

## RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

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Wyoming Board of Agriculture

June 18, 2008

Conference Call

Present: Gene Hardy, President  
Joe Thomas, Vice President  
Juan Reyes  
Jim Mickelson  
Jim Bennage  
Dave Graham  
Patrick Zimmerer  
John Hansen  
Dalin Winters  
Jack Corson

Excused: John Etchepare  
Bridget Kukowski

Absent: Ryan Lance  
Frank Galey

Staff: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary  
Jason Fearneyhough

Guest: Terri Barr

### **Issues**

The Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) Steering Committee being reorganized. Gene asked for a volunteer from the board to serve. Jack Corson said he would be willing to serve and Muff will let Lucy Pauley know.

A Livestock Board meeting regarding Bluetongue held last week was attended by Gene Hardy. Gene said some producers had severe losses in sheep. The midge that's infected, bites animals and there is no cure for it. The labs are working on sprays to deter the flies. The Scrapie litigation is still in limbo.

Jason attended the Brucellosis meeting in Pinedale last night. He said the rancher has 300 head in his herd which are both commercial and registered. Depopulation is not mandatory, but if the owner chooses not to depopulate, the process of testing will continue and the state could lose its free status. They did discuss whether they could treat the commercial and registered herds differently. Jack asked why if only 2 tested positive why depopulate? Nobody had that answer. They all agreed that if the cattle are killed; why not the elk. RB 51 is not of as effective as Strains 19 vaccine. Gene wondered if the board should take a stand on the issue. Juan would like to see what the livestock board and others think so they are all on the same page.

Joe said there is a meeting scheduled with the Livestock Board for the 28th in Meeteetse and he will pose the question & let the board know.

### **Living Legacy Update**

Jim Mickelson and Muff said they discovered several existing trees that are not dedicated. These can be used to continue the program until the construction is completed at State Fair Park.

### **July 7 and 8 meeting update**

Jim Bennage said a tour Monday afternoon is planned which will include the UW R&E Center, Subsurface Irrigation, then to a landowner to get his take on the water situation. There is dinner planned that evening.

Gene gave the members the figures released from Wildlife Services for predator management this year. He said they killed 2,732 coyotes, 92 red fox, and spent 142 hours in the air.

Gene met with G&F regarding snares. He said the bill is to be written to change statutes to allow most changes in rules rather than statutes.

The draft legislation says that G & F is requiring licensing, will probably be removed from the proposed legislation. Jason wanted everyone to know this before they panic.

Jim Mickelson wanted to know about the short list for the Director's position at Game and Fish. Jason said he knew the three names the Commission gave to the Governor included someone from Arizona, Colorado, and John Emmerich, but he hadn't seen an official announcement from the Governor's office. He did hear the Governor should be making his decision by the end of the week.

Jack Corson wanted to know the thoughts of the rest of the members regarding the use of tags as part of animal ID. Jim Mickelson said he feels it's just an additional expense for the producer and feels the brand laws working fine. Gene said if they are a simple metal tag, he's alright with that. They have been using them for scrapie. Joe said those clean elk should be tagged and the others should not. That way it's a wildlife management issue.

Jim Bennage reported on Wyoming Business Council meeting he attended a couple of weeks ago. He said each division gave a report on what they are doing. He said the committee was interested in knowing the relationship between the Agribusiness Division and the Department of Agriculture and Board of Agriculture.

Both he and Cindy said the lines of communication were much better than before. They will be hosting a tour in Lusk on June 24.

**EPA meeting Update**

The discussion yesterday regarded the use of M44's. There is a lawsuit pending in Utah where the use of an M44 was too close to a road. There was discussion regarding what defines a road.

There was no news from the wolf lawsuit in Montana.

**Jim Mickelson made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Jim Bennage. 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