

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife –
January 20, 2026 minutes

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** [Non-action item]
2. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** [Non-action item]

Members in Attendance

1. Coby Rowe, Chairman
2. Ryan Browne, Vice Chairman
3. Steve Robinson
4. Kristie Marchese

Members Absent

1. Matt Melarkey

Others in Attendance

1. Mel Belding
2. John Ewanyk, NDOW

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**-[Non-action item]

No public comment.

4. **Approval of November 4th, 2025 minutes** - [For possible action]

Member Marchese motioned for approval of November 4, 2025 CAB minutes. Member Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

5. **BOARD MEMBER MEETING ASSIGNMENT**-[Non-action item]

Chair Rowe asked who would be able to attend the upcoming Commission meeting. Board members noted they would be able to be in attendance for the upcoming Commission meeting.

6. **COMMITTEE, MEMBER AND LIAISON UPDATES**-[Non-action items]

There were no updates or communications from members of the public since the September meeting.

7. **WCABMW ELECTIONS** - [For possible action]

Chair Rowe opened the agenda item to hold the WCABMW elections.\

Member Robinson motioned to nominate Ryan Browne as the chair of the WCABMW. Member Rowe seconded. The motioned passed unanimously.

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Member Robinson motioned to nominate Coby Rowe as the vice chair of the WCABMW. Member Browne seconded. The motioned passed unanimously.

Member Robinson motioned to nominate Kristie Marchese as the secretary of the WCABMW. Member Rowe seconded. The motioned passed unanimously.

8. Draft Fiscal Year 2027 Predation Management Plan – [For possible action]

Chair Browne opened the item to discuss the draft fiscal year 2027 Predation Management Plan. John Ewanyk, NDOW, gave an update regarding how money would be allocated in the plan and provided details about projects. Member Robinson said he hoped the Department would continue to reassess certain projects because some of the money was not being spent effectively. Members of the CAB had concerns regarding Project 37.

During public comment, Mel Belding said he was supportive of the work. He said that he believes biologists should be trained to set snares and that NDOW should keep the supplies that were bought by the sportsman and not give those supplies to Wildlife Services.

Chair Browne moved to approve the Draft Fiscal Year 2027 Predation Plan as written. Vice Chair Rowe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Commission General Regulations - General Regulation 529 – Disability Permit Program Revisions – [For possible action]

Chair Browne opened the item to discuss regulation language amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) that would update business rules and requirements related to the archery, visual and special assistance disability permits. Members discussed #5 under the archery disability program and the need to revise the listing of disabilities. Vice Chair Rowe asked why the cross bow was removed. Mr. Ewanyk said that there was interest with the Commission to remove the cross bow because of new technology advancements. There was no public comment.

Vice Chair Rowe moved to approve General Regulation 529 as written with the exception of the wording under archery disability page 2 #5, under archery disability program, items a, b, c, c, should be removed and rewritten. Member Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Petition – Mr. Joe Krathwohl– [For Possible Action]

Chair Browne opened the item to discuss an amendment to NAC 504.496 to allow licensed wildlife rehabilitators, with Department approval, to transfer non-releasable

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wildlife to permitted individuals or entities, beyond the dispositions currently allowable under existing law, which include: release, donation to an Association of Zoos and Aquariums – accredited facility, or euthanasia. Members of the CAB discussed the details regarding the transfer of animals. Vice Chair Rowe said that the way he read the petition he did not see an issue.

During public comment, Mel Belding spoke about his experiences in rehabilitating a Kestrel falcon. He noted he was in support of the petition.

Vice Chair Rowe moved to approve the petition as written. Member Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Commission General Regulations – Adoption/Public Comment– [For Possible Action]

A. Commission Regulation 25-07 Amendment #2, 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 Big Game Seasons

Chair Browne opened the item to consider adopting an amendment to the 2026-2027 hunting seasons and dates for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goat and moose, including limits, hunting hours, special hunt eligibility, animal sex, physical characteristics, hunt boundary restrictions. John Ewanyk presented survey results that pertained to the item. He gave details regarding the ages of rams that were found in August during the survey. He explained to the board some of his initial projections for how many tags may be issued for the upcoming season based on the survey results. Members of the CAB discussed their preferences for each of the units in the survey. Vice Chair Rowe said he would like to see one more year to see how successful predator management had been. Member Robinson asked why units 014 and 012 were combined? Mr. Ewanyk said it appeared to be based on the collar movement that had been tracked.

During public comment, Mel Belding said he had some concerns with certain units and the ages of some of the sheep that were found during the survey. He said he would like to see 014 closed for the year and if needed he would also like to see unit 012 closed as well.

Member Robinson moved to approve Commission Regulation 25-07 Amendment #2, 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 Big Game Seasons with the following change: unit 014 and unit 012 must be separated into separate units and to add ewe management tag for unit 066 early and 066 late. Vice Chair Rowe seconded. The motion passed 3-1 with Member Marchese voting nay.

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B. Commission Regulation 26-01, 2027 Spring Turkey and 2026 Application Deadlines

Chair Browne opened the item to discuss adopting a regulation to set the 2027 spring turkey application deadlines and 2026 tag application deadlines. There was no board discussion or public comment.

