. Mr. Ward said, from what I have heard in meetings with TCID is, unless they have a reason to fill the reservoir, there is no reason to run water, other than the things going on in Fernley with water rights and that kind of stuff. Mr. Curran said it is dictated by the Truckee Canal Operating Agreement. If the elevation is such and the snowpack is such, they can divert. Otherwise, they cannot. Mr. Ward said with having 200,000 acre feet in the reservoir currently, they likely will not need to divert water to fill the reservoir from whatever runoff we get. Whether it be a light winter or not, we will probably fill the reservoir.

Mr. Ward said the berm did serve its purpose. Nothing flooded on the north end of the berm from the flood water. There were some issues with drains and things through the irrigation season but nothing significantly hurt infrastructure or caused significant damage. It did serve its purpose. Member Curran said, as of today, there is probably 80,000 acre feet of storage available at Lahontan, so even a runoff of 200,000, which is a drought year, you could have the same situation, where last year started at 30,000. Mr. Ward agreed and said that is, in a sense, a dangerous situation to be in because we don't know how much water we will get. We could get another 1,000,000 acre feet up there this winter. Member Curran said that is when you begin to wonder when to even start reconstruction if you could be in worse shape next spring. Mr. Ward said, with that, a lot of our projects have been put on hold. I have been ordering materials for the wildlife fence and new materials for structures and things like that but I can't put it in because the area is under three feet of water and the dikes are still under water. There will have to be some reconsideration with some of those projects, as well.

Member Sibley said are you involved with the creation of the Management Plan? Have you been consulted? Mr. Ward replied that it is mostly coming from Reno. Russell and Mike have been working on it. They work in coordination with area biologists and diversity. I have helped with things that they needed but I have not done a major portion. I have not seen any final product or anything on my end. Member Sibley said I am curious about the nontoxic shot requirement. Member Curran said a lead rifle round is allowable. Member Howells said that depends on if they have anything for hunting regulations. You brought up trapping as an issue that they didn't want to do the depredation permit. Have they talked about big game hunting in the Management Area? Mr. Ward said, as of right now, it is allowed. There have been antelope harvested out there, both last year and this year. There are restrictions on where you can and cannot use a rifle and those are buffer zones for major roads - the highway, Macari Lane, any sort of occupied structure or dwelling. Member Curran said where are those restrictions listed? There is nothing in the regulations. Mr. Ward said there is a map that was made that we have in the office to pick up. Member Curran said that was just an administrative decision? Let's say shooting a rifle. I am not opposed to what you are saying but it has never come through as a regulation in NAC. Mr. Ward said right. It is more of a buffer for a safety zone than anything. I do not believe it is in writing. Member Curran said, if somebody violates that, they are not violating a law or regulation. Mr. Ward said it would just be dealt with within the county for what the shooting regulation is. There is a regulation against shooting within 700 feet of a dwelling in county law. That was brought to my attention with some kids that were hunting on the river last year. Member Curran said the county is pretty liberal on their definitions of discharge. Mr. Ward agreed and said, when it comes to the enforcement side of things, that is more a law enforcement deal. Member Curran said the state is famous for ideas but not putting them into regulations.

Member Sibley said my next question pertains to the trapping itself. It says "persons having permits to do so". Is it a license or is it an actual permit? Mr. Ward said it is permit for the area. Member Sibley said so you have to get a permit through the Department of Wildlife to trap at Carson Lake? Mr. Ward said yes and that would be approved through Isaac because he is Western Management. Member Sibley said is there a cost associated with that? Member Curran said there is not and Mr. Ward added that it is just so they know who is out there and where they

are trapping so that, if we have two permits, we do not have a ton of overlap or some kind of conflict. We want to know who is trapping and what they are doing.

