

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
March 19, 2008
Conference Call

Present: Jack Corson, President
Gene Hardy, Vice President
Juan Reyes
Jim Mickelson
Dave Graham
Patrick Zimmerer
Joe Thomas

Excused: John Hansen
Bridget Kukowski
Dalin Winters

Absent: Jim Bennage
Ryan Lance
Dr. Frank Galey
John Etchepard

Staff: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary

Minutes

Jim Mickelson made a motion to approve the February 26 and 27 minutes. The motion was seconded by Gene Hardy. Motion carried. Joe Thomas made a motion to approve the March 5 minutes. The motion was seconded by Jim Mickelson. Motion carried.

Budget Review

Muff talked about the balance left in the budget and asked for feedback from the members on how to approach the end of the fiscal year. She reminded members to get expenses turned in right after the meetings so the budget has a clearer reflection. **Jim Mickelson made a motion to apply some funds toward the Sage Grouse Conference with that amount to be determined at the next conference call. The motion was seconded by Dave Graham. Motion carried.**

State Fair Advisory Board meeting

Gene attended the meeting and said they spent a lot of time on the planning part of the upcoming fair. They toured the stalling facilities and he said they are coming along well. The highway department is re-doing the road and bridge, but construction is planning to stop for the 08 fair and resume again after it is over so that shouldn't inconvenience fair goers too much. He also said the tail docking issue was not discussed at the meeting, but there were several side conversations. The board is standing by the tail docking rule and has decided to not protest another show during fair. They are sad some folks do not

understand the value of the rule and wish to have another show, but they will not stand in their way. Several members indicated they had visited with Steve Cooper regarding the rule, but didn't have any success in changing his mind. Juan reported on the transfer of water to the Wagonhound on down the Platte. They all agreed to let the state engineers office do the permitting process rather than take sides on the issue.

Sage Grouse Conference

Gene said he has learned a tremendous amount and the speakers have been great. He is getting the impression there is a lack of communication between agencies as well as getting the information out to the public. He said the Game and Fish thinks the problem is habitat and are reluctant to agree that predation could be part of the problem and the USFWS says they are just following the laws when dealing with any species.

Terry Cleveland's retirement

Jack suggested the board send a letter to the commission to encourage Terry's replacement have an understanding of agriculture. Jim Mickelson suggested doing that at their face-to-face meeting in the future.

Dalin said he will be attending the Business Council meeting on March 26 in Worland. Dalin will forward the agenda on to the board members. Dalin said Don Russell, who is a local farmer, has been appointed to that board.

Juan Reyes made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Jim Mickelson. Motion carried.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Corson, President

Date