

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife –
August 10, 2026 minutes

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

Members in Attendance

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

Others in Attendance

1. Mel Belding
2. John Ewanyk, NDOW
- 3.

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

There was no public comment.

4. **Approval of May 4, 2026, minutes** - [For possible action]

Member Melarkey motioned for approval of May 4, 2026 CAB minutes. Vice Chair Rowe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Chair Browne 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]

A letter was sent from the BLM that pertained to the Rain Springs project. They notified the CAB that the area will be fenced off for rehabilitation. Chair Browne said he would draft a letter in support of the project. Member Robinsons said he had spoken with John Zenz about his concerns regarding the lottery draw and tag allocations. John Ewanyk, NDOW, also said he would be leaving his current position as biologist in Washoe County and moving to Carson City. He also provided an update regarding recent changes to the Nevada Department of Wildlife staff.

7. **First Reading – Commission Policies** - [For possible action]

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A. Commission Policy 65 – Designation of Wildlife Management Areas

Chair Browne opened the agenda item to hear a first reading of Commission Policy 65 and to take action to revise the policy and move to a second reading. There was no public comment or board discussion.

Vice Chair Rowe motioned for approval of Commission Policy 65 as written. Member Melarkey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Commission Policy 66 – Management and Use of Wildlife Management Areas and Conservation Lands

Chair Browne opened the agenda item to hear a first reading of Commission Policy 66 and to take action to revise the policy and move to a second reading. Member Melarkey asked about conflicting resource uses. John Ewanyk said he was not entirely sure but he could look into it. Member Melarkey asked if the Department has any say on wild horses on the management areas and Mr. Ewanyk said he would also follow up on that too. There was no public comment.

Vice Chair motioned for approval of Commission Policy 66 as written. Member Melarkey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Commission General Regulations - Workshop/Public – [For Possible Action]

A. Commission General Regulation 527 – Wildlife Salvage Permit

Chair Browne opened the item to consider amending regulations of Chapter 501 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) to create a salvage process and salvage permits for certain wildlife species through the direction of Senate Bill 215 (2025). Member Robinson asked what if the animal is mortally wounded? NDOW explained that any purposeful killing of an animal outside of an approved hunt would not allow for the animal to be salvaged. Vice Chair Rowe said he was in support of the regulation. There was no public comment. Member Melarkey asked if there was a certain threshold of what needed to be brought back. NDOW noted that it was only the head.

Vice Chair motioned for approval of Commission General Regulation 527 as written. Member Melarkey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Commission General Regulation 531 – Shed Antler Revisions

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Chair Browne opened the item to consider language regulation amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) that adds requirements for private land collecting, prohibiting nonresidents from collecting shed antlers until July 1, and creating definitions. Member Robinson said he was initially in support of the proposed regulation but as it has been reviewed and changed, he is no longer in support. Member Melarkey asked if the language was written in certain ways to exclude certain animals. Member Robinson said the issue is that the regulation is not well enforced. Member Marchese said the demerits haven't worked either because people who shed hunt typically don't hunt so they don't care if they receive a demerit because it does not affect them. Joh Ewanky, NDOW, added that appeared to be two conflicting laws, and this regulation was an attempt to try and square that conflict.

During public comment, Mel Belding said he was not in support of the proposed regulation because the law made it impossible for law abiding citizens to hunt for sheds because when the season opened the sheds were already gone.

Member Robinson moved to recommend the Commission not adopt Commission General Regulation 531 as written. Member Marchese seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

9. **Commission Regulations - Adoption/Public – [For Possible Action]**
A. Commission General Regulation 529 – Disability Permit Program Revisions

Chair Browne opened the item to consider adopting language regulation amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) that would update business rules and requirements related to the archery, visual and special assistance disability permits. Chair Browne said that overall, he was in support of the proposed regulation after the revisions made. He said he was still worried that people might abuse the system. Member Melarkey said he thought the 5-year period should be reduced to 3 years. Member Marchese said she was not in support of that because the disability was considered permanent and having people go back more often to the doctor was a hassle. Member of the CAB discussed specific type of weapons and scopes and how they may have qualified under the proposed regulation. Vice Chair Rowe said he thought the proposal was reasonable and Chair Browne agreed. There was no public comment.

Vice Chair Rowe moved to accept Commission General Regulation 529 as written. Member Melarkey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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**B. Commission General Regulation 532 – Windermere Hills
Cooperative Wildlife Management Area**

Chair Browne opened the item to consider adopting language regulation by amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) that would update business rules and requirements related to the Windermere Hills Cooperative Wildlife Management Area. Vice Chair Rowe asked if it was one landowner or multiple. Mr. Ewanyk said he was unsure. There was no public comment.

Vice Chair Rowe moved to accept Commission General Regulation 532 as written. Member Melarkey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**10. Commission Regulations - Adoption/Public – [For Possible Action]
A. Commissioner Regulation 26-01, Amendment #1, 2027 Spring
Turkey and 2026 Application Deadlines**

Chair Browne opened the item to consider adopting an amendment to regulations to set the 2027 spring turkey application deadlines and 2026 tag application deadlines and related information. Member Melarkey asked for clarification on the deadlines and Mr. Ewanyk said this was a change to update language to align with the spring and fall deadlines.

Member Melarkey moved to accept Commission Regulation 26-01 Amendment #1 as written. Vice Chair Rowe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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

There was no items discussed.

12. Public Comment [Non-action item]

There was no public comment.

13. Adjournment [Non-action item]

Chair Browne adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.