Member Curran said, to look at what we have now in the way of a proposed regulation, we have some public here today that might want to comment. With the first section related to restriction of firearms, Carson Lake is not included in a restriction right now to where you could hunt antelope. I don't understand why the Argenta on the Humboldt River is going to have a restriction to only shotguns but that has nothing to do with Carson Lake. Mr. Ward said, with shotguns, it was brought to my attention that shotguns are not a legal form of take for antelope. It is in that chart in the big game book. It does not have a check mark for antelope. Member Curran said, again, that is not in regulations, so some secretary drew up the chart. Mr. Ward said is that in NAC? I am not exactly sure on that. Member Sibley said it is listed as a legal method of take for big game in general. Member Curran said that chart shows it is illegal to shoot a bighorn sheep, a young ram, but it is not in restrictions any more but here we go, they put it back in there. Member Sibley said, for my sake, there are some things in here, such as where they are changing Mason Valley and getting rid of archery deer hunting. They have now taken the bow and arrow out of an allowable method in Mason Valley and Wayne E. Kirch and Argenta. That seems like an odd thing to remove because I feel like that is actually a safer way to hunt versus a slug shotgun. My concern is that, if they are going to start lumping all of this, like it seems to up to this point, I want to make sure that the county and constituency of the county are given an opportunity to weigh into that conversation. I would be curious to know what the purpose is for bow and arrow because then is bow fishing legal? You've now outlawed a weapon type, so now it is raising those other gray areas that I think people can get into trouble with. Mr. Ward said I was not aware of that on my end with the bows and arrows. Member Curran said they have bows and arrows crossed off, which represents a change. Mr. Ward said he will ask for more clarification on that. Member Sibley said that is my personal request. When we are establishing these Management Plans, we are taking into consideration as much as we can and I understand that it is also a state agency. As much as we can, the voice of the public for that area needs to be considered. We are different from Mason Valley or Argenta. That has always been our concern from the beginning of this is that we are going to get lumped in with all of the other Management Areas but we have a different Management Area. Mr. Ward said, with this specific Management Plan for that area, it will still have to go out to public review and you will be able to provide comments once the initial draft is finalized. They will probably have to do another public scoping and then proceed forward with the final draft before it goes to the Commission. Member Sibley said I am still confused about the regulation regarding leaving decoys out during certain hours.

Member Curran said item B took out bow and arrow. Section 4 includes Carson Lake into the nontoxic category. I don't have any comment myself on that. It does definitely say shotgun rounds. Member Howells said it talks about the provisions of the subsection talking about weapons do not apply to persons authorized by the Department to use rifles or pistols for the control of predatory animals or rodents. Is that another permit thing where you have to apply to be able to take predators? That is in Section 6. Member Curran said, under campfires, it says that campfires are not allowed at Carson Lake. With camping, Carson Lake is not included as a permitted area. Mr. Ward said that is something else, as well. The Consumptive Use Permit for

Carson Lake has been around forever but that did not get removed in legislation. That is the \$60 permit to hunt out there. That did not go away. That was something that did not make it into the top for legislation. That will still be around for another two years to hunt anything out there, such as upland game or water fowl. Member Sibley said I am not overly opposed to that because I don't think that is a bad thing.

Member Curran said, under NAC 504.160, which is construction and use of hunting blinds; use of decoys, section 9 says a person may use decoys on a wildlife management area so long as the decoys are not left set up in the field between the hours of 9 p.m. and 3 a.m. I think that Member Sibley had a problem with that which was voiced at our last meeting and Member Sibley agreed. Member Curran said I personally do not. Member Sibley said I am just curious why that is there. Member Curran said I think every Management Area in the country says you can't leave them over night and reserve a spot. Member Sibley said I guess it is the time, at 3 a.m. What if I want to get out there at 2 a.m. and set up? Member Curran said somebody is going to beat me. Member Sibley said when you set a time like that, it just seems, I don't know.

Chair Hughes asked if there was any public comment. Don Snodgrass said I am the Vice-President of the Greenhead Hunting Club. I have been a Director of the club since 1987. I have been talking with the Department of Wildlife about those regulations and being that Carson Lake is one of the few spots where you can hunt snow geese in the spring season. There are a few people who are setting a huge white goose spread down there. It is a lot more convenient to set 1,500 decoys up for two or three days in a row. Evidently, that is the regulation they have. There are some other things, such as access to some of the areas there. I am a spokesman for some of the older hunters in the area. We have hunters that are 90 years old that hunt down there. They do not get very far from their vehicles any more but they are still trying to hunt. We are trying to work out the access points to some of the areas where, historically, there has always been a two-track road that goes into an area from the main roads. We have been working on those things. Member Sibley asked if he was getting any feedback from the Department when they make proposals. I am just curious what their thoughts are behind this. Mr. Snodgrass said it is hard to say. They say it is going to be a law enforcement issue to regulate those things but we are trying to establish points that go into the edges of the water that traditionally are dry and you can find a two-track road to get to that point. As far as blinds and things like that, there are some blinds left over from some of the old Greenhead days that are still out in positions out there.

