

## RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

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Wyoming Board of Agriculture  
September 3, 2008  
Conference Call

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

Absent: Jim Bennage  
Ryan Lance  
Frank Galey

Staff: Muff Parker  
Jason Fearneyhough

Guests: Cindy Garretson-Weibel

### Minutes

**Jim Mickelson made a motion to approve the August 15 minutes making note of a couple of typos. The motion was seconded by Joe Thomas. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Dave Graham made a motion to approve the August 20 minutes. The motion was seconded by Juan Reyes. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

### CD Boundaries

Jason said they may use mediation to determine the service boundaries between the Little Snake River (LSR) and the Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins (SER) Conservation Districts. He also said there still may be a hearing with the Board of Agriculture.

Jack Corson has been working with Jack Cobb on the service boundaries. He said the LSR district receives about \$678,000 in tax revenues and 1.2 million from grants and they are concerned they have been using those dollars to service outside of their boundaries. They have been taking care of watershed outside their boundaries. They would like to continue doing this, but aren't sure if there may be any problems in using dollars to accomplish this. They may have to stop working outside the boundaries, but for now are going to continue and decide later how to service those producers.

Jason said that if the districts do not submit the same boundary to the Department of Revenue, the boundaries will probably have to be determined by the Board. He also noted that if the boundaries do change, it could change the elected supervisors. John also noted the issue is being driven by the Department of Audit and not any of the districts.

Juan would like to have Bobbie on next conference call to answer any questions. Joe would like a map of the current boundaries and Jason said he will check on finding one. Joe said being able to see what's going on would be helpful in understanding the issue better. John felt that because the Board will be the hearing entity, he should get the Attorney General's opinion as to whether that would be appropriate. Jason said that at one point Jack Cobb and Jack Berger had worked out a conclusion, but their boards would not agree to it.

### **Issues**

Gene reminded the board the state ram sale would be coming up soon and on the 8th, the State Predator Board will be meeting with Game and Fish to discuss the snaring issue. The final draft of that legislation will be presented to the TRW Committee soon.

### **Brucellosis**

The producer got an extension, but nobody is sure for what length of time. At any rate, it won't be for long enough for all the contact herds to be off their summer pasture to be tested.

### **Chapter 2 Rules**

Gene said the Wyoming Livestock Board is having hearing around the state on the Chapter 2 rules. The meetings are scheduled for Cody, Douglas and two other sites, but he didn't have the dates.

Jack asked what the department does for producers would be good thing to get out to the public. He suggested articles on each of the division be done and sent to the Wyoming Livestock Roundup. John said the department had recently hired Derek Grant and the two of them will contact Jennifer Womack to see if that will work.

The tail docking issue is not gone away. Recently Gene got a call from a gentleman who said coughing was the cause of prolaps; not necessarily docking the tail too short. He also said that sheered sheep is more of a problem than short tail docking. Gene said this gentleman would like to attend the State Fair Advisory Committee (SFAC) meeting to discuss the issue. John said after the SFAC meets, they will have recommendations to bring to the Board.

Jack says because there is no money involved or a Champion of Champion Show, there is no motivation to change. John feels that James says there is no support from anyone from club lamb producers or judges that support the long tail. Jason feels there were no extreme docked tail at the State Fair this year and that's progress. Dave said no breeding sheep are checked at the State Fair and that Wyoming is just about the only state left adhering to the extreme tail docking policy. The Wyoming Business Council is meeting in Rock Springs at the Hampton Inn on September 11<sup>th</sup>. John noted that in order to allow the CEO of the Business Council and the

Director of Agriculture to serve as Ex-officio's on each other's boards, it would require a change in the statutes.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Gene Hardy, President

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Date