

## RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

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Wyoming Board of Agriculture

June 4, 2008

Conference Call

Present: Gene Hardy, President  
Juan Reyes  
Bridget Kukowski  
Jack Corson  
John Etchepare

Excused: Dave Graham  
Jim Mickelson  
Jim Bennage

Absent: Joe Thomas, Vice President  
Ryan Lance  
Frank Galey  
Patrick Zimmerer  
John Hansen  
Dalin Winters

Staff: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary  
Jason Fearneyhough

Guest: Cindy Weibel

### Issues

The cooperative agreement between the Wyoming Business Council and the Department of Agriculture should be finalized next week and ready for discussion at the meeting in July.

Jason is attending the Western Plant Board today and attended the meeting at Jeffrey City regarding the Level 1 Study for that watershed which includes several conservation districts and 5 counties. Jason said the landowners are hesitant to allow anyone onto their land, so that is slowing down the process.

Jason also indicated the resistance by the landowner's is another concern with the Pathfinder modifications. An inventory of diversions and headgates needs to be a part of those revisions and the information is difficult to obtain if the landowners are not will to allow access.

Landowners don't have any way to garage usage and don't know the value of water. Potential for takings by the State is great. Juan feels there are too many unknowns and Gene asked Juan to keep an eye on this issue. Juan also advised the board to wait for this to play out and let Wyoming Water Law do its job.

Water Development is taking comments on small water projects. Jason said the Department of Ag is concerned they are requiring Level 1 studies in order to receive funding. The study costs upwards of \$300K and the funding may only be \$100K. Jason said it seems to be a lot of expense for some of the projects like stock wells, etc.

The comments for the Green Mountain are due June 27th. The document is 460 pages so it's lengthy enough to have been an Environmental Impact Statement rather than an Environmental Assessment. Jason said that although Alternative two is not perfect, it's the one that makes the most sense of the three.

John said they are waiting to hear on funding for the WLCI. Justin Caudill was hired to represent the Department of Ag.

### **July Meeting**

Bridget set up a tour with a landowner that will show some of the good and bad of methane water. Muff will get with Jim and Bridget next week to finalize the tour and agenda.

Jack said he wants the State Climatologist to speak in July if possible. Muff will check and see.

### **ADMB update by Gene**

He said the requests for funding came in at \$300K above the amount available, but all project applications received at least partial funding. John said there are currently 19 of the 23 counties participating. Gene said he called a meeting of the State Predator Board last Wednesday to discuss the use of snares. Game and Fish is looking at some possible changes to the law to protect species not meant to be trapped from being damaged or killed. There have been several issues regarding their usage. The Predator Board is trying to educate users of the snares. The Board does not want to see them outlawed because they are an important part of predator management.

### **Wyoming Business-Agribusiness Division update from Cindy Garretson-Weibel**

She said the Business Council meets quarterly to approve all grants over \$100K and they will be meeting in Saratoga this week to discuss them. She said they have scheduled the 5th year of the tour with Wyoming Women in Ag for June 24. She said their Verified Program has increased to about 18 thousand head of cattle, which is up quite a bit from last year. She also said they have hired Donn Randall to head up the Value Added Program. The Winter Expo is scheduled for November 20-23 in Casper. This will include livestock exhibits, horse clinics, as well as the AIME and Roping the Wind Conferences.

When asked about the outcome of the hearing in Montana on the wolf lawsuit, John indicated they are just waiting for the outcome from the judge.

**Juan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jack. The meeting was adjourned.**

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Gene Hardy, President

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Date