Chair Hughes asked if there was any further public comment or board comment. Member Sibley said I know that Stillwater implemented a handicap blind. Has that been talked about for Greenhead at all? Mr. Ward said that was brought up during the public scoping process. There will be specific blinds for handicapped folks that will potentially have to be put in place for ADA access, much the same as with restrooms and such. Don and I have been working together to figure out what access points are viable and can be designated as a road because that will be what is put in the Management Plan for specific areas. It may or may not be realistic for somebody to walk 2 miles for water from the nearest road, so designating certain areas and parking areas to make it a little bit easier for guys, although you may not be able to park right on the edge of the water but if we can get you closer on a two-track and then designate a parking area at the end of that, that will be something that we just have to work out. It will be flexible

from year to year, too, because one year an area may have water and then the next year it might not. That is something that will have to be flexible and we will just have to work through those things as it changes. Member Sibley said it sounds like you guys do have somebody that is helping to make sure that the county's constituents are heard. That is my biggest concern is to make sure that the hunters of Churchill County specifically are being heard when it comes to a Management Area in Churchill County. Mr. Ward said we have had meetings out there with the Greenhead Club, its President, and its members to talk about how things are managed historically, such as boat zones, no boat zones, and just how they have managed things historically for 100 years. A lot of things worked and some things are a little bit different now that it is a Management Area but, realistically, there hasn't been a whole lot of change other than the water situation, which will fluctuate from year to year. As things work or don't work, we will have to adjust to those particular things. This year, we have four access points where, historically, we have had one or two or maybe somebody can get to a particular area but other people can't, depending upon whether you have a boat or whatever. My goal this year was to get as much access open given the situation with the roads being under water and flooded and washed out. The main entrance is open. You can go through the corrals on Pasture Road and that puts you right at the base of the berm. You go up and over the berm, you are in the water. Schaffer Lane is another access point this year which, historically, has not always been. On the east side, if you come off of Highway 50, take Macari and then Pit Road over there, I put in a cattle guard over there so you don't have to worry about opening and closing a gate, you can just drive right in. I think that will help with antelope hunting and the area being open or closed or whatever. You can't get over because the Big Dig is cut out right now. I am just trying to create as much physical access as possible for everybody to be able to hunt their areas and go where they want. I didn't want to bottleneck everybody and say you all have to hunt this main entrance and you can only go left or right for half a mile and that is what you've got. It is flexible and we can be reasonable with it and work together. We will try to evaluate the situation on a year to year basis. Nobody wants all of those roads under water and everybody likes to use that area. It is, typically, a high use area. My feeling on it was to open up as much area as possible within reason and within public safety concerns. There are multiple different boat launches because the current boat launch is still under water. We built a boat launch into the Big Dig. There is a boat launch from 2017 on the north end of the property. If you can throw a canoe in, that is flexible.

Member Howells said, until the Management Plan is completed, does it fall under the blanket rules for the Wildlife Management Area or is it still just kind of where everything is flexible? It is grouped in with the rest of the Management Areas here as these are proposed but then we are talking about things that are allowed out there that are not allowed in others. Where could somebody find the regulations that are and are not allowed out there now until that specific Management Plan is completed? Mr. Ward said I think once these regulations are passed, as of the last two years, we haven't even been able to trap out there because we were not listed or didn't have a permit that allowed us to do that. Now, there is a trapping permit. All of the general WMA rules will apply at Carson Lake. With the designated roads and things like that, those are things that we will have to work through and try to make the best available possibilities. Your general WMA rules apply. There is no setting up between 9 p.m. and 3 a.m. Nontoxic shot will be another thing that will change. One thing that is different from when the Greenhead Club managed it is you can hunt upland game now. Back then, that wasn't necessarily allowed. The

same with big game. Those are some of the differences. There is predator hunting, quail, things like that. There is different opportunity. That hasn't always been allowed and we haven't had an issue with it, yet.

Chair Hughes asked if there was any further comment. Member Curran said I still have a problem with someone tying up an area for the entire spring snow goose season with their decoys and blinds. I know it is a problem. I have hunted up to a lake and you have to remove everything. Some have pretty elaborate systems. Years ago, down in Stillwater, there were duck decoys set up from one Saturday to the next Saturday but nobody there, so it pretty much took care of that one bay and that is not right. I understand the issue of putting out huge spreads. It is the decoys you have to remove, not your blinds. I, myself, am not sure. Mr. Ward said, if the board wants a copy of the discharge map, we can get that to you so you can see it. Member Curran said he would like to see it. Again, that map is not regulation. Member Sibley said that is where it gets ambiguous. Member Curran said it has to be in the NAC to be enforceable. You can bluff them but you can't say it is against the law. The state can't do that. Mr. Ward said would that include being able to close roads and things like that? Member Curran said there are some general regulations for Management Areas regarding road closure and trespass. Like in Mason Valley, they have a write in regulation that it is unlawful to trespass in the pond area during nesting season and it is in regulation. If you are all of a sudden setting up a no hunting zone, like the Greenhead Club did, in my opinion, that has to be put into regulation to be enforceable. Mr. Ward said that is part of the dynamic with the Management Plan, as well. Member Curran said there may be more detail in it. Mr. Ward said it has to almost be manipulatable because given one year the big water unit could be completely full and then the next year we could have 2021 or 2016 when there was no water so your no hunting zone for your rest area might not have water or it may have water. That is the kind of verbiage that has to be used for the Management Plan because it changes. It is such a dynamic system that it changes from year to year.

