

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
April 14 and 15, 2008
Parkway Plaza, Casper, Wyoming

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

Absent: Ryan Lance

Staff: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary
Jason Fearneyhough

The meeting was called to order by President Corson at 8 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Jim Mickelson made a motion to approve minutes of the April 2 conference call. The motion was seconded by Joe Thomas. Motion carried.

Election of President

Jim Mickelson moved to elect Gene Hardy as President by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Joe Thomas. Motion carried.

Board Discussion

The board asked John and Jason for their thoughts on how they could help the department. John said he would like to have the board bring information to the department. He said the members are the eyes and ears for the department. One example he used was their desire to have the Sage Grouse Conference which the department hosted and was very successful. John would like to see the board let the department know if they are going in the right direction, or if there are issues out in the state that need to be addressed. Jason would like to have the board become more involved on some issues – like the cottage industry and the gas and petroleum standards. He would like to invite members to spend time with staff and maybe shadow them on a daily inspection. Dalin would like to see the department strategic plan so he would have a better idea of

the issues the department is facing. Jason and John talked about the difficulty of being able to graph the inspections, for-instance, by priority and how often in the strategic plan. The statutes don't always spell out the number of inspections, but it might say the department shall inspect- and leave it at that. John will get the number of scales being inspected back out to the board. Juan wanted to know why it's important for the board members know the staff. Jason explained the benefits would be to give the members the of who to call if an issue came up. Dalin said he can see the benefit of knowing the staff. John said having them knowing the issues directly from the staff, would empower the member to be able to lobby legislature for the needs of agriculture.

Colorado Rural Development Seminar

Leanne Stevenson recently attended this seminar regarding the energy future and made a presentation to the members. One point the board was very interested in was that Wyoming does not have a Renewable Energy Standard. After the presentation and discussion, the members agreed they would like to have Mike Purcell at the next meeting. Dalin would take to see any maps for potential wind energy and geothermal energy.

Closing the Gap Between Sportsmen and Landowners

Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife Executive Director, Bob Wharff spoke to the Board about some of the conflicts he sees.

He said the sportsmen in Montana are challenging private landowner rights. The sportsmen believe they have the right to hunt wherever the game happens to be. He sees this as a huge problem that could get out of control very quickly. He said a new organization to Wyoming, Wildlife Watchers, is going to challenge the private landowner rights in Wyoming, also. He also said that if the rates to the BLM permittees were challenged today, the sportsmen would advocate an increase. He feels if the state loses its agriculture base, the sportsmen will see some huge changes in their sport. He would like to see the sportsmen understand the value of agriculture to their sport. He's looking to the Board for some help in stopping the problem now before it gets out-of- hand. He'd like to find common ground between his group and the ag community.

Bob said the out-of-state hunter has full access and residents have trouble finding places to hunt. Joe Thomas said he has found out-of-state residents are much more considerate than the Wyoming hunters. He feels the state needs to be unified in the solution. Bob said one of his ideas is to have a mentoring program He would like to see some youth hunts following hunter safety completion on local ranches. He believes those hunts would teach the young hunter be better stewards of the land. Bob would also like to work together on a symposium where hunters and landowners can be brought together and possibly do a landowner appreciation day. Another idea he had is to put together a brochure listing the possible ranches that allow open hunting with permission. Juan suggested the members continue the discussion later and get back with Bob as to some solutions they come up with.

Agribusiness Division Update

John Etchepare said he and Bob Jensen have been working on an MOU between the two departments. Bob said there is definitely an increase in communication between the two departments. He said they talked about a joint position that could be an advocate to help with the state and federal regulations. He said the meetings have given both departments a better understanding of what each other does. Matt Mead said being on the WBC Board, he will be an advocate of agriculture. He thinks it is important for our country to know where its food comes from. Some of the areas the board thought could be improved were renewable energy, carbon sequestration, getting sheep shearers into this country, and the lack of an interstate shipment program. Juan feels getting beef across state lines is more important than international markets.

Referring to a copy of the notes from the most recent meeting between John and Bob, Jim Bennage said he would like to see both departments more involved with business development and business plans. He would like to see the Business Council explore more substantive programs for production agriculture. Bob said that is reflected in the draft MOU. Dalin feels his board needs to be more active in working with the Business Council. One example he used was in the interviewing for Ted Craig's position. John said several of the statutes still give responsibility to the department or the board and they are really functions of the Business Council. There needs to be some legislation to clean up the language. Jack is concerned about the school lunch program and said Wyoming needs a USDA inspection program.

Board Policy Review

The members reviewed the policies in place, added some new ones and wrote additional policies.

Javier Montoya came into the meeting and visited some with the members. He said there has been another extension to the Farm Bill and he's hoping to have a new Farm Bill by May.

Conservation District Appointments

Jim M. made a motion to appoint Jason Oedekoven to fill the rural position vacated by Robert Brug to the Campbell County Conservation District. The motion was seconded by Juan. Motion carried.

FY09-10 Water Quantity Funding

Bobbie reviewed the appropriation by the legislature for the upcoming biennium in the amount of \$450,000. Bobbie presented the grant criteria as approved by her board at their last meeting and asked the members to approve it so they can get those grants ready for distribution as soon after the new fiscal year. **Jack made a motion to approve the grant criteria, as presented by Bobbie, with the addition of allowing the term of the grants to go beyond the biennium. The motion was seconded by Joe Thomas. Motion carried.**

Meeteetse Conservation District Extension Request

Joe Thomas made a motion to approve the extension request as presented by the Meeteetse Conservation District. The motion was seconded by Juan. Motion carried.

Board Updates

Dalin gave an update to the member from his recent trip to Washington with L. E. A.D.

Vice President Election

Juan Reyes nominated Jim Bennage. Dalin Winters nominated Joe Thomas. After hearing no further nominations, President Hardy closed nominations and asked for a written vote from the members. The votes were tallies by Bryce Reece and Jason Fearneyhough. Joe Thomas received the majority of the votes and will be the Vice President for the next year.

Jim Mickelson made a motion to adjourn for day. The motion was seconded by Dalin Winters. All voted in favor, and the meeting was adjourned.

April 15, 2008

Russian Olive/Salt Cedar

Steve Brill, the Supervisor of the Goshen County Weed and Pest District gave a presentation on their management project in Goshen County.

Declared Weed and Pest List

Slade Franklin gave some background to the new members regarding the difference between the Declared and Designated Lists. He indicated there had not been any resolutions passed by the Weed and Pest Council making any changes to the Designated List, but he presented the changes to the Declared List approved by the Weed and Pest Council. **Juan Reyes made a motion to adopt the list and the resolutions as presented and approved by the Weed and Pest Council. The motion was seconded by Joe Thomas. Motion carried.**

Board Policy Changes - Continued

Jack expressed a desire to review the F.A.I.R. corporate papers to make sure the Board is utilized the F.A.I.R Posse 501-C3 properly. Jack is also concerned about how the current staff is going to be able to properly care for the management of the new and existing buildings at State Fair Park. He would like to see addition funding be proposed to State Fair as well as a contract person who could solicit additional donations to State Fair Park. John agrees that James and his staff are very busy and are short a plumber, but he's trying to make sure the State Fair Staff are keeping up with the maintenance of the grounds

Action Plan

Jack suggested the members review the plan and noted that it's a document to be used as a glide for their future plans.

John agreed to contact the Game and Fish regarding a joint meeting and suggested the members get a draft agenda for their July meeting done on the next conference call. Joe Thomas suggested selecting no more than five topics to discuss with the Commission.

Dalin Winters made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Joe Thomas. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Hardy, President

Date