

New Mexico State Game Commission New Mexico  
Department of Game and Fish

March 4, 2022

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Meeting Called to Order** 09:18:06 a.m. (00:01:09)  
Called to order by Chairwoman Salazar Hickey

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Roll Call** 09:18:17 a.m. (00:01:40)

Present: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Commissioner Archuleta, Commissioner Bates, Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Salazar-Henry.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Approval of Agenda (Action Item)** 09:18:52 a.m. (00:01:55)

**Motion:** To approve the agenda as written 3-9, proceed to agenda item 20, work backward to 13, then discuss 11,12,13. Remove agenda item 21 due to Executive Session held on 3/1/2022. Add introductions after Approval of Agenda.

**Motion by:** Commissioner Salazar-Hickey

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Archuleta

**Approved:** Approve: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Commissioner Archuleta, Commissioner Bates, Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Salazar-Henry.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Consent Agenda (Action Item).** 09:36:58 a.m. (00:20:01)

- A. Approval of Minutes of November 15, 2021 Meeting and the March 1, 2022 Virtual Special Commission Meeting
- B. Revocations

**Motion:** Move to approve the consent agenda A.

**Motion by:** Commissioner Salazar-Henry

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Lopez

**Approved:** Approve: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Commissioner Archuleta, Commissioner Bates, Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Salazar-Henry.

**Motion:** Move to approve the consent agenda B with removal of 1 individual (C. Pearson).

**Motion by:** Commissioner Salazar-Henry

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Archuleta

**Approved:** Approve: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Commissioner Archuleta, Commissioner Bates, Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Salazar-Henry.

**Motion:** Move to amend revocation from 2 years to 5 years for C. Pearson.

**Motion by:** Commissioner Salazar-Henry

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Archuleta

**Approved:** Approve: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Commissioner Archuleta, Commissioner Bates, Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Salazar-Henry.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Commission Chair and Vice Chair Selection (Action Item)** 09:42:54 a.m. (00:25:56)

**Motion:** Move to nominate Commissioner Salazar Hickey as chair of the State Game Commission.

**Motion by:** Commissioner Bates

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Lopez

**Approved:** Approve: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Commissioner Archuleta, Commissioner Bates, Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Salazar-Henry.

**Motion:** Move to nominate Commissioner Bates as vice-chair of the State Game Commission.

**Motion by:** Commissioner Sharon Salazar Hickey

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Lopez

**Approved:** Approve: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Commissioner Archuleta, Commissioner Bates, Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Salazar-Henry.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Open Meetings Act Resolution (Action Item)** 09:45:32 a.m. (00:28:135)

Commissioner Archuleta presented the Open Meetings Act Resolution to the State Game Commission.

**Motion:** Move to adopt the Open Meetings Act Resolution with amendment of posting the draft agenda from three days before meeting to minimum five days before meeting date.

**Motion by:** Commissioner Salazar-Henry

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Archuleta

**Approved:** Approve: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Commissioner Archuleta, Vice-chair Bates, Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Salazar-Henry.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Director's Report** 10:01:37 a.m. (00:44:39)

Thank you to four employees who have recently retired: Lance Tyson, Matt Seidel, Craig Sanchez and Robert Griego. Lance Cherry has resigned as Chief of the Information and Education Division and that position will be filled soon. Tim Cimbali has been promoted to Chief and Colonel of the Field Operations Division. Conservation Officer applications will open later in March and a new class of officers will be filled. In November, a translocation of 46 bighorn sheep to the Alamo Hueco Mountains occurred. Aerial surveys were conducted for wildlife populations to determine population distribution and densities. Over 4,000 acres of forest thinning in the Carson National Forest have been completed. The Habitat Stamp Citizens Advisory committee met to allocate an additional \$2.5 million toward fisheries projects. Hatchery modifications and projects continue this spring. Outreach efforts have been conducted for the possible introduction of the striped bass/white bass cross into Caballo Lake. At the River Ranch property, well system updates were completed and 200 chihuahua chub were stocked into refuge pond. Share with Wildlife kicked off a four-month radio campaign. Midwinter waterfowl surveys were completed in mid-January to contribute to national waterfowl data collection efforts. The Las Vegas Supervisory District retrieved elk carcasses around Christmas 2021. Four new recruits have begun their field training across the state. Carcass tags for 2022 will be different this year due to supply chain issues. The Department has been working on the capital asset tracking software to correct any issues and Federal Aid documents have been submitted for audit review. The Department passed its PCI compliance audit and a new call center call system has been implemented for improved customer service.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: General Public Comments** 10:14:30 a.m. (00:57:33)