**Member Jim Curran made a motion to approve Commission Regulation 511, except for the prohibition of bow and arrow hunting in Management Areas. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

Member Curran suggested that we ask to have the state come back to specifically address the spring snow goose season in regards to the decoy regulation. I think that would be one way to address it because I do not think anybody will object to the fall duck season and picking up your decoys. They usually get stolen if you leave them out there anyway. We could make a recommendation here. Mr. Ward said we could add that timeframe for the spring snow goose season. Member Howells said, on NAC 504.135(3), it looks like the use of shotguns capable of holding more than 3 shells is prohibited on all Wildlife Management Areas is being removed, as well. I would think, potentially, this is for upland game hunting and maybe even that late snow goose hunt. Member Sibley said that makes sense. Member Sibley said that falls under the deer portion of Mason Valley, so that might be something that needs to be looked at, as well. Mr. Ward said that could be brought up for your general late snow goose hunt. Member Sibley said the concern is that the Wildlife Management Area rules supersede the state regulation when it comes to use of weapons because they are more liberal everywhere else but, if you go to specific

area, that area may be limited as to what you can and cannot do.

**Member Jason Sibley made a motion that, with regard to Commission Regulation 511, we request that they add that decoys can be left in the field from 9:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. in Carson Lake Wildlife Management Area for the spring snow goose season, that they remove the shotgun plug restrictions during the spring snow goose season, and that they remove NAC 504.160(9) from the Wildlife Management requirements. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

Mr. Ward asked if there were any other questions related to Carson Lake. Member Sibley said my question is about the fee. I was curious about the status of that. Are they going to continue to offer a one-day permit? Mr. Ward said yes and that opened on Monday. Member Sibley said are they looking at having any restrictions as far as boating is concerned? I know that, in the past when it was the Greenhead Club, you couldn't use motorized boats for the first couple weeks. Mr. Ward said yes, usually in November, we open it up. Electric motors are good to start but no gas motors. This year, I have heard one report of somebody punching a hole by hitting a fence post. I have been warning everybody that asks me anything about boating out there to be very careful, go slowly, and know what you are looking for because there is wire and fence posts, debris, and dikes sitting in that much water. In July, I could take the airboat over the barbed wire fences but, now, they are sticking out of the water. Be very careful. There is currently only one airboat that I know of that runs out there but they are allowed. Mr. Ward said it was pretty incredible when we took the airboat to Pasture Road and we took it down the road to Pasture Road. We took it to the highway, which is pastureland. They did that in 2017 but, this year, the airboat went to Pasture Road and parked it at the barbed wire fence.

Member Sibley said you did not have any botulism this year, to which Mr. Ward said they did not. I did weekly checks from mid-July through the beginning of October and didn't find anything of major concern. If we do not get water next year, then that would, obviously, be the major concern for the hot season, starting probably late June, July, August, September and into October. It would be more likely in the late summer, though. It will depend on what we get this winter. We could get another 100,000 acre feet of water in March, April, and May next year, given that the lake is not at 50,000 acre feet. Stillwater is completely full too. Everything out there is full to the brim.

**E- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Regulation 513, Executive Order Regulations.**

The Commission will hold a workshop to consider amending Chapters 488, 501, 502, 503, and 504 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) pursuant to Executive Order 2023-003.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

There was no discussion or action taken on this item.

**F- Consideration and possible action re: Commission General Regulation 509, License and**

**Vessel Product Refunds.**

The Commission will consider and may take action to approve amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 502 and 488 to allow the department the authority to provide refunds on licenses and vessel products.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

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

**Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve Commission General Regulation 509, License and Vessel Product Refunds, as presented. Member Andrew Howells seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

**G- Consideration and possible action re: Bighorn Sheep Ram Specialty Tag Regulation Review.**

The Commission will review bighorn ram specialty tag seasons and unit closures and may decide to make changes to the method used to limit the maximum number of specialty tags for every unit group that has an open season. The Commission Regulations presented at the January 2023 Commission Meeting have not provided the expected results and the Department is seeking an improved method for limiting the number of rams that can be harvested from bighorn ram hunt units or unit groups by specialty tagholders.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Sibley said I do not see any supporting documentation. Member Curran said there is none, as they are going to discuss this, so this is a non-action item. No action was taken by the board.

