

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
January 2, 2008
Conference Call

Members Present: Jack Corson, President
Gene Hardy, Vice President
Jim Bennage
Joe Thomas
Dave Graham
Juan Reyes
Dalin Winters

Excused: Jim Mickelson

Unexcused: Ryan Lance
Patrick Zimmerer
Frank Galey

Staff Present: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary
Jason Fearneyhough, Deputy Director
Roy Reichenbach
Justin Williams

Called to order by President Corson at 8 a.m.

Roll call was taken.

Seed Rules

Roy Reichenbach came before the board to present the final rules. The emergency rules have been adopted twice by the members and Director and the final rules are now ready to be adopted. Roy also indicated the rules had been sent out to the Wyoming Crop Improvement Association as well as the Seed Lab and no comments have been received to date. **Jim Bennage made a motion to adopt the final rules as presented. Dave Graham seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Range Beef Cow Symposium Update

Jason said that Leanne Stevenson made a presentation on wind energy at the symposium and that the format was more of an education type forum.

Beef Council Meeting in Cody

Jason said he and Karen Everett attended a portion of the meeting to let the Council know what their options are regarding employee compensation. While there, Jason asked that the Deputy Director, as well as the Director, be on their Board as ex-officio members. The Beef Council agreed to Jason's request.

Atlantic Rim Meeting Update

Jason attended the meeting in Rawlins and indicated the producers in the area are concerned about the trailing issue. BLM would like to solve it programmable as an EA or an EIS. BLM took the comments from the meeting and decide in about 2 months what they would be doing. Halogeton is another big concern in those reclaimed areas.

The BLM has some pretty strict restrictions on reclamation which ties the hands of those reclaiming the ground in production areas.

Sage Grouse Mapping

Justin said they are trying to merge some of the vegetation mapping that has been done. He said they need to develop a set of criteria and do an inventory of GIS that can be merged so they can agree and move forward. Justin sees this group as a positive step in being able to standardize the mapping and documents throughout the state.

WLCI

The conservation districts have appointed Mary Thoman to the WLCI as their representative and the County Commissioners have also made an appointment. John said he will be attending the meeting on January 15 in Rock Springs.

Youth Member Vacancies

John said he will call Governor's office today to see where those appointments stand.

Sage Brush Forum

The Board discussed the educational forum Jim Schwartz had talked about putting together towards the end of January. Jason asked the members if they thought the Department should work with other partners to have this forum. The members all agreed it would be a great benefit to educate the producers of the ESA and the progress made by some producers in the state. Jack said several ranchers in his area don't understand all of the implications of listing the sage grouse.

Jason feels we need to be looking at sage grouse obligates to encompass more species dealing with sage brush. Juan sees we are spending more time & resources fighting the fires and not sure how to get ahead of the ESA. **Gene made a motion to have the Department pursue having such a forum in the early spring. Juan seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Gene reminded everyone of the Winter Ag Expo being held at the State Fairgrounds January 7 and 8.

Joe Thomas wanted everyone to be aware of the meeting the Game and Fish has set up regarding the rules and regulations of the management of the wolf. The Department will check the website and forward on to the members.

John wanted the members to be aware of the next Game and Fish Commission meeting scheduled for February 14 and 15.

Joe made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Dalin. Motion carried.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Corson, President

Date