Member Robinson moved to approved Commission Regulation 26-01, 2027 Spring Turkey and 2026 Application Deadlines as written. Vice Chair Rowe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Commission Regulation 26-02, 2026 Tag Application Eligibility and Tag Limits

Chair Browne opened the item to discuss adopting a regulation to set the 2026 tag application eligibility, tag limits and related information. There was no board discussion or public comment.

Vice Chair Rowe moved to approved Commission Regulation 26-02, 2026 Tag Application Eligibility and Tag Limits as written. Member Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Commission Regulation 26-03, 2026 Dream Tag Seasons and Quotas

Chair Browne opened the item to discuss adopting a regulation to set the 2026 dream tag species, seasons, and quota. There was no board discussion or public comment.

Vice Chair Rowe moved to approved Regulation 26-03, 2026 Dream Tag Seasons and Quotas as written. Member Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Commission Regulation 26-04, 2027 Heritage Tag Seasons and Quotas

Chair Browne opened the item to discuss adopting a regulation to set the 2027 heritage tag species, seasons, and quota. There was no board discussion or public comment.

Vice Chair Rowe moved to approved Commission Regulation 26-04, 2027 Heritage Tag Seasons and Quotas as written. Member Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Commission Regulation 26-05, 2026 Partnership in Wildlife Tag Seasons and Quotas

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Chair Browne opened the item to discuss adopting a regulation to set the 2026 partnership in wildlife tag species, seasons, and quota. There was no board discussion or public comment.

Vice Chair Rowe moved to approved Commission Regulation 26-05, 2026 Partnership in Wildlife Tag Seasons and Quotas as written. Member Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

G. Commission Regulation 26-06, 2026 Big Game Silver State and 2027 Wild Turkey Silver State Tag Seasons and Quotas

Chair Browne opened the item to discuss adopting a regulation to set the 2026 big game silver state tag and 2027 wild turkey silver state tag species, seasons, and quota. There was no board discussion or public comment.

Vice Chair Rowe moved to approved Commission Regulation 26-06, 2026 Big Game Silver State and 2027 Wild Turkey Silver State Tag Seasons and Quotas as written. Member Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

H. Commission Regulation 26-07, 2026 Black Bear Seasons

Chair Browne opened the item to discuss adopting a regulation to set the 2026 hunting season dates, open management units, hunting hours, special regulations, animal sex, legal weapon requirements, hunt boundary restrictions, and dates and times for indoctrination courses for black bear. There was no board discussion or public comment.

Vice Chair Rowe moved to approved Commission Regulation 26-07, 2026 Black Bear Seasons as written. Member Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

I. Commission Regulation 26-08, 2026-2027 Mountain Lion Season and Harvest

Chair Browne opened the item to discuss adopting a regulation to set the 2026-2027 hunting season open units, harvest limits by unit group, hunting hours and special regulations for mountain lion. Vice Chair said he would like to see an unlimited tag to help wildlife services in their efforts to eliminate the mountain lion population. Members of the CAB discussed whether it should be separate tags. Member Robinson discussed the Refuge Act and how it may apply to the item. He noted that he would like the state to have more control over the area and open unit

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033 for all hunting. John Ewanyk, NDOW, said the Department had been in communication with the Sheldon Refuge in order to allow coyote and duck hunting. He described the process of how the Sheldon would be opened in the coming years with a hope of having it open in 2027. The process appears it will take between one and two years to be completed. Member Robinson said that under the Refuge Act, it says the state is in charge of the area. When Mr. Ewanyk spoke with the Sheldon, they explained the state may request the opening of the area but would still have to follow the processes developed by the Refuge Act.

During public comment, Mel Belding said Zinke's order has not been challenged that Department of Wildlife manages wildlife not the Refuge. Clear in Refuge act is what they can do and what they cannot do is clear. He also added he did not believe that the United State Fish and Wildlife had a right to tell Nevada how to manage their wildlife.

Members of the CAB continued discussion regarding mountain lions and historical data on tag allocations on the Sheldon.

Member Robinson moved to approve Commission Regulation 26-08, 2026-2027 Mountain Lion Season and Harvest with the following change: To follow the National Refuge act items L and M and open up unit 033 as cited by law. Vice Chair Rowe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

J. Commission Regulation 26-09, 2026-2027 Restricted Non-Resident Guided Mule Deer Seasons and Quotas

Chair Browne opened the item to consider adopting a regulation to set the 2026-2027 hunting season and quotas for restricted non-resident guided mule deer including hunt boundary restrictions. Member Robinson asked the reasoning for this discussion at the Commission. Mr. Ewanyk said that it was to allow an opportunity for there to be public comment and to address quota versus tag allocations.

Vice Chair Rowe moved to approve Commission Regulation 26-09, 2026-2027 Restricted Non-Resident Guided Mule Deer Seasons and Quotas as written. Chair Browne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

12. Future Meeting Agenda Items – Informational only- Public Comment Allowed

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Member Robinson said he would like to see further discussion and presentations regarding Nevada's wolf management plan/ Vice Chair Rowe said there will be a future presentation from the BLM or Refuge and he would send out the details.

13. Public Comment [Non-action item]

Mel Belding said there needs to be a discussion about Connector 022 La Posada and its effects on wildlife and hunting. He encouraged the CAB to send author a letter voicing the CAB's concerns. He said he did not think the New Land Act that was brought forth by Senator Cortez Masto would not hep wildlife or hunting.

14. Adjournment [Non-action item]

Chair Rowe adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.