**H- Discussion with Jake Ward concerning the Carson Lake Pasture management proposals and activities.**

The Churchill County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife has asked to have a discussion with Jake Ward concerning the Carson Lake Pasture management proposals and activities. The board should be aware that there is a recording from the August State Wildlife Commission meeting of the presentation made by Jake Ward.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

See the discussion for Item D, as these two items were combined into one discussion.

### **Consider Future Agenda Items:**

There were no future Agenda items suggested. Member Sibley verified with Deputy Clerk Moore that she was still waiting on the letter from him to send to the other CABs regarding wildlife salvage.

### **Public Comment:**

Chair Hughes asked if there was any public comment. Terry Hardin said my question is in game management Unit 17, they have a split season, they have an early gun season, middle gun season, and a late gun season. I would like to see that put back to the way that it was in the early 2000s where, as an example, it went from like the first Saturday in October to the first Sunday in November and it was one continuous hunt. In the early part of the season it can be too hot and those bucks are way up at 9,000-11,000 feet and people can't get up to them. If you opt to hunt, you have wasted years of accumulating points, possibly, vacation time, and you didn't have much fun. However, if you could wait until later in the season, hopefully, some weather will move in and get them big bucks to come down a little bit, and you would have a little bit better of an opportunity to shoot a big buck. The problem I see with the shorter seasons is that there are a lot of people running up and down the road and not very many animals are killed. I am a disabled veteran and I use my UTV to get me up the canyons and my son helps me hike up as high as I can get so I can look at the deer with spotting scopes. On the 24<sup>th</sup> day of October, I helped my son get his deer. I was sitting on one hillside, guiding him with a walkie-talkie on the other hillside, he shot that deer at about 9,000 feet and two gentlemen in a truck came up and I told them the situation of how I wasn't able to go up to help him, so they went over and volunteered to help him drag it down. What I am getting at is I would like to see those split seasons done away with and have it back to a full season. If it is too hot and I don't have to go, I wouldn't burn up vacation time and I can wait for a cooler time and maybe get the bucks down where the does are. On the 24<sup>th</sup> of October, that Tuesday was the first day my son and I witnessed bucks with does. Up until that time, the does were over here and the bucks were over there. That is my request to see if we can get that changed. Member Curran said, in January, the state sets the dates for all big game seasons. They come to us with a recommendation. I will remember what you have said but we definitely want you to come to Area 17. It used to be one area, I agree. Then, all of a sudden, the quotas got real high and everybody complained about too many hunters, so they put it into two. The quotas are lower now. It is a sound idea for us to at least recommend to the state but you never know what the state commission is going to do. We could sure make that recommendation if this board agrees. Member Sibley said it is now three seasons in Area 17. Mr. Hardin said, in the early 2000s, it was like Churchill, from the first Saturday in October to the first Sunday in November, which was great for me because I always waited for the latter part and hoped that a big snow would push down the big bucks. I was out there this year, though, and there were not as many hunters. The Big Creek Campground had three hunters in three weeks camped out there. The campground in Kingston had a total of four in three weeks camped out there hunting and that was it. Back in the 2000s, I got verbally abused by an individual because he was trophy hunting. I asked him why he wasn't up on top if he was trophy hunting, not running up and down the road. As I said, I am a disabled vet, so I use my UTV and my son helps me. As an example, we went up Basin Canyon on the Kingston side and went way up and parked. He helped me crawl up the side and we sat up there and watched. I

got irritated and my jaws got tight as a barbed wire. We were having a snack and here came an F/A-18. We were up here looking down on top of the blue camouflaged F/A-18 this year. I was livid. I decided that I needed to talk to somebody and try to do something. Whatever we can do to get that changed would be appreciated. There was no further comment.

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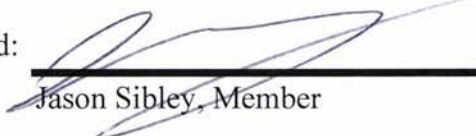
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**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Approved:   
Peggy Hughes, Chair

Approved:   
Jim Curran, Vice-Chair

Approved:   
Jason Sibley, Member

Approved:   
Aubrey Burgess, Member

Approved:   
Andrew Howells, Member

ATTEST:  
Linda Rothery, Clerk/Treasurer

  
Pamela D. Moore, Deputy Clerk to the Board