

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
September 5, 2007
Conference Call

Members Present: Jack Corson, President
Gene Hardy, Vice President
Juan Reyes
Jim Mickelson
Joe Thomas
Dave Graham
Jim Bennage
Frank Galey, Dean, UW College of Agriculture
John Etchepare, Director, WY Dept. of Agriculture

Members Absent: Dalin Winters
Patrick Zimmerer
Ryan Lance, Governor Freudenthal's Office

WDA Staff Present: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary
Jason Fearneyhough

Called to order by President Corson and roll was taken.

Approval of Minutes

Jim Mickelson noted that on the vote regarding the FY02 Water Quality extension request from the Powell Clarks-Fork District was invalid. He said Frank Galey is an Ex-officio member and does not have voting privileges. John said the youth members had to resign their positions as of July 1 and have not been appointed by the Governor, which makes their vote invalid, as well. With the removal of Frank's no vote, and removing Patrick and Dalin's yes vote, the motion did not pass. Because there was no tie, Jack's vote was not necessary. There was also a question of whether those non-members are allowed to make or second motions.

Jim Mickelson made a motion to approve the August 17, 2006 minutes with a notation explaining the correction as described above. The motion was seconded by Dave Graham. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Because Patrick made a motion at the last meeting, the Board felt it should have the motion redone. **Jim Mickelson made a motion to approve the extension and amendment request from Crook County to their water quality grant, except the**

request to use the funding for refreshments. The motion was seconded by Joe Thomas. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

The board will discuss the draft policies, guidelines, and MOU at the November meeting in Casper.

The Board discussed the re-allocation of funding returned from the Powell Clarks-Fork district. **Jim Mickelson made a motion to have the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts make a recommendation to the Board as to how the funds shall be allocated. The motion was seconded by Gene Hardy. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

The State Fair Advisory Committee recommendations-what will they be? Jim Mickelson feels the members should allow the Advisory Committee to make their recommendations at the November meeting.

WLCI Projects

They are still getting input for 2009 projects. WDA is interviewing for the department position on September 18. The department is not getting more money. They are using Jason's old contract to match the \$50,000 from BLM to pay for the position. WLCI still is not funded. The Governor may pay for the position if WLCI materializes down the road, but has made no promises. The next public meeting is in Rock Springs on the 26th. The Executive Committee is meeting from 3 p.m. to 5p.m. and the public is invited to attend following that.

Sage Grouse Implementation Group Update

The group has 23 recommendations they may make to the Governor in September. The Governor wants an Agency to be the lead on all recommendations so the report is not final. The group is working hard to make sure local control is maintained. John said there is real concern because the BLM employees in Wyoming are paid less than surrounding states, so several of their good range folks are leaving the state for more pay.

TMDL's

John does not support the conservation districts' writing TMDL's. Presently, once they are written they go on a shelf. Wyoming DEQ has the ability to enforce them where as EPA does not. Most of the surrounding states have strong legislative language but Bobbie Frank has indicated to John that not any of them meet the needs of Wyoming. Another concern is the 319 funding may be reduced or eliminated because of TMDL's. Wyoming has not cleaned up any of the streams on the list. John also feels that watershed planning should continue even if a TMDL is written.

Youth Board Applications

It appears the Governor still need applications from the Southwest quadrant. Dalin and Patrick's applications have been received by the Governor, and he has one for the Northeast quadrant. John is not sure when the Governor will be making those appointments.

Discussion

Jack asked, for the Strategic Plan, if the Board want to discuss the possibility of moving the Agribusiness Division to WDA. John said the department is still working on a proposal. It was noted the Board wants to make sure Cindy Garretson-Weibel will come to the November meeting. Gene said the folks he has talked to do not want to make a move. Juan still wants discussion of the issue. The Wool Growers are opposed & the Stock Growers want to discuss it further. Jim Bennage would like to have further discussion and see the department proposal as well as get feedback from Cindy after her review of the document. John said WDA will try and have a proposal ready by the November meeting. John suggested there just be discussion and no intention of making a decision at that meeting. Jason is willing to talk about the history of the Agribusiness Division and more about their role in agriculture to anyone interested, as he was a part of that team during the time the Business Council adopted WDA's Marketing Division.

Open Space Subdivision

Frank Galey has some information on subdivisions from the Applied Economic Division at UW he's willing to share. President Corson asked if the members would like to have presentations on the subject at the November meeting. Dr. Galey indicated Roger Coupal is very knowledgeable and Juan suggested Kara Brighton, as she can give the water background.

John had indicated at a previous meeting he would find the answer to the question of removal of a quarantine. According to rules, it is removed the same way it is initiated by statute.

There being no additional business. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Corson, President

Date