

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
September 17, 2008
Conference Call

Present: Jim Bennage
Patrick Zimmerer
Gene Hardy, President
John Etchepare
John Hansen
Juan Reyes

Absent: Jack Corson
Jim Mickelson
Joe Thomas, Vice President
Dave Graham
Bridget Kukowski
Dalin Winters

Staff: Muff Parker
Jason Fearneyhough

Guests: Cindy Garretson-Weibel

GBCT Update

John said there is a meeting today in Denver with Montana, Idaho and Wyoming working on the Greater Yellowstone Brucellosis Plan. He said the rancher in Daniel is depopulating and the one in Bondurant is waiting on the status before deciding. We have not lost our Class A status, but if the second herd is found positive, we will lose it. Evidently APHIS is proposing rule changes, but we have not received them to-date and the Wyoming Livestock Board is proposing changes to their Chapter 2. John said they are going to ask for \$200,000 from the legislature for research to develop a better vaccine. The money invested would generate funds from surrounding states. The folk in the Brucellosis affected area feel Strain 19 needs to be brought back, but there is currently nobody manufacturing the vaccine.

Folks in the affected area would like to see pilot project such as the comparison of Strain 19 to RB51. The concern with bringing back Strain 19 is that there would more than likely be sanctions placed on Wyoming because the vaccine shows false titers. Jason said that Dr. Galey said it would probably take twenty years to develop a new vaccine.

The issue of splitting the state came up again and Jim Magagna said he doesn't understand why it continues to be brought up. He says it puts a political strain on the issue. Gene did tell the GBCT that the Board opposes splitting the state.

Conservation Districts

A letter has been sent to the Department of Revenue from the Little Snake River Conservation District (LSR) saying the boundaries will remain the same. Jason said they didn't have an issue with the Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins District's boundaries, just the LSR.

The letter says they have agreed with the 1984 boundary. Mediated discussion will not be needed now for the boundary issue, but it still may be used to help in determining the working boundaries.

WBC update

Jim Bennage attended the meeting and said they continue to show interest in the collaborative progress. They also enjoy continue dialogs between the two agencies. Jason said the Business Council has agreed on the MOU as written, and the two directors will be able to attend the meetings, perhaps just not in an Ex-officio capacity.

Issues

John felt the joint meeting with the Wyoming Game and Fish went very well and they, too, would like to continue have joint meetings in the future.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Hardy, President

Date