

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
February 26 and 27, 2008
Wyoming Department of Agriculture

Present: Jack Corson, President
Gene Hardy, Vice President
Jim Mickelson
Jim Bennage
Joe Thomas
Dave Graham
Patrick Zimmerer
John Hansen
Bridget Kukowski
Dalin Winters
John Etchepare, Director

Absent: Ryan Lance

Excused: Juan Reyes
Frank Galey, UW Dean of the College of Agriculture

Staff: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary
Jason Fearneyhough

Called to order at 10:05 by President Corson. Roll was taken.

Minutes

Jim Mickelson made a motion to approve the February 6, 2008 minutes changing USFWS to Game and Fish on the first page. The motion was seconded by Joe Thomas. Motion carried. Jim Mickelson made a motion to approve the February 20, 2008 minutes. Motion was seconded by John Hansen. Motion carried.

WRDC/Main Street Update

Mary Randolph handed out the updated 2007 assessments and a brochure on Main Street. She then introduced her staff, as well as the chairman of WRDC. Together, they presented the Department and the Board a lamb that had been commissioned by a Wyoming artist, to thank them for housing them from 1995-2007.

Sage Grouse Update

Jason Fearneyhough attended the Sage Grouse Advisory Group meeting yesterday and passed around some maps showing what has been done on Sage Grouse leks and habitat. He said they are looking into mapping where the birds are as well as where their habitat is. Jason feels Wyoming is in a pretty good position to defend not to list because of the

mapping of habitat and present counts. Presently the budget bill has \$500,000 for mapping and \$600,000 is proposed for moisture mapping. They are focusing on reclamation incentives. Bryce Reece feels the task force also needs to address predation. Jason said they have also discussed disease such as West Nile. Predation causes 90% of the loss of sage grouse.

Jason said the Governor's Task Force is not going to do grouse or habitat monitoring. He thinks they will rely on the local working groups do that monitoring.

Legislative Update

Scott Zimmerman, Jim Magagna, Bobbie Frank, Bret Moline, and Bryce Reece all reviewed the bills and the current status of those remaining. The Board thanked them for giving them this update every year.

Jim Mickelson made a motion to adjourn for lunch. The motion was seconded by Gene. Motion carried.

WBC Update

John said he and Bob Jensen have met and have additional meetings planned. They hope to have something more formal to present to the Board at the April meeting. Cindy Garretson-Weibel said she didn't get a lot of feedback regarding a replacement for Ted Craig's position and she does have the position announcement out now.

Liaison Positions

The members reviewed the liaison assignments and made some changes to them and the new members were added. Muff will send the groups the information, as well as a list to each member.

Weed and Pest Resolution

Jim Mickelson made a motion to support the joint resolution for the Wyoming Invasive Weed and Pest Awareness Week in March noting in the third paragraph it should read educate rather than education. The motion was seconded by Dalin Winters. Motion carried.

Seed Lab Update

Keith Kennedy handed out the financials for the previous six month and the Operational Report. Keith said Gil would like to add language at the bottom to allow for changes to the prices. Jack Corson questioned if that could even be done. John said the pricing had to remain the same upon approval of the Board until a new price listing is approved.

Jim Mickelson made a motion to adopt the price list and the other tests and services fees as presented with both effective dates of May 15, 2008 rather than July 1, 2008. Motion was seconded by Gene Hardy. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Update from the Governor's Conference

Justin Williams said he feels it is important for agriculture to be included when talking about future development of the state. Justin also talked about the comments on Chapter 21 and Chapter 8 the Department made regarding the wolf management.

He knows Terry Cleveland is going to address the Board tomorrow but he wanted the members to know what WDA's comments were in regards to both chapters.

Justin said the Pigmy Rabbit petition has been released and he anticipates WDA's comments will be combined with those of the Governor.

Justin also reminded the members of the upcoming Sage Grouse Conference in Lander. Gene will be doing the opening.

Jack opened it up for public comment, but there was none.

Gene Hardy made a motion to adjourn for the day. The motion was seconded by Jim Mickelson. Motion carried.

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The meeting was called to order 8:35 by President Corson.

Strategic Planning

The members were joined by Mary Randolph who proceeded to guide the Board through their Strategic plan and Plan of Action.

Wolf Management

Terry talked about the strong relationship he and John have and expressed his gratitude for the accomplishments of the two agencies. He then explained how the Wolf Management plan is going to be implemented. He said the numbers of known wolves have increased by 30-40% since they were introduced. Wolves within the boundary are going to be managed by the Game and Fish. Wolves killed outside of the boundary will be considered predatory animals. The law says those wolves killed outside the boundary, must be reported to the Game and Fish with the date, location and sex. They put that in the law so they can keep track of the numbers. The Game and Fish must maintain seven breeding pairs within the Trophy Game Area and Terry said the ceiling will probably be determined after they have managed them for a couple of years. Terry said that Game and Fish must respond to any livestock depredation within the boundary area within forty-eight hours and if it is a reoccurring type loss, a kill permit may be issued.

FSA Update

Lois VanMARK joined the meeting to visit about the drought and monitoring. She said Neil Schlenker from Meeteetse is the chairman of the State Committee, along with Terry Marie Henderson from Shawnee and Clint Jessen from Pine Bluffs. She noted the Farm Bill has been extended until March, 15. She also told the board the state FSA is using GIS to certify all farmland in the state which will become the standard for their programs.

She talked about the drought and the programs FSA offers, including using Cocorahs. This is a non-profit program designed to collect moisture data throughout the country. Her office is giving the equipment away to those interested in collecting and reporting daily to the organization.

Jack wanted to hear from the members about the strategic plan they reviewed earlier. All members felt very comfortable with everything. They agreed to wait until the document is done and will discuss it on a conference call.

Joe Thomas made a motion to change the conference call time from 8 a.m. to 7 a.m., keeping them on the first and third Wednesday's each month. The motion was seconded by Jim Mickelson. Motion carried.

Jack Corson opened the meeting up for public comment. There was none.

Jim Mickelson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Joe Thomas. Motion carried.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Corson, President

Date