

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
July 7 and 8, 2008
Holiday Inn, Sheridan, Wyoming

Present: Gene Hardy, President
Joe Thomas, Vice President
Jim Mickelson
Jim Bennage
Jack Corson

Patrick Zimmerer
John Hansen
Bridget Kukowski
Dalin Winters
John Etchepare, Director
Juan Reyes

Excused: Dave Graham

Absent: Ryan Lance
Frank Galey, UW Dean of the College of Agriculture

Staff: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary
Jason Fearneyhough

Guests: See attached list

The meeting was called to order by President Hardy.

Approval of Minutes

Juan made a motion to approve the minutes from May 21, June 4, and June 18. The motion was seconded by Jim Mickelson. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Conservation District Appointments

Jim Mickelson made a motion to approve the appointment of Coke Landers to the Medicine Bow Conservation District. The motion was seconded by Juan. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Water Quality Grant Funding

Gene asked for those applications where members have questions, to put them aside until later and vote on the rest as a group. Dalin asked why Crook and Campbell counties made applications to both monitor the Belle Fourche. The two districts have an MOU to share information but do monitor different portions of the watershed.

Dalin asked if there are any proposals to mitigate problems or just to collect data? Bobbie said some collect data and then implement BMPs to address water quality problems. Nephi talked about some of the projects used in districts to mitigate problems. He said most districts are doing a very good job in making a good baseline of data to support the changes being made. Chugwater Creek in Platte County is being delisted and they are looking at also delisting of the middle fork of the Crow Creek. EPA is changing the standard from fecal to e-coli. Nephi said the e coli standard is based on a survey done in a water body. Doug Miyamoto talked about the involvement of municipalities in the Crow Creek watershed.

After discussion of the applications received, **Juan made a motion to accept the request on all fourteen water quality grants, as approved by WACD. Jim Mickelson seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

Updates

John Etchepare gave an update on the JIO and WLCI.

John passed out a draft agenda for the Board of Agriculture and Game and Fish Commission meeting to be held Sept. 12i n Casper. Discussion ensued. John asked the members to bring changes back tomorrow so it can be finalized.

WBC Discussion

Jim Bennage talked about the relationship between the WBC and Department of Agriculture. He said the WBC is very interested in what the board thinks about the WBC and the Agribusiness Division in particular. Jim said he feels that with Cindy participating in conference calls, and BOA meetings. John Etchepare talked about the draft MOU. He would like the board to take action on the MOU and to allow the invitation for the CEO to serve as an ex-officio position on the board. Jack would like the members to come up with some programs they feel the WBC should be doing. **Dalin made a motion to accept the draft MOU as presented. Joe seconded he motion. Motion passed.**

Gene talked about the carbon credit trading.

Break for day.

July 8, 2008

Wyoming Livestock Board (WLB) Update

Jim Schwartz gave an update on the brucellosis outbreak in the Daniel area. He said 29 head tested positive in both the two herds. 13 contact herds are to be tested when they return from their summer range. Several states are now putting restrictions on Wyoming cattle. He feels is it a marketing disease.

The disease is seldom contracted by humans but it causes fear in the market arena. We need to educate the public about the disease. Testing at all markets was implemented in 2004. APHIS

rules are antiquated and need to be updated. He said depopulation used to make sense because Brucellosis used to be a cattle to cattle disease. He indicated there needs to be additional vaccine research, as RB57 and Strain 19 are only 60% effective. The cost of the research would be upwards of millions of dollars. He said Strain 19 will probably never be accepted again because it causes a titer. He is also concerned about educating the hobby ranchers about vaccinating. Most don't even know they have to vaccinate. He thought a brochure to realtors and brand inspectors would help educated new small ranch buyers. It was also suggested to seek the help of the county assessors, as they are able to break out acreage to isolate small acreage owners so the brochure could be mailed to them. He is meeting with the sale barns and their vets in a week and half. The deadline for the rancher to decide to depopulate or not is August 29. The rancher would like to wait until those herds coming off the mountain can be tested, but that could be October.

Jim feels if we had 20 million to have a vaccine developed it would profit the producers. He said that could be 2-3 years away. Russia has a vaccine they say works well but we can't use it in the US. The cost of Brucellosis is millions to Wyoming. Funding from Congress was cut dramatically about 4 1/2 months ago where USDA announced that USA is Brucellosis free and he feels it's an uphill battle to get the funding back. Jim said a letter from the board to APHIS asking for changes to the federal rules would help. He said our brucellosis is wildlife to cattle as opposed to cattle to cattle as it was when that rule was instituted. Jack feels splitting the state is a mistake. He feels the board needs to stand firm on this. Juan feels the same way. Jim also said having a letter stating this and sent to the Livestock Board would be a big help. Gene asked to have this done. Dalin asked if more testing efforts could be done on the western side as opposed to the eastern and Jim said yes. Jim said the Livestock Board is looking at additional ways to help them with the expenses such as additional fencing, testing, etc. **Jack made a motion to not split the state. The motion was seconded by Jim Mickelson. One member opposed. Motion carried.**

Jack feel western part of the state is where the educating focus needs to be. **Jack made a motion to work in conjunction with the livestock board to prepare a brochure to educate producers. The distribution should be to realtors, conservation districts, livestock producers and the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension offices. The motion was seconded by Joe. Motion carried.**

Joe made a motion to support changing the UNMR's. Jim Mickelson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Jack proposed a resolution throughout the Wyoming Livestock Board and the Board of Agriculture, try to do less testing in less vulnerable areas and scientifically test more in those areas of the state where Brucellosis is more prevalent, including sale barns. Dalin seconded the adoption of the resolution. All voted in favor.

Joe Thomas proposed a resolution that the Board of Agriculture strongly encourages the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to increase surveillance and testing in free roaming elk herds east of the continental divide. Jack seconded the resolution. All voted in favor.

Jim Schwartz said that he feels a vaccine can be produced, but it is going to cost a lot of money. Jim Bennage suggested the Governor's Brucellosis Coordination Team might be able to help, as well as the sportsmen groups. Joe Thomas suggested contacting the Ruckelshaus Institute. Dalin suggested a letter to the Governor to take to the Western Governor's. Jack said he thinks it will fall back to the producers to come up with the funding to find a new vaccine.

Jim then passed out a paper with some of the needs of the Livestock Board to combat the many issues facing them today. They are having a listening session on August 13 in Douglas from 9 to 12, before the Cattlemen's Conference. Gene asked if the Livestock Board is looking at legislation mandating an Animal ID system. Jim Schwartz continued talking about the need for Animal ID.

He did say they would start with legislation. Joe said if the WLB needs help in the future the BOA will support them.

Update on Blue Tongue

Jim needs a large data base of producers by drainage, county, area. APHIS has a list of scrape tags sent to producer by name but nothing further. Jim Schwartz said there's going to be some new legislation to allow the WLB to remove feral animals such as goats, horse, pigs, etc. if the owner cannot be found. He also said there is a problem with horses being dumped on BLM land.

No liaison reports.

AG Opinion

Bobbie thinks the boundary issue can be taken care of in-house, but if the boundaries need to be changed, the Board should save time in August to discuss the issue.

Juan made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Patrick. Motion carried.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Hardy, President

Date