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Annual Audit (Action Item)** 10:44:57 a.m. (01:27:59)

A financial audit of the Department for fiscal year 2021 was conducted by Clifton Larson Allen LLP. The Department's Financial Statement received the highest possible opinion of "unmodified." Clifton Larson Allen LLP's representative presented the findings of the audit.

**Motion:** Move to approve the Department's audit report for the fiscal year 2021.

**Motion by:** Commissioner Archuleta

**Seconded by:** Vice-chair Bates

**Approved:** Approve: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Commissioner Archuleta, Vice-chair Bates, Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Salazar-Henry.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 20: Rule Hearing – Hunting and Fishing License Revocation Rule 19.31.2. NMAC (Action Item)** 10:58:46 a.m. (01:41:48)

Captain Ty Jackson presented the Department's final proposed changes to the Revocation Rule 19.31.2 NMAC. Some of these changes include:

- Removing definitions that are no longer necessary.
- Changing the point value for various Chapter 17 violations. Creating a 40 pt. category for the most serious offenses. Eliminating the 17, 15 and 7 point categories.
- Creating a simpler revocation timeline structure that better addresses repeat violators or felony offenses.
- Clarifying that the Department may recommend increased or decreased revocation periods for egregious or mitigating circumstances to the hearing officer or commission.
- Clarify and strengthen suspension of properties receiving Department issued private land authorizations for failing to comply with their private land agreement(s).
- Streamlining the suspension process for individuals who owe child support, have failed to pay a penalty assessment fine to the Department, failed to pay civil restitution owed to the Department, failed to appear in court on a wildlife violation or have been revoked in the wildlife violator compact.
- Allowing videoconference appearances by violators and witnesses at revocation hearings.

**Motion:** Move to repeal and replace 19.31.2 NMAC, as presented by the Department and allow the Department to make minor corrections to comply with filing this rule with State Records and Archives.

**Motion by:** Commissioner Salazar-Henry

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Archuleta

**Approved:** Approve: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Commissioner Archuleta, Vice-chair Bates, Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Salazar-Henry.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 19: Open Gate (Action Item)** 11:13:54 a.m. (01:56:57)

Chief Stewart Liley presented information on a new proposed fee structure for participating properties in the Open Gate program.

**Motion:** Move to approve the fee schedule proposed by the Department.

**Motion by:** Commissioner Archuleta

**Seconded by:** Vice-chair Bates

**Approved Roll Call vote:** Approve: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Commissioner Archuleta, Vice-chair Bates, Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Salazar-Henry.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 18: Initial Discussion Javelina Rule 19.31.21 NMAC** 11:31:45 a.m. (01:56:57)

Chief Stewart Liley presented the Department's proposed changes to the Javelina Rule (19.31.21 NMAC) based on public feedback, biological information and management goals.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 17: Initial Discussion Pronghorn Rule 19.31.15 NMAC** 11:49:05 a.m. (02:32:08)

Chief Stewart Liley presented the Department's proposed changes to the Pronghorn Rule (19.31.15 NMAC) based on public feedback, biological information and management goals. Proposed changes include:

- Moving hunt dates later in the season.
- Small adjustments to license numbers.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: Initial Discussion Migratory Bird Rule 19.31.6 NMAC** 12:25:06 p.m.

(03:08:08)

Chief Stewart Liley presented the Department's proposed changes to the Migratory Game Bird Rule (19.31.6 NMAC) based on public comment, the latest information from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), recent survey information and management goals. Season selections and bag limits are determined in conjunction with the USFWS working through the Central and Pacific Flyway Councils.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: Initial Discussion Bighorn Sheep Rule 19.31.17 NMAC** 12:29:46 p.m.

(03:12:48)

Chief Stewart Liley presented the Department's proposed changes to the Bighorn Sheep Rule (19.31.17 NMAC) based on public comment, survey information and management goals. Proposed changes include:

- Adjusting season dates where necessary. For example, shifting start dates to maintain hunts beginning on Saturday or adjusting to calendar day starts for consistency.
- Adding hunts or splitting season dates to accommodate more hunters or a better-quality hunt.
- Opening the Jemez population to ram hunting.
- Separating the Hatchets hunt to spread hunters across the mountain range.
- Adding another ram hunt window in the Rio Grande Gorge.

**Motion:** Move to request information from the Attorney General's Office on 17.2.1A Hunt Code Definition as it applies to bighorn sheep draw allocation.

**Motion by:** Commissioner Salazar-Henry

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Lopez

**Approved:** Approve: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Commissioner Archuleta, Vice-chair Bates, Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Salazar-Henry.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: 2022 Meetings and Promulgation Overview** 01:18:17 p.m. (04:01:20)

The Department reviewed a schedule of Commission meetings and locations as well as a summary of rule promulgation for 2022. Dates and locations are:

- March 4, 2022 – Socorro
- April 11, 2022 – Santa Fe
- June 3, 2022 – Eagle Nest
- July 22, 2022 – Ruidoso
- August 19, 2022 – Gallup
- October 14, 2022 – Las Cruces
- January 13, 2023 – Santa Fe

The rule promulgation schedule is:

- Bighorn Sheep, Pronghorn, and Javelina
  - o March 4 – Initial Discussion
  - o April 11 – Subsequent Discussion
  - o June 3 – Hearings
- Migratory Bird
  - o March 4 – Initial Discussion
  - o April 11 – Subsequent Discussion
  - o July 22 – Hearing

- Exotics (Barbary, Ibex, Oryx)
  - o April 15 – Initial Discussions
  - o June 3 – Subsequent Discussion
  - o July 22 – Hearing
- Turkey
  - o April 11 - Initial Discussion
  - o July 22 – Subsequent Discussion
  - o October 14 - Hearing
- Deer and Elk
  - o April 11 – Initial Discussion
  - o August 19 – Subsequent Discussion
  - o October 14 – Hearings
- Revocation Rule
  - o March 4 - Hearing

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) Plan** 01:24:57 p.m. (04:08:00)

Director Mike Sloane presented the Department's initial plan for the implementation of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA). When passed by Congress and signed by the President, RAWA will bring approximately \$27 million dollars in annual funding to the Department for work on Species of Greatest Conservation Need as identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan. Accessing these funds will require the state to provide \$9 million in non-federal match not generated from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. The plan defines goals and initial personnel needs.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Wildlife Corridors** 01:50:14 p.m. (04:33:17)

Chief Matt Wonder presented an overview of the draft Wildlife Corridors Plan release, initial responses and remaining opportunities for the public to comment.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Opening of the Biennial Plan** 01:58:40 p.m. (04:41:43)

Chief Kirk Patten presented the initiation of the biennial review of state listed threatened or endangered species pursuant to the Wildlife Conservation Act (17-2-40 NMSA 1978).

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Update on the Fisheries Management Plan** 02:04:01 p.m. (04:47:03)

Chief Kirk Patten presented an update to the Statewide Fisheries Management Plan and will seek public comment on the draft plan.

Note: Commissioner Lopez physically left the meeting and rejoined virtually.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 22: Adjourn (Action Item)** 02:08:48 p.m. (04:51:50)

**Motion:** Move to adjourn.

**Motion by:** Vice-chair Bates

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Archuleta

**Approved:** Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Commissioner Archuleta, Vice-chair Bates, Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Salazar-Henry.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

NEW MEXICO STATE GAME COMMISSION

Friday, March 4, 2022

New Mexico Tech Campus Macey Center 801 Leroy Pl, Socorro, NM 87801

<http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/webcast/>



Michael B. Sloane

4/11/2022

Date



Sharon Salazar Hickey, Chair

New Mexico State Game Commission

4/11/2022

Date

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